

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Report of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting for submission to the Legislative Council**

#### **Purpose**

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting during the 2009-2010 session of the Legislative Council. It will be tabled at the Council meeting on 14 July 2010 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

#### **The Panel**

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 15 members. Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho and Hon LEE Wing-tat were elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

#### **Major work**

##### Establishment of the unified regulator for the electronic communications sector

4. The Administration briefed the Panel on the Government's proposal to merge the Broadcasting Authority (BA) and Telecommunications Authority (TA) into a unified regulator, the Communications Authority (CA). The proposed setting up of the CA aimed to provide an effective, efficient, and well-coordinated regulation of a converging electronic communications sector in view of the rapid advancement in technology and the blurring of the boundaries between the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors.

5. Panel members noted that the proposed CA would comprise seven members: a non-official Chairman, four non-official members, one official member appointed by the Chief Executive (CE), and the Director-General of the executive department as an ex-officio member. Given its expanded remit with jurisdiction over the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors, members expressed concern that the power vested on the proposed seven-member CA was too wide. They urged the Administration to consider increasing the membership of the CA (the non-official members in particular) to deal with the increased workload due to the consolidation of responsibility over the entire electronic communications sector. On the appointments to the CA, members stressed that these should be made in a fair, open and transparent manner, and care must be taken to ensure impartiality and guard against conflict of interests so as to enhance public confidence in the CA and maintain its credibility. The Board of the CA should possess the requisite expertise to understand and deal with the complicated issues in the communications sectors. To achieve operational synergy and to ensure continuity and a smooth transition, some currently serving members should be appointed to the CA. Panel members also suggested that the Administration should find a more appropriate Chinese title for the CA that would fully reflect its responsibilities.

6. Some Panel members considered that the relevant ordinances should be reviewed and revamped prior to setting up the CA. The Administration advised that instead of embarking on a major fundamental and ambitious review of the ordinances with a view to consolidating them into a single piece of legislation with extensive rationalization, updating and amendment, the Administration considered it expedient to set up the CA as soon as possible through the structural merger of the TA and the BA. This would enable the CA to deal with market convergence that was already taking place, to provide input in the review of the provisions of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) and the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562), and to have ownership of the strengthened regime that would eventually emerged. The Administration subsequently introduced the Communications Authority Bill 2010 into the Legislative Council on 30 June 2010.

#### Future operation of the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the new RTHK Charter

7. Following the deliberations of the Executive Council on 22 September 2009, the Government announced that it had decided on the way forward in respect of public service broadcasting (PSB) and the future of RTHK. In gist, RTHK should remain as a Government department to fulfill its role as a public service broadcaster serving with specific public purposes, strengthened corporate governance and greater accountability to the community. Appropriate resources would be provided for service enhancement to enable RTHK to expand its scope of service to better serve the community.

8. The Administration subsequently briefed the Panel on the Government's decision on the way forward in respect of PSB in Hong Kong and the future of RTHK. The Administration also briefed members on the public consultation

exercise launched to gauge public views on how best RTHK should operate to achieve its mission as a public service broadcaster, including the public purposes of the new RTHK, the proposed establishment of a Board of Advisors (the Board) to enhance corporate governance and accountability, and the proposed contents of the Charter to be signed by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Director of Broadcasting (D of B) and the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority.

9. Some Panel members expressed grave disappointment that after protracted discussions in the past and despite the Administration's pledge to widely consult the public before deciding on the way forward for the development of PSB and the future of RTHK, CE in Council had, in the absence of any public consultation, decided to retain RTHK's status as a Government department while performing the role of a public service broadcaster. However, some Panel members welcomed the Government's decision on RTHK as it would put an end to the uncertainty surrounding the future of RTHK, and give RTHK new impetus to build on its strong reputation for providing quality broadcasting service to the community.

