

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining
the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

**Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Session No. : 12 File name : ITBB-e1.doc**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB001

Question Serial No.

0029

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

- (a) What is the total expenditure for providing access to IT facilities to all civil servants to promote greater use of IT for internal operations, and what are the specific contents of such programme?
- (b) What is the total expenditure for carrying out 80% of government procurement tenders through electronic means, and what sorts of procurement tenders would constitute the remaining 20%?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

- (a) At present, IT facilities are provided to officers at Master Pay Scale Point 34 or above and to all grades of officers with an operational need, on an one-to-one basis. By enabling access to departmental business systems; internal communication through a government-wide networks; and providing external communication with the public through the Internet, the facilities help enhance efficiency of internal operation. We now plan to extend the provision of IT facilities to all the remaining officers of all grades, on a shared basis, to promote greater use of IT for internal operations.

We will implement a pilot project in about 14 bureaux and departments in 2002-03. The estimated non-recurrent cost of the pilot project is \$17m (average cost per bureau/department is \$1.2m) which will be provided under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation. Depending on the result of the pilot, we will decide whether, when and how to extend the programme to other bureaux and departments.

- (b) Electronic procurement is an important initiative in driving the adoption of e-business in the private sector. We have set a target to carry out 80% of Government procurement tenders through electronic means by end-2003.

In order to meet our target, an Electronic Tendering System (ETS) has been in use by the Government Supplies Department for tendering non-works tenders since April 2000. As one of the world's first government tendering systems, the ETS allows suppliers from all over the world to receive notification of tenders, submit tender offers and receive notification of tender awards through the Internet. The cost for developing this system was \$8.4 m.

Apart from this, the Government already issues works tenders and receives tender proposals through CD-ROM. The Government also disseminates works tenders through the Internet. In 2002, the Works Bureau will complete a study on the feasibility of submission of works tenders through the Internet, which will give an indication of the cost for taking forward such initiative.

We have confidence in achieving the target of 80% by end of 2003. The remaining 20% relates to more complicated procurement tenders which are not appropriate for conducting electronically at this stage.

Name in block letters	Eva Cheng
Post Title	Acting Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting
Date	15.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB002

Question Serial No.

0030

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the joint task force on e-business cooperation set up with the Government of the Guangdong Province, what is the total expenditure so involved, and what is the work of the task force ?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The work of the joint task force on e-business cooperation that we set up with the Government of the Guangdong Province is to explore and promote the cooperation on e-business and cross-certification between Guangdong Province and Hong Kong through the collaboration of both governments.

The task force held a meeting last December to discuss and exchange experience in the formulation of e-business legislation, the management of certification authorities and protection of consumer interest online. With the support and facilitation of the task force, the Hongkong Post Certification Authority and Guangdong Electronic Certification Authority have reached consensus on the mode of cooperation between the certification authorities of both places. The two parties are going to sign a cooperation document this month with a view to formulating a set of common certification policy and procedures for cross-certification. This will facilitate the development of cross-border e-commerce. In addition, the task force is now studying and planning other activities to promote the development of e-business in both places.

The expenditure incurred by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) in the activities of the task force has yet to be confirmed pending the formulation of specific programmes. The funds payable by the Hong Kong side will be met with the provision under the "General departmental expenses" of ITBB.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

13.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ITBB003

Question Serial No.

1049

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the provision of more online public services, whether there will be any impact on the civil service establishment after the programme is implemented? If yes, what are the implications?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

The provision of more online public services provides an option for the public to obtain Government information and services through electronic means. While we aim to make such provision as attractive as possible, we have no immediate plans to reduce the provision of services through other conventional means, e.g. over the counter. Thus, we do not expect to see substantial impact on the civil service establishment in the near term solely arising from the provision of online services. But where the online service proves highly popular, there will be a case for reviewing the number of staff involved in providing the conventional means of the service, and hence possible savings in posts.

The general use of IT for internal Government operations may lead to staff savings through streamlining processes and increasing efficiency; and allow for better use and redeployment of staff providing more value added services for the public.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB004

Question Serial No.

1088

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is the allocation required for hosting the "ITU TELECOM ASIA 2002" ?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

In 2002-03, a commitment of \$9 m under the Capital Account has been approved for hosting the ITU TELECOM ASIA 2002.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB005

Question Serial No.

0297

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : One of the key tasks in 2002-03 is "organizing activities to help facilitate film financing". Please give details and the estimated expenditure of the programmes concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

To assist the film industry in film financing, Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority jointly organized a symposium with the industry in late 2001. Overseas film financing experts were invited to attend the symposium to introduce different film financing systems in operation elsewhere in the world (including the completion bond system) to the local banking sector and film-makers. The feasibility of introducing similar systems to Hong Kong was also explored. One American completion bond company has already set up its office in Hong Kong after the symposium. We will continue to arrange specific follow-up activities, including the organization of thematic workshops on film financing in 2002-03 to cover accounting and the completion bond system for film-making, etc. The estimated expenditure of the concerned activities in 2002-03 is around \$200,000.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

18.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB006

Question Serial No.

0999

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau will “organize activities to help facilitate film financing” in 2002-03 ; what activities are proposed to be held, what is the expenditure involved and how much financing is expected from the organization of such activities?

Asked by : Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply :

In 2002-03, Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority will organize a number of activities to facilitate film financing, including the organization of thematic workshops on film financing to cover the accounting system and the completion bond system for film-making. Expenditure of the activities concerned in 2002-03 is estimated to be around \$200,000. Through these activities, we hope to enhance the industry's understanding of film financing and encourage completion bond companies to take part in film financing activities in Hong Kong. One American completion bond company has already setup an office in Hong Kong to provide completion bond services. As film financing is a business decision between film-makers and financiers, we have not estimated the amount of fund that can be raised.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB007

Question Serial No.

