

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 13

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)001

Question Serial No.

3281

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Budget Speech states in paragraph 131, creative industries, innovation and technology and testing and certification services are industries where Hong Kong enjoys advantages for further advancement. In this connection, please provide the information sought below:

- (a) Please report in table form policies and initiatives pursued by the Government in the past year in relation to the abovementioned industries and their implementation as well as the funding and manpower involved; and
- (b) Please report in table form policies and initiatives that the Government will pursue in the coming year in relation to the abovementioned industries, including the projected implementation timetable and roadmap as well as the funding and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply: (a) The table below contains a summary of the work of the Communications and Technology Branch and departments under its purview in promoting creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification in 2011-12.

Creative Industries

Policies and Initiatives	Implementation	Funding and Manpower Involved
In 2009, the Government established the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) to lead drive the development of the local creative industries and set up the \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative to provide financial support to initiatives that are conducive to the development and promotion of creative industries. After consulting LegCo and the industry, CreateHK formulated	In 2011, CreateHK rendered assistance and support to the industry in organizing some 75 promotion events, which attracted more than 1.5 million participants from the local community and from over 50 countries and regions. These events range from annual signature events, including Entertainment Expo, DETOUR and Business of Design Week, to inaugural events such as Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival, Asia Online Game Awards, Fashion Visionaries, Toy Paradise – Creativity and Toy Culture of Hong Kong and many others. CreateHK has also worked with the	As at 1 February 2012, there are 61 posts in CreateHK, including 46 civil service posts and 15 non-civil service contract posts. The revised estimate for its total expenditure is \$211.6 million, being \$52.1 million for personal emoluments and departmental expenses, and \$159.5 million in general non-recurrent expenditure covering CreateSmart Initiative (\$76.2 million),

<p>a 7-pronged strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Nurturing of local creative talents; (ii) Supporting the development of start-up creative companies; (iii) Developing local market; (iv) Expanding Mainland and overseas markets; (v) Fostering a creative atmosphere within the community; (vi) Developing creative clusters; and (vii) Supporting the organisation of signature events to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital. 	<p>industry to provide funding support to projects that nurture talents, such as supporting the participation of local creative talents in international competitions; providing paid internship opportunities in creative sectors. To help develop Mainland and overseas markets, CreateHK has been working with the creative industries and the Trade Development Council in organising exhibitions and seminars in various places in Mainland China and overseas to promote Hong Kong's creative industries. Besides, CreateHK has provided funding support to creative enterprises and talents to participate in exhibitions, business matching sessions and competitions. The Design Incubation Programme and the Cyberport Digital Entertainment Incubation-cum-Training Scheme, also supported by CreateHK, have incubated 200 start-ups engaged in design, creative digital media and content between 2006 and December 2011.</p>	<p>DesignSmart Initiative (\$18 million), Hong Kong Design Centre (\$21 million) and Film Development Fund (\$44.3 million).</p>
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Innovation and Technology

As at 1 February 2012, there were 133 posts, including 86 civil service posts and 47 non-civil service contract posts, in the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) responsible for formulating and implementing policies for promoting innovation and technology development, as well as the hardware and software support. The expenditure involved was about \$92 million.

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives	Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (HK\$)
Provide technological infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take forward the construction of the Science Park Phase 3, costing \$4.9 billion. The first batch of new buildings is scheduled for completion in early 2014. 	Note (1)
Provide financial support for applied R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the following activities through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Applied R&D projects (between 1999 and end of January 2012, more than 1 700 applied R&D projects were approved under ITF with a total funding of \$6 billion); and – The operation of 4 R&D Centres (i.e. the Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS), the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM), the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI), and the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)) 	About \$740 million
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide recurrent subvention to the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI). 	About \$320 million
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage enterprises to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions through the \$200 m R&D Cash Rebate Scheme. 	About \$7.5 million
Nurture R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To nurture more R&D talents through the Internship Programme. 	Note (2)

talents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To launch the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme to nurture more future R&D leaders. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide one-stop supporting services to technopreneur start-ups through the incubation programme of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC). 	Note (1)
Promote technology collaboration with the Mainland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote technology collaboration with the Mainland on all levels, including central, provincial and municipal governments. To encourage more local R&D institutions and research personnel to take part in national science and technology programmes, and nominate Hong Kong experts for the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database. 	Note (3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide funding assistance to the 12 Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs) in Hong Kong to enhance their research capabilities. 	Note (4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the development of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region into an innovation and technology hub through the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS). 	Note (2)
Foster an innovation and technology culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To organise and support various publicity, promotional and educational activities such as the InnoTech Month 2011, seminars and science competitions. 	Note (3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support projects that contribute to fostering an innovation and technology culture through the General Support Programme (GSP). 	Note (2)

Note (1): HKSTPC, which is responsible for developing and managing the Hong Kong Science Park, is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. In this connection, the expenses for developing the Science Park Phase 3 and conducting various activities in the Park are not included in the Government's direct expenditure.

Note (2): The funds involved have been counted as part of ITF funding.

Note (3): The funds involved have been included in ITC's expenditure on the formulation and implementation of work on promoting the development of innovation and technology.

Note (4): Since April 2011, the Government has been accepting applications from relevant universities for the provision of annual financial support up to \$2 million through ITF to each PSKL in Hong Kong. As the funding applied will be approved after 31 March 2012, this initiative did not incur any expenses in 2011-12.

Testing and Certification

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives	Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (HK\$)
Implement the 3-year industry development plan put forward by the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) to enhance the industry's overall competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce a number of new accreditation services such as radiation measurement and plasticisers concentration testing in food in response to the industry demand and HKCTC's recommendation. To co-ordinate career talks and internship opportunities to attract talents for the industry, and arrange seminars, workshops and short courses to enhance the professionalism of practitioners. To support related R&D activities through ITF. 	As at 1 February 2012, there were 100 posts, including 84 civil service posts and 16 non-civil service contract posts, in ITC to assist in promoting

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives	Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (HK\$)
Target efforts at promoting and developing new services in 4 selected trades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the industry in raising the testing standard of Chinese herbal medicine (CHM), promote the product certification for construction materials, develop a certification scheme on food hygiene management for the local catering industry, and work out standard testing methods for the two types of jade. 	the development of testing and certification in Hong Kong. The expenditure involved was about \$83 million. In addition, ITF also provided funding of about \$7.3 million to support projects relating to testing and certification.
Promote Hong Kong's testing and certification services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to promote the branding of "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong" both locally and outside Hong Kong. Under Supplement VII to CEPA, testing organisations accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) have been allowed to perform testing of 4 types of products processed in Hong Kong for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System on a pilot basis since 2011. 	
Provide infrastructure support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the reference standards of physical measurement traceable to the International System of Units (SI) for Hong Kong, and provide traceable calibration services. To provide information on international standards. 	

- (b) The table below contains a summary of the work of the Communications and Technology Branch and departments under its purview in promoting creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification in 2012-13.

Creative Industries

Policies and Initiatives	Funding and Manpower Involved
<p>CreateHK will closely collaborate with the creative sectors to formulate plans that are conducive to the development of the industry and in line with its seven-pronged strategy.</p> <p>In 2012, we will continue to work with the creative sectors and other strategic partners to provide funding support for staging mega events, foster a creative atmosphere within the community, attract talents in the region to come to Hong Kong for exchange and co-operation so as to further promote the local creative industries. Mega events include annual events such as Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival to be held in March, Entertainment Expo to be held in March and April, Business of Design Week to be held at the end of the year as well as new initiatives like Hong Kong Avenue of Comic Stars to be opened in August.</p> <p>In addition, we will present Hong Kong Design Year (HKDY) to showcase the strength of Hong Kong as a regional design hub, foster public interest in design and celebrate design excellence through various design-related events. To date, more than 40 design-related events have been confirmed as part of the HKDY programme, with some others still being considered.</p> <p>It is also CreateHK's plan to provide funding support for a new round of Design Incubation Programme and continue supporting the incubation programme run by Cyberport.</p>	<p>The number of posts in CreateHK is expected to increase from 61 to 68 as at 31 March 2013. The estimate for its total expenditure is \$207.7 million, being \$61.2 million for personal emoluments and departmental expenses and \$146.5 million in general non-recurrent expenditure covering CreateSmart Initiative (\$83.7 million), DesignSmart Initiative (\$15.5 million), Hong Kong Design Centre (\$3 million) and Film Development Fund(\$44.3 million)</p>

Innovation and Technology

It is estimated that, as at 31 March 2013, there will be 133 posts, including 90 civil service posts and 43 non-civil service contract posts, in ITC responsible for formulating and implementing policies for promoting innovation and technology development, as well as the hardware and software support. The expenditure involved is estimated at about \$96 million.

