

Digital Cities and e-Governance in China

*GovernAsia Annual Conference, Barcelona,
26-27 September 2007*



THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

Dr Xiudian Dai
x.dai@hull.ac.uk

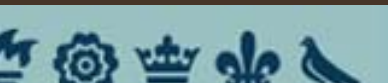
China's Digital Agenda

E-Government Development

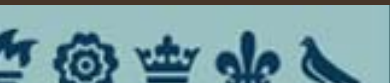
Digital Cities in China

Digital Beijing

The International Dimension of e-Governance in China



1. China's Digital Agenda



Informatization as a National Strategy

A dual-strategy for economic development in the 1990s

- Industrialization
- Informatization

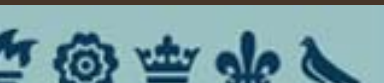
The launch of the 'Golden' projects

- Golden Cards
- Golden Customs
- Golden Bridge
- Other 'Golden' projects

Five-year Planning emphasizing the 'dual-strategy'

The State Informatization Development Strategy (2006-2020)

The Annual Informatization Promotion Conference



Informatization: Institutions & Leadership

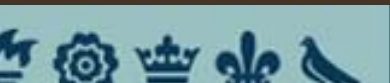
The National Informatization Leadership Group, chaired by the Premier

The State Council Informatization Office (SCITO)

An Informatization Office at all levels of govt administration

The creation of the Ministry of Information Industry (MII)

A top-down approach towards informatization



Informatization: Technologies

A long-term commitment to promoting ICTs (e.g. the 863 Programme)

Promotion of indigenous innovation vs globalization

- Digital video technologies (VCD, Super VCD, EVD, etc.)
- The TD-SCDMA standard for 3G
- Indigenous Digital TV development
- Microchips (the 909 Programme)
- Software development (National Centres; Red Flag)

The launch of manned spacecraft, a symbol of China's ICT power



Informatization: the Internet in China

A relatively late-comer to the internet: connected to the internet in 1994

The govt's love-hate relationship with the internet

Rapid growth of the internet sector

162 million users, expected to supersede the USA soon

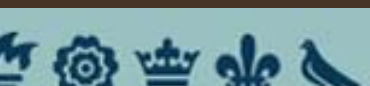
Connections are largely broadband (122 million users)

Growth potential: penetration rate at only 12.3%

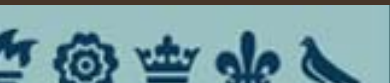
Increasing by 100 internet users every minute during the first half of 2007

Chinese internet companies

- Major news portals (e.g. Sina)
- Chinese search engines (e.g. Beidu)
- E-commerce firms (e.g. Alibaba)



2. e-Government Development



National Promotion

1999 as the Year of Government Online

Central govt agencies first

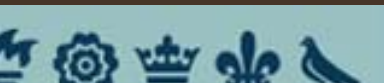
Followed by lower levels of govt agencies

E-Government as a political strategy

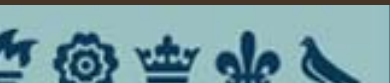
If you can't beat them, join them! (govt websites offering official information)

E-govt schemes for transparency and accessibility (legitimizing govt)

Proliferation of e-govt websites



3. Digital Cities in China



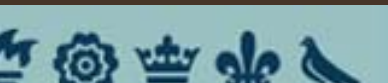
Digital Cities

Digital cities are part of the e-Govt scheme

Virtually all cities are online now

Some cities have launched integrated service platforms

This does not mean a 'single' platform for services



Digital Cities: e-Governance

Four lines of 'government'

- Municipality CCP system
- Municipality government system
- Municipality Congress of People's Representatives
- Municipality Political Consultative Conference

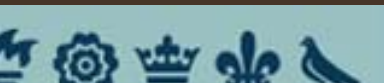
The two 'faces' of each line

- Internal network (*neiwang*)
- External network (*waiwang*): firewalls, filtering, monitoring, blocking

Vertical flow of information along each line

Physical isolation is currently the solution

E-governance as a challenging force to the status quo



Digital Cities: e-Governance

How to solve the problem of complexity in e-governance?

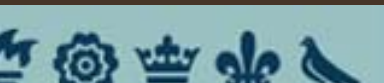
New thinking: Community [*shequ*] informatization

Shequ is a residential area of 1000-8000 households

Each *shequ* has at least one Neighbourhood Committee

Each *shequ* shoulders the burden of information gathering for each line of 'government' administration

Shequ informatization is to develop an integrated and simplified platform for data collection (for govt) and information service (for residents)



4. Digital Beijing



Beijing: Community Informatization

1999-2001: first phase of e-service

- *Shequ* hotline service
- *Shequ* emergency contact line
- *Shequ* online services

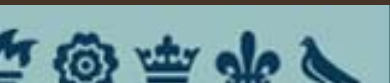
2002-2006: phase two

- *Shequ* administrative software development
- Integrated office system for Street govt and Neighbourhood Committees
- *Shequ* data gathering and decision making system

2006-present: third phase

- Information sharing platform to be developed

State Council pilot project: *Shequ* informatization (Chaoyangmen *Shequ*)



Beijing Info Network

Launched in August 2007 (www.beijing.cn)

Public-private partnership

To help achieve the four 'ANYs' of Beijing Olympics information service

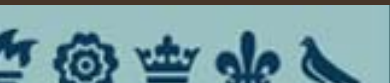
- Anybody
- Anywhere
- Any time
- Any platform (computer, mobile phone, digital TV, kiosk)

