

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)325/07-08
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/ITB/1

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of special meeting
held on Tuesday, 16 October 2007, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Members attending** : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
- Members absent** : Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
- Public officers attending** : Agenda Item I
Mr Frederick MA, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Mrs Rita LAU, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Alan SIU, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mrs Marion LAI, JP
Director-General of Telecommunications

Ms Gracie FOO, JP
Acting Director of Broadcasting
Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr Howard Dickson
Government Chief Information Officer
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Anthony WONG, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Ms Maisie CHENG
Commissioner for Television and Entertainment
Licensing

Agenda Item II

Mr Alan SIU, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mrs Marion LAI, JP
Director-General of Telecommunications

Mr T F SO
Assistant Director of Telecommunications (Support)

Mr Henry CHANG
Head of Information and Communications
Technologies
Office of the Telecommunications Authority

Clerk in attendance : Miss Erin TSANG
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Annette LAM
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Guy YIP
Council Secretary (1)1

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

I. Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's 2007-2008 Policy Address

(LC Paper No. CB(1)33/07-08(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(1)78/07-08(01) -- Speaking note of the
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently Secretary for Commerce and
issued on 17 October 2007*) Economic Development)

Other relevant documents

Two booklets provided by the Administration

- (a) Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 10 October 2007 -- "A New Direction for Hong Kong"; and
- (b) The 2007-2008 Policy Address -- "Policy Agenda".

Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

At the chairman's invitation, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED) briefed members on the policy initiatives relating to the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in the 2007-2008 Policy Agenda. They included new and on-going initiatives with regard to creative industries, telecommunications and broadcasting services, film industry, information technology, and collaboration in science and technology with the Mainland.

Discussion

Government Wi-Fi programme

2. Noting that Wi-Fi Internet facilities were now available at the Hong Kong International Airport which he believed were free of charge, Mr Howard YOUNG enquired whether the Wi-Fi Internet facilities made available in some payphone kiosks in areas such as the Central were also free. He also asked whether the Government had any plans to use a distinct logo for the free public Wi-Fi services so that the public and in particular casual visitors could differentiate the free Wi-Fi services at Government premises from the wireless Internet services provided by commercial operators that had to be paid. He sought clarification from the Government on whether free Wi-Fi Internet services within Government buildings or in the vicinity such as the podium in the City Hall or areas adjoining the libraries were also accessible after office hours.

3. In response, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PS(CT)) explained that a provision of around \$200 million had been approved for providing free Wi-Fi Internet facilities to the public in 350 Government premises. As for commercial Wi-Fi Internet access services provided by private operators in places other than those selected Government premises, the public would have to pay for the services. The tendering exercise for the Government Wi-Fi programme was near completion. A series of publicity activities would be launched nearer the time of service roll-out to raise public awareness of the programme. She said that due consideration would be given to Mr YOUNG's suggestion for a distinct logo to provide a ready recognition of the free Government Wi-Fi access services. Government Chief Information Officer of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO/OGCIO) supplemented that the objective of the Government Wi-Fi programme was to provide free Internet access at public places as a public service. The Government had no intention of competing with the service provided by commercial operators. He undertook to ascertain whether areas in the vicinity of free Wi-Fi enabled Government premises such as areas outside the libraries and City Hall, etc were regarded as public places. He also undertook to provide information in writing after the meeting regarding Mr YOUNG's abovementioned enquiries on Internet access services at the Hong Kong Airport and payphone kiosks as well as the availability of free Internet access services within the Government buildings or in the vicinity after office hours.

Admin

Radio, television and mobile phone coverage and reception at remote areas

4. Referring to the aspiration for quality city and quality life advocated by the Chief Executive in the 2007-2008 Policy Address, Mr Abraham SHEK was concerned about the lack of improvement in the quality and reception of AM broadcasting in some districts, particularly the remote areas. He questioned whether the Government had any specific plans and time-table in the coming five years to enhance the quality of AM broadcasting to improve reception, particularly

for music channels. Noting the poor intermittent reception of AM and FM channels at remote places such as Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Southern Lantau, Mr Albert CHAN raised a similar concern.

