

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hong Kong Computer Society Announces 2026 I&T Industry Trend Survey Results

Over 60% of I&T sector optimistic about the industry outlook,

More than 50% of organisations plan to increase IT spending.

AI and cybersecurity drive growth.

Talent shortage remains biggest challenge in digital transformation.

June 14, 2026 · Hong Kong — Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) today announces results of “2026 Innovation & Technology Industry Trend Survey”. The findings indicate a generally positive outlook for Hong Kong’s innovation and technology (I&T) sector. Overall, 60% of respondents expressed confidence - being either optimistic or very optimistic - while 50% reported plans to increase IT spending within the year. With regard to collaboration within the Greater Bay Area (GBA), 68.3% of respondents believe such engagement will have a positive impact on the development of Hong Kong’s I&T industry. Looking ahead to 2026, the top five technology trends expected to exert the greatest influence on Hong Kong are, in order: Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI / Agentic AI); Cybersecurity & Quantum-Safe Security; Digital Platforms & Intelligent Automation; Data & Analytics / Data; Governance; Cloud & Edge Computing. And the biggest challenges to IT investment and digital transformation in 2026 were identified as Talent Shortages, Unclear Business Return on Investment, and Budget Constraints, ranked in that order.

Mr. Dave Chen, President of HKCS, remarked,

“The Outline of the “15th Five-Year Plan” for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China was formally approved in March 2026. This national blueprint underscores the pursuit of technological self-reliance and self-strengthening, the cultivation of emerging and future industries, and the integration of Hong Kong and Macao into the nation’s overall development strategy. The Government of the HKSAR is also preparing its first “Five-Year Plan”, which is expected to accelerate the development of innovation and technology (I&T), particularly with sustained investment in AI, smart government initiatives, and digital transformation across various industries. This aims to strengthen Hong Kong’s position as an international I&T hub. HKCS believes that the I&T industry will seize even greater development opportunities and continue to be one of Hong Kong’s key strategic industries. In order to provide industry reference for the Government and wider community, HKCS conducted its first I&T industry trend survey in the first quarter of this year, gathering industry data and

insights to serve as a reference for further promoting the development of the I&T sector in Hong Kong.”

During the first quarter of 2026, HKCS sent questionnaires to members of its CIO Board and to its corporate members. It successfully collected responses from 41 organisations, including multiple large public and private institutions in Hong Kong. Among the responding organisations, 85.37% employ more than 500 staff members, and over 60% of corporations have more than 2,000 employees. Regarding respondents’ roles, 48.78% are Chief Information Officers (CIOs), IT Directors, or Heads of IT, while 12.20% are Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and 12.20% are Senior IT Managers. The survey covers a wide range of major industries across Hong Kong, and therefore the results provide useful industry reference.

The survey results indicate that, for the overall industry outlook, around 60% of Hong Kong’s I&T industry respondents expressed optimism or very optimism, nearly 30% said they were neutral, and just under 10% hold a pessimistic view.

What is Your Overall Industry Outlook?	Total Percentages
Very Pessimistic	0.00%
Pessimistic	9.76%
Neutral	29.27%
Optimistic	58.54%
Very optimistic	2.44%

Among respondents, more than half of organisations plan to increase IT spending in 2026, with 17.07% indicating no major changes. However, 26.83% of companies stated that they will reduce IT spending.

Organisations’ IT spending in 2026 to change compared with 2025	Total Percentages
Decrease Significantly	2.44%
Decrease Moderately	24.39%
No Significant Change	17.07%
Increase Moderately	41.46%
Increase Significantly	9.76%
Not Applicable / Don’t Know	4.88%

While more than half of enterprises plan to increase IT investment, IT investment and

digital transformation continue to face challenges. The industry identifies the top three biggest challenges, in order, as Talent Shortages, Unclear Business Return on Investment, and Budget Constraints.

