

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Session No. : 5

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)001

Question Serial No.

0730

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: The Administration stated that it would facilitate the deployment of broadband wireless access technologies and services in Hong Kong in 2007-08. Would the Administration inform the Committee of the details of the initiatives and the expenditure so incurred?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: To facilitate the deployment of broadband wireless access (BWA) technologies and services in Hong Kong, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) intends to resume the consultation on the licensing framework for BWA services as soon as possible within this year, after the finalisation of the spectrum policy framework and subject to the outcomes of the public consultation on the fixed-mobile convergence and the demand from the industry for spectrum to launch BWA services. As the consultation is to be carried out by OFTA, the expenditure incurred will be absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)002

Question Serial No.

0582

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding the public consultation on the proposals to amend the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO), how will the deterrent effect on those repeat offenders be enhanced? How will the Administration follow up on the results of the consultation? How much expenditure is expected to be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply: We are reviewing the COIAO, particularly those provisions relating to repeat offenders, with a view to enhancing its deterrent effect. We will consult the public on the recommendations of the review before deciding on whether and how we should amend the COIAO. The consultation will not require additional resources. After analysing the submissions received during the consultation, we will finalise the proposals for implementation. We are unable to assess whether new expenses will be incurred in implementing the review outcome at this stage.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)003

Question Serial No.

0388

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: The estimate for general departmental expenses under this subhead in 2007-08 is \$38,858,000, much higher than the revised estimate of \$25,993,000 in 2006-07. Please state in detail the reasons for the increase in expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: The estimate for general departmental expenses under this subhead in 2007-08 represents an increase of about \$12.8 million over the revised estimate in 2006-07. This is mainly due to the pooling of resources for internal redeployment among the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) and its departments to enable the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology to pursue new initiatives and activities within his policy areas, and provision of sufficient funds for the operation of the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board in 2007-08.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)004

Question Serial No.

2366

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: As regards “facilitating the deployment of broadband wireless access technologies and services in Hong Kong”, will the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What measures will be implemented in facilitating the deployment of broadband wireless access technologies and services in Hong Kong in 2007-08? Apart from the promotion activities for the use of the Wi-fi wireless internet service provided by the Government, will there be other new initiatives launched? What are the respective expenses of the measures so incurred? Please give a breakdown according to target sector, work details, expenditure incurred and schedule of implementation.
- (b) Will the Administration co-operate with the information technology industry in implementing the above measures? If so, what is the expenditure incurred? Will the expenditure of the initiatives be saved and the effectiveness be enhanced accordingly?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) and (b) To facilitate the deployment of broadband wireless access (BWA) technologies and services in Hong Kong, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) intends to resume the consultation on the licensing framework for BWA services as soon as possible within this year, after the finalisation of the spectrum policy framework and subject to the outcomes of the public consultation on the fixed-mobile convergence and the demand from the industry for spectrum to launch BWA services. As the consultation is to be carried out by OFTA, the expenditure incurred will be absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund.

It has been the Government's policy to adopt a market-led approach, under which fair competition is maintained on one hand while regulation is minimized as far as possible to facilitate the rolling out of new services on the other hand. Nevertheless, whether investment should be made is subject to commercial decision by the market. Other than providing free Wi-fi wireless Internet access facilities at various Government premises, we have no other initiatives in 2007-08.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)005

Question Serial No.

2681

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: As regards digital terrestrial television broadcasting, will the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What measures will be implemented in facilitating the implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting in 2007-08? Will there be any plans to help the public, particularly the low income ones, to change to digital broadcasting receivers in order to help them relieve their burden? What are the respective expenses of the measures so incurred? Please give a breakdown according to target group, work details, expenditure incurred and schedule of implementation.
- (b) Will the Administration co-operate with the information technology industry and the non-governmental organisations in implementing the above measures to ensure that the needs of the public be coped with? If so, what will be the expenditure incurred?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: Replies to the above questions are as follows:

- (a) According to the implementation framework for digital terrestrial television (DTT) formulated by the Government, Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited shall commence broadcasting their existing services in both analogue and digital form (simulcasting) and launch new digital services by 2007. During the simulcast period, the public can still use their existing television sets to receive the 4 analogue programme channels provided by the two broadcasters.

The benefits of DTT to the viewers are manifold, such as better reception, more programme channels and high definition television programmes. The viewers need to upgrade their antenna systems and purchase relevant receivers (e.g., set-top boxes and integrated television sets) at their own cost. According to overseas experience, a wide range of DTT receivers at different prices will be available in the market and set-top boxes with basic decoding function cost only several hundred Hong Kong dollars. At this stage, we do not have any plans to subsidize the purchase of DTT receivers by the public.

Subject to further market and technical studies, the Government aims to switch off analogue terrestrial television broadcasting by 2012. Before the switch off, we will consider the uptake of DTT services in the community and formulate appropriate measures to ensure a smooth switching off analogue broadcasting.

- (b) In 2007-08, the Government will continue to oversee the DTT network construction and preparation for the launch of DTT services by the two broadcasters, and assist them by providing inter-departmental co-ordination and technical advice. Besides, in view of the imminent launch of DTT in 2007, we plan to strengthen the DTT publicity campaign in 2007-08. We will introduce and promote DTT to the public through different channels and collaborate closely with the relevant industries (e.g., broadcasting, electronic consumer products manufacturing and retail industries) and organizations (e.g., the Consumer Council) to ensure that DTT will be implemented smoothly. We will carry out the above work by using the existing resources and no additional expenditure will be required.

Name in block letters	<u>Francis Ho</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Communications and Technology)</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)006

Question Serial No.

0725

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: The revised estimate for 2006-07 is 30.6% higher than the original estimate. Will the Administration explain the reasons for this great deviation in the estimates? How will this be avoided from recurring in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: The revised estimate of expenditure for Programme (1) Broadcasting and Film Services for 2006-07 is \$25.6 million, representing an increase of \$6 million or 30.6 % over the original estimate of \$19.6 million. This is mainly due to the internal deployment of resources among the Communications and Technology Branch and its departments to enable the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology to pursue new initiatives and projects within his policy areas in 2006-07, which includes providing secretariat and other support services to the independent Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting and implementing some specific projects, such as funding the production of some creative programmes of the Radio Television Hong Kong. These initiatives have mostly been completed in 2006-07 and will have no bearing on the estimate for 2007-08. When the estimate is finalized, new measures may arise and additional expenditure may be incurred. Internal resources will be re-deployed to meet the needs.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)007

Question Serial No.

0727

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please provide information on the work plan of the digital broadcasting study and the relevant estimated expenditure in 2007-08.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: In 2007-08, with respect to digital broadcasting, the Government will:

- (a) continue overseeing the implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting by Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited and providing assistance to them (such as facilitating inter-departmental co-ordination and providing technical advice);
- (b) formulate the policy framework for mobile television subject to the outcome of the consultation; and
- (c) continue monitoring the development of digital broadcasting overseas.

We will carry out the above work by using the existing resources and no additional expenditure will be incurred.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)008

Question Serial No.

0728

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please provide a detailed plan of the “new initiatives and activities” pursued by the Administration in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditure for each item.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: In 2007-08, we will pool about \$25 million to enable the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology to pursue new initiatives and activities within his policy areas. We are now examining the proposals from the Communications and Technology Branch and its departments to decide on the allocation of the fund.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)009

Question Serial No.

0729

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please provide details of the provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board, including the amount of the increased provision and the reasons for the increase.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: In 2006-07, the original estimate of the provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board (the Appeal Board) was \$2.37 million. As the number of hearings conducted is fewer than anticipated, we have reduced the revised estimate to \$0.7 million in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the estimate for the Appeal Board is maintained at the same level as the original estimate for 2006-07 (i.e. \$2.37 million) to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the Appeal Board to cope with all operational expenses.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)010

Question Serial No.

0444

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With the launch of digital terrestrial television broadcasting in this year, will new expenditure be incurred in the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Government promulgated the implementation framework for digital terrestrial television (DTT) in 2004. According to the framework, the two terrestrial broadcasters, i.e., Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), shall launch DTT broadcasting by 2007.

In 2007-08, ATV and TVB shall roll out their digital broadcasting networks and launch DTT services. The Government is responsible for overseeing and coordinating their planning for DTT and other related work, providing them with technical advice, and handling licensing matters. Besides, the Government will collaborate with the industry to promote DTT through different channels, with a view to enhancing the understanding of the public on digital television and encouraging them to switch to DTT.

We will carry out the above work by using the existing resources and no additional expenditure will be incurred.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)011

Question Serial No.

0445

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Will additional resources be required for conducting development and research work on digital audio broadcasting? Is there any estimate in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In 1998, the then Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) established a Digital Audio Broadcasting Steering Committee to steer and co-ordinate a digital audio broadcasting trial in the L Band jointly conducted by the three radio broadcasters (i.e., Radio Television Hong Kong, Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Limited and Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited), with a view to assessing the technical feasibility of digital audio broadcasting. The testing expenses were shared by the three broadcasters. Also, the then ITBB deployed its internal resources to commission a consultancy study for the purpose of assessing the economic and market potentials of digital audio broadcasting.

The Government has been monitoring the development of digital audio broadcasting and other digital broadcasting technology overseas. Such work does not require new resources.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)012

Question Serial No.

0446

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: After the enactment of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance, how much will the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau spend on the implementation of the Ordinance? Will the Bureau make an estimate and state the data in detail?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: Upon the enactment of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau will provide secretariat support for the Unsolicited Electronic Messages (Enforcement Notices) Appeal Board (the Appeal Board) established under the Ordinance. Initially, it is estimated that the operating cost of the Appeal Board would be about \$2 million per annum, mainly for the annual retainer fees for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, honorarium for panel members, and other miscellaneous costs for hearing.

As the other provisions of the Ordinance are to be enforced mainly by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA), the expenditure so incurred will be absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund. In addition, the Police Force will enforce the provisions relating to fraud and related activities with their existing resources.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)013

Question Serial No.

0743

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Does the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer have any statistics or projection on the unsolicited real-time messages (e.g. person-to-person telemarketing calls) received by Hong Kong residents every day? If so, can the figures be released? If not, will the Administration consider compiling such statistics? Does the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer have any suggestions on how to tackle the unsolicited real-time messages?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer does not have any statistics or projection in respect of unsolicited real-time messages. Nevertheless, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) has been closely monitoring the problem of unsolicited messages in Hong Kong. According to OFTA's monitoring of 200 telephone accounts set up by them over the past three months, on average, there is less than one person-to-person interactive telemarketing call received per month on each telephone account. Such statistics may be somewhat less than what the public personally experience. Since those telephone accounts do not relate to any personal data, we believe that the majority of person-to-person interactive telemarketing calls the public experience are likely related to the use of personal data obtained by the callers from other sources for telemarketing purpose. The use of personal data in direct marketing is already regulated under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, under which the recipients can request the callers to stop using their personal data for such purpose. Suggestions on how to tackle various types of unsolicited messages, including person-to-person telemarketing calls, are available for public reference in the "Anti-spam Website" (www.antispam.gov.hk) set up by the Government.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)014

Question Serial No.