5. In response, the Acting Director of Broadcasting of Radio Television Hong Kong (D of B (Atg)) acknowledged that some channels were available only under AM broadcasting and that the reception of AM broadcasting in some districts was sometimes unsatisfactory. She said that there was room for improvement and that facilities enhancement plans for different districts were drawn up for progressive improvement in reception quality. She said that three of the stations (i.e. Radio One, Two and Four) were using FM broadcasting, and the Administration was mindful of the need to make best utilization of radio spectrum. Referring to the "A-Power" and "Teen Power" to promote the use of the Internet by the elderly and teenagers respectively, she said that the public could also access both AM and FM radio programmes on the Internet. Mr Abraham SHEK was unconvinced and maintained that listening to radio programmes on the Internet might not suit the convenience of every one and that there should be an overall plan to improve the general reception of AM broadcasting so as to provide the public with more programme choices among the AM and FM channels. At the request of the Chairman, D of B (Atg) undertook to further study the issue and to furnish the Panel with supplementary information setting out its plan and time-table for improving AM and FM broadcasting transmission and reception.

Admin

6. Mr Albert CHAN expressed grave disappointment that some remote districts such as Yuen Long were still not covered by the free television (TV) programmes of the two domestic free television programmes service licensees, namely Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Limited. He said that despite claims of Hong Kong being a vibrant economy and a regional technology hub, Hong Kong was regrettably lagging behind time and was more backward than the Mainland where even people in Tibet and Xinjiang could access free TV broadcasting. In this connection, Mr WONG Kwok-hing stated that as reflected by residents of Tung Chung, poor reception of ATV programmes with problems of snowing and ghosting was a very common phenomenon in Tung Chung area. Complaints to the ATV did not seem to have resulted in any improvement. He enquired what measures the Government would take to improve the situation.

7. In response, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and technology) (DS(CT)) said that the Bureau was liaising with the Yuen Long District Office to explore reception improvement works in Yuen Long area under the rural works programme. He further advised that the commencement of digital terrestrial television broadcasting by end 2007, with its first phase of service roll-out covering up to 50% of Hong Kong including East Lantau Island, would bring about improved audio-visual quality and fewer reception problems including snowing and ghosting. DS(CT) undertook to update the Panel on the progress of the improvement work in Yuen Long area, and to report to the Panel the outcome of follow-up with ATV on reception in Tung Chung area.

Admin

8. On the use of mobile phone, Mr Albert CHAN and Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted with grave concern that in Tung Chung and southern Lantau, mobile phones could only receive signals of the Mainland networks, and one had to dial Hong Kong's area code of 852 before dialling 999 for emergencies services. Director-General of Telecommunications (DG of T) explained that this was due to stronger Mainland network signals over those of the Hong Kong networks in certain areas close to the Mainland. She said that the Administration had a standing arrangement to resolve cross-border interference issues with the relevant Mainland authorities. On the coverage of mobile phone networks, she elaborated that the licensing conditions and requirements did not specify in detail the coverage to be provided by each mobile phone operator. Moreover, mobile phone service providers were not subject to the universal service obligation which at present was applicable to one fixed line network operator only. She, however, pointed out that in view of the keen market competition, she believed market players would be driven by market forces to seek a bigger market share through improving their network coverage and related facilities. The Chairman suggested that pending longer-term solutions, sign-boards should be erected in the areas concerned to draw the public's attention on how to dial for emergency services. DG of T noted the suggestion.

