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CB1/PL/ITB
2869 9246
2121 0420

14 July 2005

Mr Daniel R FUNG, SBS, SC, QC, JP
Chairman
The Broadcasting Authority
39/F Revenue Tower
5 Gloucester Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong

Dear Mr FUNG,

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Special meeting to be held on 21 July 2005**

The Panel will hold a special meeting on **Thursday, 21 July 2005, at 4:30 pm in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**. A copy of the tentative agenda is attached for your information. On behalf of Hon SIN Chung-kai, Panel Chairman, I write to cordially invite you and your colleagues to attend the special meeting in connection with **agenda item II**.

Arising from the contract termination of Mr WONG Yuk-man with Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited (CRHK), the Panel has expressed concern about the implications, if any, on the freedom of expression in the broadcasting industry. Some Members are concerned whether the incident is indicative of a growing trend for sound broadcasters to adopt a more restrictive approach in dealing with programmes airing critical views. The Panel would very much like to hear the Broadcasting Authority (BA)'s views on the matter from the regulatory perspective, such as whether the incident amounts to any deviation from the Code of Practice issued by the BA, or whether it is inconsistent with any statutory provisions or licence conditions applicable to sound broadcasting licensees. Question has been raised as to whether the present incident has any bearing on BA's consideration of licence renewal of sound broadcasters. You may wish to note that the Panel has also invited the Administration and CRHK to give views on the matter and to attend the special meeting.

If you have any written information for the Panel, please provide it (in both Chinese and English and with softcopy to slchan@legco.gov.hk) **on or before 18 July 2005** for timely circulation to members. In line with our usual practice, the written material provided to the Panel will be made available to the media and the public, and uploaded to the Website of this Council on the Internet, unless you have advised otherwise.

To facilitate meeting arrangements, we would appreciate it very much if you would confirm whether you and any of your colleagues will be attending the special meeting **on or before 18 July 2005**.

In this connection, kindly note that when addressing the Panel at the meeting, both your goodself and representatives of BA are not covered by the protection and immunity under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382). The written information provided by BA will also not be covered by the aforesaid Ordinance.

Meanwhile, if there is any question, please feel free to contact me or Ms Debbie YAU at 2509 4417.

Looking forward to your early reply and with best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Polly YEUNG)
Clerk to Panel

Encl.

c.c. Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP, Panel Chairman

ALA3

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

**Special meeting on
Thursday, 21 July 2005, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Agenda

- *I Broadcasting services of Radio Television Hong Kong**
(4:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

- *II Freedom of expression and other issues related to personal view
programmes of sound broadcasting licensees**
(5:30 pm – 6:55 pm)

- III Any other business**
(6:55 pm – 7:00 pm)

* All other Hon Members of the Legislative Council are invited to take part in the discussion of items I and II.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 July 2005