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives/implementation timetable and roadmap	Estimated expenditure in 2012-13 (HK\$)
Provide technological infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invite HKSTPC to explore the feasibility of expanding the Yuen Long Industrial Estate to meet the needs for long-term development of the innovation and technology industry. In this connection, HKSTPC has commissioned the Hong Kong Housing Authority to conduct a relevant study starting from May 2012. • To continue to implement the Phase 3 development of the Science Park, which is scheduled for completion in phases between 2014 and 2016. 	Note (1)
Provide financial support for applied R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to support the following activities through ITF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All applied R&D projects, especially the enhancement of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) by increasing the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m, refining the operational details of SERAP and expanding its scope of funding. It is expected that the enhanced SERAP will be launched in April 2012. – The operation of 4 R&D Centres (i.e. APAS, LSCM, NAMI and HKRITA). 	About \$780 million
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide recurrent subvention to HKPC and ASTRI. 	About \$310 million
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the effectiveness of the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme, the level of cash rebate under the Scheme for enterprises' qualified R&D projects has been increased from 10% to 30% since 1 February 2012. 	About \$8.2 million
Nurture R&D talents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inspire more young people to engage in R&D, the monthly allowance under the Internship Programme has been increased by nearly 20% starting from 1 February 2012. • To continue to launch the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme. 	Note (2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide one-stop supporting services to technopreneur start-ups through HKSTPC's incubation programme. 	Note (1)
Promote technology collaboration with the Mainland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to promote technology collaboration with the Mainland on all levels, including central, provincial and municipal governments, encourage more local R&D institutions and research personnel to take part in national science and technology programmes, and nominate Hong Kong experts for the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database. 	Note (3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide funding assistance to the 12 PSKLs in Hong Kong and start a new round of application exercise for PSKLs. • To continue to promote the development of Hong Kong and the PRD region into an innovation and technology hub through TCFS. 	Note (2)

Foster an innovation and technology culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to organise and support various publicity, promotional and educational activities such as the InnoTech Month 2012, seminars and science competitions. 	Note (3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to support projects that contribute to fostering an innovation and technology culture through GSP. 	Note (2)

Note (1): HKSTPC, which is responsible for developing and managing the Hong Kong Science Park, is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. In this connection, the expenses for developing the Science Park Phase 3 and conducting various activities in the Park are not included in the Government's expenditure.

Note (2): The funds involved have been counted as part of ITF funding.

Note (3): The funds involved have been included in ITC's expenditure on the formulation and implementation of work on promoting the development of innovation and technology.

Testing and Certification

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives/implementation timetable and roadmap	Estimated expenditure in 2012-13 (HK\$)
Implement the 3-year industry development plan put forward by HKCTC to enhance the industry's overall competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create 13 non-directorate civil service posts to replace the existing 13 non-civil service contract staff to enhance the services of HKAS. To continue to co-ordinate career talks and internship opportunities to attract talents for the industry, and arrange seminars, workshops and short courses to enhance the professionalism of practitioners. To encourage the industry to better utilise ITF for the development of new testing technologies. To assist HKCTC in completing the review on the progress made in its 3-year industry development plan and formulating a new plan to promote further development of the industry in March 2013. 	As at 31 March 2013, there will be 101 posts, including 100 civil service posts and 1 non-civil service post, in ITC to assist in promoting the development of testing and certification in Hong Kong.
Explore business opportunities in selected trades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue promoting and developing new services in 4 selected trades, namely Chinese medicine, construction materials, food and jewellery, and to assist the industry in launching accredited authentication services for CHM in 2012. It is planned to introduce product certification schemes for CHM in 2013. As for construction materials, the existing product certification schemes will be extended to cover organisations apart from the Hong Kong Housing Authority in 2012/13 To develop a certification scheme on food hygiene management for the local catering industry and introduce new standard testing methods for the two types of jade in 2013. To help HKCTC explore new business opportunities in the areas of environmental protection and information and communications technology, and promote the provision of new services by the industry in 2012. 	The expenditure involved will be about \$99.3 million.
Promote Hong Kong's testing and certification services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen the co-operation with HKTDC on promoting the branding of "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong". To host the plenary meeting of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation in June 2012 to raise the international profile of HKAS. To implement Supplement VIII to CEPA in 2012 so that the testing organisations in Hong Kong can perform testing for all products processed in Hong Kong under the CCC System. 	In addition, ITF will also provide funding of about \$2.7 million to support approved projects related to testing and certification.

Major strategies	Relevant initiatives/implementation timetable and roadmap	Estimated expenditure in 2012-13 (HK\$)
Provide infrastructure support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To procure equipment for the Standards and Calibration Laboratory and create 2 non-directorate civil service posts to replace the existing 2 non-civil service contract staff to enhance the capabilities in providing standards and calibration services. • To provide information on international standards. 	

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)002

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0576

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, will the Administration allocate additional manpower and resources for speeding up the processing of the three applications for the domestic free television programme service licence so as to meet community expectation and introduce competition into the free television service market? If so, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: There is no need for us to apply for additional funding as the processing of the applications for the domestic free television programme service licences does not involve extra manpower or resources.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)003

Question Serial No.

0577

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As regards the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a public service broadcaster:

- (a) what are the Bureau's specific work plan, work schedule and estimate of expenditure in this regard in 2012-13?
- (b) in view of public concern over the editorial independence of RTHK, will the Administration conduct studies and consultation on the transformation of RTHK into a public service broadcaster which operates independently from the Administration in 2012-13? If so, what are the details of the work plan? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: (a) In 2012-13, we will, with existing resources, continue to oversee the preparation and implementation of various new services and initiatives to be launched by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK).

In the coming year, RTHK is committed to establishing the transmission network and acquiring the essential equipment for its digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting service, as well as increasing the production of HDTV programmes. It will continue the implementation of the Media Asset Management project and planning for the construction of a new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O. RTHK will also announce the outcome of the public consultation on the Community Involvement Broadcasting Services (CIBS) Pilot Scheme within this year, seek funding approval for the establishment of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, and prepare for the launch of the CIBS.

- (b) In September 2009, the Government already announced the way forward for the development of public service broadcasting in Hong Kong with the decision to retain RTHK as a government department and task it to fulfill the mission as a public service broadcaster. The Government has no plan to conduct further consultation or study on the organizational framework of RTHK.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)004

Question Serial No.

3170

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries
(2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

- Question:
- (a) In view of the concern of users of mobile internet services over the possible cancellation of “unlimited internet usage plan” by telecommunications operators, will the Bureau conduct a comprehensive review and public consultation on the planning of mobile data services in Hong Kong and the regulation of service providers in 2012-13? If so, what is the detailed work plan? If not, why not?
 - (b) Despite consumer disputes over telecommunication services and pay TV seen in recent years, no effective regulatory regime or penalty system is in place. In 2012-13, does the Administration have any concrete plan to carry out policy research or even draft legislation in this regard? If so, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) To guide telecommunications service providers on the implementation of fair usage policy and to help consumers make informed choices by making service information more transparent, the Telecommunications Authority (TA) published in November 2011 a set of guidelines setting out the guiding principles for mandatory compliance by service providers. The guidelines, which took effect on 13 February 2012, do not impose a ban on “unlimited” service plans. Service providers may, as before, make their own commercial decisions on whether or not to continue with their “unlimited” plans with or without conditions as long as they comply with the guidelines.

Given the market-led principle which has served us well, the TA will adhere to a light-handed regulatory approach without intervening in the market activities of telecommunications service providers lightly unless there are reasons to believe that they have breached the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap 106) or the terms and conditions of their licences.