0012

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau
47 Information Technology Services Department
160 - Radio Television Hong Kong
180 - Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services; (2) Information Technology;
(3) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and departments/offices under your bureau,

(1) please provide the following details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision have been allocated in 2001-02:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (in plan / in progress / finished)	Government's follow-up action (if any)

(2) will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2002-03? If yes, please provide the following details :

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

(1) The consultancy studies for which financial provision have been allocated in 2001-02 are detailed as follows:-

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress and follow-up action (in plan / in progress / finished)	Government's follow-up action (if any)
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Consultants Hong Kong Limited (Head 55)	IT manpower requirements in Hong Kong	250,000	finished	Produced the report of the Task Force on IT Manpower
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Consultants Hong Kong Limited & Citigate Window Creative Ltd. (Head 55)	to attract local students studying IT overseas to return to work in Hong Kong	120,000	finished	To develop programmes to attract local students who study abroad in IT-related disciplines to return to work in Hong Kong
N M Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited (Head 55)	to assist the Government in the licensing of third generation mobile services and advise on this issue	47,000,000	finished	The Government has, with the assistance of the consultant, completed the licensing exercise of third generation mobile services and issued 4 such licences in October 2001.

(2) The consultancy studies for which financial provision will be allocated in 2002-03 are detailed as follows:-

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan / in progress / finished)
-	-	-	-

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB008

Question Serial No.

0254

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the deletion of one directorate post in 2002-03, what is the ranking of that post, what are its major duties and what arrangement would be made to such duties after the deletion of the post?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The deletion of one directorate post in 2002-03 reflects a net position. It takes account of the creation of one post and the deletion of two. The creation of a supernumerary directorate post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) for a period of two and a half years to drive the E-government initiatives was approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting held on 1 February 2002. Two supernumerary directorate posts, namely 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) and 1 Chief Engineer (D1), which were created to monitor the Cyberport project for a period of 3 years, will lapse in July 2002. Thus the net effect is a reduction of one directorate post during 2002-03. We will shortly consult the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the staffing of the Cyberport Division, in the context of the institutional arrangements for the future management of the Cyberport.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB009

Question Serial No.

0255

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

(a) What specific measures would the Information Technology & Broadcasting Bureau adopt in 2002-03 to “actively help the IT industry explore markets outside Hong Kong”?

(b) When would the aforesaid measures be implemented and how much resource would be deployed?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (a) To help the local IT industry explore markets outside Hong Kong, we are exploring with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council disseminating, through the latter's web site, more information on the IT markets in the Mainland and other countries/territories, including tender information on government IT projects. In addition, we will organise in 2002-03 large-scale IT activities such as the ITU TELECOM Asia 2002 and Hong Kong Information Infrastructure Exposition and Conference 2003, to enable local IT companies to establish contacts with overseas business partners and to explore new business opportunities. The Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Information Technology Services Department will lead delegations comprising local IT companies to participate in major IT events in the Mainland and other economies to promote the local IT industry and assist local IT companies to explore business opportunities. We are also committed to strengthening cooperation and exchange with the 9 countries (namely Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Finland, Israel, India, Republic of Korea, Germany and France) with which we have signed agreements on IT cooperation, in order to help the local industry tap these markets. For instance, the Government intends to lead an IT delegation to visit Finland in May 2002 and to lead another delegation to participate in Softworld 2002 to be held in Canada in September 2002.

In addition, we are also establishing a web site dedicated to promoting outstanding local IT products and services, in order to publicise abroad the achievements of the local IT industry.

- (b) Expenditure for implementing the aforesaid measures to help the local IT industry explore markets outside Hong Kong (including the organisation of and participation in various exhibitions and the arrangement of overseas visits) is estimated to be about \$14 m.

Name in block letters	<u>Eva Cheng</u>
Post Title	<u>Acting Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting</u>
Date	<u>18.3.2002</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB010

Question Serial No.

0258

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : In addressing the issue of “digital divide”, what are various government departments’ respective estimated expenditures and specific programmes in the coming year ?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : In 2002-03, the Government will organize the following activities to raise public awareness of information technology (IT) and promote the wider use of IT in the community:

Items	Responsible bureaux/ departments/agencies	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
● To continue with the “IT Hong Kong (ITHK)” campaign including producing television programmes and updating information at “ITHK” website to promote the wider use of IT	Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB), Information Technology Services Department (ITSD)	1.55
● To organize IT awareness courses for women, new arrivals, parents and the general public	ITBB, ITSD, Home Affairs Department (HAD)	1.65
● To provide IT awareness courses for people with disabilities and train the trainers	Social Welfare Department (SWD)	2.90
● To organize talks on computer awareness in public libraries	Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	0.9

Items	Responsible bureaux/ departments/agencies	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To collaborate with the industry in providing professional IT training to secondary school students 	ITBB, ITSD, Education Department (ED)	0.1 (sponsorship from the industry not included)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To organize IT training programmes 	Employees Retraining Board	59.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To organize IT vocational training programmes 	Vocational Training Council	545.20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set up a district cyber centre in Yuen Long 	HAD	1.65
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with the Super Cyber Centre and Community Cyber Points projects, etc. to provide free computer facilities for public use 	HAD, SWD, LCSD, Post Office	13.69
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To install additional assistive software at Community Cyber Points designed for use by the visually impaired 	ITSD, HAD	0.48
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage schools to make their computer facilities available to students after normal school hours by the provision of grants 	ED	18.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide free Internet access for elderly service units 	SWD	1.65
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To install computer facilities and provide free Internet access for rehabilitation units 	SWD	14.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide financial assistance from the Central Fund for Personal Computers to people with disabilities for buying computer facilities so that they can work independently 	SWD	1.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set up a portal for people with disabilities, providing information on support services for people with disabilities, chatroom facility and on-line registration of computer courses, etc. 	SWD	0.50