0531

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: As regards the merging of the Broadcasting Authority and the Telecommunications Authority, will an initial estimate of the streamlined manpower be available? How much administrative costs are expected to be saved due to the merging?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The proposed establishment of the Communications Authority (CA) by merging the Broadcasting Authority and the Telecommunications Authority will not require additional public funding. The two existing government departments, viz. the Office of the Telecommunications Authority and the Broadcasting Division of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority, will be merged to form a new government department to provide executive support to the CA. Surplus staff from individual grades, if any, will be deployed internally where appropriate. Thus, there is no question of redundancy.

During the initial stage of its establishment (at least for a few years), the CA and the new government department will review and rationalise the existing rules and procedures on the regulation of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors, and enhance research and knowledge management. The operational expenditure may be increased in this regard. The new department will cope with these initiatives by deploying internal resources.

In the long run, the merger will achieve operational synergy. The CA will also strive to streamline its operational practices and relax regulatory measures as appropriate. The implication of these arrangements to the administrative costs and manpower requirement will be considered and decided by the future CA.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)015

Question Serial No.

0532

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Commerce, Industry and
Technology Bureau
(Communications and Technology
Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Film Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In view of the results of the review on public service broadcasting, is it necessary to allocate provision for the implementation of the recommendations therein? What is the estimated amount to be involved?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: In the light of the report of the independent Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting to be received, the Government will consult the public extensively on the main issues including the public mission, specific public purposes, service model, governance, accountability and public participation, and financing arrangements etc. of public service broadcasting before deciding on the policy and arrangements of the future public service broadcasting in Hong Kong.

The above consultation will be carried out under existing resources. As the Committee has not submitted its report yet, the consultation has not commenced and there is no need to allocate provision for the implementation of recommendations in 2007-08.

Name in block letters Francis Ho

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)016

Question Serial No.

0113

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding the protection of intellectual property rights, are there any measures to assist small and medium enterprises to apply for patents for their innovative inventions and research deliverables in the Estimates of Expenditure for 2007-08? If yes, what are the details and how much is the estimated expenditure? Please inform this Committee the principles and details for the vetting of patent applications.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Patent Application Grant (the Grant) established under the Innovation and Technology Fund of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) provides funding for local companies and individuals to apply for patents for their own inventions. It aims to encourage local companies and inventors to capitalise their intellectual works through patent registration. The implementation agent of the Grant is Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC). All locally incorporated companies (including small and medium enterprises), Hong Kong permanent residents or Hong Kong residents permitted to stay in Hong Kong for not less than 7 years who have never owned any patents in any countries or territories before will be eligible for the Grant. Patents obtained through funding from the Grant will be fully held by the individual applicants/applicant companies. After provision of details of their idea or inventions by the applicants to the implementation agent, a patent search-cum-technical assessment will be conducted by the implementation agent to ensure that there is a reasonable chance of obtaining patent. ITC will decide whether the applications should be approved based on the result of the patent search-cum-technical assessment.

For an approved application, a grant of not more than HK\$100,000 or 90% of the total cost of the patent application will be provided, whichever is the lower. The grant should only be used to cover the cost of the patent search-cum-technical assessment, other direct cost of the patent application (such as attorney fees, consultant fees and the expenses for the filing of patent applications), as well as the administration fees charged by the implementation agent of the Grant.

The Government has earmarked \$7.5m in the 2007-08 Estimates of Expenditure for the Grant. However, the expenditure is not limited to this amount as the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may increase the relevant expenditure within existing resources according to the actual needs.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)017

Question Serial No.

2361

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “to enhance collaboration on R&D between Hong Kong and Guangdong”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) In order to achieve the above policy objective, will the Administration start working on the establishment of the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” in 2007-08? If yes, what are the details of the work and the expenditure involved?
- (b) When studying the specific measures for the establishment of the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle”, will the Administration solicit the views from industry associations, private sector and higher education institutions to ensure that the development mode of the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” can cater for the needs of the industries? If yes, what are the details of the plan and the work schedule? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: In 2006, the Shenzhen Municipal Government proposed to build a “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle”, with a view to developing the two cities into a region with ample innovation resources and dynamic innovation activities, and promoting the overall economic development and competitiveness of the two places. The SARG has been actively discussing with the Shenzhen side to work out specific measures for setting up the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle”.

At present, the SARG and Shenzhen side are discussing a cooperation agreement which aims to take forward the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” proposal through strengthening technological collaboration between the two places in various aspects. The cooperation agreement covers different areas, such as establishing a mechanism for regular communication, coordinating and steering the technological collaboration arrangements between the relevant organisations in both places, fostering exchange in expertise and information, jointly supporting R&D projects, effectively utilizing the existing public technology platforms, strengthening cooperation between science and technology parks and intermediary service organizations, and enhancing technological collaboration in areas relating to public services such as medical and health and environmental protection. We aim to sign the cooperation agreement in the first half of 2007.

The Sub-group on Innovation, Technology and Information Services under the Focus Group on Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism established by the Economic Summit on the 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong has carried out in-depth discussions on the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” proposal. Members of the Sub-group, who came from the relevant industries, research institutes and tertiary education institutions, agreed that Hong Kong should establish closer cooperation and strengthen exchange with Shenzhen through the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” and foster collaboration between research institutes in both places, thereby promoting Hong Kong and Shenzhen as a regional one-stop platform for innovation and technology services.

The Governments of Shenzhen and Hong Kong aim to facilitate the works relating to the “Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle” by more effective utilization and rationalization of existing resources of both places, and no additional resource is required at this stage.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)018

Question Serial No.

2687

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration
(3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In order to encourage the development of applied scientific research, the Government plans to relax the restrictions of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme and the University-Industry Collaboration Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) Which restrictions will be relaxed? Will the eligibility for application be relaxed, such as lifting the limit on the number of employees of the eligible companies? Will the vetting criteria be relaxed, such as revising the proportion of the innovative and technological contents of the project?
- (b) When will the relaxation mentioned in (a) be implemented?
- (c) Will the Administration negotiate and exchange views with the local industries (such as the small and medium enterprises) about the details of the relaxation? If yes, what is the mode and timetable for communicating with the industries?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) provides funding support to companies incorporated in Hong Kong with less than 20 employees. To encourage and support more enterprises to develop projects with innovative and technological contents, we are planning to extend SERAP to cover small and medium enterprises, that is, locally incorporated companies with less than 100 employees.

The University-Industry Collaboration Programme(UICP) supports private enterprises to undertake apply technology research. Under UICP, the private enterprises and the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) each contribute 50% of the project cost. Enterprises may choose local universities as partners to undertake part of or even all the research and development (R&D) work of the project in Hong Kong. To provide further impetus to private enterprises to undertake R&D work, we plan to allow them to form partnership with non-local universities, in addition to the local ones and undertake part of or even all the R&D work of the project outside Hong Kong.

The above two schemes will continue to support R&D projects with innovative and technological contents.

(b)&(c) We are now working on the details of the relaxation of the two schemes and will consult the relevant industry bodies in due course. We aim to announce the details within 2007.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)019

Question Serial No.

0554

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the criteria for estimating the number of applications for the various funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Commission?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: With the exception of the figures for “R&D centres’ projects” and “Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) projects” which are estimated by the relevant R&D centres and ASTRI according to their annual work plan, the estimated number of applications for the various funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) are made by ITC with reference to the number of applications and the approval ratios in recent years. If ITC expects any special circumstances which may affect the number of applications, the estimated figures will be adjusted accordingly.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)020

Question Serial No.

0555

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Why the estimated number of projects funded and being monitored under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme in 2007 has increased significantly than that in 2006? What is the average amount of funding approved for each application in 2005 and 2006 respectively?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The estimated number of projects funded and being monitored under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) in 2007 is 90, an increase of 32 projects as compared with 2006. For the approved projects under TCFS, a majority of their funding and monitoring period lasted for two years or more. Applications for funding support under TCFS were first invited in 2004. Apart from new projects approved within the year, the number of projects funded and being monitored in 2006 only included the projects launched in 2005. With most of the projects launched in both 2005 and 2006 still underway in 2007 and the addition of the newly approved projects, it is estimated that the number of projects funded and being monitored under TCFS in 2007 will increase.

The average amount of funding for projects approved under the TCFS in 2005 and 2006 are \$5.28m and \$3.67m respectively.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)021

Question Serial No.

0892

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the criteria adopted by the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology for approving applications under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme and the Applied Research Fund?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme

The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) is a technology entrepreneurship fund to finance locally incorporated company with less than 20 employees.

Applications under SERAP are considered by a project assessment panel which comprises technologist and professionals. The vetting criteria are:

- (a) the innovative and technological contents of the project;
- (b) the likely commercial potential of the proposed project deliverables; and
- (c) the capability and level of commitment of the project team.

We are now planning to extend SERAP to cover locally incorporated companies with less than 100 employees. The vetting criteria will remain unchanged.

The Applied Research Fund

The Applied Research Fund (ARF) is a government owned venture capital fund to provide funding support to technology ventures and research and development projects undertaken by enterprises that have commercial potential. The ARF is controlled and administered by the Applied Research Council (ARC), a company wholly owned by the Government and formed specifically for this role. ARC has appointed private sector venture capital firms as ARF's fund managers since November 1998. Based on the business plan, competitive technological edge and growth path to profitability of the applicant companies, ARC and its fund managers will assess the technical competitiveness and commercial viability of the applications and decide whether approval should be granted.

The Government completed a review of the ARF in early 2005 and decided to wind down the ARF. As the investment period expired at the end of March 2005, ARF has ceased vetting and investing in new projects. Yet the ARC remains in operation until it has fully exited from the existing investment projects.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)022

Question Serial No.

0893

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: There were 64 applications approved under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme in 2006, what is the average amount of funding for each application?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: Projects under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) will be carried out in two phases. The amount of funding for Phase I of the project will not exceed \$400,000. If the work progress in Phase I is satisfactory, the applicant company may apply for funding for Phase II. Funding for the project in the two phases will not exceed \$2m in total.

In 2006, the number of applications received and processed under SERAP was 64, of which 37 applications were approved for funding. Among the projects approved, 21 of them were of Phase I applications while 16 of them were of Phase II, with an average funding amount of \$330,000 and \$950,000 respectively.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)023

Question Serial No.

0894

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please specify how to define “small enterprises”.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: According to the existing Guide to the Innovation and Technology Fund, a company will be eligible to apply funding under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme if:

- (a) it is incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32);
- (b) it has substantial connection to Hong Kong, which means that it should have a significant proportion of its research, design, development, production, management or general business activities located in Hong Kong;
- (c) it is not a subsidiary of or significantly owned/controlled by a large company;
- (d) it has less than 20 employees; and
- (e) the project coordinator and deputy project coordinator of the project are with the company at the time of application and throughout the project period.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)024

Question Serial No.

0895

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: When was the Hong Kong Youth Innovation Club established? How many primary and secondary schools have participated in the Club so far? How many teenagers have joined the Club? What kind of activities have been organised so far? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Hong Kong Youth Innovation Club (the Club) was established in October 2006. It aims at providing an interactive platform for young innovative talents interested in science to develop their potential and enhance their knowledge in innovation and technology. Members of the Club are secondary and tertiary students from the winning teams of various innovation and technology competitions. So far the Club has admitted nearly 140 members and will continue to recruit more members from various innovation and technology competitions in the coming years.