- (b) On telecommunications services, under Section 7M of the Telecommunications Ordinance, a licensee shall not engage in conduct which, in the opinion of the TA, is misleading or deceptive in providing services (including promoting, marketing or advertising services). Moreover, it is a licensing condition that the TA may issue guidelines for compliance by telecommunications service providers for the protection of consumer interest. We consider the current regulatory regime adequate and effective in protecting consumer interest.

On pay TV, although the Broadcasting Authority (BA) is not empowered under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap 562) to regulate the practices of pay TV licensees in promoting their services, the BA will, on receipt of complaints on promotion of pay TV services and with the consent of the complainants, refer the complaints to the pay TV licensees concerned for investigation and follow-up. In our experience, most cases can be settled.

Besides, to enhance protection of consumer interest and combat unfair trade practices, the Government gazetted the 2012 Trade Description (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Bill on 24 February 2012. The Bill was introduced into LegCo on 29 February 2012 for first and second reading. The Administration will work closely with LegCo with a view to completing examination of the Bill as soon as possible.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)005

Question Serial No.

1429

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details of the studies commissioned to consultants by the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and its departments for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, if any, in the following format:

- (a) Please provide information on the funded studies on public policy and strategic public policy from 2009-10 to 2011-12 in the following table:

Name of consultant	Channel through which the studies are commissioned (auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of the studies	Consultancy fee (\$)	Commence-ment date	Progress of studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-up actions on the studies taken by the Administration and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If so, through what channels? If not, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which provision will be allocated for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13? If so, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Channel through which the studies are commissioned (auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of the studies	Consultancy fee (\$)	Commence-ment date	Progress of studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be made public if they are expected to be completed in 2012-13? If so, through what channels? If not, why?

- (c) What are the criteria for selecting research institutions to which the consultancy studies are commissioned?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) Please find below information regarding the funded studies on public policy and strategic public policy from 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Name of consultant	Channel through which the studies are commissioned (auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of the studies	Consultancy fee (\$)	Commence -ment date	Progress of studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-up actions on the studies taken by the Administration and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If so, through what channels? If not, why?
Frost & Sullivan	Tender	<p>Title: "Economic Benefit Analysis of Developing Hong Kong into a Regional Data Centre Hub"</p> <p>The objective is to examine the economic benefits brought about by data centres in Hong Kong, and to facilitate the Government to formulate corresponding policy in this regard.</p>	1,296,000	19 May 2010	Completed	The Government has made reference to the recommendations of the study report and introduced suitable measures to facilitate the development of data centres, with a view to strengthening Hong Kong's position as a trading and financial hub.	The Government has consulted members of the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee on the outcome of the study and uploaded the Executive Summary of the report to the Digital 21 Website for public inspection.
FutureGov	Inviting quotations	E-engagement initiatives Study report on E-engagement initiatives in Australia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States	295,000	22 October 2010	Completed	-	The study report has been submitted to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council.
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Tender	<p>Title: "Study on the framework for mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong"</p> <p>The objective is to draw up recommendations for formulating a framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong, so as to facilitate secure cross-boundary e-commerce.</p>	1,429,000	21 June 2011	In progress Expected to be completed in March 2012	The Government and the Mainland authorities will make reference to the study results in formulating standing arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong.	The study is expected to be completed in March 2012. The executive summary will be uploaded to OGCIO's webpage.

AECOM	Tender	Title: "Study on the number of goods vehicle parking spaces and loading / unloading spaces required by data centres" The objective is to examine the goods vehicle parking and loading / unloading requirements of data centres.	996,000	16 December 2011	In progress Expected to be completed in March 2012	The Transport Department will make reference to the study results in formulating relevant internal guidelines.	The study is expected to be completed in March 2012. The executive summary will be uploaded to the Government's website "Developing Data Centres in Hong Kong".
Plum Consulting Ltd	Tender	To determine the auction reserve price of spectrum, and decide on the principle and means of determining the level of spectrum utilisation fee (SUF) in respect of spectrum assigned administratively in different frequency bands.	Absorbed by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority Trading Fund	June 2008	Completed	(a) The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) has adopted the recommendations of the consultant in determining the reserve price of spectrum since 2009. (b) Besides, OFTA issued a consultation paper on SUF in respect of spectrum assigned administratively to invite public comments on the proposals in November 2010. Having considered the responses received, the Administration decided to proceed with the implementation of the SUF charging scheme for spectrum assigned administratively, based on the lists of frequency bands, SUF levels and implementation arrangements as mentioned in the consultation paper. The relevant statement was issued in September 2011.	(a) Not applicable. (b) The consultancy report has been uploaded to OFTA's webpage.
Frost & Sullivan (Singapore) Pte Ltd	Inviting quotations	Title: Report on Consultancy Study on Issues Relating to the Landing of Submarine Cables in Hong Kong Content and objective: to determine the economic benefits	Absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund	21 July 2009	Completed	OFTA implemented more effective and convenient measures in April 2010 to facilitate the landing of new submarine cables in Hong Kong by interested parties. The measures included the launch of a dedicated webpage on OFTA's	The consultancy report has been uploaded to OFTA's webpage.

		of the landing of new submarine cables in Hong Kong and to recommend measures to facilitate the landing of new submarine cables in Hong Kong				website to set out relevant details and the provision of the single-point-of-contact service to the operators. Since the implementation of the measures, two submarine cable operators have made use of the single-point-of-contact service provided by OFTA, and applied to the relevant Government departments and parties for the landing of two new submarine cables in Hong Kong. OFTA and the relevant Government departments have established working groups to facilitate the landing of these two new submarine cables. With active liaison between the parties and timely processing of the applications for the necessary statutory approvals, good progress has been made.	
Analysys Consulting Limited	Tender	Consultancy study on a spectrum trading scheme in Hong Kong	Absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund	April 2009	Completed	Based on the outcome of the consultancy study, the Administration is considering critically whether a spectrum trading scheme should be implemented, and intends to approach the industry shortly to assess whether the industry is interested in spectrum trading introduced by the Administration.	The consultancy report will be uploaded to OFTA's webpage.
Mott MacDonald	Inviting quotations	Title: Consultancy study on the design of vented covers for telecommunications manholes and frequent inspection to reduce the risk of gas explosion Content and objective: to reduce the risk of	Absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund	5 March 2010	Completed	After discussion, OFTA and the industry have formulated guidelines and implementation schedule in respect of the design of vented manhole covers and inspections of telecommunications manholes. The industry has implemented the	The guidelines have been uploaded to OFTA's webpage.

		explosion in telecommunications manholes by using vented manhole covers and conducting regular manhole inspections.				guidelines according to the implementation schedule.	
The Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong	Inviting quotations	Opinion survey on telecommunications service (the contract includes 3 telephone surveys and 1 focus group study)	Absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund	Contract signed in February 2011	2 telephone surveys and the focus group study have been completed and information analysis is being conducted	OFTA has accepted the study report of the focus group upon review and telephone survey questionnaires will be prepared with reference to the study report. Follow-up actions are being taken in respect of the results of telephone surveys.	The survey report will be uploaded to OFTA's webpage.
Plum Consulting Ltd.	Tender	Project title: Implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services Content and objective: study the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services and make recommendations to the Government for formulating the relevant telecommunications regulatory framework.	Absorbed by the OFTA Trading Fund	May 2011	Completed	OFTA will arrange the relevant advisory committee and working group to carry out detailed discussions in respect of the recommendations and technical issues raised by the consultant.	The study report will be uploaded to OFTA's webpage
HKUST Research and Development Corporation Ltd.	Inviting quotations	Study on the methodology to analyse the economic implications of Hong Kong R&D and innovation activities	981,251	October 2006	Completed in March 2010	The study report provides a preliminary analysis, particularly at the level of technical analysis, to assist the Administration in exploring the subject matter in depth.	The report is mainly for internal reference. Should there be enquiries, we can make public the executive summary of the report.

