

SHEDDING LIGHT ON SMART HOUSES

On the basis of her expertise, Dr. S. L. Wen, the director-general of Taiwan Intelligent Building Association (TIBA) explains how smart houses (also known as intelligent buildings) can work for us.

Many public constructions have been labeled “Green Buildings” in Taiwan. However, public buildings that are budgeted over two hundred million dollars must also be labeled “Intelligent Buildings” since 2013 by law.

What counts for an intelligent building, really? In short, an intelligent building is equipped with information/communications technology and facility so that the whole space is capable of self-detection, prompt reaction, and auto-control; all of these functions together make possible a safe, healthy, comfortable, convenient, energy-saving, sustainable, and consequently intelligent building (or smart house)!

Intelligent buildings/smart houses are in fact creations of values, that is, “humanity” and “industry”. In terms of humanity, the focus is “immediate caring”. For instance, having measured an 80-year-old grandfather’s blood pressure with e-sphygmomanometer the results are texted to his family members’ smart phones, and they would at least make a phone call back once they see this message. In cases like these, elders can receive much attention, though remote but instant. On the other hand, intelligent buildings/smart houses help advance information and communications technology (ICT) as industries strive to innovate, develop, and sustain.

Moreover, these concepts and technologies can be applied to campuses as well. For example, students’ safety on campus can be assured by implementing e-fencing; a wail of sirens can be heard if students’ attempt to approach dangerous zones. Students’ attendance or their whereabouts can also be traced by sensing their IC cards; indoor environmental sensors can detect air quality and humidity in the classrooms so as to adjust air-conditioning modes more effectively.

For more information on intelligent buildings/smart houses, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.living3.org.tw/ils-museum> (for workplaces and homes)

<http://iblogo.tabc.org.tw/ibsm/p-7.aspx> (for campuses)

<http://www.tiba.org.tw> (for technical consulting)