9. Mr Albert CHAN, however, did not subscribe to the explanation. He said the reception quality of radio and television programmes and the coverage of mobile phone network were daily bread and butter issues. The Government should help to safeguard the public's right of enjoyment and promote quality life by standardizing service quality of all providers and setting a time-frame for universal coverage for the whole territory. He considered it unacceptable for the Government to evade its responsibility under the pretext of the so-called commercial principles for the market forces to regulate the market. He said that it was remiss of the Administration not to have issued any policy directives to redress the problems amidst boasts of good governance. He called on SCED to formulate policy guidelines and implementation strategies on concrete measures to bring forth improvement in these respects. He suggested that if need be, the Administration should consider injecting public funds to set up transmission towers and providing the essential infrastructural facilities for improvement.

10. SCED thanked members for the views expressed and undertook to conduct policy review on the matters raised.

Review on public service broadcasting and the future of RTHK

11. Referring to the review of public service broadcasting (PSB), Ms Emily LAU sought clarification from the Administration on whether the public consultation to be conducted by the Government by end 2007 would include the future of RTHK. She said that the matter had been discussed at the Legislative Council and there was a general consensus on the need for PSB in Hong Kong, and that RTHK which had all along been performing a PSB role should be given the

opportunity to be transformed into a bona fide public broadcaster to continue and further develop its role as a public broadcaster. The majority of the deputations received by the Panel on the review of PSB supported the transformation of RTHK into a public service broadcaster. As such, the Administration should not base its consultation solely on the recommendations of the Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting which had advised against the transformation of RTHK without making a thorough analysis of the pros and cons of transformation. She hoped that, unlike the Government consultation on constitutional reform, the Administration would set out clear-cut options on the future development of PSB and the future role of RTHK for public consultation.

12. On the scope of public consultation on PSB, the Chairman referred members to paragraph 21 of the Administration's paper (LC paper no. CB(1)33/07-08(01)) which stated that the consultation document would also include the future role of and arrangements for RTHK. SCED affirmed in this respect.

13. Ms Emily LAU enquired about the time-table for the PSB review and the duration of the public consultation. She remarked that the public and the RTHK staff were concerned whether the matter would be dragged on indefinitely. The Chairman was also concerned whether the Administration would accord priority to the review and public consultation.

14. In response, SCED and PS(CT) stressed that the Government had made a clear pledge to conduct an extensive, open and transparent consultation by end 2007 to widely engage all stakeholders and the public in mapping out the way forward on the development of PSB and to decide on the implementation details. As the issue was of major public concern and with a significant and far-reaching impact on the community, the Administration would allow sufficient time for all stakeholders, including the management and staff of RTHK and the public, to express their views and deliberate on the issues prior to the formulation of policy directives for implementation. SCED highlighted that public consultation was the first step to take the matter forward and the review would be processed in accordance with the established procedures. The time-table for the review was not yet finalized and the Administration had no pre-determined stance. He hoped members would appreciate that it was impracticable at the present stage for the Government to commit to a specific time-frame on the completion of the review. He assured members that RTHK would continue to operate as usual and that the Administration would have the best interests of the public at heart.

Recruitment for the post of Director of Broadcasting of RTHK

15. Ms Emily LAU enquired about the recruitment for the post of the Director of Broadcasting and was concerned about the synchronization of recruitment with the review and the public consultation on PSB including the future role of RTHK. SCED said that the recruitment firm commissioned by the Administration would start processing the applications after the close of application on 26 October 2007.

The post was also open to internal application. A selection Panel comprising PS(CT); Mr Francis HO, ex-Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Communications and Technology); and Mr Andrew WONG, Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, would conduct the selection interview. The time-frame required to fill the post would depend on whether any candidate was found suitable and the availability of the candidate selected. SCED believed that the timing of the recruitment for the post which would be on a 2½-year term would tie in well with the timing of the review and public consultation on PSB. Regarding Ms Emily LAU's concern whether the job description of the post would include a review of the role of and the future of RTHK, PS(CT) affirmed that regardless of the outcome of the review on whether RTHK would be transformed into a public broadcaster or otherwise, whoever taking up the post would be responsible for handling the transition related issues of RTHK.

