

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1709/10-11
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by the Administration)

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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 February 2011, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon WONG Yuk-man (Chairman)
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP (Deputy Chairman)
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 LEE Wing-tat
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-yee, GBS, JP

Members attending : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

Public officers attending : Agenda item IV
Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Stephen MAK, JP
Government Chief Information Officer

Ms Joyce MOK
Assistant Government Chief Information Officer
(Digital Economy Facilitation)

Miss Amy NG
Assistant Postmaster General
(Business Development)

Ms Estella CHOW
Director (Product Development, Marketing and
Sales)
Hongkong Post

Agenda Items V & VI

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
Acting Director of Broadcasting
Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr TAI Keen-man
Acting Deputy Director of Broadcasting
Radio Television Hong Kong

Mrs Helen WAN
Departmental Secretary
Radio Television Hong Kong

Clerk in attendance : Ms YUE Tin-po
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Staff in attendance : Mr Joey LO
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Miss Rita YUNG
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meetings

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1225/10-11 -- Minutes of special meeting held on 19 November 2010

LC Paper No. CB(1)1185/10-11 -- Minutes of meeting held on 10 December 2010)

The minutes of the meetings held on 19 November and 10 December 2010 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since the last meeting

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 10 January 2011.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 14 March 2011 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

(a) Annual report on Cyberport; and

- (b) Progress report on digital inclusion (including the Internet Learning Support Programme).

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the item "Manpower arrangement of Radio Television Hong Kong" would be included in the agenda for the next regular meeting. Representatives of the RTHK Programme Staff Union would be invited to attend the meeting to present their views on the subject.)

4. Regarding Mr LEE Wing-tat's letter to the Chairman proposing to discuss the change of shareholdings of the Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), members noted that the application for change of shareholdings of TVB was being considered by the Broadcasting Authority. Mr LEE suggested and the Chairman agreed that the Administration should report the matter to the Panel upon completion of the vetting process.

IV. Update on the operation of the Hongkong Post Certification Authority e-Cert services

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(03) -- Administration's paper on the update on the operation and forward planning of the Hongkong Post Certification Authority

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(04) -- Paper on Hongkong Post Certification Authority e-Cert services prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCED(CT)) highlighted the Administration's strategy since 1998 to facilitate the development of e-commerce and e-Government by instilling trust in the security and integrity of electronic transactions, and the enactment of Electronic Transactions Ordinance (ETO) (Cap.553) in 2000 to provide a legal framework to ensure, among other things, the trustworthiness of recognized certification authorities (CAs) in Hong Kong including the public CA. Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO) then briefed members

on the status of public CA services through the Hongkong Post Certification Authority (HKPCA) and arrangements for the continuation of its services, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(03)).

Discussion

Promoting the use of public CA services

6. Dr Samson TAM opined that although the outsourcing of the operation of HKPCA in 2007 had enhanced the flexibility and efficiency of the public CA services, the utilization rate of the digital certificates remained low due to the inadequate sense of internet security in the society as a whole. As such, he urged the Administration to step up effort to raise the society's awareness of internet security and promote the wider use of e-Certs. In this connection, he enquired about the adoption of digital certificates by Government departments and statutory bodies such as Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and Hospital Authority (HA).

7. In response, GCIO advised that through its dedicated information security (InfoSec) portal, the Administration had been promoting to the general public the importance of information security and the use of digital certificates for enhancing e-transaction security. At the public administration level, digital certificates were being used in some 200 types of government services. In 2010, the Finance Committee approved the funding for the enhancement of information technology infrastructure for HKPF which involved the adoption of digital certificates to enhance the security of their internal information processing over the next few years. Meanwhile, HA planned to use digital certificates for prescribing medications electronically and would consider the use of digital certificate in other information systems to be developed in coming years.

8. Noting that as at December 2010, the number of valid recognized e-Certs remained at around 55 000 with 17 500 being organizational e-Certs subscribed by the Administration, Ms Emily LAU enquired about the public interest in adopting e-Certs over the past few years and the Administration's projection of such adoption in future, as well as market interest in operating the HKPCA. She also urged the Administration to step up effort in promoting the use of e-Cert services. Sharing a similar view, the Chairman and Mr Andrew LEUNG opined that the Administration should encourage the wider use of e-Cert services and explore other applications or platforms (e.g. online shopping) in using e-Certs.