The Club has organised a series of activities since its establishment, including a sharing session with a Nobel Laureate in Physics, participation in the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series, visit to ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 held in December 2006 in Hong Kong, as well as a technology workshop on 3-D animation, etc. Some members have also participated in research and development training programmes organised by the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited and the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Limited. The expenditure involved for the Club is about \$190,000 since its establishment.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)025

Question Serial No.

0896

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Has the Administration conducted any survey to evaluate the effectiveness of organising the “Hong Kong Pavilion” at the China Hi-Tech Fair 2006? If yes, can the results be submitted to the Legislative Council for reference? If no, has the Administration planned to evaluate the effectiveness of the “Hong Kong Pavilion” in 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The objectives of the SARG to organise the “Hong Kong Pavilion” at the China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) are to provide a platform for the participating Hong Kong organisations to showcase their technological products and capabilities and explore collaboration opportunities with the Mainland and overseas organisations, and at the same time demonstrate Hong Kong’s strengths in innovation and technology.

Every year, we solicited the views from the participating organisations of the “Hong Kong Pavilion” by questionnaires. In general, the majority of the participating organisations last year were satisfied with the effectiveness of the “Hong Kong Pavilion”. They considered that their objectives of promoting their organisations and products, establishing business network and seeking business opportunities through the CHTF had been achieved. In addition, the technology and design showcase set up in the “Hong Kong Pavilion” had also highlighted Hong Kong’s achievements and strengths in innovation and technology.

This year, we will continue to collect views from participating organisations to evaluate the effectiveness of the “Hong Kong Pavilion”.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)026

Question Serial No.

0897

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Can the Innovation and Technology Commission give a brief account of the amount of resources to be used on the planning and development of Phase Two of the Hong Kong Science Park in 2007-08? What is the progress as at today?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) is responsible for the planning and construction of Phase Two of the Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP). In 2007-08, the HKSTPC plans to allocate \$731.133m to develop Phase Two of the HKSP.

Construction of Phase Two of the HKSP will be completed in stages from mid-2007 until 2009. Phase Two will provide 11 buildings including dedicated laboratory buildings, R&D office buildings, and ancillary support facilities such as an auditorium, restaurants and car parks. HKSTPC is taking forward an intensive marketing programme to recruit quality technology enterprises for admission into Phase Two of the HKSP.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)027

Question Serial No.

0898

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: How will the Innovation and Technology Commission cooperate with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and the Hong Kong Design Centre in the operation of the InnoCentre for the design cluster? What is the expenditure involved in such cooperation?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In 2004, the Government launched the \$250m “DesignSmart Initiative” in which \$45m was earmarked to support the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) to develop the “InnoCentre” in collaboration with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC). Besides, \$25m was earmarked to subsidise the HKSTPC to nurture 50 design start-ups in the “InnoCentre”. To implement this project, the Innovation and Technology Commission has entered into provision agreements with the HKDC and the HKSTPC respectively, stipulating the funding and control details. As at the end of February 2007, the HKDC has obtained \$26m out of the provision of \$45m and the HKSTPC has received \$2.2m from the provision of \$25m.

The “InnoCentre” provides one-stop design-related support and services, aiming at creating a cluster of design activities among design professionals, interns and companies, where creative ideas with functionality will be stimulated, nurtured, researched, promoted, commercialised and branded. The “InnoCentre”, jointly planned and developed by the HKSTPC and the HKDC, is located in Kowloon Tong. The HKSTPC is mainly responsible for the conversion and management of the premises, provision of incubation programmes for design enterprises and leasing of office accommodation to design companies. The projects and services launched by the HKDC include professional education and training, design-related exhibition, seminars and workshops, design-related resource centre, and events and activities for networking among design professionals and user industries. The InnoCentre has already in full operation and various design activities are organised successively. So far, 11 design companies have moved into the “InnoCentre” as tenants while 15 design companies have joined as incubatees.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)028

Question Serial No.

0899

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and
Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: How will the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Hong Kong Productivity Council provide or enhance environmental technology support services to the industry? What resources are involved in the related work?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In 2007-08, the Innovation and Technology Commission will continue to support the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) in providing environmental technology support services to the industry, to enable them to carry out green manufacturing. Through the provision of training, consultancy and research services, HKPC helps the industry to enhance the environmental design of their products, choose environmental-friendly materials, manage the efficient use of materials and energy, control pollution, as well as recycle used products.

HKPC strives to enhance the environmental technology level of the industries in the following three directions:

- (1) To assist the industry to adopt cleaner production technologies, so as to improve the environment, reduce pollution and comply with the environmental regulations of Hong Kong, the Mainland and other overseas markets;
- (2) To actively promote the efficient utilization of resources and energy by the industry, so as to reduce production costs and increase competitiveness; and
- (3) In international trade, various places have imposed different environmental requirements on the specifications of many products. For example, the European Union has issued directives to restrict the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products. HKPC will promote to the industries the latest management systems and relevant green manufacturing technologies, helping them to comply with the regulations around the world.

The estimated expenditure of HKPC for providing environmental technology support services in 2007-08 is about \$70m.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)029

Question Serial No.

0900

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation
and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and
Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2007-08, will the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) and the Hong Kong Productivity Council promote green manufacturing process and producer responsibility schemes? If a project proposal received by ITC's funding schemes contains green manufacturing process and/or elements of the producer responsibility schemes, will the application be given priority? If yes, can the Administration provide relevant figures in 2006-07? If no, what are the reasons? Will the Administration consider according priority to applications that fulfilled these conditions?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In 2007-08, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) will continue its efforts to actively promote to the industries green manufacturing and the producer responsibility schemes, through the provision of training, consultancy and research services. Such efforts will help the industries enhance the environmental design of their products, choose environmental-friendly materials, manage materials and energy efficiently, control pollution, as well as recycle the used products.

The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) under the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) aims to increase the added value, productivity and competitiveness of our economic activities. The Government hopes that, through the ITF, Hong Kong companies could be encouraged and assisted to upgrade their technological level and introduce innovative ideas to their businesses. All the applications for funding are evaluated in accordance with a set of established and effective vetting criteria. In vetting a project proposal, ITC and the relevant panels of assessors will consider various factors, including the potential of the project to facilitate general upgrading and future development of more industry sectors; contribute to innovation and technology upgrading of the economy, and broaden the scientific and technical knowledge base of the economy. Under these premises, ITF will not give priority to applications that contain green manufacturing process and/or elements of the producer responsibility schemes. Yet, ITF has approved 52 environmental project proposals in the past 3 years with a total funding of \$105.3m. Details of the funding are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Projects</u>	<u>Amount (m)</u>
2004/05	13	29.2
2005/06	17	43.7
2006/07(as at the end of February 2007)	22	32.4
Total	52	105.3

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)030

Question Serial No.

0901

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and
Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the criteria for the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited to decide if a technology is to be transferred? How much money does each company pay on average for a technology transfer?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In assessing each case of technology transfer, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) mainly considers the concerned company's capability of commercialising the technology and its past market experience. The ASTRI carried out a majority of the technology transfers by means of non-exclusive licenses, mainly targeting at companies in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region.

The fees are determined after taking into account the different technologies and market factors. According to past experience, the fees ranged from \$50,000 to \$1m while the average amount was about \$0.5m.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)031

Question Serial No.

0902

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and
Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Does the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited
have any plan to promote its work to the public in 2007-08 and what is the estimated
expenditure involved in the promotion work?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In 2007-08, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company
Limited (ASTRI) will continue its active participation in programmes promoting its work to
the public, such as the Innovation Festival, the ASTRI Junior Fellowship, and the Innovation
and Design Expo. Besides, ASTRI will organise and take part in local and international
promotional activities, including internal and external technical seminars, workshops, forums,
conferences, exhibitions and road shows. Arrangements will be made for VIP guests to visit
ASTRI as well. In order to disseminate the latest information to the public, ASTRI will also
publish e-news and technical bulletins regularly.

In 2007-08, the estimated expenditure involved in the promotion work of ASTRI is about \$2m,
including the organisation of two large-scale promotional activities and about 20 forums.
Besides, around 20 workshops/seminars will be held in the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)032

Question Serial No.

0645

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Innovation and Technology Commission

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What is the estimated total investment involved in the organisation of the “Hong Kong Pavilion” at the China Hi-Tech Fair 2007? How will the money be used? What results are expected to be achieved? What are the evaluation results of the effectiveness for Hong Kong’s participation in the past China Hi-Tech Fairs?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) 2007 will be held in Shenzhen this October. The SARG will continue to organise the “Hong Kong Pavilion” at the CHTF in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Productivity Council this year. We are discussing with the two organisers the scale and format of this year’s “Hong Kong Pavilion”. While the budget is being finalized, the SARG has earmarked about \$0.8m for the organisation of the “Hong Kong Pavilion”. It is expected that the expenditure items mainly include the rental of venue, the construction of the “Hong Kong Pavilion” and promotional expenses, etc.

The objectives of the SARG to organise the “Hong Kong Pavilion” at the CHTF are to provide a platform for the participating Hong Kong organisations to showcase their technological products and capabilities and explore collaboration opportunities with the Mainland and overseas organisations, and demonstrate Hong Kong’s strength in innovation and technology.

Every year, we solicited the views from the participating organisations of the “Hong Kong Pavilion” by questionnaires. In general, the majority of the participating organisations last year were satisfied with the effectiveness of the “Hong Kong Pavilion”. They considered that their objectives of promoting their organisations and products, establishing business network and seeking business opportunities through the CHTF had been achieved. In addition, the technology and design showcase set up in the “Hong Kong Pavilion” had also highlighted Hong Kong’s achievements and strengths in innovation and technology.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)033

Question Serial No.

0646

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat:
Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2007-08, the provisions for promoting design in Hong Kong will be increased. What will the provisions be mainly used for? How effective is the effort to help the Hong Kong Design Centre to promote design in 2006-07? Which projects will continue to be implemented this year?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) is a non-profit making organisation established in 2001 by leading design professional bodies in Hong Kong, aiming at promoting design as a value-added activity; raising design standards and fostering design-related education; and raising the profile of Hong Kong as an innovative and creative hub. Since its establishment, the HKDC has been an important partner of the Administration in promoting the development of design.

In 2006-07, the HKDC organised training courses, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, exchange and networking activities to further promote the culture of design, enhance industry and public understanding of design, and encourage wider application of design in mainstream business processes. As an annual premier design event and in the fifth year of its running, the “Business of Design Week” (BODW) has established a platform to link up business and design. The event has attracted professional designers and business elites worldwide to participate and speak, sharing with us their experience and insight in branding, design and innovation. The BODW has drawn tens of thousands of participants and strengthened Hong Kong’s position as the regional hub of design.

In the coming year, the HKDC will continue to organise the BODW as a flagship project for promoting design, and arrange more training courses, workshops and exhibitions in collaboration with more local and overseas design education and promotional agencies.

In view of the growing scope and importance of HKDC’s work, the Administration has earmarked \$100m to support its operation in the coming 5 years to further promote the application and development of design. The Administration plans to apply to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for provisions in mid-2007 while the annual actual provisions will be determined with reference to the estimated expenditure of the activities to be held that year.

Name in block letters Anthony S K Wong

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)034

Question Serial No.

0541

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: The Government plans to provide WiFi networks in government venues for free use by our citizens. Please inform this Committee whether the programme will be coordinated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

If yes, please list:

- (a) the manpower arrangements; and
- (b) the implementation schedule.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply: The programme will be coordinated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO).