10. To gauge the views of the public on the way forward in respect of the future operation of RTHK, the Panel met with members of the public and deputations from the media industry. The majority of the deputations opined that the new RTHK could not effectively perform the function of an independent public service broadcaster and be free from any political and financial interference under the proposed governance structure and the direction of the proposed Board. They objected to the setting up of the Board which would overlap with the work of the existing Programme Advisory Panel under RTHK and might be used as a political tool to interfere with RTHK's editorial freedom. They also considered that the Charter should be drawn up and enshrined in law to safeguard RTHK's editorial independence. Some deputations, including some minority groups and district councillors, supported the Government's decision and urged the Administration to implement the proposals as soon as practicable to enable RTHK to perform its expanded role and achieve its new mission. They also opined that members of the Board should be drawn from various community sectors to ensure broad representation and diversity of views.

11. The Panel also followed up the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the future operation of RTHK and the draft RTHK Charter. Some Panel members cast doubt on the need for setting up the proposed Board and questioned the rationale for empowering the Board to advise the D of B on all matters pertaining to editorial principles, programming standards, and quality of RTHK programming, given that RTHK had been operating well and even the Government had stated that RTHK had maintained its credibility for decades. These members urged the Government to remove such power of the Board from the Charter as the adoption of the Charter would jeopardize editorial independence of RTHK, resulting in pre-censorship and turned RTHK into a Government mouth piece. They also suggested providing specifically for RTHK's editorial independence in the Charter to safeguard against potential interference by the Government and the Board.

12. Some Panel members supported the establishment of the Board as a check and balance mechanism to enhance its accountability to the public and to ensure that RTHK would uphold professional standard of journalism and the principles of impartiality and objectivity in its editorial policies. On the composition of the Board, these members opined that apart from professionals and academics, the membership should be expanded to also include representatives from the working class and the labour sector. The Board should have a secretariat of its own instead of being serviced by RTHK staff.

13. The Administration assured members that the Government attached great importance to editorial independence of RTHK. While the proposed Board was responsible for advising on the editorial principles to be adopted by RTHK, which included upholding the highest professional standards of journalism, and providing accurate, impartial, balanced and objective views in public affairs and general programming, the Board would not advise on or interfere with individual programmes. The ultimate editorial responsibility rest with the D of B. The Administration would present the draft Charter to the RTHK staff to seek their comments. The Administration would provide the Panel with the revised draft Charter before finalizing it and arranging it to be signed by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the D of B and the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority.

#### Review on administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong

14. In response to some Panel members' concern about the changes of the governance structure and the accountability of the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC) on the administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed with the Government, the Panel discussed with the Administration the appointment of the Consultative and Advisory Panel of HKIRC, the draft MOU documentation which comprised a legally-binding Designation Agreement (the Agreement) and a non-binding MOU between the Government and HKIRC. In the light of members' comments and the Legislative Council Secretariat's legal adviser on the clarity, readability and textural certainty of the draft Agreement and the MOU, the Government and HKIRC had revised the documents which were subsequently endorsed by the Board of Directors of HKIRC and signed on 17 March 2010.

15. Panel members noted that the subscription fees of ".hk" domain names were much higher than those of ".com" domain names. They urged HKIRC to consider lowering the charges so as to encourage more individuals and businesses to subscribe to ".hk". Members also called on the Administration to consider reaching an agreement with HKIRC to ensure effective deployment of the company reserves. The Administration undertook to convey members' concerns to the Board through the Consultative and Advisory Panel for consideration.

#### Digital 21 Strategy and E-Government

16. Some Panel members were disappointed that after implementation of the Digital 21 Strategy and the E-Government initiatives for some years, Hong Kong

still lagged behind the Mainland in respect of the electronic patient record system, and that it was only recently that the public was able to submit returns to the Inland Revenue and the Rating and Valuation Department via the online service. Members called on the Government to expedite the implementation of E-Government initiatives and to set a target date for all payments to the Government and applications for licences to be made available online.

17. The Panel also noted that while some bureaux and departments were more advanced in the process of computerization and automation, some were slow in IT development and in the adoption of e-business solutions. Panel members urged the Administration to step up its efforts in drawing up comprehensive and integrated strategies, and putting in place measures to promote and assist those bureaux and departments that were relatively slow in automation and computerization to catch up on E-Government initiatives.

