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18 October 2006

Mr Daniel R FUNG, SBS, SC, QC, JP  
Chairman, Broadcasting Authority  
c/o 39/F, Revenue Tower  
No. 5, Gloucester Road  
Wan Chai  
Hong Kong

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**  
**Revisions to the Accuracy Requirement in the Generic Code of Practice**  
**on Television Programme Standards and Radio Code of Practice**  
**on Programme Standards**

I refer to the letter dated 12 October 2006 from the Panel Clerk inviting your goodself and the Codes of Practice Committee (BACPC) established under the Broadcasting Authority (BA) to attend a special meeting of the Panel on 17 October 2006 for discussion of the captioned subject. The BA was represented by Ms Lorna WONG, Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing and Mr PO Pui-leong, Assistant Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing (Broadcasting) at the meeting.

In reply to members, the Commissioner has provided clarification on the justification for the revisions to the accuracy requirement in the Codes of Practice in question, the public consultations that BA/BACPC has conducted and the established procedures in reviewing and revising the Codes under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) and the Broadcasting Authority Ordinance (Cap. 391). Panel members note that the purpose of the revisions is to strike a balance between meeting rising public expectation of factual accuracy in television and radio programmes and minimizing the regulatory burdens on the broadcasters in ensuring compliance. Nevertheless, in view of the many copies of complaint letter received by some Members' offices, the Panel members have urged that BA should re-examine whether the existing consultation procedures are adequate in gauging the concerns of affected parties. On whether the revisions will be gazetted in October 2006 and put into effect, the Commissioner has advised that the matter will be further considered by BA. In this connection, members have requested BA to inform the Panel in writing of its decision in due course.

Panel members are aware that you have not been able to accept the Panel's invitation to attend the special meeting on this occasion due to prior engagement. However, since the Panel will discuss important issues related to the regulation of broadcasting from time to time, we would appreciate it if you would, where practicable, accept the Panel's invitation in future to meet with the Panel and discuss issues of concern. I am sure your attendance will facilitate communication and exchanges of views between the Panel and BA.

Meanwhile, if there is any question, please do not hesitate to contact me or Miss Polly YEUNG, Clerk to Panel at 2869 9246 or faxline no. 2121 0420.

Looking forward to your favourable reply and with best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Albert Jinghan CHENG)  
Chairman,  
Panel on  
Information Technology and Broadcasting

c.c. Ms Lorna WONG  
Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing