International Day of People with Disability Program

Universal Design for Sustainable Inclusive Smart City - Development Goals

The 'Smart City' concept has widely spread all over the world, which attempts to combine traditional infrastructure and technology to enrich citizens' quality of life. However, many Smart Cities failed to consider the needs of individuals with disabilities and/or older adults when developing Smart City solutions. An international survey of over 200 Smart Cities and accessible technology professionals showed that more than 90% of respondents “agree or strongly agree” that Smart City initiatives that incorporate information communication technology (ICT) accessibility would help people with disability and elderly to be more included in their communities.1

Although there is no official definition for Inclusive Smart City, to be considered as ‘inclusive’ and ‘smart’, a city must implement technology to provide a better urban experience for both ‘abled’ and ‘disabled’ people, as well as to “reinforce the participation of everyone, recognize the diversity of citizens, struggle against the segregation of minorities, and try, as much as possible, to eliminate, not only physical but also digital, barriers.”2

To celebrate the International Day of People with Disability 3, the speakers will outline their insights on ways to overcome the barriers and address their ideas of innovative solutions derived from local and international smart city practitioners, social entrepreneurs, NGOs leaders and policymakers, to achieve a “people-centric” Inclusive Smart City. The importance of universal design thinking will also be demonstrated to inspire partitioners and stakeholders of innovative service and product development to avoid physical, mobile and information barriers for the benefit of more than 2 million disabled and elderly citizens in Hong Kong. These “Inclusive Smart City” solutions will be crucial to achieve the essence of Sustainable Development Goals – “Leave No One Behind”.


3 A United Nations sanctioned day that is celebrated annually on 3rd of December to promote public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability