

**For information
on 14 April 2008**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Issues relating to the English Title
of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer**

Purpose

This paper provides Members with background information on the selection of the English titles of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO).

Formation of the OGCIO

2. The OGCIO was formed on 1 July 2004 through the merger of the then Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) with the IT-related divisions of the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) of the then Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau. A new grade, rank and post of GCIO was created to head the OGCIO. The proposal for the merger and the creation of the GCIO post was discussed on 10 May 2004 at the meeting of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB Panel) (please refer to paper ref. CB(1)1713/03-04(03)) and subsequently at the meeting of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 16 June 2004 (please refer to paper ref. EC (2004-05)8).

The English Titles of OGCIO and GCIO

3. The English post title for the officer responsible for IT-related matters within the Government (i.e. GCIO) was chosen to align with modern international and industry practices for designating key IT personnel. Prevalent in both the public and the private sectors worldwide, a Chief

Information Officer (CIO) is regarded by industry convention as the head of IT in the organisation he/she holds office. At the time of establishment of the GCIO post, the Government had made reference to leading E-government countries like Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom which have established a powerful CIO function at the center of government. Some current examples on the nomenclature of the posts of head of IT in government in other places are given at **Annex**. With our strategic objective to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a world digital city and our interfaces with CIOs of local and overseas organisations, the existing English title is in full alignment with organisational practices internationally. To avoid mixing up the title with an existing rank in the Information Officer grade, the word 'Government' was inserted before 'CIO'. The English title for GCIO's office was selected on a similar basis.

4. As for the Chinese titles for the OGCI and GCIO, they were originally proposed to be direct translations, namely “政府資訊總監辦公室” and “政府資訊總監”. At the ITB Panel meeting held on 10 May 2004, a Member of the Panel expressed concern that the Chinese titles might give rise to the impression that the post holder was a Government official tasked to monitor the flow or dissemination of information. It was suggested that the Government should re-consider and come up with a better Chinese title for the GCIO post. The Panel supported in principle the proposed merger and the creation of the post of GCIO. In the subsequent submission to the Establishment Sub-Committee (ESC) of the Finance Committee (FC) meeting held on 16 June 2004, Members approved the merger to form the OGCI and the creation of the GCIO grade, rank and post, and the proposed Chinese titles of OGCI and GCIO (i.e., “政府資訊科技總監辦公室” and “政府資訊科技總監”).

5. The title of OGCI/GCIO is currently used in various statutory, contractual and official documents. These include the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553) and the related Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities, the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), contracts with vendors such as the Standing Offer Agreement for

Quality Professional Services, Contract for the Provision of IT Contract Staff Services, and Memorandum and Articles of Association of entities in which there is Government directorship represented by the OGCIO such as the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited. If changes to the title of OGCIO/GCIO were to be made, the Government would need to make corresponding statutory and non-statutory changes to the above matters.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
April 2008**

**Some Current Examples on the Nomenclature of
the Posts of Head of IT in Governments of Other Places**

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Post Titles of the Related Government Officials</u>
Australia	Australian Government Chief Information Officer
Canada	Chief Information Officer of the Government
Denmark	Chief Information Officer
Netherlands	Chief Information Officer
Singapore	The Government Chief Information Officer
United Kingdom	Government Chief Information Officer
United States	
• US Department of Agriculture	Chief Information Officer
• Washington State	Chief Information Officer
• New York City	Chief Information Officer