18. On the progress in implementing digital inclusion initiatives to narrow the digital divide and enhance the adoption of information, communication and technology (ICT) by the underprivileged groups in the community, Panel members considered that more resources should be allocated to help integrate people with disabilities and the elderly in the digital society and drive up the ICT adoption. The Task Force on Digital Inclusion should also step up its effort in drawing up relevant strategies and tailor-made initiatives to address the specific needs of these underprivileged groups. The Administration undertook to provide more concrete statistics and benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of the initiatives when reporting the progress to the Panel.

#### Cyberport project

19. The Panel followed closely the progress of the Cyberport Project which was launched since 2004. The Panel noted that there was an increase in the operating revenue of \$361 million for the year 2008-2009, as compared with \$319 million in 2007-2008 and \$263 million in 2006-2007.

20. Some Panel members were of the view that the Project should not be regarded as a property development project with its success measured by the occupancy rate of the office premises and the Cyberport Arcade, and the amount of rental return and profits recovered from property sales. They hoped that the Project could take the lead in creating a strategic information and communications technologies cluster and in spearheading the development of innovative and creative industries in Hong Kong to align with the development of the six major industries (namely educational services, medical services, testing and certification, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, and environmental industry) crucial to the development of the economy as announced by the CE in the 2009-2010 Policy Address. Panel members also urged the Administration to help support and nurture the development of small and medium enterprises in the IT and IT related disciplines as well as the digital media industry, attract overseas innovative talents and professionals to Hong Kong, and create a strategic cluster of quality IT and IT related companies in Hong Kong that were critical to the

development of Hong Kong into a leading digital city in the region.

21. As regards the low patronage of the Cyberport Arcade and its events, Panel members called on the Administration and the Cyberport management to give more thoughts on how best to utilize the vacant premises to develop the Cyberport into a digital entertainment centre and a cinema hub. The Administration advised that the Cyberport management would, in consultation with its Board of Directors, constantly review the future direction for the use of the Arcade and examine feasible opportunities to develop and diversify its uses.

#### Landing of submarine cables

22. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) commissioned a consultancy study on the landing of submarine cables in Hong Kong in late 2009. The Panel was subsequently briefed on the preliminary findings and the recommended measures to facilitate and promote the landing of more submarine cables in the territory. Panel members in general supported the recommendations to streamline the application procedures for landing new submarine cables in Hong Kong, whereby OFTA would offer a single-point-of contact service coordinating with the relevant government departments to expedite the approval processes. Members considered that the landing of more submarine cables in Hong Kong would not only provide consumers with more choices of competitive services, but also benefit Hong Kong's economy and strengthen Hong Kong's position as a regional telecommunications hub.

23. Some Panel members expressed grave concern that Hong Kong lagged behind other places in the landing of submarine cables, and urged the Administration to step up the development of telecommunications infrastructure to support the growth of the service industries. The Administration assured members that OFTA and the relevant departments would explore ways to speed up the vetting process, and every effort would be made to attract the landing of more submarine cables in Hong Kong to capitalize on the anticipated high growth in demand for external bandwidth from the Mainland and Southeast Asia. Upon the completion of the consultancy study by end March 2010, OFTA would examine the consultancy report and discuss with the relevant stakeholders how best to take forward the recommendations.

#### Assignment of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz bands for public mobile services

24. The Panel received a briefing from OFTA on its consultation exercise concerning the assignment of the available frequency spectrum in the 850 MHz band, 900 MHz band and 2 GHz band for public mobile services. Panel members noted that should the TA decide to proceed with the auction of spectrum, action would be initiated to make necessary amendments to the relevant subsidiary legislation to enable the release of the spectrum by auction and with payment of the Spectrum Utilization Fee.

25. Panel members generally supported the Administration's proposal to increase the supply of radio spectrum to enable the expansion of mobile telephony services and further service development in Hong Kong. They were of the view that apart from bringing in competition to provide users with more choices, the Administration should seek to improve the coverage in country parks and remote areas by making it compulsory for the successful bidders, be it incumbent mobile network operators (MNOs) or new entrants, to provide 100% coverage in these areas. Members also urged the Administration to provide incentives for MNOs to improve coverage in country parks and remote areas.

