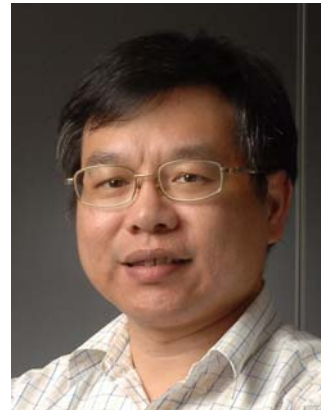


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Chingteng Hsiao is currently a research engineer in the Research Center for Information Technology Innovation (CITI) at Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Dr. Hsiao earned his Ph.D. degree in aerospace engineering from University of California, Los Angeles in 1993. In 1998, he co-founded Yam Digital Technology, an internet start-up that provides information and community services and was recognized as the first generation Internet entrepreneur in Taiwan. He then continuously served the internet industry for nearly 10 years before he joined Academia Sinica in 2007. Dr. Hsiao research interests include social networking services, data portability, user-centric identity, linked data and crowdsourcing.



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Driving the Power of the Crowd for the Emergency Response

Sahana, an open-sourced emergency management system, was first introduced into Taiwan right after last year's flood caused by Morakot typhoon. Ideas about adopting the system in Taiwan were exchanged over Twitter and wikis and a basic localization was done by volunteers in couples of days though the system was not ready to go public in the end. Sahana and other online systems like Ushahidi and OpenStreetMap, again played crucial roles in the response and recovery of Haiti earthquake and Chile earthquake early this year. These systems either empower individual participants to contribute in a bottom-up manner or help humanitarian groups to coordinate their efforts during the disaster response. Information technology indeed drives the power of the crowd and saves lives. Here in Taiwan, the Sahana response team was formed under the support of CITI, Academia Sinica last year. A fully localized version that meets the requirements of local humanitarian organization is in progress and the deployment of the system is expected on early July.