- (a) We will outsource the implementation and on-going management of the WiFi networks. As for internal resources, we plan to create one time-limited, non-recurrent Senior Systems Manager (SSM) post to oversee the implementation programme. Apart from the SSM post to be created, one Systems Manager and three Analyst/Programmer Is would also be required for managing the programme. These resources will however be met by internal redeployment within the government. In respect of the management of the programme, the OGCIO will set up a programme steering committee involving representatives of the key departments.
- (b) We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo by mid-2007. The implementation programme will commence after funding approval, and cashflow is expected to be spread over two years. During the first year we will give priority to providing WiFi access in public libraries, key cultural and recreation centres, community halls, major parks, and government offices with close contacts with citizens.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)035

Question Serial No.

0888

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With respect to the leakage of personal data of the public stored in government departments and the posting of such data onto the Internet, are there any plans to assess the security of computer systems of various departments and enhance their security facilities? If yes, what are the specific details and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: Government attaches great importance in safeguarding Government information assets including personal data of the public stored in government bureaux and departments (B/Ds). We have developed and maintained comprehensive regulations, policies, procedures and guidelines on information security for the compliance of B/Ds. These policies and guidelines are applicable to civil servants, contract staff as well as outsourced contractors and agents. B/Ds are responsible to ensure the compliance of information security requirements for their information systems because they are the one who know their business well. As stipulated in the Baseline IT Security Policy, B/Ds need to perform information security risk assessment for their information systems at least once every two years.

To strengthen the monitoring of the compliance of B/Ds with the IT security policy, the Government will introduce a centrally managed security audit by April 2007 to check, amongst other items, the successful conduct of security risk assessments and reviews in B/Ds, and their follow-up measures on the recommendations for improvement. Security audits will be carried out for all B/Ds over a 2-year period. The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is about \$9 m.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)036

Question Serial No.

2360

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With regard to “continuing to roll out the next round of sector-specific programmes to promote the wider adoption of IT and e-business in various business sectors, in particular among small and medium enterprises (SMEs)”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) What work will be taken in 2007-08 to implement the above programmes?
- (b) Which sectors will be the targets for carrying out the programmes? What is the expenditure involved for each sector?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply :
- (a) In 2007-08, we will implement a new round of sector-specific programme (SSP) to sponsor five industry sectors to organize seminars and training courses to raise the awareness of IT among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), develop pilot applications to facilitate the adoption of e-business among SMEs, and develop portal sites to enhance knowledge sharing and information dissemination within the targeted sectors.
 - (b) The new round of SSP will cover the trade, social service, watches and clocks, health, and beauty service sectors. The estimated expenditure for funding the SSP projects is \$4.9 m with around \$1 m sponsorship provided for each sector. Of the total sponsorship of \$4.9 m, \$4.4 m has been committed in 2006-07 and the remaining \$500,000 will be spent on completion of the projects in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)037

Question Serial No.

2365

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “commence preparation work for the transition of the relevant government networks to make use of the Internet Protocol version 6”, please inform this Committee what specific plans or programmes will be implemented in 2007-08. What are the details of various plans/programmes and their implementation time? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: With the maturity and more supply of networking devices and operating system software for personal computers supporting IPv6, the Government is planning to implement IPv6 supported backbone network capability as part of its network equipment renewal exercise which should be completed during 2008. To promote the awareness of the community on the IPv6 protocol and the preparation for transition, the Government has identified \$2 m in 2007-08 for setting up a knowledge portal on the Internet for public access.

The IPv4 and IPv6 protocols will co-exist for some time as the transition between Internet Protocol versions involves global collaboration. The Government through participation in international organisations is observing the global development. We will keep monitoring the situation and discuss with industry players and enhance our work programmes in this area where necessary.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)038

Question Serial No.

2371

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “implement a new Internet gateway”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) What are the differences in capacity, IT security, stability, etc. between the new and existing gateways?
- (b) What is the estimated time of completion? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) The existing Internet gateway was implemented in 2000 for government users to access the Internet. To combat increasing and new Internet security threats and sophisticated user demands, we plan to implement a new Internet gateway that has larger capacity and higher performance and security levels. The new Internet gateway will have improvements over the existing one in the following areas:

- Enhanced scalability to support the projected increases in Internet bandwidth requirements of bureaux/departments in the coming three years;
- Enhanced security protection against security threats (such as spyware, etc.) involved in accessing Internet web sites through more sophisticated filtering technology; and
- Improved response in accessing Internet web sites by providing dedicated network bandwidth to individual bureaux/departments such that a surge in bandwidth consumption by a few bureaux/departments will not jeopardize the web surfing responses of other bureaux/departments.

- (b) The estimated time of completion is August 2008.

The estimated one-off expenditure is \$6.9 m.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)039

Question Serial No.

2372

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Subhead (No. & title):
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “continue to organize the Hong Kong ICT Awards”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) Currently, from which international organizations do the Awards receive recognition?
- (b) What are the plans to promote the Awards in 2007-08 to make it further recognized internationally, and to enhance public awareness and recognition towards the series of local awards with respect to information and communications technology? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply:
- (a) The Hong Kong ICT Awards (HKICTA) have been recognized by the organizers of the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) in the context of APICTA 2006 which was held around the same time as the HKICTA last year. We have also received positive suggestions from our Mainland counterparts that HKICTA may qualify for some of the technology and innovation awards being administered in the Mainland. We shall continue to explore the opportunities open to Hong Kong, and will place new emphasis on the external linkage of the HKICTA when organizing the 2007 round of Awards.
 - (b) To help promote the Awards in 2007-08, the winners will be nominated to participate in such international competitions as the Asia Pacific ICT Awards. The Government will also help identify speaking and showcasing opportunities for the winners both in local and international events, like the ICT Expo 2007. Besides, a series of promotional activities will also be arranged, including an official launch of the event, a presentation ceremony as well as a number of media and advertising activities throughout the year. The overall budget for the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2007 is \$5 m, which covers the overall administration costs, organization of the ceremonial and promotional activities, and financial support to individual organizers to run the award categories. In addition, the organizers will also solicit sponsorship from the private sector.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)040

Question Serial No.

2373

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “continue to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the pilot scheme for opening up intellectual property in government IT systems for commercial exploitation”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) What is the progress of the pilot scheme? How many applications have been received since its implementation? How many successful applications are there? How many applications have been rejected? How much market value will this scheme bring about to the industry in 2007-08?
- (b) What measures will be taken to further promote the pilot scheme to the industry? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) The pilot scheme is to facilitate commercial exploitation of Government IT systems originally developed by contractors. Only projects that involve creation of intellectual property (IP) by contractors are covered by the pilot scheme. Under the scheme, the ownership of the IP created in new Government IT systems will either be vested in the contractor that develops the system, or retained by Government for reasons such as public interest, legal or regulatory reasons. The treatment of IP arising from a given system is stipulated in the tender/procurement documents issued by the respective bureaux/departments and does not involve an additional application procedure.

The pilot scheme was launched in March 2006. As of December 2006, there were 4 IT projects with IP ownership vested in the contractors who developed the systems. During that period, 6 other outsourced IT projects had the IP retained in Government for reasons of public interest or due to the relevant tenders being finalized before the launch of the scheme.

The pilot scheme aims to create business opportunities by allowing contractors to further develop and commercially exploit the IP. The market value is dependent on the outcome of such exploitation in which Government has no role or control.

- (b) The pilot scheme was promoted both within the Government and the community during the launch, and in public documents such as the draft Digital 21 Strategy and government webpages. To facilitate both the industry and procuring departments, the OGCIO has developed model terms and conditions covering different contractual aspects of the scheme for reference by departments. The OGCIO will continue to make use of existing industry liaison channels and regular meetings with specific

contractor groups to promote awareness and experience sharing on the pilot scheme.
No additional expenditure is involved.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)041

Question Serial No.

2374

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “help expand business opportunities in overseas and the Mainland markets”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) When further discussing the “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” with Mainland counterparts, will national treatment be urged for the Hong Kong merchants? If yes, what are the strategy details of discussion with the Mainland counterparts? If not, why?
- (b) What new programmes will be implemented in 2007-08? What markets/products/technologies will be targeted by those programmes (e.g. IT markets in specific areas, Mainland e-Government service markets, wireless technology services, software improvement, outsourcing services, etc.)? What are the details of such programmes and the expenditure involved?
- (c) Apart from the Pearl River Delta Region, will assistance be given to help expand business in other Mainland cities? If yes, what is the list of other Mainland cities?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply:
- (a) The Government will continue to liaise with Mainland authorities via CEPA on specific requests from IT industry bodies for further liberalisation and facilitation measures, including national treatment of specific products and services where applicable. It is pertinent to point out, however, that such requests should be focused and feasible to be implemented, with due regard to the differences governing trade in the two places.
 - (b) In 2007-08, the OGCIO will continue to work with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices overseas and the Cyberport in promoting Hong Kong's ICT industry. We will sponsor the International ICT Expo 2007 organised by the HKTDC to be held in April 2007. This major annual event provides a platform for promoting ICT applications and services to the local, Mainland and overseas industry players. One of the major themes of the Expo is IT outsourcing, which aims to create valuable opportunities for the local industry to develop business opportunities with the external markets. Besides, the Expo will include a Mobile Business Conference, which aims to strengthen the competitive image of Hong Kong's ICT industries and provides a platform for our local industry players to enhance their competitiveness through information technology exchange with the renowned international organizations. Winners of the Hong Kong ICT Awards will also participate in the Expo to showcase their award winning products and applications to promote Hong Kong's achievement in the ICT development. OGCIO's estimated expenditure in this event is about \$0.9 m. The Cyberport will continue to host visits

from overseas government and industry delegations in promoting Hong Kong's ICT infrastructure and capabilities of our ICT and digital entertainment industries. Under the aegis of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Expert Group on Cooperation in Informatisation, OGCIO will continue to collaborate with our Guangdong counterparts in promoting industry support in the two places on software outsourcing, open source industry support, wireless technologies and RFID standards and application. The resources for these activities are absorbed by the OGCIO. On e-government, OGCIO is planning to organize a major conference around September 2007, with a specific segment involving Mainland officials, which will provide an opportunity for our Mainland to better understand Hong Kong industry's capabilities in this area.

- (c) The Government in collaboration with HKTDC and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) will continue to work closely with industry bodies in facilitating market development in other cities in the Mainland, making use of their established marketing and trade matching channels there.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)042

Question Serial No.

2375

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “enhance the supply of quality IT manpower in Hong Kong”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) Apart from the “Scheme for the Entry of Mainland Professionals” and the development of the “Qualifications Framework” for the information and communications technology industry, what new programmes will be implemented to enhance the supply of quality IT manpower in Hong Kong? What is the expenditure involved for each programme?
- (b) Will the Government continue to cooperate with organizations in the industry to set up a certification scheme for IT professionals? If yes, what are the means of cooperation and timetable? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply:
- (a) In addition to the schemes mentioned, the OGCIO will continue to liaise with industry bodies and support organizations with a view to identifying initiatives that can enhance the supply of quality IT manpower in Hong Kong. In previous years, such initiatives included IT student exchange and internship and IT professional certification programmes. Currently, there are no outstanding proposals seeking government support that involve expenditure but we will examine new proposals and the expenditure requirements as and when they arise and, where there are worthwhile initiatives, consider meeting them within the allocated provision.
 - (b) Government will continue to consider worthwhile proposals from industry organizations that aim to enhance the supply of quality IT manpower. This may include, but is not limited to, cooperation in appropriate certification schemes involving local and international certification bodies. In doing so, we have to ensure that we do not create unnecessary barriers to entry for individuals aspiring to enter or advance in the IT and related disciplines and maintaining a level playing field in terms of the sourcing of IT manpower in government contracts. Currently, there are no outstanding proposals seeking government support or cooperation relating to certification of IT professionals.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)043

Question Serial No.