26. On the proposed network and service rollout obligation, Panel members considered the requirement on the successful bidder to provide a minimum coverage of 50% of the population within five years from the issue of the licence too conservative. Given the significant growth of mobile telephony services in Hong Kong in recent years, with a market penetration reaching 170% as of August 2009, members were of the view that MNOs should be required to provide 100% coverage to prevent spectrum hoarding and ensure the timely provision of advanced telecommunications services for the benefit of the public.

27. In view of the intense competition in the current telecommunications market, Panel members expressed concern as to whether MNOs, in order to increase their competitive edge and maximize profits, would withhold re-investment for service improvement or resort to undesirable sales practices which would not be in public interest. Members urged the Administration to put in place measures to tackle anti-competitive conduct and abuse of market dominance. The Administration advised that it would take actions as appropriate to enforce the relevant competition provisions.

#### Regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls

28. In view of the general public concern about the regulation of person-to-person (P2P) telemarketing calls, OFTA commissioned a public opinion survey and collected views from the industry in this respect. The Panel was subsequently briefed on the findings of the opinion surveys and the actions to be taken in the light of the information collected from the surveys. Some Panel members expressed disappointment that although 81% of the respondents in the general telephone survey considered that P2P telemarketing calls did cause them inconvenience, the Administration remained unconvinced that the situation was serious enough to warrant regulation by legislation. These members opined that P2P telemarketing calls, which caused inconvenience and nuisance to recipients and were also an abuse of personal data and privacy as evidenced in the rampant illegal sale of personal data, should be regulated by way of legislation. However, some members expressed reservation over the regulation of telemarketing calls by legislation, particularly those involving opinion poll and surveys conducted by academic institutions and the media. These members opined that legislative control would curtail free flow of information and freedom of speech.

29. While Panel members appreciated the need to allow for the development

of legitimate telemarketing, they considered appropriate regulation of such calls equally important to protect the rights of the public. Noting that voluntary compliance approach was the first step towards tackling the problem of P2P telemarketing calls, members called on the Administration to strictly enforce the voluntary Code of Practice (CoP) and urge the industry companies to strengthen the unsubscribe mechanism as well as put in place proper internal controls to ensure that unsubscribe requests were recorded and honoured. Strict compliance with the CoP by the four business sectors (namely finance, telecommunications, call centres and insurance), which made most of the calls, might help significantly reduce the inconvenience and nuisance caused to the public. Failing that, the Government would have to resort to tougher measures including legislative measures. The Administration assured members that it would continue to monitor the situation and seek the views of the Panel if it was found that further measures were necessary, such as regulation by legislation.

### Chargeable mobile content services delivered via Short Messaging Services

30. The Panel followed up the concerns about billing disputes in connection with chargeable mobile content services (MCS) provided through Short Messaging Services (SMS) and the action taken by OFTA to address the issue. Panel members noted that the Communications Association of Hong Kong had promulgated a voluntary industry CoP to improve the transparency about charging information and arrangements for MCS. Content providers (CPs) were required, among other things, to indicate prominently the chargeable nature of the services and at what time such charges would start to trigger, provide clear charging information, obtain clear consent from user before service provision, set out clearly straightforward arrangements for unsubscribing or deregistering from the services, and ensure that any MCS related billing dispute between a customer and a CP should not affect other telecommunications services subscribed by the concerned customer with the MNO.

31. Panel members criticized that OFTA had not reacted promptly and therefore had not effectively discharged its functions to safeguard consumer interests. Some members opined that the voluntary CoP seemed to be toothless and doubted whether the self-regulatory approach would be effective in resolving the problem as the MNOs and the CPs had common financial interests. These members urged the Administration to consider regulating the conduct of MNOs and CPs for consumer protection by way of legislation. They also called on the Communications Association of Hong Kong to urge the MNOs and CPs to refrain from sending misleading and tricky SMS that would clock up big bills for consumers, some of whom were youngsters and elderly people. The Administration assured members that it would closely monitor the implementation of the CoP and assess its effectiveness. If problems persisted after the CoP had been implemented, the Administration would consider whether or not there was a case to pursue legislative amendments for consumer protection. The Administration undertook to report the progress of implementation and the effectiveness of CoP to the Panel in six months' time.