Items	Responsible bureaux/ departments/agencies	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve Government web sites to enhance web accessibility for people with disabilities 	Home Affairs Bureau, ITSD, Information Services Department	2.30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To launch the Community IT User Support Service in partnership with the Hong Kong Computer Society 	ITBB, ITSD	2.50
Total		667.07

For other activities that need to be organized, the cost will be met by internal redeployment of existing resources.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
And Broadcasting

Date

20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB011

Question Serial No.

1030

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services; (2) Information Technology;
(3) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please set out the amount paid and to be paid to the Office of the Telecommunications Authority Trading Fund in 2001-02 and 2002-03 under the respective programmes of Head 55 and the service items involved.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Provision has been made under Programme (1) of Head 55 for payment of services provided by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA). Details of the payment made in 2001-02 and the provision in 2002-03 are as follows:

Description	2001-02 \$	2002-03 \$
TV Broadcasting	1,014,000	-
Enforcement of licensing conditions and technical monitoring of various TV services		(see Note)
Sound Broadcasting	446,000	456,000
Technical monitoring of radio broadcasting services		
Other Services	2,548,000	2,598,000
Research and monitoring of broadcasting development (providing support services to ITBB in policy making and assessment on broadcasting matters)		
Total	4,008,000	3,054,000

Note: The service charge, being the cost of regulating the television transmission networks operated by Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (HKCTV), was previously recovered under the licence fees paid by the three licensees on full cost recovery basis. With the implementation of the Broadcasting (Licence Fees) Regulations effective from 7 July 2001, the three licensees have since been paying this part of the licence fee to OFTA direct, thus the service charge is no longer required to be reflected in the provision for 2002-03.

Name in block letters	<u>Eva Cheng</u>
Post Title	<u>Acting Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting</u>
Date	<u>21.3.2002</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB012

Question Serial No.

1111

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Under programme (2) (of Head 55), Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau reveals that it would implement a programme to provide access to IT facilities to all civil servants; what is the specific content of that programme and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

At present, IT facilities are provided to officers at Master Pay Scale Point 34 or above and to all grades of officers with an operational need, on an one-to-one basis. By enabling access to departmental business systems; providing internal communication through a government-wide network; and providing external communication with the public through the Internet, the facilities help enhance efficiency of internal operation. We now plan to extend the provision of IT facilities to all the remaining officers of all grades, on a shared basis, to promote greater use of IT for internal operations.

We will implement a pilot project in about 14 bureaux and departments in 2002-03. The estimated non-recurrent cost of the pilot project is \$17m (average cost per bureau/department is \$1.2m) which will be provided under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation. Depending on the result of the pilot, we will decide whether, when and how to extend the programme to other bureaux and departments.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB013

Question Serial No.

1112

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Information Technology

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : For the Super Cyber Centre established under the "IT Hong Kong" campaign, are there any development programmes such as removal, expansion, etc. for it this year? If so, please give an account of the specific plans and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Super Cyber Centre located at Canton Road Government Offices will continue its operation at the existing site within the financial year of 2002-03, without any removal plan. According to the existing plan, the Centre will be handed back to the Government Property Agency by late 2003 for redevelopment purpose.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB014

Question Serial No.

1194

Head : 55 - Government Secretariat :
Information Technology and
Broadcasting Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What is Government's estimated expenditure for promoting the development of digital entertainment in Hong Kong in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

We have established a Working Group on Digital Entertainment under the Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee. This Working Group will, in 2002-03, advise the Government on how to facilitate and support the further development of digital entertainment in Hong Kong. We will examine the proposals in detail and consider if it is necessary to allocate more resources. At present, companies and organizations related to digital entertainment can obtain financial assistance from the Government through the Innovation and Technology Fund, Film Development Fund and the funding schemes for Small and Medium Enterprises, etc. for the purposes of conducting technological research, providing training, collection of market information and carrying out marketing activities, etc.

Name in block letters

Eva Cheng

Post Title

Acting Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

Date

19.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB015

Question Serial No.

1121

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

- Question :
- (a) What are the 40 posts to be transferred to other departments? What are the ranks and duties of these posts?
 - (b) To support the implementation of the Multi-application Smart Identity Card Programme, two posts are to be created. What are the ranks and duties of these two posts?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: (a) The 40 posts will be transferred to five departments including Education Department, Information Services Department, Rating and Valuation Department, Judiciary and Transport Department. These posts consist of three Senior Systems Managers, nine Systems Managers, 18 Analyst/Programmer Is and 10 Analyst/Programmer IIs.

Upon the transfer of these posts, the aforesaid departments will set up individual Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs). The ITMUs will be responsible for the development, management, planning and technical support of IT projects in those departments.

- (b) To support the implementation of the Multi-Application Smart ID Card (MASC) programme, two posts including a Senior Systems Manager and a Systems Manager will be created in ITSD. Their duties are to participate in the design, development and support of the MASC programme to ensure that the system is reliable and can operate smoothly in conjunction with other existing systems. They will also liaise with the participating departments, analyse their system requirements, design various common infrastructure, handle the procurement of all necessary products and services, manage the outsourcing of contracts, and monitor the performance of the contractors, etc.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB016

Question Serial No.