16. Ms Emily LAU enquired that in the event that a serving civil servant was selected for the post, whether he/she would be required to resign from the civil service, and whether he/she could return to the civil service upon completion of the term of appointment. PS(CT) said that a serving civil servant found suitable for the post would not be required to resign from the civil service. She stressed that as many variables could be involved, such as whether the selected candidate was on contract terms or on permanent establishment, and whether a promotion in rank was involved etc, it was difficult and impracticable to exhaust all possibilities. She nevertheless assured members that in the event a serving civil servant was selected for the post, the appointment would be processed in accordance with the established Civil Service Regulations, taking into account the unique circumstances and background of the selected candidate.

Development of the film industry

17. Members noted that funds from the \$300 million Film Development Fund (FDF) to help finance the production of small-to-medium budget films were expected to be released to the first batch of successful applicants by end 2007 or early 2008. Ms Emily LAU said that she was given to understand that the pay for the filming crew including film directors, particularly new graduates looking for work experience, was exceedingly low in spite of the long working hours. She urged SCED to look into the matter and consider the possibility of setting a reasonable minimum wage for filming personnel engaged in FDF-funded production. In response, SCED said that it was not appropriate to specify or impose the wage rate for filming crew in FDF-funded film production. He considered it best for the market to decide on the appropriate and reasonable rate for the film industry. As little statistics on the prevailing wage rate was available, SCED requested Ms Emily LAU to provide the information she had on hand for reference.

18. Noting that a Batman film would be doing location shooting in Hong Kong in November 2007 and that the Government had a policy of encouraging the shooting of overseas films in Hong Kong, Ms Emily LAU was concerned whether

local film makers would also receive similar assistance and convenience as rendered to overseas film makers. In response, SCED stressed that overseas film production companies would not be given any preferential treatment in respect of location shooting, and that all film makers, overseas and local alike, were subject to the same application procedures for obtaining approval of the Hong Kong Police and other relevant departments. Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing (C for TELA) supplemented that the intention of attracting foreign filming activities to come to Hong Kong was to promote Hong Kong. She reiterated that local and overseas film makers were treated alike, and added that the Film Services Office set up since the 1990s had been rendering free assistance to both local and overseas film production companies on film production and location shooting issues including arranging shooting locations. PS(CT) supplemented that to promote the long-term development of the film industry, the Film Services Office was established under TELA and the Film Development Council was set up to facilitate film production and movie shoots and in particular, to coordinate matters related to location shooting such as road closure. Such services were welcome by the film industry as film production companies no longer had to approach different departments on their own.

19. Citing the impact of "Lord of the Ring" on the tourism of New Zealand as an example, the Chairman opined that facilitating the shooting of quality overseas films in Hong Kong would help boost tourism business in Hong Kong.

Implementation of E-forms

20. Mr Albert CHAN expressed grave disappointment that not all the Government forms were down-loadable on the Internet. He strongly requested the Government to set a date for all Government forms to be posted on web.

21. In this regard, the Chairman remarked that the issue had been discussed several times at the Panel meetings and he understood that the OGCIO had been in close liaison with the relevant Government departments/bureaux to co-ordinate the uploading of the outstanding forms on the Internet. SCED said that the matter would be taken up by the Steering Committee on e-Government chaired by the Financial Secretary. SCED agreed to expedite the uploading of forms on web as far as practicable, and GCIO undertook to update the Panel on developments.

Admin

Global positioning service

22. Mr Albert CHAN noted with concern that global positioning service (GPS) which was common in some cities on the Mainland was not yet available to drivers in Hong Kong, and asked for a specific implementation time-table. SCED undertook to convey Mr CHAN's concern to the Secretary for Transport and Housing for follow-up.