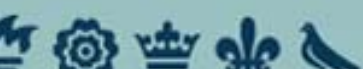
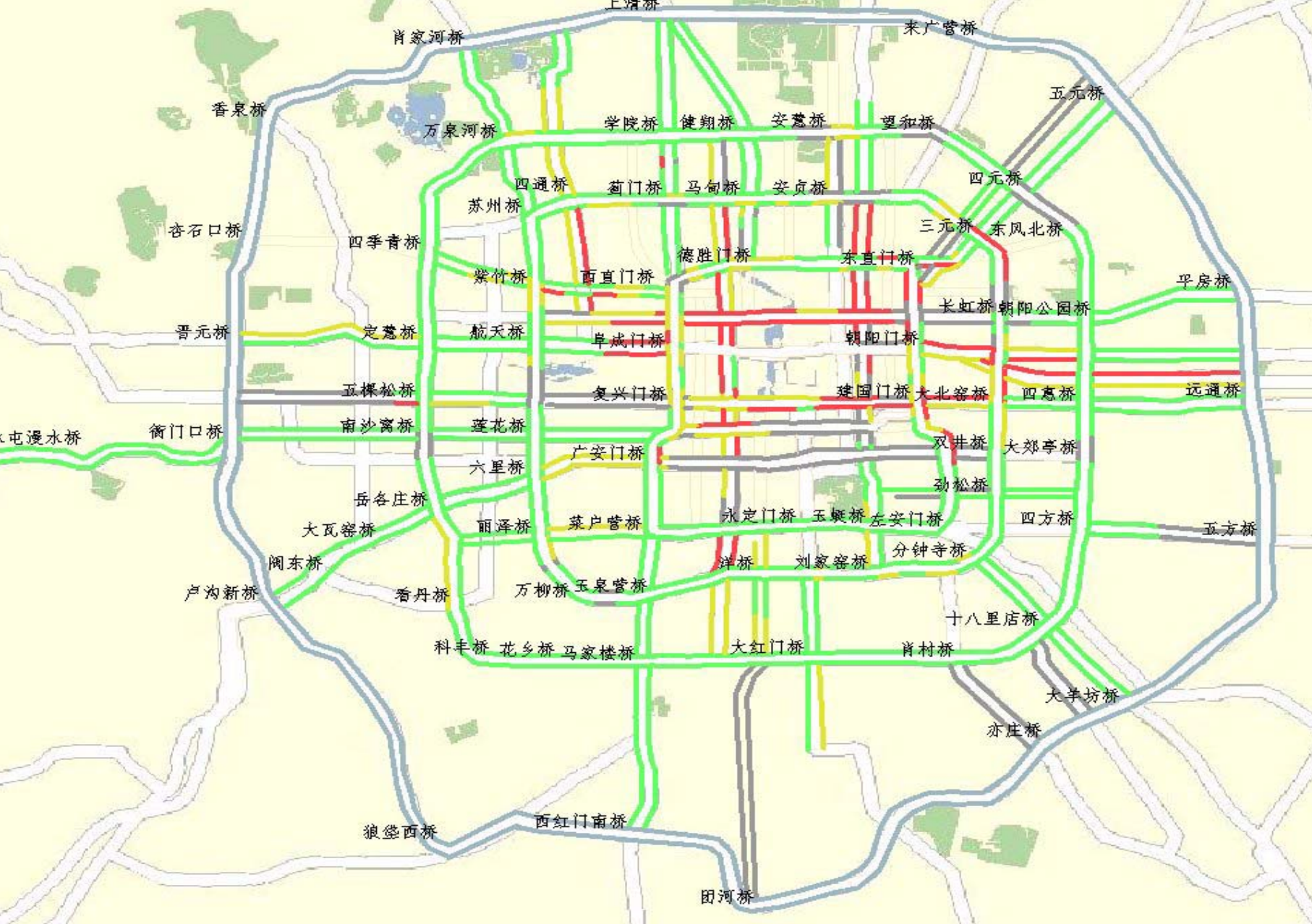
One-stop shop and integrated public info service for residents and visitors

470 kinds of information available at launch

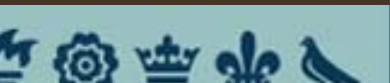
1000 kinds of information service as target

Example: real time traffic information





5. The International Dimension of e-Governance in China



Challenge vs Opportunities

Microsoft

- Weak IPR protection as a problem
- Innovation centre in Beijing

Nokia

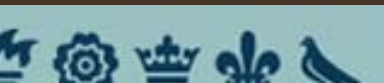
- China as the most important market
- R&D centre in Beijing

Siemens

- Suffered loss in mobile phone business
- But participated in developing China's 3G standard

The European Union

- The EU needs China (e.g. Galileo)
- China needs the EU (e.g. Information Society Dialogue)



EU-China

EU-China Information Society Dialogue

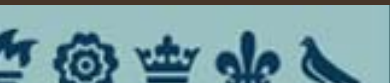
The EU-China Information Society Project (2005-2009)

Funding: €15 million from the EU, €7.11 million from the Chinese govt

Aim: To promote economic & social reform through informatization in China

Project components

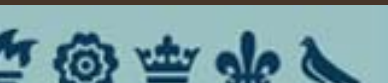
- A: Regulatory Dialogue
- B: Improved Govt Services
- C: E-govt training
- D: Administrative Capacity Building



EU-China

EU-China cooperation: e-Govt demonstration through digital cities

Digital City	Project
baotou [Inner Mongolia]	Public service system
chengdu [Sichuan Province]	Emergency health response system
handan [Hebei Province]	Social services smart card system
hangquan [Shanxi Province]	E-govt service for citizens and villagers
lantai [Shandong Province]	Integrated municipal govt services platform
xi'an [Shaanxi Province]	E-govt community public services platform



EU-China: Barcelona

March 2007: The EU-China Information Society Project sent a delegation to attend the 'Beyond e-Government: Time for Delivery' event in Barcelona
Barcelona is well positioned to explore avenues of future cooperation