9. In response, GCIO advised that good response was received from the public when the e-Cert services were provided free of charge as an option to new smart identity card holders during the card issuing cycle which started in 2003. At the height of its popularity, there were about one million users having e-Certs. However, due to the lack of e-transactions requiring the use of digital certificate, the number of existing users paying to renew their e-Certs and new users applying for paid e-Certs had dwindled over time. With increased awareness of information security over the internet, the past few years had seen renewed interest in the adoption of e-Certs. He added that about six to seven responses and two to three responses from the private sector had indicated an interest in operating the HKPCA in the last two market testing exercises respectively. With the development of the cloud computing technology, it was anticipated that the demand for information security and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) applications would rise over time.

10. PSCED(CT) added that when the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (ETO) (Cap. 553) was enacted in 2000, not all forms of electronic signature were recognized under ETO. A technology-specific approach was adopted whereby ETO only gave legal recognition to digital signature which was generated by the PKI technology. To enable the legal framework to better keep pace with technological advancement and to provide a wider range of options for satisfying signature requirements electronically, ETO was amended in 2004 to give legal recognition to other forms of electronic signature, in addition to digital signature, for transactions not involving the Government, such as e-banking transactions. During the past few years, Hongkong Post and its contractor had been looking into other development opportunities of e-Cert services, such as in the communication in educational sector amongst students, parents and schools.

Mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates

11. In response to Dr Samson TAM's enquiry about the progress made since the signing of the Suggestions on the Framework for the Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (the Framework Suggestions) in June 2009, Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Digital Economy Facilitation (AGCIO)) advised that to promote trade and investment facilitation, ensure the security of electronic transactions and strengthen economic and trade co-operation, the Framework Suggestions were signed to facilitate the pilot run of applications for mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates (or digital certificates) issued by Guangdong and Hong Kong. The mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates between Hong Kong and

Guangdong would enable the secure exchange of electronic information and facilitate electronic transactions between the two places. Mainland certification authorities (CAs) participating in mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates were required to obtain permission and registration in Guangdong, whereas Hong Kong participating CAs needed to have the recognition granted by GCIO. To promote the pilot applications, the Guangdong-Hong Kong Working Group on Pilot Applications of Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates approved in April 2010 a set of procedures to give a label called the "Pilot Mark" to selected cross-boundary e-commerce projects or services. To facilitate the implementation of the pilot applications, both the governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong had published information in relevant web sites. Up to January 2011, two pilot projects had been approved for streamlining the cross-boundary electronic trade declaration and facilitating the rapid development of e-commerce in the two places. The pilot applications would be reviewed after a two-year period.

Summing up

12. The Chairman urged the Administration to make continuous improvements to HKPCA services and actively promote the wider use of e-Certs among businesses and individuals.

V. Radio Television Hong Kong – new developments in public service broadcasting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(05) -- Administration's paper on Radio Television Hong Kong – new developments in public service broadcasting

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(06) -- Paper on new initiatives of Radio Television Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(07) -- Submission from RTHK Programme Staff Union referred by Hon Emily LAU dated 10 January 2011
(*Chinese version only*)

- LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(08) -- Submission from Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited dated 21 January 2011
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1252/10-11(01) -- Administration's paper on Radio Television Hong Kong – new developments in public service broadcasting (power-point presentation material)
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 15 February 2011*)
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1287/10-11 -- Submission from RTHK Programme Staff Union dated 14 February 2011
(*Chinese version only, tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 15 February 2011*)

Presentation by the Administration

13. At the invitation of the Chairman and with the aid of power-point, Acting Deputy Director of Broadcasting, Radio Television Hong Kong (DDB/RTHK (Acting)) briefed members on the comprehensive package to support the development in the next few years of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as the public service broadcaster. Details of the package were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(05) and power-point material (LC Paper No. CB(1)1252/10-11(01)).

Discussion

Manpower resources

14. The Chairman noted that a large number of RTHK staff was employed in the Programme Officer (PO) grade on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms. He expressed concern that these staff had to accept a much lower pay if they applied for the civil service vacancies at the Assistant Programme Officer (APO) rank. Sharing a similar view, Mr LEE Wing-tat urged the Administration to offer more choices amongst the 80 civil service vacancies at more senior ranks of the PO grade to meet the different needs of the existing staff.

