

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 3 January 2006)

Proposed timing for discussion

IT-related issues

1. 2005 surveys on IT usage and penetration in the household and business sector

Proposed by the Administration. The Panel considered 2004 surveys on IT usage and penetration in the household and business sector on 4 February 2005.

13 February 2006

2. 2004 Digital 21 Strategy – Progress report for 2005 and targets for 2006

Proposed by the Administration. The Panel considered the progress report on the implementation of the 2004 Digital 21 Strategy and action plan for 2005 on 4 February 2005.

13 February 2006

3. Progress report on transformation of the IT Easy Link services

Proposed by the Administration to brief the Panel on the way forward for the project. The Panel has discussed the item on 8 April 2005.

10 April 2006

4. Progress report on the implementation of computer information system integration qualification certification under CEPA II

Proposed by the Administration. The Panel last discussed the item on 8 April 2005.

10 April 2006

5. Report on the Cyberport Project (2005)

The Panel received an overall report on the progress of the Cyberport Project on 10 January 2005 and held a special meeting on 2 February 2005 to follow up certain issues of concern. The Administration has been requested to report further progress to the Panel on an annual basis. The Administration now propose to submit to the Panel the annual progress report for 2005 and the business plan of Cyberport for 2006-07 in May 2006.

8 May 2006

6. Progress report on promoting the development of the digital entertainment industry in Hong Kong – strategy and measures

Proposed by the Administration. The Panel last discussed the item on 13 June 2005. 8 May 2006

7. Progress update on the E-government programme

Proposed by the Administration to report on the progress of various e-government initiatives. The Panel will consider the new strategy for e-government services delivery on 9 January 2006. 12 June 2006

Telecommunications

8. Detailed proposals for the "Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill"

On 11 July 2005, the Panel was briefed on the draft framework of the proposed anti-spam legislation. The Administration has been requested to revert to the Panel on further details of the proposed legislation when they are ready. The Panel notes the Administration's intention to introduce the relevant bill into the Council within 2006. The Administration is now preparing the detailed legislative proposals for public consultation by early 2006. 17 March 2006

9. Regulatory issues pertinent to the convergence of fixed and mobile communications services

To prepare for the convergence of fixed and mobile telecommunications services, the Administration launched a consultation exercise on 21 September 2005 on the proposed changes to the licensing framework and the unified carrier licence for the provision of both fixed and mobile services. Deadline for submissions is 21 November 2005. The Administration is now studying the submissions. Reviews on fixed/mobile interconnection charge and fixed/mobile number portability commenced in December 2005. The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the reviews and also the proposed way forward. 10 July 2006 (tentative)

10. Consultancy study on spectrum policy review

With a view to formulating a responsive, transparent and market-led spectrum policy to enable the community to reap the maximum benefit from the deployment of radio spectrum as a scarce public resource as technology advances, the Administration will shortly engage a consultant to assist in reviewing spectrum policy and management issues. The Administration will launch a public consultation and seek the views of the Panel on the proposed spectrum policy framework.

10 July 2006
(tentative)

11. Licensing of broadband wireless access (BWA) services

Last discussed on 14 March 2005. The second public consultation paper was issued on 31 August 2005. The deadline for submissions has been extended to 21 November 2005. The Administration is now reviewing the submissions and will brief the Panel on the proposed way forward in due course.

To be confirmed

12. Issues related to the protection of personal information of e-mail account subscribers

Arising from the recently reported incident in which it was alleged that Yahoo! Holdings (Hong Kong) had provided the Mainland authorities information regarding the personal emails of Mr SHI Tao, the Panel discussed the protection of personal information of e-mail account subscribers on 1 November 2005. Members agreed to re-visit the issues after relevant information has been received from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Personal Data (PCO), the Hong Kong Internet Services Providers Association and the Assistant Legal Adviser of the Secretariat.

To be confirmed

An interim reply provided by PCO has been issued to all Members on 2 December 2005 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)445/05-06. PCO will provide further updated information in due course.

13. Commencement of section 8(1)(aa) of the Telecommunications Ordinance and creation of a class licence to regulate telecommunications services

Proposals of the Telecommunications Authority (TA) and the progress of the public consultation were discussed on 9 May 2005. Having reviewed the issue and taken into account the views of Panel members, the TA intends to revise his proposals and will launch a new round of public consultation in due course.

To be confirmed

Broadcasting

14. Consultation Paper on the Establishment of the Communications Authority

To follow up the initiative of merging the Telecommunications Authority and the Broadcasting Authority into a unified regulator as set out in the 2004 Digital 21 Strategy, the Administration will brief the Panel on the consultation paper on the establishment of the Communications Authority.

To be confirmed

15. Domestic/private pirated viewing of subscription television programmes

Last discussed on 11 July 2005. The Administration has been requested to, inter alia, monitor the global trend of regulatory practices against pirated viewing of pay TV programmes and update the Panel where necessary.

To be confirmed

16. Review of the broadcasting regulatory regime

In the light of technological and market convergence in the electronic communications sector, the boundaries between telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology are blurring. Some old concepts adopted for the regulation of broadcasting may become obsolete in the converging environment. Just like other jurisdictions, Hong Kong needs to update the regulatory regime in the light of latest technological and market developments to ensure that its framework remains conducive to the further development of the broadcasting industry in particular and the electronic communications industry in general.

To be confirmed

17. Revision of broadcasting licence fees

The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority has conducted a costing exercise for the fees payable under the Broadcasting (Licence Fees) Regulation. It proposes to revise the fees according to the cost recovery principle. The Administration will brief the Panel on the revision of broadcasting licence fees after consulting the industry.

To be confirmed

18. Opening up radio/TV channels for use of the community

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman. The subject of public access channels has been considered in the context of the development of Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Hong Kong, licence renewal for television and sound broadcasters at the Panel meetings held on 27 June 2003, 5 December 2003, 12 January 2004 and 8 March 2004.

To be confirmed

On 18 February 2004, a motion on broadcasting policy moved by Hon SIN Chung-kai and as amended by Hon Howard YOUNG and Hon Andrew CHENG was passed by the Council urging the Government to, inter alia, establish public access television channels which may be operated by public organizations for the broadcast of programmes produced by community groups and the public. In its progress report, the Administration considered that given the vibrant broadcasting sector providing a variety of services to meet the communications needs of the public, there is no urgent need to set up a public channel.

The Panel received a letter from the Organizing Committee of the Citizens' Radio requesting the Panel to urge for the opening up of radio channels for the use of the community so as to safeguard the freedom of speech. The letter was circulated to Panel members on 19 October 2005 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)93/05-06(01).

The Administration has expressed its latest views on the provision of public access channels for sound broadcasting in its information paper entitled "Issues on Broadcasting" (CB(1)238/05-06(03)) which was considered by the Panel on 14 November 2005.

19. Review on public service broadcasting

At the meeting held on 14 November 2005, the Administration has undertaken to announce the details of the review on public service broadcasting in Hong Kong and brief the Panel accordingly when the concrete plan for a review is finalized. The Administration has subsequently advised that it will follow up the above accordingly if there were to be a review of public service broadcasting.

To be confirmed

20. Issues related to the regulation of pornographic and violent materials transmitted through the mass media

In response to the letter from the "Anti-Pornographic & Violence Media Campaign" (vide LC Paper No. CB(1)519/05-06) requesting to discuss the subject with the Panel, the Chairman has agreed to include the item for the Panel to consider the subject at a Panel meeting in due course. Meanwhile, the Campaign has been invited to provide its submission, if any, for the Panel's consideration.

To be confirmed