1150

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Does the Enhanced Productivity Programme involve staff reduction and outsourcing of services? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: The Enhanced Productivity Programme savings of ITSD are achieved by adopting the following measures:

1. Reducing the maintenance cost of computer systems by re-scheduling the hardware and software maintenance work.
2. Reducing the number of contract Analyst/ Programmer staff employed by –
 - Having staff under the current establishment to absorb the work previously done by contract staff through streamlining of workflow and re-scheduling of work procedures.
 - Reducing work procedures through combining the feasibility study and implementation stages when developing less complex computer systems.
 - Adopting more rapid and flexible methodologies in the development of computer applications.

ITSD has adopted an IT outsourcing policy for a number of years. This measure does not form part of the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB017

Question Serial No.

0993

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : How many activities under the "IT Hong Kong" campaign were held by the Government in 2001-02? What was the total expenditure for organising these activities?

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply: In 2001-02, the Government had organised the following activities under the "IT Hong Kong" campaign:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Responsible Bureau/department</u>	<u>Details</u>
● TV programmes to promote the awareness of IT in the community	Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau Information Technology Services Department	2 TV short information programme series (11 episodes altogether) and 1 variety show
● IT appreciation programme for parents of primary students	Information Technology Services Department Education Department Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Organization of about 550 classes of IT awareness courses and distribution of more than 450 000 educational VCDs
● IT awareness programme for districts	Home Affairs Department	About 760 classes
● IT awareness programme for the elders	Social Welfare Department	About 330 classes
● IT awareness programme for people with disabilities	Social Welfare Department	More than 200 classes

Activity	Responsible Bureau/department	Details
• Distribution of personal computers for training and Internet access to the non-government organisations	Social Welfare Department	Distribution of about 820 personal computers to about 170 organisations serving the elders and people with disabilities
• Establishment of the “IT Hong Kong” web site	Information Technology Services Department	Web sites available
• Ten Healthy Websites Contest	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	1 contest
	Information Technology Services Department	
• Tours for different sectors in the community	Information Technology Services Department	7 tours

In 2001-02, the total expenditure on organizing the activities regarding “IT Hong Kong” included:

Department incurring the expenditure	Expenditure (\$)
• Social Welfare Department	22.4m
• Information Technology Services Department	2.6m
• Home Affairs Department	1.8m
• Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau	1.3m
• Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	0.6m
Total	28.7m

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB018

Question Serial No.

0994

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please state in detail the specific measures and estimated total expenditure in 2002-03 to facilitate the disabled persons to use IT.

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply: The specific measures and estimated total expenditure of the Government in 2002-03 to facilitate the disabled persons to use IT are as follows:

Projects	Responsible bureau/department	Estimated expenditure (\$m)
• To provide additional ancillary software in the Community Cyber Points specially designed for the visually impaired.	Information Technology Services Department Home Affairs Department	0.48
• To enhance the Government web sites to facilitate the visually impaired to access the information on those sites.	Home Affairs Bureau Information Technology Services Department Information Services Department	2.30
• To provide IT awareness programmes and training courses for people with disabilities, and to provide training to trainers themselves.	Social Welfare Department	2.90
• To provide portal web sites for people with disabilities to facilitate dissemination of information regarding support services, operation of chat rooms and registration for IT courses, etc.	Social Welfare Department	0.50

Projects	Responsible bureau/department	Estimated expenditure (\$m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide personal computers and funds for Internet connection at service units serving people with disabilities. 	Social Welfare Department	14.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide funding support from the Central Fund for Personal Computers to enable people with disabilities to purchase computer equipment to facilitate their independent working. 	Social Welfare Department	1.00
Estimated total expenditure		21.18

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB019

Question Serial No.

0995

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government
(2) IT Infrastructure and Standards
(3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Regarding the estimates of expenditure of \$616.6m of ITSD in 2002-03, what is the estimated expenditure on commissioning recurrent and non-recurrent consultancy studies? Please provide the names of the consultancy studies which have been approved with financial provision and will be held in 2002-03, and the consultancy fees of these studies.

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung , Eric

Reply: Approval has been given for ITSD to conduct a consultancy study on the ITSD's Change Management Programme in 2002-03. The estimated non-recurrent expenditure of \$3 million will be funded by Finance Bureau under "Subhead 182 Expenses for the Appointment of Financial and Management Consultants" of "Head 106 Miscellaneous Services", but not under the estimated expenditure of ITSD. The study does not involve recurrent expenditure.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB020

Question Serial No.

1041

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please answer the following questions regarding "Programme (1) : Use of Information Technology (IT) in Government ":

(a) It is planned that ITSD will have completed two Information Systems Strategy Studies/Reviews, 38 feasibility studies and implementation of 169 computer applications for bureaux and departments in 2001-02. What are the estimated resources and manpower to be utilized in this respect? Besides, how long will the new applications last? What can be done to extend the serviceable life of these computer applications to enhance their cost-effectiveness?

(b) How much will ITSD invest in purchasing computer software and hardware in 2002-03? What can be done to extend the service life of these computer software and hardware to enhance their cost-effectiveness? Besides, will the Government consider to purchase parallel imports of software and hardware to save resources?

Asked by: Hon. TING Woo-shou , Kenneth

Reply: (a) The reference in the printed estimates to two Information Systems Strategy Studies/Reviews, 38 feasibility studies and implementation of 169 computer applications refers to numerous projects that individual bureaux/departments (including ITSD itself) will have undertaken in 2001-02 with ITSD support and assistance, under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation. The total financial provision involved is \$864m (inclusive of expenditure on IT contract staff) and 51 man-years of ITSD professional staff effort.