15. In response, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCED(CT)) advised that it was the Administration's priority task to resume the recruitment and

promotion of civil servants for the some 80 existing vacancies in the PO Grade. About 50 of the existing / consequential vacancies at the APO level and about six at the promotion ranks were taken up by NCSC staff. The other vacancies were mainly filled by civil servants on an acting basis, sharing basis or were temporarily vacant. According to the Civil Service Regulations, open recruitment of civil service posts in general had to be conducted at the basic rank. If vacancies at promotion ranks arose, internal promotion had to be first considered for civil servants at a lower rank of the grade. In line with this requirement, RTHK would resume recruitment at the APO rank, and in parallel, commence promotion procedures to fill vacancies at the promotion ranks of the PO grade. If suitable candidates could not be identified through internal promotion to fill vacancies at the promotion ranks, the department would consider conducting open recruitment at these ranks according to established policy and procedures. Subject to fulfillment of certain procedural requirements, the target was to commence the promotion and recruitment exercises in the first quarter of 2011.

16. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan considered that the Administration had put too much emphasis on the hardware resources of RTHK at the expense of its manpower resources. He criticized that the present arrangement for recruitment of civil servants at the APO rank and internal promotion exercise to fill vacancies at the promotion ranks was very unfair to serving NCSC staff in the PO grade. He suggested that the Administration should offer vacancies at both APO and PO ranks and allow the existing civil servants and NCSC staff to compete for the posts on an equal footing. In this connection, he urged the Administration to make an undertaking that existing NCSC staff would not face pay cuts when switching their contract terms to civil service terms. Citing the case of RTHK not to arrange for live broadcasting of Mr SZETO Wah's funeral over the Internet, he held the view that experienced staff should be retained in order to uphold the editorial independence of RTHK.

17. PSCED(CT) responded that RTHK had to conduct the recruitment processes in a fair and impartial manner and would exercise discretion as far as possible within the scope of the civil service appointment policies and regulations. In response to Mr Ronny TONG's enquiry about the longer term policy towards the NCSC staff of RTHK, she advised that there were currently a total of around 300 NCSC positions in RTHK. The Administration had no intention to delete the remaining NCSC positions after the filling of the civil service vacancies and the corresponding phasing out of the related NCSC positions. Instead, the Administration saw the need for increasing manpower in RTHK to meet its various new developments in the coming years.

18. In response to Mr CHAN Kam-lam's enquiry about the future prospects of the NCSC staff, PSCED(CT) advised that when applying for the civil service posts, NCSC staff currently employed by RTHK would have a natural edge over other applicants as they had practical experiences in RTHK and proven track records.

19. In this connection, Ms Emily LAU relayed the concern of the RTHK Programme Staff Union that priority should be accorded to recruiting serving NCSC staff for the civil service posts. Sharing a similar view, the Chairman urged the Administration to lay down guidelines on the recruitment exercise providing that the relevant working experience of the serving NCSC staff should be considered. PSCED(CT) advised that the Staff Union's call for providing incremental points to the more experienced serving NCSC staff for appointment on civil service terms would be considered by the departmental management along the civil service regulations in this regard, namely that there should be serious recruitment difficulty and there was a specific need for the particular experience.

20. Ms Cyd HO noted that according to the Staff Union, the number of NCSC staff was 258 which accounted for 46.75% of the manpower of RTHK. Most of the NCSC staff were responsible for production of programmes, especially news programmes. The retention and succession of such staff were vital to the preservation of RTHK's corporate culture. In line with the practice of other government departments and organizations, she considered that the contract terms of all NCSC staff should be automatically changed to civil service terms upon satisfactory completion of two contracts.

21. In response, PSCED(CT) clarified that as at 1 October 2010, RTHK had a total establishment of 533 civil service posts, including 95 vacancies. There were 349 NCSC positions with a strength of 329 NCSC staff. Among these NCSC positions, 273 were pegged to various ranks in the PO grade with a strength of 258 NCSC staff. She advised that RTHK, being a government department with the feature of a media organization, had traditionally maintained a contract staff ratio of around 30% (200 to 300 NCSC posts) in order to maintain a certain degree of flexibility in manpower deployment.

Digital terrestrial television

22. Mr CHAN Kam-lam enquired about RTHK's plan on the development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. PSCED(CT) advised that a spectrum of ultra-high frequency had been reserved for RTHK, which could accommodate one high-definition television (HDTV) and two standard-definition television (SDTV) channels. Details of the DTT service

had yet to be finalized. The Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) supplemented that over the next few years, RTHK would discuss with the two free-to-air TV broadcasters on the rental of suitable hilltop transmission sites for establishing its DTT transmission network.

23. DDB/RTHK (Acting) added that the plan was to set up the basic transmission network by 2013-2014 at the earliest, covering 80 to 90% of the population. The HDTV programme channel would broadcast the core productions of RTHK, including informational, educational, cultural and arts programmes, whereas one of the SDTV channels would be used for relaying programmes from China Central Television. In response to Mr LAU Kong-wah's enquiry, he said that RTHK would endeavour to further extend the coverage of its DTT service in future.