2376

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “the new series of digital divide programmes”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) In 2006-07, what is the expenditure involved for the programmes already implemented?
- (b) What programmes will be included in 2007-08? Apart from the “Digital Solidarity Fund”, will there be plans for any brand-new programmes? Will the programmes be implemented in 2007-08? What is the expenditure involved for each programme?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) In 2006-07, the expenditure involved for the digital divide programmes already implemented is around \$2 m.

- (b) The Government will implement the following programmes in 2007-08 to bridge the digital divide :
 - (i) With reference to our previous study on the degree of digital inclusiveness in Hong Kong, we have found that some disadvantaged groups (such as the elderly, people with disabilities and female homemakers, etc.) are less digitally inclusive in terms of adopting and accessing information and communications technology (ICT). An in-depth study is being conducted to identify barriers that they may be facing. Based on the findings of the study, expected to be available in mid-2007, specific programmes will be developed to cater for the specific needs of individual disadvantaged groups.
 - (ii) Continue to collaborate with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in the administration of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and strengthen our support to the DSF in view of the positive feedback from the community and the beneficiaries.
 - (iii) Develop a new series of radio education programmes on ICT adoption.
 - (iv) Support and collaborate with the non-government organizations, the Social Welfare sector and the ICT industry to implement the digital inclusion programmes, such as the e-Inclusion Campaign of the Internet Professional Association and the iT Women project of the Caritas Community Centre Tsuen Wan.
 - (v) Encourage the private sector to adopt barrier-free web design.

- (vi) Promote the use of ICT through the IT Hong Kong Campaign.
- (vii) Explore the possibility of setting up district or regional Cyber Centres in location where public demand for free access to IT facilities is strong.
- (viii) Encourage the development of ICT products and applications for the disadvantaged groups and to raise public awareness on digital inclusion through the Hong Kong ICT Awards Scheme.

Apart from supporting the DSF, item (i) in-depth study and item (vii) exploring the possibility of setting up district or regional Cyber Centres are brand new programmes. All the planned programmes will be implemented in 2007-08.

The estimated expenditure for item (i) in-depth study, item (ii) supporting the DSF and item (iii) developing a new series of radio programmes in 2007-08 is \$0.4 m, \$2 m and \$0.3 m respectively. The estimated total budget for items (iv) to (vii) in 2007-08 is about \$2 m while the expenditure for item (viii) will be absorbed by the capital budget of the programme.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)044

Question Serial No.

2377

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “formulate a Government IT infrastructure and sourcing strategy to facilitate the implementation of initiatives under the new Digital 21 Strategy”, please inform this Committee:

- (a) Will contract terms with flexibility and in conformity with international and commercial practices be considered to replace the existing “unlimited liability” clauses, in order to encourage the local IT industry mainly comprising small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to actively participate in the Government sourcing programmes? If yes, what are the details? If not, why?
- (b) Are there any plans to further encourage the SMEs to actively participate in the Government sourcing programmes? What are the details? and
- (c) Will the industry be consulted with respect to the content of the sourcing strategy? If yes, what are the mode of consultation and timetable?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) The Government Infrastructure and Sourcing Strategy (GISS) aims to review the existing Government IT infrastructure and explore opportunities for enhancing it for better supporting the new Digital 21 Strategy, taking into account international and industry developments including product and service groupings, business and sourcing models, and trends in user demands and behaviour. The study will propose a new IT infrastructure for the Government for supporting the next generation of e-Government services. It will also recommend a Sourcing Strategy for sourcing the different components for the setting up of the proposed Government IT infrastructure. The study will not cover procurement and contractual details such as limitation of liabilities.

The flexibility of contract terms in Government IT contracts is under constant review with regard to latest development in the industry. This is a separate standing function of OGCIO, and is not covered under the GISS mentioned above. To encourage IT industry players including SMEs to participate in Government IT projects, we have made reference to international and commercial practices and have introduced appropriate flexibility in the contract clause on contractor liability in relevant IT tenders. Where situation warrants, the liability on indirect and consequential damages is no longer treated as unlimited in Government IT tenders. We have already incorporated this flexibility in three centrally arranged standing-offer-agreement contracts which cover quite a large proportion of Government IT procurement. Some bureaux/departments (B/Ds) have also started to adopt the same flexibility in their respective IT contracts. We will further promote this practice to B/Ds, and will encourage all B/Ds to adopt it in their IT procurement.

- (b) To further encourage the IT industry, particularly the SMEs, to participate in Government IT projects, we will continue to implement our various measures to alleviate the financial burdens for their participation. These measures include waiving the requirement of performance bond for low-value contracts, associating performance bond to individual assignments thus lowering the requirement on bond value, and providing regular payment arrangement to facilitate the cash flow of contractors.
- (c) The infrastructure sourcing strategy aims to advise Government on the industry trends for provision of ICT products, services and business models. If the outcome of the study should affect Government's procurement policies and practices, we shall consult the industry through existing channels, such as the ICT Industry Partnership Forum and the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)045

Question Serial No.

2690

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding “continue to provide reliable and secure central IT infrastructure facilities”, what items will be implemented in 2007-08? Are there any brand-new items among these? What is the expenditure involved for each item?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: The Government IT infrastructure needs to be regularly enhanced to provide reliable and secure central IT infrastructure facilities to the Government bureaux and departments. Major implementation items in 2007-08 include :

- (a) enhancing the Government backbone network with adoption of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) to enhance the capacity and security of inter-departmental network service for government users, at an estimated expenditure of \$9.8 m;
- (b) implementing a new Internet gateway to enhance the performance and security of the Internet access service for government users, at an estimated expenditure of \$6.9 m; and
- (c) conducting security risk assessment and audit on the critical IT infrastructure components to ensure the services are reliable and secure, at an estimated expenditure of \$1.9 m.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)046

Question Serial No.

2700

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: The increase in expenditure under this Programme is mainly due to the increased requirements for IT infrastructure, please give the details of the infrastructure plans and the reasons for the increased requirements.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: The Government IT infrastructure needs to be regularly enhanced to sustain its capacity, performance and security so as to enable the Government bureaux and departments to continue provision of stable service to the public. In 2007-08, a number of new initiatives under the Programme would be introduced, which include:

- (a) implementing a new Internet gateway to enhance the performance and security of the Internet access service for government users;
- (b) developing and publishing an Electronic Authentication Reference Framework to facilitate the public and businesses to determine the appropriate assurance level and security requirements for different electronic transactions;
- (c) preparing for the transition of the relevant government networks to make use of the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6).

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)047

Question Serial No.

2701

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, one of the items is implementing a pilot infrastructural authentication service using the secure personal identification number embodied in the smart identity cards. What are the action plans, potential benefits and estimated expenditure of the pilot scheme?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : The Smart Identity (ID) Card contains a compartment that can hold a Secure Personal Identity Number (PIN). It is currently a reserved capability which can be put to use to facilitate secure electronic transactions involving the cardholder, subject to the agreement by the Legislative Council. Before the PIN can be used, it also needs to be properly activated by a secure procedure to authenticate the cardholder by, for example, verifying the thumbprints of the cardholder held in the records of the Immigration Department when the Card was issued.

The pilot service aims to create a test environment on which to verify the usability of the Secure PIN function to support authentication in a range of e-government services and settings. The OGCI will invite bureaux and departments to take part in the pilot starting the later half of this year.

This pilot service aims at confirming the usability and applicability of the Secure PIN together with the Smart ID Card as one of the e-authentication solutions for e-government services. It will also allow Government bureaux and departments to gain hands-on experience on the value of authentication using the Secure PIN would bring to their planned e-government applications so that they can make better use of the features in the Smart ID Card and serve the community better. The pilot will complement existing forms of authentication methods, including the use of passwords stored in computer databases and digital certificates.

The estimated expenditure for this pilot service is about \$9.5m over a 3-year period.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)048

Question Serial No.

0742

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Has the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer made any assessments on the contingency capability of various IT infrastructures in Hong Kong? If yes, when is the most recent one? If not, why? Will resources be allocated to make such assessments in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: In the prevailing Baseline IT Security Policy, all Government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) need to establish business continuity plans and other contingency measures for their mission critical systems under adverse conditions. Moreover, disaster recovery and incident response plans for these systems need to be fully documented, regularly updated and periodically tested.

For the local Internet infrastructure, the OGCIO has set up and is the convener of the Internet Infrastructure Liaison Group (IILG) established in 2005 to facilitate local Internet stakeholders to share information and deal with incidents relating to the Internet in a coordinated way. This coordination mechanism has proved to be useful in the WTO 6th Ministerial Conference in December 2005 and the ITU Telecom World event in December 2006. The IILG is not responsible for implementation of contingency measures and as such does not have predefined resources and budget. Rather, major sectors that are regulated under the respective local regulatory authorities are obliged to have business continuity plans and other contingency measures in place to ensure that their service levels could be maintained to comply with the relevant provisions set out by the regulatory authorities. The secretariat support for the IILG is provided by the OGCIO through internal deployment.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)049

Question Serial No.

0744

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What is the expenditure involved in the work to safeguard the IT security of the Government in 2006-07? Are there any plans to switch to more secure computer systems?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Government addresses IT security in multiple dimensions, including setting up of management framework, establishment of policies and procedures, implementing technical measures as well as carrying out user education and awareness promotion. The Government has a centrally administered contract for the bureaux and departments (B/Ds) to draw upon for provision of IT security services. In 2006-07, there was a total expenditure of about \$11 m for services drawn from this contract. The hardware, software and implementation services for security enhancements form part of the overall project estimates of individual IT projects are not separately counted. On the question of whether there are plans to switch to more secure computer systems, since information security is a mandatory policy requirement, B/Ds are routinely required to review and upgrade their IT systems in line with their security risk assessments and profiles. Normally they would seek upgrades to their computer systems when opportunities to enhance their electronic services arise, or when they find that their security protection level is no longer adequate to avert the risks identified.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)050

Question Serial No.

0745

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: How many government departments do not provide any e-government services currently? What are the three departments which provide the most e-government services? How many new e-government services will be provided by the Government in 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: Currently, all government departments provide e-government services although to different extent.

The Labour Department, Housing Department, and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department are the 3 departments which provide the most e-government services.

About 100 e-government services will be launched in 2007-08.

As e-government services offered by individual bureaux and departments may change over time due to changing business and user needs, we are conducting a survey to gather updated information about the existing e-government services provided by the bureaux and departments and new services under planning.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)051

Question Serial No.

0746

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Is there any overlap of roles between the GovHK and ESDlife portals? What are the different functions of the two websites?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: Soft launched in September 2006, GovHK (www.gov.hk) currently co-exists with the Government Information Centre (GIC) (www.info.gov.hk) and ESDlife (www.esdlife.com). The GIC will be decommissioned in the second quarter of 2007 and ESDlife will stop hosting government services when the contract between its operator, the ESD Services Limited (ESDSL), and the Government expires in mid-January 2008. There is some overlap in the roles of these three portals in the interim period, which is nonetheless appropriate for a healthy transition.