The useful life of new computer applications is normally taken to be 5 to 7 years for cost/benefit analysis purposes, although this will not become the upper limit for the serviceable life of all computer applications. When we design the applications, suitable room for expansion will be reserved so that the capacity of the system can be enhanced according to the ongoing business requirements. As regards the selection of software and hardware, we adopt products that operate on open platform as far as possible so that we can have wider choice in case of upgrades or replacement of the systems in future. This will help extend the serviceable life of the computer applications and their cost effectiveness.

- (b) In 2002-03, ITSD will invest \$39m in purchasing computer software and hardware. We give due consideration to operational needs and will consider redeploying existing hardware and software before procuring or replacing hardware and software; in so doing we can extend the serviceable life of existing equipment and achieve economy of resources and cost-effectiveness. We procure our hardware and software in accordance with government procurement regulations, through existing Government Supplies Department bulk supply term contracts. These contracts are established through open tendering. In these procurements, we require the contractors to supply products which have identifiable sources and are properly licensed and to provide adequate local support where applicable.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB021

Question Serial No.

1083

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : How can the Information Technology Professional Services Arrangement to be implemented in 2001-02 help enlarge the Government's capacity for IT service delivery? What are the estimated resources and manpower to be utilized for such arrangement? Besides, what measures/indicators will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the arrangement?

Asked by: Hon. TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply: The preparatory work for the "Information Technology Professional Services Arrangement" (ITPSA) is in progress. This is an outsourcing arrangement for the supply of four categories of IT professional services, namely, (a) general information system development and maintenance, (b) web publishing system, (c) office systems and network, and (d) IT security services. ITSD is in the process of selecting 6 to 8 contractors for each category of service through open tender. Upon the conclusion of contracts, the selected contractors will be entitled to bid for IT projects under this arrangement during the ensuing 30 to 48 months.

This outsourcing arrangement will increase substantially the number of contractors and service categories. It will enhance the Government's access to IT human resources in the market, thereby increasing its capacity to develop IT systems and adopt IT solutions. Through the use of the ITPSA, government departments can commence IT project implementation with a shorter lead time after securing funding approval.

The purpose of the ITPSA is to provide IT professional services and human resources. It is estimated that government departments can acquire about 4 800 man-months in professional services (around \$270m in value) through this arrangement during the first year of operation of the ITPSA.

Regarding the evaluation of the effectiveness of the ITPSA, the selected contractors for the respective service categories will have to undergo competitive bidding for every IT project of that category. The ceiling unit prices of each service category will be stipulated in each individual contract. The government departments concerned will oversee the implementation of each IT project and will assess the performance of the contractor for reference by ITSD. ITSD will also monitor the overall performance of the contractors to ensure that cost-effectiveness is achieved through the ITPSA.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB022

Question Serial No.

1119

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : In 2001-02, ITSD facilitated the outsourcing of the application maintenance services of five departments. What were these five departments and the savings achieved? Will this arrangement be continued in 2002-03? Please provide details of such arrangement and the estimated savings. Besides, how can ITSD ensure that the application maintenance services provided by the contractors meet the requirements of ITSD?

Asked by: Hon. TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply: In 2001-02, ITSD has outsourced its application maintenance services and those of four other departments including Customs and Excise Department, Highways Department, Department of Health and Judiciary. The savings to be achieved in the recurrent expenditure amount to about \$2.75m per annum.

In 2002-03, ITSD will conduct a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the existing departmental application maintenance outsourcing services including the performance of the contractors. ITSD will then decide if the arrangement is to be continued or extended further.

To ensure that the services provided by the maintenance services contractors meet the requirements of ITSD, detailed service level benchmarks and assessment criteria have been stipulated in the contracts. The contractors, representatives of ITSD and user departments will meet regularly to review the performance of various services, analyse the factors contributing to any discrepancies, and any improvement measures. All these help assure that the quality of services will meet the requirements as stated in the contracts.

Name in block letters Alan Wong

Post Title Director of Information
Technology Services

Date 21.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB023

Question Serial No.

1145

Head : 47 - Information Technology Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer : Director of Information Technology Services

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please provide the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 and project details on coordinating the development and implementation of the value-added applications of the smart identity cards including the resources and manpower involved, as well as the functions and coverage of the value-added applications.

Asked by: Hon. TING Woo-shou, Kenneth

Reply: To co-ordinate the development and implementation of Multi-Application Smart ID Card (MASC), it is planned that two posts including a Senior Systems Manager and a Systems Manager will be created in ITSD in 2002-03. Their duties are to participate in the design, development and support of the MASC Programme to ensure that the system is reliable and can operate smoothly in conjunction with other existing systems. They will also have to liaise with the participating departments, analyse their system requirements, design various common infrastructure, handle the procurement of the necessary products and services, manage the outsourcing of contracts, and monitor the performance of the contractors, etc.

There will be four value-added applications on the smart identity card including digital certificate, library card, change of address and driving licence. All four applications will be optional to the identity card holders who may choose to use any or all applications according to their own needs. With the exception of the driving licence which will become available in 2005-06 when the relevant systems are ready, citizens will be able to enjoy the convenience brought by the other three applications as soon as the Identity Card Re-issue Exercise commences in mid 2003.

