

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of issues suggested to be considered (position as at 12 October 2004)

Proposed timing **for discussion**

Items carried over from the last session

IT-related issues

1. Progress of Cyberport Project

During the last term, the Panel used to receive half-yearly progress reports on the Cyberport project. The subject was last discussed on 12 January 2004. The latest progress report has been issued on 24 June 2004 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2232/03-04(01) for members' reference. The Administration has undertaken to provide a comprehensive report on the project by early 2005.

Early 2005

2. IT Easy Link Services

IT Easy Link was first launched in June 2002 on a pilot basis and has been extended twice until June 2005. It provides free advice to members of the community on general problems that they might encounter in using basic IT applications. The subject was last discussed on 10 May 2004. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel on the way forward in about one year's time.

May 2005

The Administration has advised that the Office of Government Chief Information Officer will discuss with the Hong Kong Computer Society to determine the mode of collaboration in continuing the IT Easy Link Services after 2004-05.

3. Progress update on E-government programme

Last discussed on 12 July 2004. The Panel has recommended that the Administration should brief members on the progress annually.

July 2005

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Telecommunications

4. Licensing of mobile services on expiry of existing licences for second generation mobile services

The Administration has issued the first consultation paper in August 2003 to solicit views from the industry and interested parties on the future licensing arrangements after the licences for second generation mobile services (2G licences) expire. A second consultation paper has been issued by the Administration on 19 March 2004 (vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1349/03-04). At the request of the telecommunications operators, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority has extended the deadline of consultation from 30 April 2004 to 19 June 2004. The Administration is still studying the submissions received.

Late 2004

Film Development

5. Operation of Film Guarantee Fund

At the meeting on 25 March 2004, the Administration has undertaken to brief the Panel on the way forward for the Film Guarantee Fund in 2005, after reviewing its operation.

January 2005

Broadcasting

6. Domestic/private pirated viewing of subscription television programmes

As undertaken at the Bills Committee meeting of the Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2003 on 2 April 2004, the Administration would review one year after the commencement of the Bill the effectiveness or otherwise of digitization, the implementation of the new provisions and enforcement actions in containing the problem of domestic/private pirated viewing of subscription television programmes. The Administration has also been requested to consider reviewing the level of penalty imposed by courts on decoder-related offences and take any follow-up action as appropriate. The Administration has agreed to report the outcome of its reviews to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting for its consideration of the way forward in dealing with the problem.

About July 2005

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Broadcasting (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 commenced operation with effect from 7 July 2004. The Administration has launched a series of publicity through different channels to disseminate the message of anti-pirated viewing since then.

Items proposed by the Administration

7. Regulation of Internet Protocol Telephony

With a view to initiating discussions in the community on how consumer interest under IP telephony service should be protected, and how the telecommunications regulatory regime should be refined to address the opportunities and challenges brought about by IP telephony service to the telecommunications industry, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority, on 4 October 2004, launched a two-month public consultation exercise. The consultation period will end on 4 December 2004.

November 2004

IP telephony refers to the service offering of voice, fax and related services using IP technology. Customers using IP telephony service are able to make and receive telephone calls over a broadband Internet connection.

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the consultation exercise.

8. Funding requirement for Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) in 2005-06

The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the funding requirement for 2005-06 for the implementation of computerization projects under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation). The funding proposal will then be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee for consideration.

November 2004