The SINGLE biggest challenge for IT investment and digital transformation in 2026?	Total Percentages
Budget Constraints	19.51%
Change Management / Organisational Culture	14.63%
Cybersecurity Risks	12.20%
Legacy Systems	7.32%
Talent Shortage	24.39%
Unclear Business ROI	21.95%

Regarding the impact of GBA collaboration on Hong Kong's I&T industry in 2026, 68.3% of organisations believe the impact will be positive or very positive, while only 2.44% of respondents view it as negative, reflecting broad industry support for GBA collaboration.

View on the impact of Greater Bay Area (GBA) collaboration on Hong Kong's I&T industry in 2026	Total Percentages
Negative	2.44%
Neutral	17.07%
Limited impact	4.88%
Positive	58.54%
Very positive	9.76%
Not relevant	7.32%

In terms of the top three drivers of I&T industry growth in Hong Kong this year, the most selected factor is Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption. This is followed by Cybersecurity and Digital Trust Requirements, with Enterprise Digital Transformation ranking third.

the TOP drivers of I&T industry growth in Hong Kong in 2026	Total Percentages
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption	34.95%
Cybersecurity and Digital Trust Requirements	30.10%
Enterprise Digital Transformation	25.24%
Greater Bay Area (GBA) Opportunities	5.83%
Smart City / Digital Government Initiatives	3.88%

As for the top five technology trends with the greatest impact on Hong Kong, after weighted calculation, the results are as follows: Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI / Agentic AI); Cybersecurity & Quantum-Safe Security; Digital Platforms & Intelligent Automation; Data & Analytics / Data; Governance; Cloud & Edge Computing.

The TOP 5 technology trends that will most impact Hong Kong in 2026	Scoring
Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI / Agentic AI)	193
Cybersecurity & Quantum-Safe Security	165
Digital Platforms & Intelligent Automation	156
Data & Analytics / Data Governance	153
Cloud & Edge Computing	138
Internet of Things (IoT) / Smart Infrastructure	128
Sustainability / Green IT	101
Web3 / Blockchain	93
Quantum Computing	90
Extended Reality (XR / Metaverse)	72

When asked what the top three IT skills most in demand in Hong Kong will be in 2026, respondents ranked them as: a Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, and Data Engineering / Analytics. This reflects that AI and cybersecurity are the skills currently most sought after by the industry.

The MOST in demand IT skills in Hong Kong in 2026	Total Percentages
Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning	33.62%
Cloud Architecture	7.76%
Data Engineering / Analytics	12.93%
Cybersecurity	31.90%
Enterprise / Solution Architecture	3.45%
IT Governance, Risk and Compliance IT	8.62%
Software Engineering	1.72%

Regarding enterprise adoption of AI in Hong Kong, over 30% of organisations reported that they have already implemented enterprise-wide deployment and an additional 43.9% are carrying out limited production use. It is believe that the adoption of AI in enterprises will become increasingly widespread.

<u>Current AI adoption stage of Organisations</u>	Total Percentages
---	-------------------

No AI initiatives	4.88%
Pilot / experimentation stage	19.51%
Limited production use	43.90%
Enterprise-wide deployment	31.71%

The Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance (Cap. 653) came into operation on 1 January 2026 in Hong Kong. Following artificial intelligence, cybersecurity has become another key area of focus for the industry. The survey results show that, among the I&T sector, the top three cybersecurity challenges for 2026 are Cybersecurity Talent Shortage, and Ransomware and Cyber Attacks, which rank jointly first, followed by Data Privacy and Regulatory Compliance.