- Digital Certificate The cardholders may choose to accept a free digital certificate valid for one year issued by the Hongkong Post (HK Post) Certification Authority when they apply for their new smart identity cards. The digital certificates will have been embedded in the new smart identity cards at the time of issuance.
- Library Card The cardholders will be able to use their new smart identity cards as library cards to access the services and facilities in the public libraries.
- Change of Address With the digital certificate embedded onto the smart identity

cards, the cardholders can do online change of address using one form for four government departments/offices (namely Transport Department, Inland Revenue Department, Rating and Valuation Department, as well as the Registration and Electoral Office).

- Driving Licence From 2005-06 onwards, the smart identity cards will allow the holders to check their driving licence particulars stored in the back-end computer system of the Transport Department. With the smart identity card, licensed drivers can also drive without carrying their driving licences with them.

As for the resources involved, for the digital certificate and library card applications, upgrading of back-end computer systems in HK Post and Leisure and Cultural Services Department will be required. The upgrading will be at a one-off non-recurrent cost of less than \$10 million each. These will be met under the Computerisation Block Vote of the Capital Works Reserve Fund. HK Post will absorb the recurrent costs for giving out free e-Certs. For the implementation of the driving licence application, the majority of the cost will be incurred in the context of the development of Transport Department's Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data System IV (VALID IV) and Police's Command and Control Communications System III (CCIII). We do not envisage any significant additional cost over that already envisaged.

Name in block letters	<u>Alan Wong</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Information Technology Services</u>
Date	<u>21.3.2002</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB024

Question Serial No.

0302

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : As regards the two targets of “advice on radio reception” and “follow-up action on calls to public affairs programming”, RTHK has fully met the “10 working days” target in the past two years. Would RTHK consider further upgrading the targets to strengthen its services? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

RTHK attaches great importance to “advice on radio reception” and “follow-up action on calls to public affairs programming”. The “10 working days” target has been set according to operational needs and resource allocation constraints.

As regards “advice on radio reception”, the duty engineers, upon receipt of an enquiry, will contact the caller immediately and provide the necessary assistance. RTHK launched the “Easy Reception” campaign last December, and over 800 enquiries were received with more than 80% of them satisfactorily resolved within 7 days. Accordingly, RTHK will consider reducing the “10 working days” radio reception service target.

As for public affairs programming, the producers, upon receiving a complaint, often have to liaise with relevant departments or organizations. The complainant will be notified after a solid reply is obtained. The follow-up process usually involves liaison and research with outside parties, thus the 10-day period is considered reasonable.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB025

Question Serial No.

1299

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : The "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03" section states that RTHK will formulate a 5-year strategic plan. What are the details of the plan and the work schedule? Will the plan include an examination of the feasibility of corporatisation of RTHK? Will there be a public consultation on the plan to ensure that there is a channel for the public to voice their opinions on the issues? What will be the costs involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Work on RTHK's 5-year strategic plan and development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was funded through the redeployment of resources within this financial year. A consultancy firm was appointed in October 2001 at a cost of \$0.82 m. It undertook research through staff focus group discussions (involving around 170 programme officer grade staff) and senior executive workshops (involving 25 senior staff, including directorate) The study helped compile future strategies and goals (e.g. outsourcing and employing non-civil service contract staff) along with a set of KPIs suitable for measuring the performance of public broadcasting services, including cost efficiency indicators.

The plan covered:

- fine-tuning RTHK's SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis;
- identifying options for principal Strategies, Goals and KPIs;
- outlining a higher level Manpower Plan showing "best practice options" e.g. the benefits of more flexible staffing arrangements employed by other public broadcasters;
- seeking RTHK staff's views on KPIs, training, job enrichment and balance of staff mix required to drive the strategic plan.

The exercise is nearing completion and a draft final report is expected by the end of this month.

The study has not included the issue of RTHK corporatisation.

As the study mainly focused on personnel, resource allocation and cost efficiency, the Government will not conduct any public consultations.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB026

Question Serial No.

0075

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : As mentioned in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03", RTHK will "produce cultural programmes to strengthen the public's appreciation of art and culture." What are the details of the programmes and the production costs concerned?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

In 2002, RTHK will collaborate with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), and Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) to produce a wide range of cultural and arts programmes. These include 6 episodes of an art education series "*Arts Unlimited*", 26 episodes of local art and artists series "*Artist Profiles*", 8 episodes of a museum and art museum series (jointly produced with the LCSD), and 8 episodes of "*8 Beats*" featuring overseas and local animation productions. To promote the local film industry, RTHK, together with TELA, will produce 4 episodes of "*Film Industry*".

As regards classical music and arts performances, RTHK has already broadcast live, during TV prime-time, "*Yundi Li & the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Live*" and "*Yo Yo MA & the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Live*". Both programmes were well received by the audience. RTHK will continue to collaborate with LCSD, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and other organizations such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival to broadcast live/relay 8 concerts and art performances.

The total output of art and cultural programmes in 2002 will amount to 32.2 hours, and the estimated production cost of these programmes is \$8.43 m.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB027

Question Serial No.

0271

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : As mentioned in one of the items in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03", RTHK will "produce programmes on the upcoming election of HKSAR's Chief Executive". But now TUNG Chee-hwa has been automatically elected and also awarded a warrant of appointment by the Central People's Government. How would RTHK re-allocate the resources which have been reserved for production of the related programmes?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

As Mr. TUNG Chee-hwa has been re-elected and awarded a warrant of appointment by the Central People's Government, RTHK will re-deploy programme resources previously set aside for this purpose to produce regular public affairs programmes. The programme contents will include an introduction to the activities and policy initiatives of the new administration.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB028

Question Serial No.