- (b) Projects for which provision will be allocated for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13 are as follows:

Name of consultant	Channel through which the studies are commissioned (auction / tender / others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of the studies	Consultancy fee (\$)	Commencement date	Progress of studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be made public if they are expected to be completed in 2012-13? If so, through what channels? If not, why?
(To be confirmed)	Inviting quotations	Consultancy Study on the Provision of Cinemas in Hong Kong The objective is to study the development of cinemas in Hong Kong, review public demand for cinema facilities, compare the cinema development approach and experience of foreign countries and assess factors affecting the development of cinema facilities.	1,300,000 (earmarked fund)	Documents inviting quotations were issued at the end of January 2012	Under planning	The results of the study will be uploaded to the Film Development Council's website.
The Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong	Inviting quotations	Opinion survey on telecommunications service (the contract includes 3 telephone surveys and 1 focus group study)	To be absorbed by the OFCA Trading Fund	To continue with the execution of the contract signed in February 2011	1 remaining telephone survey is under planning	The survey report will be uploaded to the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA)'s webpage.

- (c) In awarding a consultancy project to a consultant, we will consider the qualifications and experience of the company, its expertise in the subject matter, the research methods proposed, work plan and schedule and the quotations for the project before the most suitable one is selected.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)006

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1438

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In regard to growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) is or has been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2009-10 to 2011-12, please provide information in the following format:

Project / programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department / organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

- (b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2012-13, please provide information in the following format:

Project / programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department / organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of cross-boundary co-operation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the past three years, and how much financial and manpower resources are earmarked in the 2012-13 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2009-10 to 2011-12 are as follows:

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation between Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) and Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association	<p>The project aims at, through optimising the resources of the two places, developing a common platform for exchanges, training and organising exhibitions and forums on design.</p> <p>The Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement) covers the project.</p>	Expenditure borne by HKDC with no government expenditure involved	Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association	HKDC held “2011 Hong Kong – Shenzhen Culture & Creative Forum” in July 2011 to share on cases of creative city planning and conducted two thematic seminars, namely “Elements of Asian Creative Cities” and “Development in Shenzhen, Hong Kong & Qianhai”. HKDC plans to hold the “Business of Design Week - Shenzhen Industrial Design Forum” in Shenzhen in November 2012 as a concurrent event of BODW.	Project information released to the public by HKDC. The manpower and expenditure involved shouldered by HKDC.
Co-operation Agreement between HKDC and Shanghai Industry Design Center	<p>The Co-operation Agreement aims at promoting exchanges between Shanghai and Hong Kong in the fields of design, culture and creative industries as well as developing a collaboration platform. Both parties carry out publicity and promotional work with their own resources and channels, and encourage their members to participate in the activities held in the two places. The project augments the Framework Agreement.</p>	No government expenditure involved	Shanghai Industry Design Center	Delegation from Shanghai Industrial Design Association took part in the “Global Design Network”, a concurrent event of BODW, in November of 2010 and 2011.	-ditto-
Memorandum of	Supported by the established advisory	No government	Dongguan Foreign Trade & Economic	HKDC, Dongguan Foreign Trade &	-ditto-

Understanding on Co-operation by Dongguan Foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation Bureau / Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) / HKDC on the Transformation and Upgrading of Hong Kong-invested Enterprises in Dongguan	platform for the transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong-invested enterprises, the three parties have been optimising their own advantages in resources and strengthening the services for enterprises on industrial design and branding development, etc with a view to assisting the transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Dongguan. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	expenditure involved	Co-operation Bureau	Economic Co-operation Bureau and HKPC held the “Seminar & Business Matching for Upgrade of Business by Industrial Innovation” in July 2011 to strengthen the services for enterprises on industrial design, branding development, etc with a view to assisting the transformation and upgrading of Hong Kong-invested enterprises in Dongguan. HKDC plans to form a 40-strong delegation of Hong Kong designers to attend another business matching session in Guangzhou in October 2012, with a view to exchanging and exploring business matching opportunities with the factory owners and entrepreneurs in the Pearl River Delta Region.	
CODE Poster Exhibition	Held at the InnoCentre in March 2011, the Exhibition displays the entries of 70 winners in the CODE Poster Competition. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Mainly funded by the co-organiser at Shenzhen with limited contribution from HKDC	Shenzhen Creative Culture Center	Completed	-ditto-
SZ · HK Design Exhibition	Held at the InnoCentre in July 2011, the Exhibition showcases the works of 40 designers from Shenzhen and Hong Kong which show a blend of the cultures of the two places. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Mainly funded by the co-organiser at Shenzhen with limited contribution from HKDC	Shenzhen Graphic Design Association	Completed	-ditto-
Fashion World Talent Awards	Held between May 2010 and June 2011, the event aims at promoting the development of Hong Kong fashion industry and discovering talents from fashion and other	\$4,043,104	TVS	Completed	The organiser (Hong Kong Apparel Society) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public. Details of the project had been uploaded to

	related fields, bringing them onto the world stage. Participants were recruited in Hong Kong and Guangzhou to compete for the Talent Awards for fashion designer, image stylist and fashion photographer. The project augments the Framework Agreement.				the webpage of the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI). The work concerned was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
The Second Greater China Illustration Awards	The project aims at developing a platform for fostering creativity and exploring business opportunities for the illustration industries in the Greater China region as well as promoting Hong Kong as a creative capital within the region. The competition is open to the illustrators and design students from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao. Four exhibitions of the winning entries will be held in the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$1,595,760	The Office of the Organising Committee of the China (Hangzhou) Cultural & Creative Industry Expo Shenzhen Illustration Association	From March 2011 to October 2012	The organiser (Hong Kong Society of Illustrators) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public. Details of the project had been uploaded to the webpage of the DSI. The work concerned was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
2009 “Creativity in Business” Seminar Series	To allow Hong Kong SMEs to have first-hand knowledge of the Mainland market and enterprises as well as establish business network through study tours/briefing sessions, exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$2 million	The Municipal People’s Governments of Shenzhen, Dongguan, Guangzhou, Foshan and Zhongshan	Completed	The organiser (Hong Kong Trade Development Council) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public.
2010 “Creativity in Business” Seminar Series	To allow Hong Kong SMEs to have first-hand knowledge of the Mainland market and enterprises as well as establish business network through study tours/briefing sessions, exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The project augments the Framework	\$2,180,000	The Municipal People’s Governments of Dongguan, Jiangmen, Guangzhou and Xiamen	Completed	The organiser (Hong Kong Trade Development Council) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public.

	Agreement.				
2011 “Creativity in Business” Seminar Series	To allow Hong Kong SMEs to have first-hand knowledge of the Mainland market and enterprises as well as establish business network through study tours/briefing sessions, exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$2 million	The Municipal People’s Governments of Dongguan, Fuzhou and Wenzhou	Completed	The organiser (Hong Kong Trade Development Council) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public.
SmartHK (Guangzhou)	A large-scale exhibition was set up during the event held in Guangzhou in 2011 to showcase the excellence of Hong Kong’s creative sectors including advertising & marketing, architectural & interior design, design & brand building. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$1,925,000	-	Completed	The organiser (Hong Kong Trade Development Council) was responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public. Details of the project had been uploaded to the webpage of the CreateHK office. The work concerned was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
The Hong Kong – Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2011	In the Hong Kong exhibition of the project to be held in 2012, a wide range of architectural projects and urban designs from Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other places will be exhibited with the aim of enriching cultural life in Hong Kong and fostering wider public interests in art, design, architecture and city development of Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$5,493,000	Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture Organizer Committee Office	In progress	The organiser (the Hong Kong Institute of Architects) is responsible for publicity and the release of information to the public. Details of the project have been uploaded to the webpage of the CreateHK office. The work concerned is handled by existing staff using existing resources.
Beijing–HK Film Business Matching Event cum HK Post-Production Industry Exhibition	The project aims at promoting the Hong Kong new generation of directors and their film projects as well as the post-production services in Hong Kong. It also provides the participants and the Mainland film investors with co-operation opportunities by organising business matching events, visits to Beijing film	\$55,200	Representatives of Mainland film companies and film investors Beijing Enlight Pictures Co., Ltd.	Completed	A media briefing was held jointly with the Hong Kong Film Development Council delegation in Beijing on 14 July 2009. Publicity was handled by existing staff and PR companies while the expenses were met from existing resources.