The GIC provides a directory to help citizens access the 200 some departmental/thematic websites managed by different government bureaux/departments and a selection of popular government information. Its function will be taken over by GovHK, which will serve as Hong Kong's one-stop government portal for both information and transactional services. GovHK brings together a comprehensive range of useful information and services from across the Government, and delivers them in clusters centred around the needs and interests of customers in particular subject areas (e.g. Education & Training, Employment, Environment, Health & Medical Services and Transport & Motoring), age range (e.g. youth) and roles (e.g. visitors). While the Government will explore the value and feasibility of providing non-government content and services on this new government portal, the primary objective of GovHK is to provide citizens with the government content and services they need.

ESDlife, on the other hand, is a commercial portal launched by the ESDSL in 2001 under a public-private partnership to provide both government and commercial services to the public. As the contract between the Government and the ESDSL will expire in mid-January 2008, the Government will migrate the online government services currently hosted by ESDlife to GovHK before the expiry of the contract. While the future business direction of ESDlife will be a decision for ESDSL, ESDlife will stop operating government services after the end of the contract.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)052

Question Serial No.

0533

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Subhead (No. & title):
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With respect to considering the establishment of the task force on digital inclusion in 2007-08, when will decisions be made? What resources are required? Will the resources be deployed internally or allocated additionally?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: During the course of public consultation on the draft 2007 Digital 21 Strategy, we have received positive feedback on our proposal to set up the task force on digital inclusion. Subject to finalization of the Strategy, we plan to set up the task force within 2007. The resources required will be mainly to provide secretariat support to the task force. These will be absorbed through internal deployment.

Name in block letters Howard Dickson

Post Title Government Chief Information Officer

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)053

Question Serial No.

0534

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What will be the items included in the new series of digital divide programmes to be implemented in 2007-08? What is the expenditure for each item?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The Government will implement the following programmes in 2007-08 for bridging the digital divide :

- (a) With reference to our previous study on the degree of digital inclusiveness in Hong Kong, we have found that some disadvantaged groups (such as the elderly, people with disabilities and female homemakers, etc.) are less digitally inclusive in terms of adopting and accessing information and communications technology (ICT). An in-depth study is being conducted to identify their corresponding barriers. Based on the findings of the study expected in mid 2007, specific programmes will be developed to cater for the specific needs of individual disadvantaged groups.
- (b) Continue to collaborate with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in the administration of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and strengthen our support to the DSF in view of the positive feedback from the community and the beneficiaries.
- (c) Develop a new series of radio education programmes on ICT adoption.
- (d) Support and collaborate with the non-government organizations, the Social Welfare sector and the ICT industry to implement the digital inclusion programmes, such as the e-Inclusion Campaign of the Internet Professional Association and the iT Women project of the Caritas Community Centre Tsuen Wan.
- (e) Encourage the private sector to adopt barrier-free web design.
- (f) Promote the use of ICT through the IT Hong Kong Campaign.
- (g) Explore the possibility of setting up district or regional Cyber Centres in location where public demand for free access to IT facilities is strong.
- (h) Encourage the development of ICT products and applications for the disadvantaged groups and to raise public awareness on digital inclusion through the Hong Kong ICT Awards Scheme.

The estimated expenditure for (a) conducting the in-depth study, (b) supporting the DSF and (c) developing a new series of radio programmes in 2007-08 is \$0.4 m, \$2 m and \$0.3 m respectively. The estimated total budget for programmes (d) to (g) in 2007-08 is about \$2 m while the expenditure for programme (h) will be absorbed by the capital budget of the programme.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)054

Question Serial No.

0535

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Subhead (No. & title):
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the additional measures introduced from the review of the IT security policies? Will procurement of equipment be needed? What is the financial provision required?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The Government will introduce a centrally managed process by April 2007 to strengthen the monitoring of the compliance of bureaux and departments (B/Ds) with the IT security policy. This will be in the form of security audits and will include checking on the successful conduct of security risk assessments and reviews in B/Ds, and their follow-up measures on the recommendations for improvement. Security audits will be carried out for all B/Ds over a 2-year period. This new measure mainly involves acquisition of services and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is about \$9 m.

For information security protection in public organizations and regulated sectors, we will continue to monitor their information security enhancement programmes through the B/Ds who have purview over them. The OGCIO will provide central advice and support to B/Ds in discharging their oversight roles.

In addition, the Government will develop and promulgate a risk assessment and electronic authentication framework for public reference. The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is about \$1.2 m.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)055

Question Serial No.

0536

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the
Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Regarding the number of bureaux/departments with IT plans in place, the estimated number is 57 which is the same as the current year. Does it mean that no further bureaux/departments are required to formulate IT plans? If yes, will the expenditure involved by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in this respect be reduced annually in the future? If not, will additional resources be required to assist bureaux/departments without IT plans to participate?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) encourages Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) to plan their IT requirements in a systematic and strategic manner. Currently, 57 B/Ds have formulated IT plans and update them on a regular basis. The remaining 23 B/Ds do not have IT plans in place at this stage. Among them, 8 have established their own IT Management Units (ITMU) and 15 do not have one.

For those B/Ds with ITMUs, they have the capability of planning and developing their IT resources to meet business needs. As for those B/Ds without ITMUs, OGCIO is providing IT support and advice to them through close liaison with the B/Ds' management.

OGCIO will continue to monitor the situation, encourage and request B/Ds to develop/ review their IT plans as appropriate. Individual B/Ds, being the business owners, have the ultimate responsibility to plan for their IT investment to facilitate the achievement of their policy and business objectives. OGCIO will provide support and advice in the process. The resources required by OGCIO in rendering advice to other B/Ds will be absorbed from within our approved provision. If capital expenditure is required for the development of IT plans, B/Ds may apply for funds from the Block Allocation of the CWRP Head 710 – Computerisation to engage consultancy services.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)056

Question Serial No.

0537

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Subhead (No. & title):
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With respect to the total value of work undertaken in the year, the value is estimated to have a drastic increase to \$1,966.9 m in the coming year as compared to \$1,100.2 m in the current year. What are the items involved? Will additional resources be required?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The increase in the total value of work undertaken in 2007-08 is mainly due to the increase of cashflow requirements of approved projects and inclusion of the requirements for new projects scheduled to commence in 2007-08. The main items are listed as follows:

- (a) Department of Health (new project) - Communicable Disease Information System (\$25 m)
- (b) Immigration Department - Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Identity Card (\$15 m)
- (c) Immigration Department - Implementation of phase I of the updated information systems strategy (\$24 m)
- (d) Immigration Department - Computer systems at the new control point for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor (\$160 m)
- (e) Immigration Department - Implementation of phase III of the updated information systems strategy (\$105 m)
- (f) Immigration Department - Introduction of Biometric Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport and Strategic Enhancement of the Travel Document Information System (\$85 m)
- (g) Immigration Department - Computer systems for the Immigration Department at the new control point for the Lok Ma Chau Terminus of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (\$79 m)
- (h) Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) - Integration and Application of Information Technology in the New Headquarters Building of the ICAC (\$87 m)
- (i) Office of the Government Chief Information Officer - Enhancing the e-Government infrastructure to support the new strategy for e-Government service delivery (\$43 m)

- (j) Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (new project) - Provision of WiFi wireless internet facilities at Government premises (\$108 m)
- (k) Transport Department - Transport Information System (\$32 m)
- (l) Transport Department - Replacement of the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data (VALID) III System (\$29 m)
- (m) Treasury - Replacement of the Government Financial Management Information System (\$44 m)

Sufficient departmental resources have been earmarked for the project implementation in 2007-08.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)057

Question Serial No.

0805

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head710-Computerisation

Subhead (No. & title): A068XV Provision of WiFi wireless internet facilities at Government premises

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau:

Question: Please indicate:

- (a) According to the Budget Speech, WiFi networks will first be installed in all public libraries, major cultural and recreational centres, community halls, large parks, and those government offices that are frequently visited by the public. When will the works concerned commence?
- (b) Please list out the first batch of government venues that will have such networks installed; and
- (c) When the Government installs such networks, will it consider to invite participation by private contractors?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply:
- (a) We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in mid-2007 and to commence the implementation work after the funding approval.
 - (b) We intend to complete in the first year the provision of facilities at our targeted government premises which include public libraries, key cultural and recreation centres, community halls, major parks, and government offices with close contacts with citizens.
 - (c) We will adopt an outsourcing approach and will invite service providers and equipment suppliers in the market to participate in this WiFi initiative.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)058

Question Serial No.

2391

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head710-Computerisation

Subhead (No. & title): A068XV Provision of WiFi wireless internet facilities at Government premises

Controlling Officer : Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau :

Question: Please provide details on the plan to provide WiFi wireless internet facilities at Government premises. Which venues will provide such facilities during the first year? When will the installation of the first batch of such facilities be completed for provision of service?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply: We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in mid-2007 and to commence the implementation programme after the funding approval. We intend to complete in the first year the provision of facilities at our targeted government premises which include public libraries, key cultural and recreation centres, community halls, major parks, and government offices with close contacts with citizens.

We will start progressively rolling out the implementation in the latter half of 2007 and will complete the installation of the first batch of facilities in one year. We will also consult with the departments who are managing the target venues with a view to identifying an earlier opportunity to showcase the proposed WiFi facility in a suitable site.

Name in block letters

Howard Dickson

Post Title

Government Chief Information Officer

Date

15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)059

Question Serial No.

2673

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead (No. & title): A068XV Provision of WiFi wireless internet facilities at Government premises
710-Computerisation

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau:

Question: The Government plans to allocate \$210 m over the next two years to provide WiFi wireless Internet facilities at government premises, please inform this Committee:

- (a) What are the details of the plan, including work schedule, the number and exact locations of WiFi hotspots to be installed, bandwidth and IT security measures to protect such network;
- (b) What standards will be used to decide the number and distribution of WiFi network hotspots at government premises with WiFi wireless Internet facilities?
- (c) What is the breakdown by expenditure items, including purchase of software/hardware, system maintenance, IT services, etc.;
- (d) Following the completion of the installation works, which government department will be responsible for the daily maintenance and related expenditure? What is the annual expenditure involved? and
- (e) Will digital contents and electronic services provided by various government departments and public bodies be further strengthened to encourage more citizens to use the WiFi wireless Internet facilities so as to enhance its effectiveness? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: (a) We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo by mid-2007. The implementation programme will commence after the funding approval. We plan to complete the implementation in one year for providing WiFi facilities at our targeted government premises. We are collecting requirements from government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) on the number and exact location of sites to be equipped with WiFi facilities. These will be used to determine the bandwidth requirements and service levels in the procurement exercises to follow. In respect of security, the WiFi provision will need to comply with all relevant standing policies and guidelines on information security in the Government. Security measures may include, but are not limited to, use of firewall, filtering software and log-on procedures in applicable cases.