0567

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Does the provision stated in Programme (2) include funds set aside for productions on the election of HKSAR's Chief Executive? What was the exact amount of resources used for the purpose? Are there any other resources left for other programmes? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

Originally, about 3 hours of television output, representing 1.5% of the annual total public affairs programming output hours, were planned for the Chief Executive election. The plan was estimated to cost about \$1 m. As Mr. TUNG Chee-hwa has been re-elected and awarded a warrant of appointment by the Central People's Government, RTHK will re-deploy programme resources previously set aside for this purpose to produce regular public affairs programmes. The programme contents will include an introduction to the activities and policy initiatives of the new administration.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB029

Question Serial No.

0573

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the estimates for the manpower and resources required for the formulation of RTHK's 5-year strategic plan? As the plan includes the development of Key Performance Indicators, when will such indicators and the relevant details be finalized? Do such indicators include cost-effectiveness ones? Are there similar indicators at present? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply:

Work on RTHK's 5-year strategic plan and development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was funded through the redeployment of resources within this financial year. A consultancy firm was appointed in October 2001, at a cost of \$0.82 m. It undertook research through staff focus group discussions (involving around 170 programme officer grade staff) and senior executive workshops (involving 25 senior staff including directorate). The study helped compile future strategies and goals (e.g. outsourcing and employing non-civil service contract staff) along with a set of KPIs suitable for measuring the performance of public broadcasting services, including cost efficiency indicators. The exercise is nearing completion and a draft final report is expected by the end of this month.

Based on the consultancy study report recommendations, RTHK will establish additional KPIs suitable for measuring the performance of public broadcasting services to enhance cost efficiency, programme quality and productivity.

RTHK's radio division has already established cost efficiency and productivity indicators such as 'cost per channel hour' and "hours of radio programming per employee". These indicators have been included in paragraph 6 of the Controlling Officer's Report.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB030

Question Serial No.

0574

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : While Radio 5 is a channel dedicated to elderly, cultural and educational programmes, the 2002 estimated cost per channel hour for Radio 5 is roughly the same as that for Radio 1, and much higher than that of Radio 7. Please give a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs for Radios 1, 5 and 7, and make a comparison of them so as to explain why the estimated costs for Radios 1 and 5 are higher than that for Radio 7.

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply:

In the 2002 Estimates, the cost per channel hour for Radios 1, 5 and 7 are \$4,080, \$3,960 and \$2,900 respectively.

Radio 1 is dedicated to news and public affairs programmes. This kind of production requires very swift responses and high flexibility. The programmes are often produced with a mix of live broadcast, outside broadcast and sound recording. There is a greater demand for technical services, and the information research process is complicated and time-consuming. In 2002, the estimated total cost for Radio 1 is \$35.8 m which is higher than that of Radios 5 and 7 (the respective estimated total costs are \$17.7 m and \$18 m). The higher cost per channel hour for Radio 1 is due to its more complex production.

Radio 5 mainly produces programmes relating to the elderly, culture, education, children and Chinese opera. The production of cultural, educational and children programmes requires detailed information search, script-writing, recording and promotion. Elderly programmes require longer follow-up time and liaison with various service organizations.

Radio 7 was initially focused on information, financial and oldies music programmes. This type of production is comparatively simple. Since March 1997, it has been relaunched as the Putonghua Channel to meet the community need, and is gradually widening its services.

The estimated costs for Radios 5 and 7 are roughly the same. However, Radio 5 has fewer broadcasting hours which account for its comparatively higher unit cost.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB031

Question Serial No.

0260

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : One of the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03" is RTHK will "further develop its multi-media and explore the possibilities of distributing RTHK's programmes contents on the Internet through public-private-partnership." Please advise :

1. How RTHK will accomplish this objective through the arrangement of public-private-partnership; and
2. What is the provision next year to distribute RTHK's programme contents on the Internet?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

RTHK is actively seeking potential partners to explore the public-private-partnership concept. In August/September 2001, we published an advertisement seeking expressions of interest regarding the distribution of RTHK programmes on the Internet, and 13 interested parties responded. We are now examining the feasibility details of the models proposed, and will consider cultural and educational programmes with less copyright complications as the initial contents for collaboration.

Our New Media Unit is responsible for the distribution of RTHK's programme contents on the Internet. Through internal resource re-deployment, the Unit's proposed budget will amount to \$9.217 m for 2002-03.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB033

Question Serial No.

0305

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please specify the titles and remuneration involved of the 12 posts to be deleted in 2002-03. What measures will TELA adopt to ensure that quality of services will not be compromised as a result of the reduction in manpower?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

In 2002-03, we plan to delete a total of 16 posts, including 2 Personal Secretary IIs, 4 Office Assistants, 1 Calligraphist, 3 Assistant Clerical Officers, 1 Clerical Assistant and 5 Senior Foremen. As we also plan to create 4 new posts, the net number of post deleted is therefore 12. Based on the notional annual mid-point salary values of the 16 deleted posts, the total salary involved is \$2.816 m.

In order to ensure that the deletion of above posts will not compromise the quality of our services, the department has reviewed and streamlined existing working procedures, re-engineered and arranged for outsourcing of dispatch service, provided existing staff with appropriate training and equipment needed for office automation. All these measures aim to reduce reliance on clerical and secretarial services and to achieve a higher level of efficiency through the wider use of information technology and enhanced productivity measures. Meanwhile, we will closely monitor the cost-effectiveness of our outsourcing arrangement.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB034

Question Serial No.

