

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 11 November 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

IT-related issues

1. 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.

December 2005

2 Targeted Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Computer Operator Grade

Item proposed by the Administration. It will brief the Panel on the Targeted Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Computer Operator grade in the civil service.

December 2005

3. CWRP Head 710 Computerisation Subhead A007GX – New Administrative Computer Systems

Item proposed by the Administration. It plans to seek the Panel's support for the proposed provision of HK\$540 million for 2006-07 under CWRP Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX – New Administrative Computer Systems. The funding submission is scheduled for consideration by PWSC and FC on 21 December 2005 and 13 January 2006 respectively.

December 2005

4. Business Review of the Hongkong Post Certification Authority

Item proposed by the Administration. It will consult the Panel on the Government's proposal to conduct a Request for Proposal exercise in the first half of 2006 to invite the private sector to operate the e-Cert services on behalf of or in partnership with the Hongkong Post Certification Authority, with a view to engendering a self-financing operation in the longer run.

December 2005

5. 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

Telecommunications

6. 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

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

To be confirmed

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

To be confirmed

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

To be confirmed

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, the Hong Kong Internet Services Providers Association and the Assistant Legal Adviser of the Secretariat.

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.

To be confirmed

Broadcasting

11. 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.

To be confirmed

12. The development of Digital Audio (DA) Broadcasting in Hong Kong

At the Panel meeting on 18 October 2005, Hon Albert CHENG, Deputy Chairman, referred to his meeting with representatives from the World DAB Forum on the global trend of the development of DA broadcasting. In his letter (in Chinese only) dated 14 October 2005 as per attached, the Deputy Chairman requested the Panel to convene a special meeting to receive a briefing by representatives of the World DAB Forum, and to meet with broadcasting licensees as well as representatives from related sectors.

January 2006
(tentative)

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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 will be considered by the Panel on 14 November 2005.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 November 2005



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



立法會 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

鄭經翰議員辦公室

The Office of the Honourable Albert J. Cheng
LEGISLATIVE COUNCILOR (KOWLOON EAST)

召開特別會議——聽取全球數碼廣播趨勢

逕啓者：

本人剛會見了「世界數碼聲音廣播論壇」(World DAB Forum)代表 Asia-Pacific Adviser MR. Jeff Astle & Project Director Ms. Rebacca Dorta，聽取了全球數碼廣播的趨勢；本人認為本委員會有需要詳細了解此日新月異的廣播科技，為此本人要求召開特別會議：

- (1) 邀請世界數碼聲音廣播論壇代表，簡介最新數碼廣播技術及在各國推行情況；
- (2) 邀請香港電台代表，簡布多次數碼聲音廣播試播(各制式及頻段)的結果；
- (3) 邀請各持牌廣播營運商，(主要是類比廣播電台)；

(其他電視及電訊業者，數碼聲音/多媒體廣播接收器生產商等，亦歡迎出席)，與政府部門代表共商「香港數碼廣播的發展」。

有勞之處，不勝感謝。本詢請電 2528-5000 本人。

此致

資訊科技及廣播事務委員會秘書
楊少紅小姐

資訊科技及廣播事務委員會副主席鄭經翰

2005年10月14日

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