

ABSTRACT

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the company-to-company electronic exchange of business information in a computer-readable structured format. It revolutionizes the way in which companies do business, and those firms which make a head start implementing it will be able to enhance their competitive advantage immensely.

As the popularity of EDI is growing rapidly over the world. Many fast growing Asia Pacific countries such as Taiwan, Korea and Singapore had developed or are developing their EDI services to adopt this change. In order to maintain its international market position and trading edge against rivals in the rest of Asia, Hong Kong has also started its EDI projects since 1988. Until 1995, there was a breakthrough in Hong Kong's EDI development and implementation.

The objective of this paper is to study the development and implementation of EDI in Hong Kong from 1988 to 1995. Two of the three major local EDI providers are interviewed and their provided services are studied in view of both the provider level and user level.

This report starts off by giving a brief introduction and general classification of EDI. Then, the advantages and disadvantages of EDI application will be discussed. Following these, the history of EDI in Hong Kong will be given and the selected major local EDI providers will be analyzed in detail.

After that, examination of the obstacles and difficulties in developing EDI, the pros and cons of its development and application will be conducted. Finally, recommendations and improvement of the implementation and development of EDI in Hong Kong will lead to an end of the paper.