

## Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

### List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 10 October 2005)

#### Proposed timing for discussion

#### IT-related issues

##### 1. Progress on the Cyberport Project

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 has proposed to brief the Panel in early 2006.

Early 2006

##### 2. New strategy for e-government services delivery

Last discussed on 14 March 2005. The Administration has been requested to brief the Panel on the progress in implementing the new strategy, including the roll-out of priority service clusters in delivering e-government services.

November/  
December 2005

#### Telecommunications

##### 3. Proposed Anti-spam legislation

Last discussed on 11 July 2005. The Administration has been requested to revert to the Panel on further details of the proposed legislation when they were ready. The Panel noted the Administration's intention to introduce the relevant bill into the Council within 2006.

To be confirmed

##### 4. Licensing framework for the deployment of broadband wireless access

Last discussed on 14 March 2005. The second public consultation paper was issued on 31 August 2005 and the deadline for submissions is 31 October 2005. Upon receipt and review of the submissions, the Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed way forward.

To be confirmed

**5. Revision of regulatory regimes for fixed-mobile convergence**

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. Upon receipt and review of the submissions, the Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed way forward.

To be confirmed

**Broadcasting**

**6. 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

**7. Proposal for a unified regulatory authority for telecommunications and broadcasting**

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 proposal for setting up the unified regulator.

Last quarter of 2005

**8. Broadcasting Services of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)**

Last discussed on 11 and 21 July 2005. The Administration has been requested to take into account the concerns/views of Members and provide a comprehensive paper/papers on the following key issues relating to RTHK's role as public services broadcaster for the Panel's consideration in November 2005:

November 2005

- (a) corporatization of RTHK (incorporating the views and findings, if any, drawn up by RTHK);
- (b) development of digital broadcasting;
- (c) provision of public access channels;

- (d) whether and how reforms or improvement measures would be introduced for RTHK to enhance its transparency, effectiveness and accountability; and
- (e) the way forward for the proposed Broadcasting House.

## **9. 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. The Administration will first consult the public on the new organizational framework for the regulation of the electronic communications sector in 2005 and the remaining regulatory issues later in 2006. The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the review.

To be confirmed

## **10. Revision of film censorship fee**

The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority is conducting a costing exercise for the film censorship fee payable under the Film Censorship Regulations. The fee may be adjusted according to the cost recovery principle. The Administration will brief the Panel on the revision of the film censorship fees in November.

November 2005

## **11. Revision of broadcasting licence fees**

The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority is conducting a costing exercise for the fees payable under the Broadcasting (Licence Fees) Regulation. The fees may be adjusted according to the cost recovery principle. The Administration will brief the Panel on the revision of broadcasting licence fees in due course.

To be confirmed

## **12. 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.