	companies, press conferences, a networking dinner and a seminar. The project is not directly related to the Framework Agreement.				
Hong Kong and Mainland Film Business Matching in Guangzhou	The project aims at promoting the Hong Kong new generation of directors and their film projects as well as the post-production services in Hong Kong. It also provides the participants and the Mainland film investors with co-operation opportunities by organising business matching events, press conferences, a networking luncheon and a seminar. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$187,000	Motion Picture Professional Committee of Radio, Film & TV Administration of Guangdong Province China Film Co-Production Corporation Guangdong Film Association and the Association of Film and TV Production of Guangdong Province Representatives of Mainland film companies and film investors	Completed	A press conference was held in Guangzhou on 18 January 2010. Publicity was handled by existing staff and the expenses were met from existing resources.
Hong Kong Films Retrospective 2010 in Guangzhou	The project aims at enhancing the understanding and interest of Guangdong audience in Hong Kong films and local culture as well as facilitating exchanges between the two places on film culture so as to develop the Guangdong market for Hong Kong films. Activities include film shows, an opening ceremony of the film shows and a film forum. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$617,560	State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) Guangdong Province Film Company China Film South Cinema Circuit Co. Ltd.	Completed	A media briefing in Hong Kong was arranged by CreateHK. Publicity was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
Hong Kong Films Retrospective 2010 in Shanghai (including film shows, an opening ceremony of the film shows and a film forum)	The project aims at introducing the original façade of various genres of Hong Kong films to the Mainland audience so as to facilitate exchanges between the two places on film culture and help Hong Kong's film industry tap the Mainland market. The project is not directly related to the Framework Agreement.	\$328,900	SARFT, Shanghai Film Group Corporation, Shanghai United Circuit	Completed	A media briefing in Hong Kong was arranged by CreateHK. Publicity was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
Hong Kong and Mainland Film	The project aims at promoting Hong Kong's new generation	\$252,000	Representatives of Mainland film companies and film	Completed	An opening ceremony was held jointly with the Hong Kong Films

Cooperation Business Matching in Shanghai (including business matching, an opening ceremony and seminar)	film directors and their film projects as well as the post-production services in Hong Kong. It also provides the participants and the Mainland film investors with cooperation opportunities. The seminar aims at providing an opportunity for Hong Kong's new generation film directors/producers to exchange creative ideas and views on the direction of film production with the students of the Shanghai Theatre Academy. The project is not directly related to the Framework Agreement.		investors Shanghai Theatre Academy		Retrospective 2010 in Shanghai on 18 October 2010. Publicity was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
The first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Film Festival	The project aims at consolidating the established market as well as other local markets on the Mainland for Cantonese films so as to explore more opportunities for independent producers and small-to-medium budget films. Activities include free screening and voting in respect of the selected films in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, business matching events and a closing ceremony. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	\$349,500	Radio, Film & TV Administration of Guangdong Province Pearl River Film Group Co. Ltd Guangdong Youth Federation	Completed	Media briefings on 14 January and 17 February 2011 in Hong Kong were arranged by CreateHK. Publicity was handled by existing staff using existing resources.
The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS)	It aims at providing R&D funding for technological projects conducted jointly between Hong Kong and Guangdong and also Hong Kong and Shenzhen, enhancing collaboration among universities, research institutions and industries in both places, and upgrading the technology level of industries in the Greater Pearl River Delta region. The Scheme is set out in Chapter 4 of the	A total of 42 TCFS projects were approved during 2009-10 to 2011-12 with a funding of about \$151 million from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF).	Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, and the Science, Industry, Trade and Information Technology Commission of Shenzhen Municipality	The Funding Scheme, introduced for the Guangdong-Hong Kong segment in 2004 and for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong segment in 2007, accepts applications every year.	The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) announces the Scheme's application arrangements every year. Funding amounts approved by the ITC for projects are uploaded to the ITC website.

	Framework Agreement.				
Pilot applications of mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (Pilot Applications)	The Pilot Applications is a trade facilitation measure for early and pilot implementation in Guangdong under CEPA. The objective is to enhance cross-boundary e-business environment. It is also one of the measures under the Framework Agreement to enhance e-business environment.	In 2009-10, \$25,000 was paid on Hong Kong's share of the development and maintenance cost of a dedicated website for the Pilot Applications.	The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province (GDEI)	In April 2010, the application procedure for projects under the Pilot Applications was announced.	The application procedure and the URL of the dedicated website for the Pilot Applications were announced in April 2010 on the website of OGCIO whose existing resources are deployed to meet the requirements.
Study on the framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (the Study)	The Study will conclude the experience of the Pilot Applications covered in the Framework Agreement and will draw up recommendations for formulating a framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong, so as to promote secure cross-boundary e-business.	In 2011-12, a consultant has been engaged to commence the Study at a cost of \$1,429,000.	MIIT and GDEI	The Study is scheduled for completion in March 2012	The Advisory Committee on Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (ACCOP) has been briefed on the progress of the Study. Upon completion of the Study, ACCOP and the industry will be consulted again.
The 4 th , 5 th and 6 th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summits (Summits)	These annual Summits aim to expedite the co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong. One of the objectives of the Framework Agreement is to encourage the industry to gradually align industry standards on RFID.	A sponsorship of \$80,000 was provided in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and a sponsorship of \$100,000 was provided in 2011-12.	GDEI and the Guangdong RFID Technology Service Center (GDRC)	These 3 Summits were held in September 2009, September 2010 and September 2011 respectively.	These Summits were open to the public. Details were announced by GDRC and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) prior to the Summits. Other than the sponsorship, no manpower or other expenditure was involved.
To reduce the Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile roaming service charges	The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) of Hong Kong and the Mainland authorities proactively study feasible options for lowering the cross-border communication tariffs so as to reduce the Guangdong/Hong Kong mobile roaming service charges with a view to facilitating the development of cross-border	No additional resources was involved	MIIT, Guangdong Communications Authority	In a meeting held in Guangzhou in August 2010, the Mainland and Hong Kong authorities agreed to encourage operators in both places to promote the "single-card-multiple-numbers service" as a substitute for cross-border mobile roaming service. The Mainland and Hong Kong authorities held a meeting again in Guangzhou in	Operators in Guangdong and Hong Kong have joined hands as business partners to introduce various "single-card-multiple-numbers services". Thus, no separate announcement is needed. The telecommunications regulatory bodies in the Mainland and Hong Kong will continue to closely monitor market developments.

	communications services between Guangdong and Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement.			September 2011 to exchange latest information on the cross-border mobile service charges imposed by operators in both places.	
Co-operative arrangement on establishing a contingency notification mechanism on major faults of the Guangdong-Hong Kong cross-border telecommunications networks	To strengthen co-operation in areas relating to contingency handling of major faults of the cross-border telecommunications networks (i.e. the major public telecommunications land cable transmission channels connecting Guangdong and Hong Kong as well as the telecommunications business carried by them) by establishing a mutual notification mechanism for speedy and effective message exchanges to enhance the contingency capabilities of dealing with emergencies so as to ensure the reliability and safety of the telecommunications networks between Guangdong and Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement	Guangdong and Hong Kong each bore their own operating costs with existing resources. No additional expenditure was involved.	MIIT, Guangdong Communications Authority	Completed. (OFTA of Hong Kong and the Guangdong Communications Authority signed the co-operative arrangement at the 14 th Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held on 23 August 2011.)	The contents of the document have been made public by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.
Industry exchange	To participate in Guangdong-Hong Kong telecommunications industry seminars held by the telecommunications industry every year. Through business and regulatory exchanges/briefings between representatives of the telecommunications industry and industry regulatory bodies of both places, opportunities for business expansion for Hong Kong businessmen in Guangdong will be increased.	No additional resource will be involved.	Guangdong Communications Authority	To continue on a regular basis.	Not applicable

	The project augments the Framework Agreement.				
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(b) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2012-13 already known are as follows:

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?
The second Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Film Festival	The project serves as a continuing effort to consolidate the established market as well as other local markets on the Mainland for Cantonese films so as to explore more opportunities for independent producers and small-to-medium budget films. Activities include free public screenings in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, a seminar on the topic "Film and Multi-media Cross-Platform Collaboration", business matching events and a closing ceremony. The project augments the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement).	\$489,825	Radio, Film & TV Administration of Guangdong Province Pearl River Film Group Co. Ltd Guangdong Youth Federation	Under planning, scheduled for completion in late May 2012	A media briefing in Hong Kong will be arranged by CreateHK in early April 2012. Details will be finalised with the Mainland organisations. Publicity will be handled by existing staff using existing resources
The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS)	It aims at providing R&D funding for technological projects conducted jointly between Hong Kong and Guangdong and also Hong Kong and Shenzhen, enhancing collaboration among universities, research institutions and industry in both places,	It is estimated that 15 TCFS projects will be approved in 2012-13 with an ITF funding of about \$50 million.	Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, and the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Committee	To be confirmed.	ITC will announce the Scheme's application arrangements for 2012 in the middle of this year.