### Review of telephone directory enquiry services

32. The Administration briefed the Panel on the review currently being conducted by the TA on the telephone directory enquiry services (DQ services). Panel members considered that on the whole the existing DQ services had been operating smoothly. Given the substantial demand for the DQ services, members were of the view that service providers should continue to provide free DQ services in fulfilment of the licence obligation. On cost recovery for DQ services, some members opined that as business entities stood to benefit from the DQ services, they should shoulder part of the costs of maintaining the call centre rather than getting enquirers to pay.

33. Noting the relatively low public demand for White Pages, Panel members supported the proposal to withdraw the mandatory requirement for fixed network operators to provide such directories since online and telephone inquiries were more convenient and handy. Members were of the view that the resources should be better utilized in other areas, such as on improving Internet directory services. The current DQ services should be supplemented by the provision of SMS, resulting in enhanced benefits to the community. Members also opined that the Administration should take a more active role in coordinating the setting up of a single call centre with a common directory database for all service operators to provide the DQ services and share the operating costs for more efficient use of resources.

### Sponsored programme and advertisement of a political nature on radio

34. In view of the public complaints in May 2010 about the sponsorship of a series of radio programmes by a certain political party and a paid radio time-check announcement appealing to the audience to join the march against the proposal of constitutional reform, the Panel sought to discuss with the Administration the current broadcasting policy and the regulatory regime governing sponsorship of programmes and advertisement of a political nature on radio.

35. Some Panel members were of the view that the current broadcasting regulatory regime, which only allowed the Government to promote its policies on radio and electronic media while no other advertisement of a political nature could be broadcast except with the prior approval of the BA, was unfair and would undermine editorial independence and freedom of expression. Panel members also expressed concern about the inconsistency of the current regulatory regime which only regulated advertising of a political nature while there was no specific provision governing programme sponsorship of a political nature or by a political party. They were concerned that such inconsistency would create loophole whereby more affluent organizations or individuals would have undue advantage in promoting their political positions through sponsored radio programme and thus monopolizing the media. They also urged the Administration to define what constituted advertising of a political nature, and to review the out-dated regulatory regime.

36. The Administration was of the view that any changes to the current regulatory regime would need a comprehensive review, wide consultation and careful consideration. Complaints alleging that certain programme/announcement might constitute advertisements of a political nature were being investigated by the BA in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Broadcasting Authority Ordinance (Cap.391) and established procedures. The outcome of the investigation would be published as soon as practicable.

#### Implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting

37. On the latest progress of implementation of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting, the Panel noted that five new fill-in stations had been launched to further extend the digital coverage to about 85% of the population. The completion of 17 more fill-in stations between 2010 to 2011 would bring the ultimate DTT coverage on par with that of the existing analogue coverage (i.e. more than 99% of the population).

38. Some Panel members expressed concern that the quality and variety of the television programmes provided by the Asia Television Limited (ATV) were far from satisfactory. They held the view that ATV had under-performed in respect of its digital high-definition television (HDTV) programmes commitment and questioned ATV's capability in fulfilling the licence requirement of providing quality service and alternative programme choices for the viewing public. The Administration advised that both ATV and Television Broadcasts Limited were in the process of reviewing the roll out of their DTT channels with a view to introducing a greater variety of television programmes (both standard definition television and HDTV) originated from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan as well as increasing the total digital television broadcast time. The Administration would take into consideration all relevant factors in assessing the capability of the licensees.

#### Implementation framework for the launch of digital audio broadcasting and the revised implementation framework for broadcast-type mobile TV services in Hong Kong

39. On the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB), some Panel members urged the Administration to consider taking the opportunity to bring in more competition. Given that digitization would free up spectrum resources that could then be re-deployed for community broadcasting, some members called on the Administration to open up airwaves to meet the rising public expectation for more direct participation in community broadcasting. They also urged the Administration to provide more platforms for different sectors of the community, social/ethnic/religious groups and non-governmental organizations to operate their own community-based radio stations covering a particular locality or region and to produce their own programmes.

