

**Speaking note for the Secretary
for Commerce and Economic Development
at the Legislative Council Panel
on Information Technology and Broadcasting
on 16th October 2007**

- The progress of the new and ongoing initiatives is set out in the document. I am going to highlight several items.

Creative industries

- Creative industries give an important impetus to the economic development of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has always been in a leading position, but faces keen competition in recent years. The development of creative industries should be expedited.
- The Financial Secretary will take the lead in the formulation of policy. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau will assist in coordinating the relevant Government departments. First of all, a cross-sector steering committee chaired by the Financial Secretary will be set up to plan and develop strategies.
- We will at the same time promote a culture of innovation, technology and design to the general public, particularly the younger generation and students.
- I will lead a cross-sector delegation to participate in an international exhibition on creative industries to be held in Shanghai in November in order to explore business opportunities in the Mainland for our local industries. The delegation will comprise representatives from sectors including design, architecture, town planning, culture, film and television, animation and comics, and digital entertainment.

Telecommunications

Anti-spamming

- Thanks to Members for supporting the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance. The Phase I measures set out in the Ordinance have been implemented in June. We are actively preparing the implementation of the other provisions of the Ordinance. In the latter part of today's meeting, my colleagues will report in detail the Phase II implementation of the Ordinance.

Wireless city

- We will develop Hong Kong into a leading wireless city. Thanks to Members for supporting the funding of Wi-Fi Internet facilities to be provided in 350 Government premises. The tendering exercise will soon be completed. It is expected that the service will be provided gradually as from mid-2008.
- The industry is also responding positively: public Wi-Fi hotspots (popular sites with more than one access point) have increased to 3 000 and access points (modems for user's access) installed at the hotspots exceed 5 000. [In Singapore, there are 900 hotspots and more than 4 000 access points]

Broadcasting

- Digital terrestrial television broadcasting will be implemented by end 2007 and the digital coverage will increase to 75% by end 2008. My colleagues will report the progress to the Panel in November.
- About mobile television – we intend to consult the public and the industry at the end of this year.

- About public service broadcasting – we will study the report of the Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting in detail and we intend to consult the public extensively by end this year.

Film

- The development of the film industry has been very important to us. Thanks to Members for endorsing the injection of \$300 million into the Film Development Fund. Applications are invited from Oct 2007 and the first batch of funds is expected to be released by end 2007 or early 2008.
- We will do our best to attract foreign filming activities to take part in Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong overseas. A Batman film will shoot in Hong Kong in Nov 2007.

Information Technology

Digital 21 Strategy

- The latest round of review and public consultation on the Digital 21 Strategy has been conducted and the views of the public will be fully considered. The Strategy will be published shortly.

Collaboration in Science and Technology with the Mainland

- We have enhanced collaboration with the Ministry of Information Industry, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Guangdong and Shenzhen; we have signed an “Arrangement on Strengthening Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation in Informatisation” with Guangdong Province; we have allocated \$1.15 billion for the support of over 400 items under the Hong

Kong/Guangdong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme; and signed a co-operation agreement on “Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation Circle” with the Shenzhen Municipal Government in May 2007.

Conclusion

- Here comes the end of my briefing. I hope that Members can give us their valuable views on our various policy areas. Thank you.