	and upgrading the technology level of industry in the Greater Pearl River Delta region. The Scheme is set out in Chapter 4 of the Framework Agreement.				
Promoting the application of the “Mutual Recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (Mutual Recognition)”	The initiative aims to promote wider application of the Mutual Recognition as a facet of work under the Framework Agreement.	\$1 million is earmarked.	MIIT and GDEI	Commencement expected in the third quarter of 2012-13 after the Mutual Recognition becomes a standing arrangement.	Public announcement pending as Mutual Recognition has yet to become a standing arrangement.
The 7th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summit (Summit)	The Summit aims to expedite the co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong. The Summit is related to the Framework Agreement.	\$100,000 is earmarked for sponsoring the Summit.	GDEI and GDRC	The Summit is scheduled for September 2012.	The Summit will be open to the public. Details will be announced by GDRC and LSCM prior to the Summit. Other than the sponsorship, no manpower or other expenditure will be involved.
To develop a data service trial area in Nansha	To implement the National 12 th Five-Year Plan, the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta and the Framework Agreement, to promote Nansha New District as an important infrastructure platform for strengthening co-operation between Guangzhou and Hong Kong, to develop a demonstration zone for implementation of CEPA and its early and pilot implementation measures as well as to realise the complementary development between Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	No additional resource will be involved.	Guangzhou Municipal Government	The Guangzhou Municipal Government and the HKSAR Governemnt held the “First Meeting of the Hong Kong/Guangzhou Expert Group on Co-operation” in Nansha in December 2011. Both sides will continue to explore and exchange views on the development of the project.	Not applicable.

(c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, we have engaged in collaboration with Mainland broadcasters over the years. For instance, Radio Television Hong Kong

(RTHK) has collaborated with Guangdong Radio, Guangdong Television, Radio Foshan and Radio Shanghai in radio and television programme productions to add to the types and substances of the programmes. Such collaboration usually takes the form of simulcast or exchange of programmes with the partner broadcaster but does not involve payments between them. Besides, in November 2011, DAB Channel 32 of RTHK soft-launched the China National Radio (Hong Kong Edition) programmes especially designed for Hong Kong audience. RTHK is also discussing with relevant Mainland broadcasters over airing national television programmes in future.

Name in block letters	<u>Ms Elizabeth TSE</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)</u>
Date	<u>1.3.2012</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)007

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1912

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: With regard to the work of promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital, especially through the organisation of the "Hong Kong Design Year" in 2012, please inform us:

- (a) of the arrangements concerned;
- (b) of the specific details of the expenditure involved; and
- (c) of the results expected to be achieved by the activities concerned.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply:
- (a) "Hong Kong Design Year" (HKDY) is sponsored by CreateHK and Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) coordinates the overall publicity. HKDY is organised with a view to showcasing Hong Kong's strength as a regional design hub, fostering the community's interest in design and celebrating design excellence. Some 40 design-related events to be held by different bodies have been confirmed as part of the HKDY programme, with some others still being considered.
 - (b) The Government has earmarked around \$9 million to provide sponsorship to HKDC for organising and promoting HKDY. Besides, CreateHK will also fund some HKDY events through CreateSmart Initiative in accordance with the established procedures. CreateHK's financial commitment in this respect is estimated to be no less than \$60 million.
 - (c) By bringing the mega design events under the brand of HKDY, the design sector of Hong Kong can make best use of the platform to promote the vibrant and multi-faceted design ecologies in Hong Kong; foster the community's awareness of design; focus media and public attention on the local design talent and achievements; and draw international design icons, masters and elites to come to Hong Kong for collaboration and exchange.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)008

Question Serial No.

1913

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: With regard to the establishment of the Communications Authority and the Office of the
Communications Authority, please inform us:

- (a) of the arrangements and schedule concerned;
- (b) of the specific details of the expenditure for which funds have been earmarked for such
arrangements.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply:
- (a) On 1 April 2012, we will establish the Communications Authority (CA) as a unified
regulator for the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors so as to provide more
effective regulation of these two converging sectors. The CA will discharge the
functions transferred from the Broadcasting Authority and the Telecommunications
Authority. We will, on the same day, set up the Office of the Communications
Authority (OFCA) which serves as the executive arm of the CA and supports the CA in
the discharge of its statutory functions effectively.
 - (b) The OFCA will be a government department that operates as a trading fund. The
expenditure involved in the establishment of the CA and OFCA will be met by the
OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)009

Question Serial No.

0918

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: No application was received in connection with the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) in both 2010 and 2011. Is it in line with the goal of setting up the FGF? Has the effectiveness of the FGF been reviewed?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) is set up with the main purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we have reviewed its operation and effectiveness and conducted a questionnaire survey among 72 participating institutions/parties and local film companies/organisations, including (a) major industry organisations/bodies, (b) participating lending institutions, (c) parties who have considered or are considering making an application for loan guarantee, and (d) parties who have applied for financing under the Film Development Fund Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme). A total of 38 completed questionnaires were returned to us. The response rate was around 53%.

From the feedback received, we have drawn three main conclusions: (a) most industry members are aware of the FGF to a certain extent, (b) there is a general consensus in the industry that the FGF is effective in assisting local film production companies in seeking film financing, and (c) the majority view in the industry favours or does not oppose the continued operation of the FGF using the existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the industry, we believe the status quo should be maintained, i.e. allowing the FGF to serve as an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme for the local film industry. The review report was submitted to and accepted by the Film Development Council in September 2011. We will keep in view the industry's demand for the FGF and listen to their views.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)011

Question Serial No.

1461

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Why does the Bureau add six non-directorate posts and one directorate post in 2012-13? What are the ranks of these posts and the emoluments involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply: The Communications and Technology Branch plans to add one directorate post and six non-directorate posts in 2012-13. The directorate post is a Senior Principal Executive Officer (SPEO) meant for supporting the Head of CreateHK. The non-directorate posts include one post each of Executive Officer I, Trade Officer, Personal Secretary I, Personal Secretary II and Assistant Clerical Officer, which are meant for supporting the CreateHK office, and one post of Executive Officer II which is to provide administrative support. The total full-year emolument of these posts is around \$3.464 million. On 13 February 2012, we consulted the LegCo panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the proposed creation of the SPEO post.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)012

Question Serial No.

1462

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead 000
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau Operational
(Communications and Expenses
Technology Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding operational expenses, the estimate for 2012-13 represents a substantial increase of 30.9% over the revised estimate for 2011-12. According to the Bureau, such an increase is partly due to the increased provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board. What is the amount of the additional provision involved and why is this?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply: Regarding operational expenses, the estimate for 2012-13 represents an increase of 30.9% (\$35.78 million) over the revised estimate for 2011-12. This is mainly due to an increase of \$3.464 million in the financial provision for salaries arising from the creation of new posts, and the need to take forward ongoing and new initiatives envisaged under our policy area. After studying proposals submitted by the Communications and Technology Branch and departments under its purview, we will decide on what new initiatives to pursue and the allocation of funds. Besides, the financial provision required by the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board is expected to increase by \$0.8 million because of the need to process appeals that enter the hearing stage.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)013

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Question Serial No.

1463

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Film Development Fund, why does the number of applications for funding other film-related projects received and processed drop sharply from 25 in 2010 to 14 in 2011 and why is the number of such applications in 2012 estimated to be just 14?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply: The number of applications for funding other film-related projects received and processed by the Film Development Fund (the Fund) dropped from 25 in 2010 to 14 in 2011 mainly because:

- (a) The number of applications for funding support to participate in international film exhibitions fell from 11 in 2010 to 6 in 2011. The number of such applications depends on whether Hong Kong films are featured in such film exhibitions in a particular year and whether the filmmakers concerned wish to apply to the Fund for funding support to join the exhibitions.
- (b) In 2010, among the applications received were 3 applications for funding support to hold competitions. They were rejected as they did not meet the funding criteria. The organisations concerned did not make similar applications to the Fund again in 2011.

