

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 8 April 2008)

Proposed timing for discussion

IT-related issues

1. Progress update on the E-government Programme

At the Panel meeting held on 9 July 2007, the Panel was briefed on the key e-government initiatives launched since last report in June 2006. The Administration undertook to update members on the key initiatives and to revert to the Panel prior to the roll out of the secure personal identification number.

13 May 2008

2. Progress report on the 2008 Digital 21 Strategy

At the Panel meeting held on 9 July 2007, the Panel was briefed on the progress of implementation of the Digital 21 Strategy since the last report in January 2007. The updated Strategy, the 2008 Digital 21 Strategy, was released on 21 December 2007. The Administration will update members on the progress of implementation of the 2008 Digital 21 Strategy.

10 June 2008

3. Progress update on the provision of Wi-Fi facilities at Government premises

Last discussed on 17 April 2007. The Panel has given support to the Administration's financial proposal for providing Wi-Fi facilities in around 350 Government premises. The funding proposal for a total non-recurrent provision of \$217.6 million from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 under CWRP Head 710 Computerization was approved by the Finance Committee on 25 May 2007. The procurement of Wi-Fi services was completed in the fourth quarter of 2007. The service rollout commenced on 27 March 2008.

10 June 2008

Telecommunications

4. Progress update on the implementation of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) (Cap. 593)

The second phase of the UEMO, as well as the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Regulation, came into operation on 22 December 2007. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the implementation of the UEMO.

13 May 2008

Broadcasting

5. Coverage and availability of domestic free and/or pay television programme services

Proposed by Hon Albert CHAN. At the meetings on 12 October 2006, 16 October and 12 November 2007, Hon Albert CHAN expressed concern that under the existing policy guidelines, domestic free television programme service licensees would normally be exempted from serving those areas where the populations affected by poor television reception were below 2 000 persons within an area of a radius of three kilometers and as such, the services are not made available to some villages with populations of about 500 persons. He was also concerned that some areas on Lantau Island still have no pay television services coverage.

10 June 2008

6. Policies relating to the regulation of radio broadcasting and the use of radiocommunications apparatus for the purpose of radio broadcasting

Under Section 23 of the Telecommunications Ordinance (TO) (Cap. 106), any person who, knowing or having reason to believe that a means of telecommunications is being maintained in contravention of the TO, transmits or receives any message by such means of telecommunications shall be guilty of an offence. At the LegCo meeting held on 12 December 2007, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development replied to an oral question raised by the Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong in relation to the above provision.

10 June 2008

Some Panel members noted that according to the press coverage, the Administration seemed to have enforced the above provision selectively. As such, the Administration briefed members on the prevailing policies relating to the regulation of radio broadcasting and the use of radiocommunications apparatus for the purpose of radio broadcasting at the Panel meeting on 19 February 2008.

At the Panel's request, the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) of the LegCo Secretariat will conduct a research on the regulation of radio broadcasting services in overseas' places to facilitate members' future deliberation on the situation in Hong Kong. RLSD will present its report to the Panel in June 2008.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Domestic/private pirated viewing of subscription television programmes

Last discussed on 11 July 2005. The Administration has been requested to, inter alia, monitor the global trend of regulatory practices against pirated viewing of pay TV programmes and update the Panel where necessary.

The Administration will provide an information paper to update the Panel on developments.

8. Review of the broadcasting regulatory regime (*)

In the light of technological and market convergence in the electronic communications sector, the boundaries between telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology are blurring. Some old concepts adopted for the regulation of broadcasting may become obsolete in the converging environment. Just like other jurisdictions, Hong Kong needs to update the regulatory regime in the light of latest technological and market developments to ensure that its framework remains conducive to the further development of the broadcasting industry in particular and the electronic communications industry in general.

The Administration will provide an information paper to update the Panel on developments.

(*) For these items, the Panel may consider inviting the industry, stakeholders and other interested parties to provide views and attend the Panel's meetings