Major cybersecurity challenges organisations expect to face in 2026	Total Percentages
Cybersecurity Talent Shortage	25.69%
Supply Chain / Third-party Risks	16.51%
Data Privacy and Regulatory Compliance	23.85%
Limited Cybersecurity Budget	5.50%
Ransomware and Cyber Attacks	25.69%
Quantum Threats to Existing Encryption	0.92%
Human Factor	0.92%
Protecting Against AI Enabled Threats (e.g. Deepfakes)	0.92%

Mr. Dave Chen concluded:

“The survey results show that although the I&T sector is generally optimistic about the industry’s prospects and over half of the companies plan to increase IT investment, talent shortage remains the biggest challenge in driving digital transformation and innovation. On the other hand, AI and cybersecurity rank at the top as key factors driving the growth of Hong Kong’s I&T industry, the most impactful technology trends affecting Hong Kong, and the most in-demand IT skills. This reflects that both have become crucial forces in advancing Hong Kong’s I&T development. Moving forward, while continuing to promote I&T development, Hong Kong also needs to strengthen talent cultivation and skills enhancement to further consolidate its competitive edge in the sector.”

#

About the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Founded in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is a recognised non-profit professional organisation focused on developing Hong Kong's Information Technology (IT) profession and industry. Their members come from a broad spectrum of Hong Kong's IT community, from corporations to like-minded individuals, all coming together to raise the profile and standards of the IT profession and industry.

As a well-established IT professional body, the Society is committed to professional and industry development as well as community services to ensure the IT sector continues to make a positive impact on peoples' lives with three main goals, namely, 1) talent cultivation and professional development, 2) industry development and collaboration, and 3) the effective use of IT in our community.

For more details, please visit <https://www.hkcs.org.hk>.

#

Issued by: Hong Kong Computer Society

For Media Enquiry, please contact Mr. Davis Man of Man Communications Limited at 852-2862 0042

Appendix: Hong Kong Computer Society 2026 I&T Industry Trend Survey Results

Appendix: Hong Kong Computer Society 2026 I&T Industry Trend Survey Results

A) Total number of surveys received: 41

B) Questions and Results

Question 1: What is Your Primary Role?

Choice	Total Percentages
Chief Digital Officer (CDO)	2.44%
Chief Information Officer (CIO)	26.83%
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)	4.88%
CISO	12.20%
Cybersecurity Law Enforcement	2.44%
Head of Emerging Technology and Chief Innovation Manager	2.44%
Head of Physical Security Technology	2.44%
IT Director / Head of IT	21.95%
Operations Manager	2.44%
Senior IT Manager	12.20%
Technology Consultant	7.32%
University Educator	2.44 %

Question 2: What is Your Organisation Sector?

Choice	Total Percentages
Accounting / Audit / Tax Services	2.44%
Architecture / Building / Construction / Property Development	4.88%
Athletics / Sports / Recreation / Entertainment	7.32%
Automotive / Motor Vehicles	2.44%
Aviation	2.44%
Banking / Financial Services / Insurance / Pension Funding	12.20%
Charity / Social Services / Non-Profit Organisations	2.44%
Civil Services / Government	7.32%
Clothing / Garment / Textile / Fashion / Jewellery	2.44%
Education	2.44%
Education / Research / Survey	4.88%
Energy / Power / Water / Oil & Gas / Waste Management	7.32%
Engineering - Building, Civil, Construction / Quantity Survey	4.88%

Food & Beverage / Hospitality / Catering	4.88%
Freight Forwarding / Delivery / Shipping / Logistics / Trade	9.76%
Government	2.44%
Health & Beauty Care / Medical / Pharmaceutical / Healthcare	2.44%
Information Technology / Telecommunication	4.88%
Public Transportation	2.44%
Retail	4.88%
Security Management Consultancy	2.44%
Transportation	2.44%

Question 3: What is Your Organisation Size?

Choice	Total Percentages
Less than 100 staff	7.32%
101 – 500 staff	7.32%
501 – 2,000 staff	24.39%
More than 2,000 staff	60.98%

Question 4: What is Your Overall Industry Outlook?