- (b) We plan to install WiFi facilities at government premises which are frequently visited by visitors or have close contact with the public. The number of visitors and the physical layout of the premises will be our prime factors in deciding the number and distribution of the hotspots.
- (c) The \$210 m is at this stage a budget estimate. It needs to cover the expenditure on hardware, software, site preparation, equipment installation, system implementation, Internet service provision and publicity. As we are now in the process of collecting requirements from B/Ds, the detailed cost breakdown would only be confirmed after we received all the returns and mapped out the procurement strategy. We will seek funding approval from the Finance Committee by mid 2007. The detailed breakdown of expenditure items will be available by then.
- (d) The programme will be centrally coordinated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO). We will outsource the implementation and on-going management of the WiFi networks to the market. After completion of the installation works, the contractor will be responsible for the daily maintenance. OGCIO will be responsible for overall programme management and expenditure control. The annual expenditure requirements will be available after we have collected requirements from B/Ds, and details will be provided in our funding submission to the Finance Committee.
- (e) Yes, under the e-government programme, B/Ds have been advised to review their service channels, including wireless and mobile channels, to deliver their services in an optimal way. The OGCIO has also set up a task force to facilitate the wider adoption of wireless and mobile services and technology (FAWMST) in collaboration with industry. The Government IT infrastructure will be upgraded to cater for the mobile and wireless channels. The expenditures involved in delivering additional content and services on WiFi facilities are included in the project estimates of individual e-government and IT projects of B/Ds and not separately counted.

Name in block letters	<u>Howard Dickson</u>
Post Title	<u>Government Chief Information Officer</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)060

Question Serial No.

0923

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: During 2007-08, RTHK will produce programmes and relays of events for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in July 2007. Please elucidate the work details, progress and the expenses involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: In 2007-08, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will relay events in connection with the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR taking place from end-June to early-July, including a gala show, the flag-rising ceremony, the swearing-in ceremony for Chief Executive, etc. Meanwhile, the Radio Division itself will also produce special programmes dedicated to the festival occasion. Examples of these include 'Forum on the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with China', 'Hong Kong Letter Recollection', 'San Jiang Forum' etc.. The estimated direct expenditure for relaying and producing these programmes is about \$600,000.

Besides, RTHK will also collaborate with community organisations to hold several activities to mark the SAR's 10th Anniversary, such as 'Concert of 10 000 Youths', 'Elderly Commission Variety Show in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with China' and 'HK Uniformed Groups 10,000 Miles Friendship Trek 2007', etc. The production costs of these projects are mainly shouldered by our partners.

All of the abovementioned projects have been moving on smoothly as planned, but details are pending further confirmation.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)061

Question Serial No.

0924

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Provision for 2007-08 is \$24.7 million (12.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. This is mainly due to increase in operating expenses and capital expenditure. Please provide details and account for the increase.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: The increase in capital expenditure for 2007-08 is mainly due to the preparation for digital broadcasting and the need to replace old equipment, involving the procurement of an outside broadcast van and high-definition television (HDTV) filming equipment.

In addition, the production of programmes related to the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR, increase in commissioning of programmes, the commissioning of a production budgeting system consultancy study, and the launching of a series of flagship programmes, including a new series of 'Success Stories', and etc account mainly for the rise in operating expenses.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)062

Question Serial No.

0922

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the reasons for an increase in the provision for 2007-08 from \$16,400,000 to \$19,900,000 against the revised estimate of 3,500,000 for 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: Two new items have been added in the Minor Plant, Vehicles and Equipment subhead of the 2007-08 Estimate, resulting in a higher expenditure against the 2006-07 Revised Estimate. Details are as follows:-

Item	Revised Estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Estimate 2007-08 \$'000
The supply of TV outside broadcast van	3,500	6,500
The supply and installation of high definition outside broadcast cameras	0	9,400
The supply and installation of Integrated Digital Radio Newsroom System	0	4,000
Total	3,500	19,900

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)063

Question Serial No.

2369

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: With regard to 'continue to explore the delivery of RTHK ON INTERNET content to the next generation of multimedia and communications devices', please advise:

- (a) What work will be carried out in 2007-08 to implement the above project? What are the expenses involved?
- (b) Will the Administration collaborate with the media industry or other private organisations to explore ways to provide more access to RTHK's programmes?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply:
- (a) In 2007-08, RTHK plans to increase the number of podcast content and enhance its setup's compatibility with the next-generation multimedia and communications devices (such as producing multimedia content of RTHK on Internet for free access by 3G mobile phones). The estimated cost is around \$300,000.
 - (b) In 2007-08, RTHK will proceed with the above mentioned multimedia plan for mobile phones, and will continue to explore opportunity on working with the media industry.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)064

Question Serial No.

0925

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In respect of the '% of content items which are original web content' indicator, the figure for 2007-08 remains the same as compared with those for 2005-06 and 2006-07. Will the Administration consider raising its proportion and creating more original web contents? If no, what is the reason? If yes, by its own estimate, how many resources will be required?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: In 2007-08, RTHK will maintain the proportion of the original web content, but will increase digital video production and strengthen original web content by replacing texts and pictures with audio and video clips. It will also enhance the interactivity of the content and enable wider access to the content via emerging media.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)065

Question Serial No.

0926

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2007-08, the Administration is going to collaborate with Efficiency Unit to develop 'Youth Portal', an Internet portal delivering government youth services. When will the web site be inaugurated? Initially how much will it cost? Has the Administration formulated performance indicators for the embryonic stage of the web site?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: RTHK is collaborating with Efficiency Unit in developing a 'Youth Portal'. The 'Youth Portal' is expected to launch in the third quarter of 2007. RTHK is responsible for the production and programme management of the original content. The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$4.0m, which is funded by Efficiency Unit.

The 'Youth Portal' aims at being a single window to youth services provided by Government and Government Funded Organisations for local youths aged 15 to 24. The performance of the portal at the embryonic stage will be measured according to target users' feedback on user friendliness, variety of information and number of pageviews.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)066

Question Serial No.

0927

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2007-08, the total under the 'hours of output per programming strand' indicator is lower than that of 2006-07, but 'cost per hour' rises substantially. What is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The rise in the "cost per hour" is mainly due to the increase in expenditure in 2007-08 to provide for the procurement of an outside broadcast van and other high-definition television (HDTV) filming equipment, the production of programmes related to the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR, more commissioning of programmes, the commissioning of a production budgeting system consultancy study, and the launching of a series of flagship programmes, including a new series of 'Success Stories', and etc.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)067

Question Serial No.

0928

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs Television

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2004, 2005 and 2006, how many programmes were produced under the commissioning schemes? What were the 'cost per hour' figures for commissioned productions, and how did they compare with the cost of in-house television production? In this year, how many commissioned programmes are projected? What is the cost? What is the ratio between commissioned programmes and in-house production?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: In years 2004, 2005 and 2006, a total of 68 half-hour programmes were produced under the commissioning schemes.

2004	20 episodes of half-hour programmes
2005	20 episodes of half-hour programmes
2006	28 episodes of half-hour programmes

For the past three years, the average cost per hour of commissioned productions was around \$530,000, and the average cost per hour of in-house television productions was around \$356,000 for the same period.

The projected output of commissioned programmes in 2007 is 34 half-hour episodes at a cost of around \$8 million, representing 6.7% of RTHK's prime time productions.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)068

Question Serial No.

2704

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What are the total output hours of merged broadcasting for this year? How is it compared to the figures of the past three years, and its effects on manpower resources?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The total merged broadcasting hours of the 7 radio channels for this year are projected to be 10 978 hours, while comparative figures with the past three years are:

Year	Total Output Hours	Total Merged Broadcasting Hours
2004-05	50 563	10 757
2005-06	49 750	11 570
2006-07	50 193	11 127
2007-08	50 510	10 978

Most of these merged broadcasting programmes occur at midnight hours mainly taking into consideration the small number of audience in these hours and for effective deployment of resources.

Since 2006-07, the number of merged hours has reduced gradually while the hours of output were on the rise. This trend will be sustained in 2007-08, details of which are still being studied.

No additional civil service staff is required for the reduction in merged broadcasting service while the number of part-time contract staff will be increased modestly.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)069

Question Serial No.

2705

Head: 160 Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In the future special projects, including the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, programmes related to the election of District Councils, the relaying of Olympic Games in Beijing, as well as other special activities, how much will these projects cost respectively? Will these projects require any additional allocations?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: In 2007-08, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will produce and relay several special programmes and activities related to the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, at an estimated direct cost of \$600,000. In addition, RTHK will collaborate with community organisations to hold several activities for the festive season, costs of which will be mainly borne by our partners.

Programmes concerning the election of District Councils are mainly funded by relevant government departments. RTHK will cover the balance with internal resources.

As for the preparation work in relaying the Olympic Games, the details and estimates have not been finalised yet at this stage.

Name in block letters CHU Pui-hing

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)070

Question Serial No.

2712

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In this Programme, the provision for 2007-08 is \$0.5 m higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. This is mainly due to the provision for the proposed establishment of the Film Development Council, including creation of three additional posts. Please provide the job titles and respective responsibilities of these three posts.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply: These three additional posts include 1 officer on Directorate Pay Scale Point 2 responsible for the overall planning, coordination and implementation of the work of the Film Development Council, 1 Senior Executive Officer providing administrative support and 1 Personal Secretary I supporting the work of the Secretariat.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)071

Question Serial No.

2713

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please provide the number and details of applications received and accepted for the Film Development Fund and the Film Guarantee Fund in 2005-06 and 2006-07, the amount of funding involved and the reasons for applications being rejected.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply: Film Development Fund

In 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Film Development Fund (FDF) received 7 and 14 applications respectively. The FDF approved funding for 13 applications and rejected three applications. Two applications were withdrawn by the applicants and three applications are still in progress. The details of the approved applications are as follows:

13 applications with funding approved

Applicant	Project	Amount of Fund Approved
Projects approved in 2005-06		
The Hong Kong Film Awards Association	The 25th Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony.	\$2,261,000
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	To sponsor the publicity, marketing and opening ceremony of the Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2006.	\$1,350,000
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum 2006	\$2,564,063
Total amount of fund approved (2005-06):		<u>\$6,175,063</u>
Projects approved in 2006-07		
Film Development Committee	Consultancy Study on the Development of Hong Kong's Film Industry.	\$1,300,000

Applicant	Project	Amount of Fund Approved
The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited	Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum 2007.	\$3,230,856
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	To sponsor the publicity, marketing and opening ceremony of the Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2007.	\$1,387,500
The Hong Kong Film Awards Association	The 26th Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony.	\$2,385,000
Milkyway Image (Hong Kong) Limited	To sponsor “Election 2” to participate in the 59th Cannes Film Festival (Out of Competition Section).	\$80,000
Media Asia Films Limited	To sponsor “Exiled” to participate in the 63rd Venice Film Festival (In Competition Section).	\$80,000
Media Asia Films Limited	To sponsor “Banquet” to participate in the 63rd Venice Film Festival (Out of Competition Section).	\$80,000
Fable Films Limited	To sponsor “Ming Ming” to participate in the 11th Pusan International Film Festival.	\$80,000
JCE Movies Limited	To sponsor “Rob-B-Hood” to participate in the 63rd Venice Film Festival (Out of Competition Section).	\$80,000
Focus Films Limited	To sponsor “Rain Dogs” to participate in the 63rd Venice Film Festival (Official Selection--Horizon).	\$80,000
Total amount of fund approved (2006-07):		<u>\$8,783,356</u>
Total amount of fund approved (2005-06 and 2006-07):		<u>\$14,958,419</u>

In the past two years, three applications were rejected. One of the applications was a film production project by a private company, which was outside the scope of sponsorship of the FDF. Another application was made by a film industry organization about hiring a consultant to carry out research for updating its existing film copyright database. The main reason for rejecting this application was that the proposed core service was a paid service of commercial nature. The last rejected application was about the publication of two film yearbooks for free distribution to local and overseas members of the industry. This application was rejected because most of the information such as box office records, film information and winners of the Hong Kong Film Awards in the film yearbooks to be published could be obtained from other film publications as well as relevant websites.