As regards the number of applications expected each year, we make an estimate on the basis of the actual number of applications received in the year before. Our estimate for 2012 is in the region of 14 applications, similar to the number in 2011.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)014

Question Serial No.

2778

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Administration will continue to oversee the launch of digital audio broadcasting services and monitor the implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting services. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the relevant work plan and expenditure estimates.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye Miriam

Reply: For digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services, following the grant of sound broadcasting licences by the Government in March 2011, the three licensees and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) have jointly prepared for the launch of service, with considerable progress made. The DAB Steering Committee, set up by the Government and comprising representatives from the three licensees and RTHK, has been monitoring the progress of service launch and construction of transmission network as well as devising promotion strategies. The three licensees and RTHK began soft launch of service in phases since August 2011, and formal launch of service since the first quarter of this year. In 2012-13, the three licensees and RTHK will formally launch their service in full, providing a total of 18 DAB channels. We will, with existing resources, continue to monitor the progress of service rollout and DAB coverage, and co-ordinate publicity and promotion efforts to enhance public awareness of DAB service.

As regards digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services, the two existing domestic free television programme service licensees have completed construction of 29 DTT transmission stations, extending coverage to 96% of the population across 18 districts in Hong Kong. The take-up rate has kept growing steadily as more viewers switch to DTT service. A public opinion survey conducted in December 2011 shows that about 68% of households have access to DTT service through various means. In 2012-13, we will continue to monitor the optimisation of network coverage by the two licensees with existing resources.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)015

Question Serial No.

1984

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 133 of the Budget Speech that with 2012 designated as Hong Kong Design Year (HKDY), the Administration will promote Hong Kong design under the brand of HKDY. As of now, HKDY features only one activity relating to architectural or urban design, which is known as “Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2011”. Will there be other activities (such as exhibitions or open competitions, etc) to foster the community’s awareness of urban and architectural design and to promote the works of Hong Kong architects and urban designers to the Mainland and overseas countries?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply: The \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) administered by CreateHK provides financial support to creative sectors, including architecture, to launch projects conducive to the development of creative industries. As far as architecture is concerned, besides Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2011, CSI sponsored the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) to develop a teaching kit for the appreciation of architecture in secondary school curriculum to cultivate knowledge and interest in architecture among secondary school students. The teaching kit is expected to be available in the second half of 2012. In addition, CreateHK is in discussion with the HKIA over participation in Venice Architecture Biennale 2012.

At the same time, various design-related projects funded by CreateHK feature elements of architecture. Examples include the annual design mega event “Business of Design Week” and “Reinventing with Design” (renamed as “Knowledge of Design Week”), during which renowned overseas architects are invited to Hong Kong for exchanges with their local counterparts. Besides, CreateHK is studying with various organisations the promotion of the works of local architects in the Mainland to help them develop the Mainland market.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)016

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2649

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2011-12, what were the manpower and expenditure involved in considering how to follow up on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance? What is the progress at present? In 2012-13, what is the amount of funding earmarked for further studying how to follow up on the review exercise? Has a timeframe been set concerning when the study is expected to be completed? When will the second round of public consultation be carried out?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau is responsible for the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). As the work is undertaken by the staff concerned as part of their regular duties, we do not have a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved. The Government plans to conduct the second round of public consultation on the COIAO this year. The expenditure of the review will be met by the existing financial provision of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)017

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2663

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, has the Government earmarked funds for the purpose of studying options for opening up the airwaves and if so, how much? Please list the estimated expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: We have not set aside separate financial provision for the formulation of policy on radio spectrum used for broadcasting purposes, which is part of our regular duties.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)018

Question Serial No.

2664

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the amount of funding earmarked by the Government for the establishment of the Communications Authority and the Office of the Communications Authority in 2012-13? What is the timetable concerning their establishment? When will the Government begin to rationalise the Telecommunications Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance? What is the estimated time required for completing the task?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: On 1 April 2012, we will establish the Communications Authority (CA) as a unified regulator for the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors so as to provide more effective regulation of these two converging sectors. The CA will discharge the functions transferred from the Broadcasting Authority and the Telecommunications Authority. We will, on the same day, set up the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) which serves as the executive arm of the CA and supports the CA in the discharge of its statutory functions effectively.

After the establishment of the CA, we will give priority to the review of the Telecommunications Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance. The review schedule is subject to the work plan to be devised jointly with the CA after its establishment.

The OFCA will be a government department that operates on trading fund. The expenditure involved in the establishment of the CA and OFCA will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)019

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2665

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the amount of expenditure involved in the study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services in 2011-12 and what are the findings of the study? In the coming year, will the Government take corresponding measures in the light of such findings and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The consultancy study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services was completed in January 2012. A number of recommendations on various telecommunications regulatory issues have been made by the consultant, including interconnection, standards for network interoperability, connection standards for in-building telecommunications systems and network security, etc. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) briefed its Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee on the recommendations of the consultant on 13 January 2012, and has arranged to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council in March 2012. The expenditure of the consultancy study and the manpower arrangement involved in following up on the study are met by the OFTA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)020

Question Serial No.

0112

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: With 2012 designated as Hong Kong Design Year (HKDY), what publicity programmes will be conducted by the Administration to promote the events concerned locally and abroad and create a vibrant atmosphere in Hong Kong? Please state the specific details of the projects funded under HKDY, including the organisations involved, the project titles, the details of the projects and the amount of grants.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply: Publicity for “Hong Kong Design Year” (HKDY) is co-ordinated by Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC). During the Business of Design Week held in December 2011, HKDC informed designers and interested parties from all over the world of HKDY. In January 2012, a dedicated website was launched for HKDY, followed by promotion of HKDY in the printed media at home and abroad in February 2012. In March, HKDC will stage activities at local shopping arcades to inform the public of HKDY. Between the second and fourth quarter of 2012, when individual HKDY events are held, HKDC will continue the promotion online, in the printed media and by way of outdoor advertising. Also, through journals and newspapers as well as the overseas offices of HKSAR Government, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Tourism Board, we will promote in the Mainland and overseas markets Hong Kong’s edge as Asia’s design hub. Organisers of the HKDY events will also launch their own publicity campaigns to encourage their sectors and/or the public to participate.

To date, some 40 design-related events have been confirmed as part of the HKDY programme, with some others still being considered. Among the confirmed events, CreateHK will provide funding to the following events:

Event Title	Date	Details	Organiser	CreateHK Funding (\$ million)
Fashion Visionaries	November 2011 to March 2012	By showing the iconic works of Hong Kong fashion designers, film art directors and fashion designers amongst others, this	Co-organised by Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association and	5.153

		exhibition explores the history and development of Hong Kong's fashion design industry. A series of fashion shows and educational activities will also be held during the exhibition period.	Hong Kong Heritage Museum	
“Toys Paradise – Creativity and Toy Culture of Hong Kong” Toy Museum Showcase	December 2011 to March 2012	Featuring around 800 pieces of toys made in Hong Kong, this exhibition displays toys from the past few decades to the toys of today as well as creative works from local students and local/overseas artists. Students will also be able to participate in a series of activities to inspire their creative skills.	Co-organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Toys Council and The Toys Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong	2.798
MAD 2012	January 2012	The 3-day youth forum includes talks, chatrooms and workshops on creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and self-discovery.	Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture	3.629
Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2011	February to April 2012	This event includes exhibitions and a series of programmes and community activities such as performances, film shows, forums, seminars and workshops to arouse public interest in the art, design, architecture and urban planning of Hong Kong as well as to facilitate cultural exchange between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.	Co-organised by Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners and Hong Kong Designers Association	5.493
Second Greater China Illustration Awards	February to October 2012	The Awards aim to push the standards of the illustration industry and establish an exchange platform for illustrators in the Greater China region. Roving exhibitions of shortlisted	Co-organised by Hong Kong Society of Illustrators, Taiwan Comic & Animation Culture and	1.596

		entries will be held in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Taiwan.	Creative Industry of International Development Exchange Association, Shenzhen Illustration Association and Macau Designers Association	
HKDA Global Design Awards 2011 presentation ceremony cum exhibition	March 2012	In honour of design excellence, the 2011 edition of the Awards marks the first call for entries from around the world.	Hong Kong Designers Association	3.247
EcoChic Design Award – Hong Kong 2012	March to August 2012	The EcoChic Design Award is a fashion design competition that emphasises up-cycling, reconstruction, and zero-waste design techniques. Apart from the EcoChic Design Academy to be held in March, exhibitions showcasing the EcoChic collections admitted to the semi-final and final round will be held from April to May and from July to August respectively.	Redress	1.165
“Tian Tian Xiang Shang” Creativity-For-Community and School Development Programme 2012	April to November 2012	The Programme inspires creativity among members of the creative industries, schools, communities and the general public. Through sculpture creations, creative workshops, exhibitions, school programmes and public arts sessions, the Programme aims to develop a platform for interactions among different parties.	Zuni Icosahedron	4.562
Colours of Asia	October to December	Members of the Design Alliance Asia Limited from 13	Co-organised by Hong Kong	4.296

