



Submission to the
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
on the future of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

RTHK as a government department would obviously lose its independence as it would come under the government's political pressure in its direction of production, especially on controversial subject matters that are not favorable to the government.

We are surprised that the decision has already been made before the actual consultation. This is obviously not what the public wants for the future of RTHK according to a survey done in 2006. The Hong Kong public would like RTHK to become independent from the government and continue to make good quality programs.

As RTHK is not free from government influence, there will be a constant conflict of interest. This structural fault would make it hard for RTHK to become a real public service broadcaster (PSB).

If the public is going to be consulted, then the decision should be either withheld or withdrawn. Thus, it would allow the public to give opinions on the possible future of RTHK, instead of a fake consultation of asking for public opinions when, in fact, the decision has already been made.

We believe that in order for RTHK to become a real PSB of Hong Kong, RTHK has to be free from government political influence and have real autonomy. To say that RTHK would become a PSB yet remain as a government department does not make any sense. It is under a false premise, and this has to be corrected. When there is a conflict of interest between the public and a government decision, what side would RTHK take as a government department? It would not be able to fulfill the role of a real PSB.

While we are on the subject of independence of any real PSB, we are against the installment of appointed members to any governing board of RTHK to further the political influence and interfere in its journalistic decisions in program production.

We are very disappointed on the sudden development in the decision on the future of RTHK. We urge the panel to reflect upon the views of the community in extending the two month consultation period, so more in-depth discussions could be conducted.

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