Community involvement in broadcasting

24. Ms Emily LAU considered the financial commitment of \$45 million for a three-year trial under the proposed Community Broadcasting Involvement Fund inadequate, given the sheer number of community organizations.

25. In response, PSCED(CT) advised that RTHK would work out the details of the community involvement in broadcasting in consultation with the Board of Advisors, with a view to formulating a concrete proposal for public consultation by end-2011. Ms Emily LAU opined that all community organizations should be extensively consulted on the proposal.

26. In response to Mr LAU Kong-wah's enquiry, DDB/RTHK (Acting) advised that community involvement in broadcasting was a complicated issue requiring thorough discussion, as RTHK would be held ultimately responsible for the programme contents. In this connection, RTHK was working out the framework and ground rules for the initiative, taking into account public opinion. Mr LAU urged the Administration to provide more information on the initiative and to brief the Panel before its implementation.

Admin

Digital audio broadcasting

27. Mr LAU Kong-wah enquired about the Government's investment in the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and measures to promote the use of DAB service.

28. In response, PSCED(CT) advised that the investment would be used for the production of programme content and the development of the transmission network. RTHK and the three prospective licensed operators would share the capital cost of around \$40 to 50 million for establishing the DAB network according to the number of DAB channels each operated. DDB/RTHK (Acting) added that four of the new DAB programme channels of RTHK would initially be used for simulcasting the existing four AM channels to improve reception quality, with gradual enhancement of programme content, including the introduction of community involvement in broadcasting. The other DAB programme channel would be used for relaying national radio programmes. Value-added data service such as news highlights and weather information would also be provided on DAB receivers. To ensure the smooth rollout of DAB services in Hong Kong, the Administration would study various aspects of the service, including monitoring the network coverage, take-up of DAB and formulation of DAB promotion strategy. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, he advised that RTHK would not shoulder the costs in the provision of free DAB receivers being contemplated by the three prospective licensed commercial operators.

29. The Chairman opined that the aim of developing DAB was to encourage the divergence of views in the society. However, the proposed mode of DAB development where there would only be three licensees other than RTHK (which already owned many of the AM and FM frequencies) would undermine the effect of diversity of views.

Development of new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O

30. Ms Emily LAU suggested and the Chairman agreed that the development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O should be included in the list of outstanding items to be discussed around the first half of 2011 pending completion of the relevant technical feasibility study.

Editorial independence

31. Ms Emily LAU and Ms Cyd HO opined that RTHK failed to uphold its editorial independence regarding live broadcasting of Mr SZETO Wah's memorial and funeral service over the Internet. Ms Cyd HO also opined that the post of Director of Broadcasting, which served as the Editor-in-Chief of RTHK, should not be filled by an Administrative Officer. In this connection, Mr Ronny TONG enquired about the circumstances leading to the decision of RTHK not to arrange for live broadcasting of Mr SZETO Wah's funeral over the Internet.

32. In response, Acting Director of Broadcasting, Radio Television Hong Kong advised that the news department and television division of RTHK attached great importance to Mr SZETO Wah's funeral and carried comprehensive news and television coverage in this regard. There was no question of RTHK taking a low profile on the issue. Following the announcement of the funeral committee to arrange a global webcast of Mr SZETO Wah's funeral on its own website, RTHK decided that there was no need to make the same arrangement via its website. The decision was a collective decision by the top management of RTHK and was not made under any political pressure. He stressed that webcast was not commonly carried on RTHK's website except for the LegCo meetings and RTHK's own productions. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, he clarified that no decision had ever been made to webcast Mr SZETO Wah's funeral before the decision made by the top management of RTHK that a hyperlink to the funeral committee's website should be sufficient. RTHK would review the policy of live webcasting in view of the public reactions to the issue.

33. The Chairman and Ms Emily LAU opined that to fulfill its role as a public service broadcaster, RTHK should not remain as a Government department.

Summing up

34. Members agreed that representatives of the Staff Union should be invited to attend the next regular Panel meeting to give views on manpower arrangement of RTHK. To facilitate discussion, the Administration was requested to provide the following information:

Admin

- (a) the recruitment or promotion exercise for civil service posts in the PO grade to be carried out by RTHK, including the selection procedure, the requisite in-rank service requirement, and how discretion would be granted to serving NCSC staff to fill the civil service posts at promotion ranks of the PO grade; and
- (b) the consultation mechanism between the RTHK management and its staff union, as well as the latest progress of the consultation and discussion conducted on manpower arrangement of RTHK.

