

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. ESC39/10-11
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Ref : CB1/F/3/2

Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 7th meeting
held in Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 4 May 2011, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou (Deputy Chairman,
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi

Member attending:

Hon WONG Yuk-man

Members absent:

Dr Hon Margaret NG (Chairman)
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

Public Officers attending:

Ms Alice LAU, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, JP Ms Elsie YUEN	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1) Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Mr Alan SIU, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Mr Aaron LIU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)A
Mr Gordon LEUNG, JP Mr TAI Keen-man	Acting Director of Broadcasting Acting Deputy Director of Broadcasting

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Annette LAM	Chief Council Secretary (1)7
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Staff in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
Miss Lilian MOK	Council Secretary (1)7
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)10

Action

As the Chairman was unable to attend the meeting, the Deputy Chairman presided over the discussions at the meeting.

2. The Chair drew members' attention to information paper ECI(2011-12)1 provided by the Administration which set out the latest changes in respect of the Administration's directorate establishment approved since 2002.

EC(2011-12)1 Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) for three years and one permanent post of Controller (Broadcasting Services) (D1) in the Radio Television Hong Kong to strengthen the staffing support at the directorate level to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of various new services and projects

3. The Chair advised members that the Administration's proposal was to create with immediate effect one three-year supernumerary post of Administration Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3), designated as Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments) (DD of B (Developments)), and one permanent post at the rank of Controller (Broadcasting Services) (D1), designated as Controller (Radio) in the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting had been consulted on the staffing proposal on 14 February 2011. Panel members in general supported the proposal and were of the view that the two new posts would strengthen staffing support at the directorate level in RTHK and facilitate the implementation of the various new initiatives under a tight timeframe. Given the heavy responsibilities of the posts in taking forward the various new development initiatives, some Panel members urged the Administration to provide adequate support to the incumbents of the posts. At the Panel's request, the Administration had provided relevant information in its paper to the Establishment Subcommittee.

Community involvement in broadcasting

4. While expressing support for the proposal, Mr WONG Yung-kan enquired about the operation and application criteria of the proposed Community Broadcasting Involvement Fund (the Fund) set up to provide financial support for community organizations to participate in broadcasting.

5. The Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCED(CT)) replied that to fulfil the role and mission as the public service broadcaster in Hong Kong, RTHK would develop, as one of its new initiatives, community involvement in broadcasting on its digital platform. A provision of \$45 million had been earmarked for a three-year trial for this purpose. In consultation with its Board of Advisors, RTHK would develop an implementation framework and draw up possible ground rules for the Fund, and consult the Legislative Council in due course. The Acting Director of Broadcasting, RTHK (DB/RTHK(Atg)) supplemented that local groups, professional bodies, non-governmental organizations and community organizations would likely be eligible to apply for the Fund. Public consultation on the initiative would be

carried out at a later stage.

The proposed posts

6. Noting that the proposed post of DD of B (Developments) would be responsible for many day-to-day duties such as departmental administration and resource management, Ms LI Fung-ying questioned why the post was created on a supernumerary basis for three years instead of a permanent post. Ms LI further questioned whether three years was the standard term for Government supernumerary posts as a number of such posts created recently were all of three years.

7. Referring to the proposed job description of the post of DD of B (Developments), PSCED(CT) pointed out that the post holder would be heavily involved in leading the planning and implementation of RTHK's new development projects including the re-provisioning of the Broadcasting House, the launch of the new digital audio broadcasting and digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, as well as the implementation of the Media Asset Management project which went beyond day-to-day administration work. Moreover, the resumption of civil service recruitment would lead to additional work in departmental administration and resource management. She highlighted that the duration of the post was set having regard to the practical need and the implementation schedule envisaged. The Administration would keep in view the implementation progress of the various new projects and review in due course whether there was a need to extend the term of the post or convert it into a permanent one.

8. The Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1 said that in considering the creation of new posts, the Government bureaux and departments concerned would assess the duration of the post having regard to operational need and the level and scope of responsibilities for the post. As for the supernumerary posts which were normally created for work of a limited duration, some of them were created for three years while there were others of a longer or shorter duration. There were occasions that some supernumerary posts were created for as long as six years to oversee the implementation of infrastructure projects.

9. In response to Ms LI Fung-ying's enquiry about the recruitment arrangements for the two posts, PSCED(CT) advised that an AOSGB would be deployed to take up the post of DD of B (Developments) while the post of Controller (Radio) would be filled by internal promotion.

Support staff

10. Ir Dr Raymond HO said he and Prof Patrick LAU belonging to the Professional Forum supported the staffing proposal. Noting that RTHK did not have its own television (TV) transmission network nor experience in operating a TV station, Ir Dr HO expressed concern whether RTHK had sufficient in-house expertise to take forward the initiative. He asked whether there was a plan to provide more manpower, particularly at technical level, to support the development of DTT services.

11. DB/RTHK(Atg) responded that in the coming few years, RTHK would be committed to first establishing the necessary DTT transmission network, including discussing with the two domestic free TV stations the rental of suitable hilltop transmission sites, acquiring the essential transmitters and equipment and conducting technical trials. Additional manpower would be provided for developing DTT services where necessary. PSCED(CT) added that as a start, provisions had been made in the 2011-2012 Estimates for the creation of 17 non-directorate posts to support RTHK's new development projects. To prepare for the launch of high-definition (HD) TV channel, RTHK would also progressively increase its production of HD TV programmes from 2011-2012 onwards.

12. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to Finance Committee for approval.

13. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:50 am.