Film Guarantee Fund

The Film Guarantee Fund received three applications and one application in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. All of the applications were approved. The details of the film projects are as follows:

Applicant	Name of Film	Amount Guaranteed
Projects approved in 2005-06		
My Way Film Company Ltd	Shaolin Vs Evil Dead II	\$1,250,000
Mandarin Films Ltd	Dragon Tiger Gate	\$2,625,000
Panorama Distributions Co Ltd	Mr. 3 minutes	\$2,375,000
Projects approved in 2006-07		
Jing's Production Limited	The Lady Iron Chef	\$1,500,000

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)072

Question Serial No.

2714

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Please provide the list and details of the training programmes jointly worked out and organized by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA), the film industry and the tertiary institutions and the number of participants in these schemes.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply: In 2006-07, five training programmes on the application of advanced digital technology were jointly organized by TELA, the film industry and the tertiary institutions to enhance the skills and technical knowledge of film workers. There were 770 participants and the total amount of sponsorship was \$762,000. The details are as follows –

	Project Name	Organization Sponsored	Sponsored Amount Approved	Date	Number of Participants
1.	Digital Grading with Digital Projection	The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Kwun Tong)	\$90,000	November 2006	Workshop (\$1,000 fee): 9 participants Talk (free of charge): 20 participants
2.	Management and Operation of the Digital Cinema	The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Kwun Tong) and Hong Kong Theatres Association Limited	\$157,000	November 2006	Seminar (free of charge): about 100 participants for 2 days Workshop (\$500 fee): 13 participants
3.	Digital Audio Recording Techniques and Surround Sound Production: Film Music Scoring for Orchestra and	School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong	\$217,000	February 2007	Free of charge, about 260 participants

	Project Name	Organization Sponsored	Sponsored Amount Approved	Date	Number of Participants
	Small Ensembles, Surround Audio Mixing and Mastering				
4.	Skill Upgrading – Toward High Definition Cinematography	Society of Cinematographers (HK)	\$153,000	December 2006	Free of charge, about 210 participants
5.	Computer Animation with ZBrush	Hong Kong Productivity Council	\$145,000	December 2006	Lecture session (\$50 fee): 108 participants Practice session (\$100 fee): 50 participants

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)073

Question Serial No.

0583

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: How is the Administration going to rationalize the existing framework within the government and public organizations that develop and support the film industry? How much will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. FOK Tsun-ting, Timothy

Reply: At present, different policy bureaux, departments and public organizations provide different types of support services for the development of the film industry. To ensure that film policy can be implemented more smoothly and effectively, the Administration will rationalize the relevant framework. The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology will coordinate the relevant film policy, planning and activities, including manpower training, Mainland and overseas promotion and filming support. In the second quarter of 2007, the government will set up a non-statutory Film Development Council with members mainly from the industry to assist the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology in implementing the film policy.

The existing staff of the Film Services Office (FSO) under the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority will be transferred to the new Film Development Council. The total estimated expenditure of FSO is \$27.1 m in 2007-08. As the scope of functions of the Film Development Council will be wider than those of the existing Film Development Committee, the government is planning to increase manpower to support the secretariat services for the Film Development Council and help administer a new fund to help finance film production and overcome the shortage of talent. The additional manpower includes one officer on Directorate Pay Scale Point 2, one Senior Executive Officer and one Personal Secretary I. In 2007-08, the additional emoluments and other expenditure will be about \$5.7 m.

The government will later make submission to the Legislative Council for the creation of the directorate post and the establishment of a \$300 m fund.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)074

Question Serial No.

0561

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Film Classification and Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2004, 2005 and 2006, how many articles are classified as Class II (indecent) or Class III (obscene) in accordance with the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance and what are the numbers of prosecutions?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply: From 2004 to 2006, the number of articles that were submitted by Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) to Obscene Articles Tribunal (OAT) and classified by OAT as Class II (Indecent) or Class III (Obscene) are as follows:

	2004	2005	2006
Number of articles classified as Class II (Indecent) by OAT	535	180	144
Number of articles classified as Class III (Obscene) by OAT	1 344	511	241

After OAT has classified the articles, TELA will prosecute those people who are suspected of publishing Class II (indecent) articles without observing the restrictions in accordance with the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) (for example, publishing an article that does not bear a warning or not sealed in completely opaque wrapper), or publishing Class III (obscene) articles that contravenes COIAO. From 2004 to 2006, the numbers of prosecutions made by TELA are as follows:

	2004	2005	2006
Number of prosecutions made by TELA	152	206	230

For the above prosecutions made by TELA, each case may involve a number of articles that are suspected of contravening the law. For example, a number of articles containing indecent or obscene content may be seized from the same shop.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)075

Question Serial No.

0726

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Can the government provide information on its action plan in relation to promoting the development of film industry in 2007-08 and the estimated budget?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: In 2007-08, the government will implement a series of measures to promote the sustainable development of the film industry. Details of the action plan are as follows:

- (1) to rationalize the framework of government and public organizations for film industry development and support, the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology will coordinate the relevant policy, planning and activities, including manpower training, Mainland and overseas promotion and filming support.
- (2) to set up a non-statutory Film Development Council in the second quarter of 2007, with members drawn mainly from the film industry, to support the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology in implementing the film policy; and
- (3) to set up a new fund of \$300 m to help finance film production and overcome the shortage of talent.

The existing staff of the Film Services Office (FSO) under the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority will be transferred to the new Film Development Council. The total estimated expenditure of FSO is \$27.1 m in 2007-08. As the scope of functions of the Film Development Council will be wider than those of the existing Film Development Committee, the government is planning to increase manpower to provide secretariat services for the Film Development Council and help administer the new fund. The additional posts to be created include one officer on Directorate Pay Scale Point 2, one Senior Executive Officer and one Personal Secretary I. In 2007-08, additional emoluments and other expenditure will be about \$5.7 m.

The government will later make submission to the Legislative Council for the creation of the directorate post and the setting up of the new fund of \$300 m.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)076

Question Serial No.

0609

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In setting up the Film Development Council in 2007-08, what will be the additional manpower required and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The Film Development Council will be set up in 2007-08. This new body will give advice to the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau to assist the government in formulating the direction and strategy conducive to the development of the film industry.

As the scope of functions of the Film Development Council will be wider than those of the existing Film Development Committee, the government is planning to increase manpower to provide secretariat services for the Film Development Council and help administer a new fund to help finance film production and overcome the shortage of talent. The additional posts to be created include 1 officer on Directorate Pay Scale Point 2, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 1 Personal Secretary I. In 2007-08, the additional emoluments and other expenditure will be about \$5.7 m. The government will later make submission to the Legislative Council for the creation of the directorate post.

The existing staff of the Film Services Office under the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority will be transferred to the new Film Development Council.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)077

Question Serial No.

0610

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: How much savings in film production cost (including both tangible and intangible cost) could be achieved by the adoption of new film facilitation initiatives? Will the implementation of these new initiatives increase or reduce the size of the establishment?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: The new initiatives introduced by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) include:

- (1) location shooting at pedestrian precincts, the primary objective of which is to provide more location choices for filmmakers to shoot in a densely populated place like Hong Kong.
- (2) hiring Police service for intermittent traffic control, the primary objective of which is to facilitate film production crew to shoot on certain important trunk roads without the complete closure of the road, so as to bring least inconvenience to the road users.

TELA coordinates the above applications and refers them to the departments concerned, saving production companies time and effort to liaise with different departments. The savings accrued to production companies are both tangible and intangible, but we do not have the relevant figures of the savings from production companies. TELA will try its best to assist the applicants and the approving departments/organizations in reaching mutually agreeable scenarios.

The implementation of these new initiatives does not affect the size of the establishment of government departments.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)078

Question Serial No.

0611

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Film Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: What is the estimated amount of investment in "Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2007"? Has the government made an assessment of the economic benefits brought by the activity?

Asked by: Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper

Reply: "Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2007" ("Expo 2007") is a conglomeration of eight local spectacular entertainment events, namely, the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF), the Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum, the Hong Kong Music Fair, the IFPI Hong Kong Top Sales Music Award and the Hong Kong Independent Short Film & Video Awards.

The organizers of the eight independent events raise their own funds individually. Some of the events are sponsored by the Film Development Fund, including the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony (a grant of about \$2.4 m) and the Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum (a grant of about \$3.2 m). "Expo 2007" also received a grant of about \$1.4 m from the Film Development Fund to cover expenses on advertisements, marketing and venue renting fee to the opening ceremony. Moreover, the Home Affairs Bureau allocates about \$8 m yearly through the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society to organize the Hong Kong International Film Festival. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer also sponsors about \$2 m for setting up the Digital Entertainment Gallery, organizing the Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum and other related projects.

"Expo 2007" aims at amalgamating a number of local entertainment events to achieve synergy effect. These events help raise the standard of the local television and entertainment industries, encourage creativity and diversification in productions, enable the industry to adopt advanced technology to enhance the audio-visual effects of films, thereby promoting the development of Hong Kong's creation industries. For the past two years, the Expo received strong support and participation from the local industries. More than 800 overseas articles covered "Expo 2006" held in 2006. About 100 journalists attended its press conference and over 300 journalists covered the opening ceremony. A total of 120 000 people visited "Expo 2006", compared to 90 000 people for "Expo 2005". This is the third entertainment expo to be held, and the number of participants is expected to be even higher this year, which would further enhance its position as a landmark entertainment event in Asia and help upgrade the international profile of the Hong Kong television and entertainment industries and increases their business opportunities.

The HAF under the Entertainment Expo is one of the most important film financing platforms in Asia. It has successfully provided funding opportunities for many film projects. For the 25 film projects presented in HAF 2006, three projects have secured funding and completed production.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CITB(CT)079

Question Serial No.

1967

Head: 180 Television and Entertainment
Licensing Authority

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: In 2007-08, the number of non-directorate officers and directorate officers in TELA will be increased by three and one respectively. Please specify:

1. the titles of the new posts and the annual expenditure on salary;
2. the reasons for the creation of these posts;
3. whether all the new posts are permanent civil service posts.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: 1. Details of the four newly created posts in 2007-08 are as follows:

	Rank	Annual Emoluments
(i)	Officer on Directorate Pay Scale Point 2	\$1,320,000
(ii)	Senior Executive Officer	\$542,880
(iii)	Personal Secretary I	\$238,320
(iv)	Executive Officer II	\$193,980
		<hr/>
		\$2,295,180

2. Posts (i)-(iii) are to be created for work related to the Film Development Council to be established shortly. Post (iv) is to provide administrative support for the grant of miscellaneous licences which is within the policy area of Home Affairs Bureau.
3. All the above four posts are permanent civil service posts.

Name in block letters Ms. Lorna WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Television
and Entertainment Licensing

Date 13.3.2007