Admin

Compensated dating on the web

Admin

23. Mr WONG Kwok-hing raised concern about the recent press reports about some youngsters, especially teenage girls, seeking to offer compensated dating service/paid companionship via the web. The Chairman concurred that this was an important issue that ought to be followed-up by the Administration. He, however, indicated that the matter would more appropriately be dealt with by the Home Affairs Bureau. He requested SCED to convey members' concern to the responsible bureau, and to liaise with the respective Principal Officials for follow-up action. In this connection, D of B (Atg) said RTHK had produced an educational TV series entitled "Sex Education". The recent press reports were related to one of the episodes targeting youngsters and nurturing their positive attitude towards sex. C for TELA said that up till now, TELA had not received any complaints related to compensated dating on the web. She added that on the basis of the information reported in the newspapers, follow-up under the provisions of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390) was not deemed necessary at the present stage. Nevertheless, she remarked that TELA would keep in view the issue.

Summing Up

24. SCED thanked members for the opportunity to exchange his views with the Panel on the relevant new and on-going policy initiatives and looked forward to continued communication in the future. He assured members that the Administration would take note of members' views in expediting development in creative industries, telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology in Hong Kong.

II. Implementation of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance and Draft Code of Practice to be made under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance

(LC Paper No. CB(1)33/07-08(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(1)33/07-08(03) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Presentation by the Administration

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, Director-General of Telecommunications (DG of T) briefed members on the phased implementation of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) (Cap. 593) passed in May 2007. She highlighted the details of the Do-Not-Call Registers (DNCs) to be established under the UEMO and the phased publicity for the Phase Two commencement. Members noted that Phase One of the implementation which prohibited the use of unscrupulous methods for sending unsolicited commercial electronic messages by

professional spammers and fraudulent activities for sending commercial electronic messages had come into force on 1 June 2007. Phase Two Implementation of the UEMO relating to the rules for sending commercial electronic messages, covering the provision of accurate sender information, prohibition of withholding the calling line identification, provision and honouring of unsubscribe facility/request, and the prohibition of sending commercial electronic messages to telephone/fax numbers listed on a DNC was targeted to commence on 22 December 2007. The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Regulation (Regulation) and the code of practice (CoP) would also come into operation on the same day. The one-month public consultation on the CoP had ended on 8 October 2007. The Telecommunications Authority (TA) was studying the twelve submissions received and planned to issue the finalized CoP in late October or early November 2007.

Discussion

Monitoring and enforcing the implementation of the UEMO

26. Referring to the experience of receiving person-to-person commercial marketing calls on the mobile phone during his recent trip to Europe, Mr Ronny TONG asked what mechanism the Government had put in place to monitor the implementation of the UEMO, and enquired whether statistics were available to gauge the effectiveness of the implementation. DG of T advised that the Administration had closely monitored the situation since the commencement of the Phase One of the UEMO in June 2007. Up to end September 2007, around 1,000 reports had been received of which about 2% involved person-to-person calls that were not regulated by UEMO. She pointed out that although the majority of the reports were related to Phase Two of the UEMO which had yet to come into operation, TA had taken the initiative to draw the attention of marketing companies in question to the impending Phase Two implementation and also to explain to the informants. She added that 200 blank SIM cards had been used to monitor the frequency of promotional calls. Statistics showed that the frequency of calls before and after the commencement of Phase One remained steady at less than one call per month per SIM card for person-to-person promotional calls.

27. Mr Ronny TONG opined that the use of blank SIM cards might not be an effective monitoring device to reflect accurately the extent of the problem as commercial marketing companies probably had their specific personal details in making marketing calls. He urged the Administration to step up its effort in combating the problem of spamming. In this regard, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (DS(CT)) assured members that the fight against spamming would not stop at the enactment of the legislation. To continue the effort in this respect, an anti-spamming task force comprising representatives from various sectors of the community, including chambers of commerce, electronic marketing industry associations, electronic communications industry associations, consumer groups and Legislative Council would be set up to assist the Government in monitoring the effectiveness of the legislation, to advise the Government on the strategies to

further tackle the problem of unsolicited electronic messages, and to enhance public awareness of the rights and responsibilities of senders and recipients.

