

ISD approves GNMIS applications under established guidelines

In response to remarks by online media today (September 27) that the Information Services Department (ISD) has rejected applications for subscription to the Government News and Media Information System (GNMIS) by some media organisations because their Facebook pages had fewer "likes" and relatively low hit rates, a spokesman for the ISD clarified that the number of Facebook "likes" and page hit rates are irrelevant to application eligibility, and that such remarks are totally unfounded.

As stated clearly in the application guidelines for GNMIS (www.isd.gov.hk/eng/pdf/Guideline_Eng.pdf), an online-only media organisation meeting the following requirements is eligible to become a GNMIS subscriber:

- (i) It can provide proof of regular online news reports in the past three months immediately preceding the application;
- (ii) It has been updating its news platform at least five days a week;
- (iii) It is staffed by at least an editor and a reporter; and
- (iv) It is registered under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268).