

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 10 June 2011)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Facilitating a digital economy, and promoting technological innovation, cooperation and trade

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of the initiatives that facilitate a digital economy, and promote technological innovation, cooperation and trade.

11 July 2011

At the Panel meeting on 9 May 2011, the Panel noted that according to the Blue Book of Urban Competitiveness recently released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Hong Kong's development in innovation and technology had lagged behind other major cities in the Mainland. Another recent report entitled "The Connected Harbour: How the Internet is Transforming Hong Kong's Economy" released by the Boston Consulting Group and Google had reaffirmed Hong Kong's position as a leading digital city in the world. Panel members agreed that the Administration's views should be sought on the apparent discrepancies between the two reports when it briefed the Panel on the item of "Facilitating a digital economy, and promoting technological innovation, cooperation and trade" at the July meeting.

2. Result of Sound Broadcasting Licences Mid-term Review

The Administration will brief the Panel on the result of the sound broadcasting licences mid-term review.

11 July 2011

3. Development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O

At the Panel meeting held on 14 February 2011, the Panel was briefed on the comprehensive package to support the development in the next few years of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as the public service broadcaster. The Panel agreed that the development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O should be discussed around the first half of 2011 pending completion of the relevant feasibility study.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme

At the Panel meeting held on 14 June 2010, the Panel was briefed on the outcome of the 18-month pilot programme for the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme (CCSS) administered by OFTA. The Administration will propose a way forward for the CCSS with reference to the views collected in the public consultation and brief the Panel in due course.

To be confirmed

5. Review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance – second round of public consultation

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of the review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance.

To be confirmed

6. Review on regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls

At the Panel meeting on 9 November 2009, the Administration briefed members on the findings of the two opinion surveys commissioned by the OFTA in respect of person-to-person (P2P) telemarketing calls and the actions to be taken in the light of the information collected from the surveys. Some members doubted whether voluntary self-regulation by the industry by way of the Code of Practice (CoP) would be effective in tackling the problems caused by P2P telemarketing calls and considered it necessary to introduce legislation to regulate such calls.

To be confirmed

After consultation with the industry, OFTA has finalised a benchmark CoP and circulated it to industry associations and major telecommunications operators in February 2010. The benchmark CoP includes guidelines requesting telemarketers to disclose identity and calling line identification information when making such calls. Telemarketers are also requested to maintain an in-house unsubscribe list for the public to make unsubscribe request.

According to the Administration, industry associations of four business sectors, namely finance, insurance, telecommunications service and call centre, have pledged support for the voluntary self-regulation scheme. Up to mid March 2011, the industry associations of insurance companies, banks, restricted licence banks and deposit-taking companies; three major

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telecommunications operators; two telemarketing industry associations; and a major telecommunications industry association have implemented their own CoP. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the implementation of the voluntary CoP after it has operated for some time.

7. Spectrum trading

OFTA has appointed a consultant to study the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading in Hong Kong for facilitating economic and technically efficient use of this scarce public resource. The Administration is examining the recommendations made by the consultant. If it is considered justifiable to pursue the initiative, the Administration will draw up an implementation framework and consult the public. The Administration will brief the Panel on the subject when necessary.

To be confirmed

8. Sponsored programme and advertising of a political nature on radio

At the Panel meeting held on 14 June 2010, the Panel was briefed on the current regulatory regime governing advertisement of a political nature and sponsoring of programmes on radio. Subsequent to the Broadcasting Authority's ruling on the sponsorship of a radio programme by a certain political party and a paid radio announcement by a Legislative Council Member, Hon Emily LAU requested that a Panel meeting be held with the Administration, relevant statutory bodies and deputations to discuss the matter.

To be confirmed

9. Mobile data charges

In view of the increasing public concern about the rising problem of exorbitant mobile data charges, and the cap on mobile data charges that came into force recently in the European Union to protect consumers from "bill shock", members suggested that a Panel meeting should be held with the Administration to discuss the matter with a view to drawing up a long-term policy and time-table to regulate mobile data charges. At the Panel's request, the Research Division undertook to provide an information note on the preventive measures of mobile bill shock implemented in the European Union. The information note was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1195/10-11 on 31

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

January 2011.

10. Community involvement in broadcasting

At the Panel meeting held on 14 February 2011, the Panel was briefed on the comprehensive package to support the development in the next few years of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as the public service broadcaster. The Panel noted that RTHK was working on the framework and possible ground rules for the initiative of community involvement in broadcasting taking into account public opinion. The Administration was requested to provide more information on the initiative and to brief Panel members before its commencement.

To be confirmed

11. Progress report on digital inclusion

At the Panel meeting held on 14 March 2011, the Panel was briefed on the progress of the Government's digital inclusion initiatives, including the Internet Learning Support Programme (ILSP). The Administration will periodically report progress on the implementation of ILSP to the Panel.

To be confirmed

At the same meeting, the Administration advised that statistics on ICT usage in the community would be available in mid-2011. In addition, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer would commission a further study on ICT take-up of people with disabilities and the elderly later in 2011. The Administration will report the findings of the above studies to the Panel when such findings are available.

12. Manpower arrangement of Radio Television Hong Kong

At the Panel meeting on 14 March 2011, the Panel met with the Administration and representatives of the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Programme Staff Union to discuss the manpower arrangement of RTHK. A motion urging the Administration to accord priority to serving non-civil service contract staff and formulate a comprehensive plan to retain quality serving staff for RTHK was passed at the meeting. The Administration was requested to report progress of the recruitment and promotion exercises to the Panel.

To be confirmed.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 June 2011