28. Noting that 1,000 reports had been received from June to end September 2007, Ms Emily LAU was concerned that with increased publicity and public awareness of spamming, whether there would be sufficient manpower resources to handle within a reasonable period of time the reports/complaints received particularly when Phase two of the UEMO came into operation. DG of T said that the Administration would draw on the experience of the Australian Government and adopted a targeted enforcement approach by maintaining a streamlined enforcement team focusing on more serious cases. She said that the existing establishment of four staff directly involved in handling the reports would be doubled to eight when UEMO came into full operation. She believed that such staffing provision would be sufficient at the present stage. DS(CT) added that statistics for the period from June to end September 2007 showed that the number of complaints were on the decline.

Publicity drive to enhance public awareness

29. On enhancing public awareness of the phased implementation of the UEMO, Mr Ronny TONG enquired about the education and publicity activities to be conducted by the Administration and the estimated budget for the publicity effort. DG of T and Assistant Director of Telecommunications (Support) (AD of T(S)) said that a budget in the region of a few million dollars had been set aside for an extensive education and publicity campaign for the industry and the general public. Two industry briefings on the overall regulatory framework had been conducted by the Office of Telecommunications Authority in July 2007. More briefings had been scheduled for October and November 2007 and would be conducted upon requests from various industry segments. Publicity activities for the general public including TV and radio Announcement of Public Interests, poster advertisements at Mass Transit Railway stations, newspaper advertisements and online advertisements specifically on DNCs would be launched nearer the commencement of the pre-registration and operational date of DNCs.

Commencement date of pre-registration and operational date of do-not-call registers (DNCs)

30. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on when the public could make use of the DNCs, DG of T advised that in view of the large number of telephone/fax numbers currently in use in Hong Kong, which amounted to around 14 million, the three DNCs in respect of fax, short messages, and pre-recorded messages would be launched in phases; and a commencement date for pre-registration and an operational date (as tentatively stated in para 7 of the Administration Paper LC No. CB(1)33/07-08(02)) had been set for each DNCs. Members of the public wishing to inform senders (electronic marketers) of commercial electronic messages of their wishes as not to receive any commercial electronic messages could register their fixed/mobile/fax number on the respective DNCs any time after the

commencement date of pre-registration of the individual DNC. All the numbers registered during the pre-registration period would be uploaded to the DNC on the operational date of the individual DNC and available for downloading by senders. On and after the DNC operational date, senders had to check their sending lists against the downloaded DNC and stop sending messages to the numbers listed on the DNCs within 10 working days after the numbers were registered.

The proposed code of practice (CoP)

31. Noting that the consultation on the proposed CoP had ended on 8 October 2007, Mr Ronny TONG raised concern whether the public and consumer groups had been consulted on the CoP. In response, AD of T (S) advised that the public consultation was an extensive one and was open to the public. The major trade associations that had an interest in the matter (including the chambers of commerce, small and medium sized enterprises, the marketing sector, the telecommunications sector) as well as the Consumer Council had been invited to make submissions, and members of the public were free to express their views. Members noted that the draft CoP would be finalized in late October or early November 2007, allowing the industry about one-and-a-half to two months to review their existing systems and operation mechanism in preparation for compliance with the UEMO and the Regulation prior to the planned commencement of Phase Two of the UEMO on 22 December 2007. In response to Ms Emily LAU's enquiry, DG of T affirmed that following thorough discussions with the industry players, the industry in general concurred with the draft CoP, which had incorporated most of the industry's views.

Concluding remark

32. Noting that members did not have objection to the proposed CoP to be issued under the UEMO (Appendix to LC Paper No.CB(1)33/07-08(03)), the Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the draft CoP.

III. Any other business

33. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:10 pm.