40. The Panel noted that parties interested in providing DAB services would have to submit application to the BA by end April 2010, after which the BA would

vet the applications and make its recommendations to the CE in Council for consideration. The Administration undertook to provide the Panel with an update on the latest development.

41. The Panel also noted that in the light of the latest market development and the proposed release of Band III frequencies for DAB services, the implementation framework for broadcast-type mobile TV had been revised. Only one UHF Band frequency would be released for the introduction of broadcast-type mobile TV. The Government would remove the flexibility for introducing DAB services in the mobile TV context, and adjust the ceiling allowed for providing other value-added communications services downward from 50% to 25% of the spectrum allocated. OFTA would announce details on the auction of the spectrum for mobile TV which would be held in the second quarter of 2010.

### Creative industries

42. The Administration briefed the Panel on the work of the Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) and the relevant initiatives taken by the Government to support the development of creative industries in various sectors including motion pictures, television, design, architecture, animation and comics, advertising and digital entertainment, etc. Panel members considered that creativity would flourish only in a free society where creative minds enjoyed the freedom of speech and expression. They expressed grave concern that self-censorship which pervaded the local community and the media alike would stifle creativity and innovation. The Administration ensured members that there was no pre-censorship in the media and the Government was committed to upholding freedom of speech and expression which was the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success and was also a basic human right guaranteed by law.

43. Panel members urged the Administration to draw up, in the long run, benchmarking target on the economic and social benefits to be brought about by creative industries, design and innovation against which to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the various initiatives. They also called for additional measures to assist start-ups in creative industries. In addition to financial assistance, Government policy and legislative support should be enhanced to drive the development of creative industries. In this connection, Panel members urged the Administration to step up its efforts in encouraging enterprises to use design as a value-enhancing tool in businesses, and transforming design activities into tradable deliverables, as well as promoting the use of Hong Kong design by Mainland enterprises, particularly those in the Pearl River Delta region.

### Film Development Fund

44. The Administration briefed the Panel on the review of the operation of the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the proposed measures to improve the operation of the FDF in response to the needs of the local film industry. Panel members noted that the film "Echoes of Rainbow" financed by the FDF had won

the Crystal Bear award at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival. Members commended the Administration for the successful implementation of the FDF which had been effective in nurturing new directors and producers, as well as assisting small-to-medium companies in film production. Members also welcomed the proposed measures drawn up to better meet the needs of the local film industry.

45. Referring to the golden era in the 60s and 70s where local films and artistes were well sought after by audiences in the Southeast Asian region, Panel members urged the Administration to put in more resources, in collaboration with training institutes, on nurturing new blood and successors so as to provide the new impetus to regain the popularity of Hong Kong films in the region. Some members held the view that apart from theoretical training at tertiary level for film producers and directors, practical skill training for other ancillary film-related trades (such as props men, mechanics, floor managers, and production assistants) were also important to cater for the industry's needs for talents at various skill levels. They also opined that knowledge about history and literature was a core element essential for the development of creative industries. More efforts should be made on the education front to help cultivate and enhance the cultural level and quality of production crew in the local film industry.

46. On the scope of the FDF, some Panel members suggested that the Administration should consider extending the FDF to also finance TV programme productions such as TV drama series. They called on the Administration to explore support measures to assist independent local production companies to produce and market TV programmes for the local and the Mainland TV stations. Some members opined that the current pay for script writing was too meager to attract people of the right calibre to engage in script writing. They suggested that the Administration should consider providing financial incentive similar to the subsidy scheme of Taiwan whereby bonus would be awarded to successful film projects to encourage quality production. The Administration noted members' suggestion for consideration.

47. From October 2009 to end June 2010, the Panel held a total of 12 meetings.

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Terms of Reference**

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Membership list for 2009 - 2010 session**

<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Hon LEE Wing-tat
<b>Members</b>	Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea, GBS, JP Hon WONG Yuk-man (up to 28 January 2010) (rejoined on 26 May 2010)
	(Total : 15 members)
<b>Clerk</b>	Ms YUE Tin-po
<b>Legal Adviser</b>	Mr Bonny LOO
<b>Date</b>	2 July 2010