Choice	Total Percentages
Very Pessimistic	0.00%
Pessimistic	9.76%
Neutral	29.27%
Optimistic	58.54%
Very optimistic	2.44%

Question 5: What will be the TOP drivers of I&T industry growth in Hong Kong in 2026? (Select up to 3)

Choice	Total Percentages
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption	34.95%
Cybersecurity and Digital Trust Requirements	30.10%
Enterprise Digital Transformation	25.24%
Greater Bay Area (GBA) Opportunities	5.83%
Smart City / Digital Government Initiatives	3.88%

Question 6 : Please select and RANK the TOP 5 technology trends that will most impact Hong Kong in 2026

Choice	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5
Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI / Agentic AI)	34	5	0	1	1
Cybersecurity & Quantum-Safe Security	13	20	5	2	1
Cloud & Edge Computing	7	18	8	3	1
Data & Analytics / Data Governance	11	20	6	0	0
Digital Platforms & Intelligent Automation	12	18	7	1	1
Web3 / Blockchain	3	5	13	7	5
Extended Reality (XR / Metaverse)	0	4	9	10	9
Internet of Things (IoT) / Smart Infrastructure	5	13	14	3	3
Sustainability / Green IT	0	10	15	7	2
Quantum Computing	4	2	14	7	6

Based on a ranking score where 1st ranking receives 5 points, 2nd ranking 4 points, 3rd ranking 3 points, 4th ranking 2 points, and 5th ranking 1 point, the rankings for the TOP 5 technology trends that will most impact Hong Kong in 2026 are as follows:" :

Choice	Scoring
Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI / Agentic AI)	193
Cybersecurity & Quantum-Safe Security	165
Digital Platforms & Intelligent Automation	156
Data & Analytics / Data Governance	153
Cloud & Edge Computing	138
Internet of Things (IoT) / Smart Infrastructure	128
Sustainability / Green IT	101
Web3 / Blockchain	93
Quantum Computing	90
Extended Reality (XR / Metaverse)	72

Question 7: What are the major cybersecurity challenges your organisation expects to face in 2026? (Select up to 3)

Choice	Total Percentages
Cybersecurity Talent Shortage	25.69%
Supply Chain / Third-party Risks	16.51%
Data Privacy and Regulatory Compliance	23.85%
Limited Cybersecurity Budget	5.50%
Ransomware and Cyber Attacks	25.69%
Quantum Threats to Existing Encryption	0.92%
Human Factor	0.92%
Protecting Against AI Enabled Threats (e.g. Deepfakes)	0.92%

Question 8: Which IT skills will be MOST in demand in Hong Kong in 2026? (Select up to 3)

Choice	Total Percentages
Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning	33.62%
Cloud Architecture	7.76%
Data Engineering / Analytics	12.93%
Cybersecurity	31.90%
Enterprise / Solution Architecture	3.45%
IT Governance, Risk and Compliance IT	8.62%
Software Engineering	1.72%

Question 9: What is the SINGLE biggest challenge for IT investment and digital transformation in 2026?

Choice	Total Percentages
Budget Constraints	19.51%
Change Management / Organisational Culture	14.63%
Cybersecurity Risks	12.20%
Legacy Systems	7.32%
Talent Shortage	24.39%
Unclear Business ROI	21.95%

Question 10: How do you view the impact of Greater Bay Area (GBA) collaboration on Hong Kong's I&T industry in 2026?

Choice	Total Percentages
Negative	2.44%
Neutral	17.07%
Limited impact	4.88%
Positive	58.54%
Very positive	9.76%
Not relevant	7.32%

Question 11: How would you describe your organisation's current AI adoption stage?

Choice	Total Percentages
No AI initiatives	4.88%
Pilot / experimentation stage	19.51%
Limited production use	43.90%
Enterprise-wide deployment	31.71%

Question 12: How do you expect your organisation's IT spending in 2026 to change compared with 2025?

Choice	Total Percentages
Decrease Significantly	2.44%
Decrease Moderately	24.39%
No Significant Change	17.07%
Increase Moderately	41.46%
Increase Significantly	9.76%
Not Applicable / Don't Know	4.88%

- End -