(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 25 minutes.)

VI. Strengthening of the directorate support for Radio Television Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(09) -- Administration's paper on strengthening directorate support for Radio Television Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(06) -- Paper on new initiatives of Radio Television Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(10) -- Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po's question on manpower arrangement of Radio Television Hong Kong at the Legislative Council meeting on 5 January 2011 and the Administration's reply
(Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)1252/10-11(02) -- Administration's paper on strengthening directorate support for Radio Television Hong Kong (power-point presentation material)
(tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 15 February 2011)

Presentation by the Administration

35. At the invitation of the Chairman and with the aid of power-point, Acting Deputy Director of Broadcasting, Radio Television Hong Kong (DDB/RTHK (Acting)) briefed members on the proposal to create one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3) for three years and one permanent post of Controller (Broadcasting Services) (D1) for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Details of the proposal were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(09) and power-point material (LC Paper No. CB(1)1252/10-11(02)).

Discussion

Remuneration

36. Mr Ronny TONG enquired about the determination of the remuneration package of the proposed posts vis-à-vis that of their counterparts in other media organizations. He opined that if the remuneration was based on civil service pay scale, it might not be attractive enough for suitable candidates of the right calibre and relevant experience to join the public service broadcaster.

37. Acting Director of Broadcasting, Radio Television Hong Kong (DB/RTHK (Acting)) advised that the proposed posts were civil service posts of which the remuneration would be determined according to the civil service pay scale. The proposal included a time-limited supernumerary post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting (DD of B) (Developments) at AOSGB rank (D3) and a permanent post at the rank of Controller (Broadcasting Services) designated as Controller (Radio) (D1). The latter was a Programme Officer Grade post to be filled by internal promotion.

38. DDB/RTHK (Acting) supplemented that the remuneration package of the proposed posts would be broadly in line with those of comparable responsibilities in the private sector. In response to Mr TONG's further enquiry, he advised that the entry pay of an APO compared favourably with their counterparts in the private sector and should be able to attract candidates of the right calibre and experience.

Support for the new posts

39. Ms Emily LAU noted that the proposed post of DD of B (Developments) would perform heavy duties, including leading the project on reprovisioning of the Broadcasting House and development works in support of the new digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, whereas the proposed permanent post at the rank of Controller (Broadcasting Services) would be heavily involved in the rollout of community involvement in broadcasting. Ms LAU urged the Administration to provide adequate support to the incumbents of the posts, and provide supplementary information in this regard in the paper to be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee under the Finance Committee.

40. In response, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCED(CT)) advised that more details on the manpower support for the new development initiatives of

RTHK would be provided in the upcoming 2011-2012 Budget. Support at non-directorate levels would also be strengthened to ensure that the initiatives were smoothly taken forward. It was anticipated that the majority of the work, including the allotment of the construction contract of the new Broadcasting House and the planning and coordination work of DAB and DTT, would be completed within the three-year period of the post of DD of B (Developments).

Staff development plan and the content of the RTHK website

Admin

41. In response to Mr LEE Wing-tat's enquiry about the staff development plan of RTHK and the content of the RTHK website, DB/RTHK (Acting) advised that riding on the opportunity of the launching of its overall development plan over the next few years, RTHK would formulate a comprehensive staff development plan to complement the various initiatives. Regarding the RTHK website, he further advised that RTHK had put much effort in developing its online content over the past few years. Looking ahead, RTHK would continue to deploy resources in this respect. For example, it would further strengthen its applications and contents for smartphones. At Mr LEE's request, the Administration undertook to revert to the Panel details of the RTHK staff development plan once it was available.

42. Noting that the post of DD of B (Developments) would be a supernumerary and time-limited one lasting for three years but its duties would straddle across the period, Mr CHAN Kam-lam enquired about the prospects of this post after that period. He considered that as the way forward for RTHK had become clear, the post should be created as a permanent one to ensure administrative consistency.

43. In response, PSCED(CT) advised that the post of DD of B (Developments) would be created on a supernumerary basis for three years at this stage because the Administration had yet to establish the permanent need for the post. Nevertheless, the Administration would keep in view the matter to see if there was a need to extend the period of the post or convert it into a permanent one.

Summing up

44. The Chairman concluded that Panel members in general supported the staffing proposal.

VII. Any other business

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:55 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 March 2011