0306

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcast Monitoring and Regulation

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : What are the reasons for the reduction of "Codes of Practice Items Reviewed" from 70 in 2001 to 10 in 2002?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

After consultation with the public and the industry, the Broadcasting Authority (BA) issued a set of generic codes of practice for television programme standards and television advertising standards as well as a set of radio codes of practice in 2001. The Codes aim at providing a practical guide, which is predictable and proportionate, to facilitate the business of broadcasting licensees under the newly enacted Broadcasting Ordinance. As the BA has only just completed a comprehensive review of the Codes of Practice, the need to update or revise individual items in 2002 has therefore been drastically reduced.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 18.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB035

Question Serial No.

1000

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question: When will the public opinion survey on film classification and classification standards be conducted? What is the estimated budget?

Asked by: Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply:

The public opinion survey on film classification and classification standards will be carried out in July and August. Estimated budget for the survey is \$650,000.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB036

Question Serial No.

1075

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcast Monitoring and Regulation

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : In the 2002-03 financial year, has funding been provided for control and enforcement of legislation against the publication of obscene materials by electronic media and the Internet?

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply:

In the case of electronic media, if it is detected that television programme service or sound broadcasting service licensees have transmitted content of an obscene nature, TELA will take regulatory action in accordance with the statutory procedures, the relevant legislative provisions and licence conditions as well as the programme and advertising standards set out in Codes of Practices. Funding required in this regard is already included in the Estimates for the Broadcast Monitoring and Regulation Programme. As regards the transmission of obscene materials through the Internet, it comes under the ambit of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance and is subject to regulatory control under the "Code of Practice: Practice Statement on Regulation of Obscene and Indecent Material" developed by the Government and the Hong Kong Internet Services Providers Association in 1997. No additional funding is required for carrying out this area of work.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB037

Question Serial No.

1238

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please specify, as compared with last year, the amount of additional funding TELA will provide in financial year 2002-03 for the purpose of conducting routine inspections to curtail the sale of pornographic materials (pornographic VCDs in particular).

Asked by: Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply:

As compared with last year, TELA will increase its expenditure by approximately \$1.2 m in financial year 2002-03 on the enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. The provision will be used for hiring additional staff to step up inspections and monitoring of the sale of obscene and indecent materials (particularly pornographic VCDs and publications etc.) and to take appropriate enforcement actions against the publication of these materials.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB038

Question Serial No.

1139

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Please specify the details and objectives of the COIAO educational campaign to be organized in 2002-03. What is the expenditure involved and who are the targets of the campaign?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2002-03, TELA has earmarked a provision of some \$2.5 m. for organising publicity activities to promote the COIAO. The target of these activities will include young people, parents, teachers and the general public. These include training on the installation and use of filtering software, seminars, and promotional activities on the importance of parental guidance through the newly set up Healthy Information Resource Centre (with a budget of about \$0.2 m); producing an API for television broadcast (about \$0.4 m); organizing the Ten Healthy Website Competition (about \$0.5 m) and implementing the COIAO Publicity Activities Funding Scheme (about \$1.2 m). Moreover, around \$0.2 m will be allocated for organizing activities for the young cyber ambassadors trained under the Cyber Ambassador Awards Scheme. It is hoped that through the above activities, we will be able to enhance young people's understanding of the importance of choosing healthy reading materials and arouse the concern of parents, teachers and members of the public on the adverse effect of obscene and indecent articles on young people.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB039

Question Serial No.

1166

Head: 180Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question : Why is it that the 2001-02 Revised Estimates for Programme (2) has turned out to be 15% lower than the Approved Estimate? Is it because there were projects not yet carried out, or is it because the actual expenditure was less than originally estimated?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

The 2001-02 Revised Estimate for Programme (2) is 15% lower than the Approved Estimate because the expenditure under the Film Development Fund (FDF) has turned out to be lower than that planned due to the following :

- (1) the amount of FDF disbursement to new projects in 2001-02 was lower than originally expected;
- (2) certain projects funded by the FDF had taken more time to complete, and thus disbursement of funds for these projects was not required in 2001-02; and
- (3) the actual expenditure of certain FDF projects had turned out to be lower than the amount applied for.

Name in block letters Eddy CHAN

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 20.3.2002

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ITBB040

Question Serial No.

1195

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting

Question :

- (a) Please specify the expenditures used on promoting Hong Kong films overseas by the Film Development Fund, the Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Government in 2001-02.
- (b) After holding the May 2001 "Cannes Hong Kong Night Event", does the Government plan to organize or sponsor promotional campaigns at international film festivals or similar arenas? Does the Government have any plans to promote Hong Kong films in Mainland China? If yes, please provide details and related expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

(a) In 2001-02, the Film Development Fund (FDF) allocated a total of \$5.6 m to promote Hong Kong films overseas. Among the disbursements, \$4.7 m were used to fund the "Hong Kong at Cannes" held during the Cannes International Film Festival and \$0.9 m were used to sponsor the participation of 10 Hong Kong films in 7 overseas film festivals. As regards the expenditure committed by the Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board for the purpose of promoting Hong Kong films, they are not expenditure items under Head 180.

(b) TELA has no plan to organize promotional activities similar to the "Hong Kong at Cannes" at international film festivals or other forum in 2002-03. However, the FDF will continue to provide funding support to promote Hong Kong films, such as sponsoring the participation of Hong Kong films in overseas film festivals. TELA will also assist the HKSARG Offices outside Hong Kong in the organisation of overseas Hong Kong Film Festivals. Activities of this nature do not require additional funding under Head 180.

Name in block letters _____ Eddy CHAN

Post Title _____
Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date _____ 21.3.2002