	2012	Asian countries/regions will conduct research on the symbolic meaning of different colours in their cultures. The study outcomes, together with creative designs from these countries/regions, will be showcased in an exhibition. Educational activities will also be held concurrently to promote discussion on the topic.	Design Institute and the Design Alliance Asia Limited	
“Y2K x Design” television programme	October 2012 to January 2013	Jointly produced by Hong Kong Design Centre and the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong, the 13-episode TV drama series is about the daily life and career development of young designers. The TV Programme aims at enhancing public awareness of design and recognising the contribution by the young designers towards society.	Brainchild of Hong Kong Design Centre	5.210

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)021

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0445

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: When at the earliest can the processing of the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences be completed with the results announced? What is the present progress? Have difficulties or obstacles been encountered? If so, what are the details? Why is it taking so long to complete the processing?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: The Government is processing the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences. The outcome will be announced after the Chief Executive in Council makes a decision. The processing of these applications involves complicated policy, technical and legal issues, and the outcome of which will have profound impact on the free television programme service market. The relevant authorities have been processing the applications expeditiously and prudently in accordance with statutory requirements and established procedures.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)022

Question Serial No.

0446

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Will the Administration introduce new measures to facilitate the landing of new submarine cables in Hong Kong? If so, what are the details as well as the cost and manpower involved for each of the measures and if not, why? In 2012-13, how many new submarine cables are expected to be landed in Hong Kong and where are they located?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: To assist and facilitate interested parties in landing new submarine cable systems in Hong Kong, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) has since April 2010 introduced a series of measures, including the launch of a thematic web portal on the subject as well as the provision of single-point contact services. The expenditure of such facilitative measures has been met by the OFTA Trading Fund.

With the implementation of the facilitative measures, two submarine cable operators have made use of the single-point contact services provided by OFTA and applied to the relevant government departments and organisations in mid-2011 for the necessary statutory approvals related to the landing of two new submarine cable systems in Hong Kong, namely Asia Submarine-Cable Express (ASE) and Southeast Asia Japan Cable (SJC).

The ASE, with a design capacity of about 15 terabits per second (Tbps), will be ready and connect Hong Kong with Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines by the end of 2012. Connection with Mainland China and other Southeast Asian countries may follow later. The SJC, with an initial design capacity of over 15 Tbps, is expected to be ready in the second half of 2013 and will link Hong Kong to Brunei, the Mainland, Japan, the Philippines and Singapore, and may be further extended to Indonesia and Thailand. OFTA has set up a working group with other relevant government departments to facilitate the landing of these two cable systems in Hong Kong. With the concerted effort of various parties and applications for necessary statutory approvals processed in a timely manner, satisfactory progress has been made in the matter.

We will review the effectiveness of the existing measures from time to time in the light of experience and feedback from applicants so as to further improve the application mechanism.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)023

Question Serial No.

0447

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the expenditure required for the consultancy study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services? What is the present progress? When at the earliest can the study be completed with the outcome announced? Upon completion of the study, how will the Administration follow up and what is the necessary manpower arrangement?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: The consultancy study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services was completed in January 2012. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) briefed its Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee on the recommendations of the consultant on 13 January 2012, and has arranged to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council in March 2012. The expenditure of the consultancy study and the manpower arrangement involved in following up on the study will be met by the OFTA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)024

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead 000 Operational
Commerce and Economic (No. & title): expenses
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Question Serial No.

0448

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The relevant provision is an increase of 30.9% over the revised estimates for 2011-12 and this is mainly due to the creation of new posts and increased provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board. In this connection:

- (a) What are the posts created and what are the ranks and salaries involved?
- (b) Regarding the expenditure of the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board, what are the estimate for 2012-13 and the revised estimate for 2011-12, and what are the reasons for the increased provision and its details?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) plans to add seven posts in 2012-13. These include one post each of Senior Principal Executive Officer, Executive Officer I, Executive Officer II, Trade Officer, Personal Secretary I, Personal Secretary II and Assistant Clerical Officer. The total full-year emolument of these posts is around \$3.464 million.
 - (b) Regarding the expenditure of the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board, the estimate for 2012-13 and the revised estimate for 2011-12 are \$1.7 million and \$0.9 million respectively. The reason for increasing the financial provision is that some appeal cases are expected to enter the hearing stage in 2012-13. In addition to (a) and (b), the increased financial provision for CTB is also meant for taking forward ongoing and new initiatives envisaged under our policy area. For the new initiatives, we will decide on how to allocate the additional funds after considering proposals submitted by departments under CTB.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)025

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Question Serial No.

1787

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please inform the Committee of the numbers of applications received, rejected and approved as well as the amount of funding granted in connection with the following items for the past two years:

- (a) DesignSmart Initiative
- (b) Film Development Fund
- (c) CreateSmart Initiative
- (d) Hong Kong Design Centre

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Create Hong Kong office administers the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI), the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the Createsmart Initiative (CSI). The table below sets out the aggregate figures with regard to the number of applications and the amount of funding granted in respect of these items in 2010 and 2011.

Funding scheme title	Number of applications received	Number of applications rejected *	Number of applications approved *	Amount of funding granted * (HK\$ million)
DesignSmart Initiative (Note)	166	51	106	43.95
FDF Scheme for Financing Film Production	24	5	11	38.30
FDF Scheme for Funding Other Film-Related Projects	39	10	29	54.91
CreateSmart Initiative	137	42	63	131.29

* The figures do not cover applications withdrawn by applicants.

Note: To rationalise funding support for the creative sector and achieve better co-ordination in the use of resources, the DSI and the CSI began phased consolidation on 1 June 2011. With effect from 1 June 2011, design projects (except those covered by the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme and the Design Incubation Programme) that meet the prevailing eligibility and assessment criteria of the CSI may seek funding support from the CSI.

The DSI also includes the Design Incubation Programme (DIP) run by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation. With the aim of nurturing design start-ups, the DIP provides each incubatee with funding support of up to \$500,000 in the form of special rental package and various types of financial assistance within the two-year incubation period. In 2010 and 2011, 21 design start-ups were admitted as incubatees each year.

As Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) is not a funding scheme, no figures on application are available in connection with HKDC.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)026

Question Serial No.

1622

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the amounts of financial and manpower resources that will be earmarked for promoting the development of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: Of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) and the departments under its purview are tasked to promote the development of three of them, namely the creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification.

Creative Industries

CTB has set up a dedicated office known as Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) and the \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative as well as the \$320 million Film Development Fund to support projects that are conducive to the development of the creative industries. Besides, we will seek \$133.75 million from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to support the work of Hong Kong Design Centre and to provide part of the funding required for implementing a new round of the Design Incubation Programme so as to promote the local design industry and nurture design start-ups.

In 2012-13, the CreateHK office plans to increase manpower. As a result, there will be 68 posts (52 civil service posts and 16 non-civil service contract (NCSC) posts) to support the development of the creative industries. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$61.2 million.

Innovation and Technology

In 2012-13, there are 133 posts (90 civil service posts and 43 NCSC posts) in the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) responsible for formulating and implementing policies for promoting innovation and technology development as well as hardware and software. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$96 million. Besides, funding support will be provided for applied science-related research projects through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) with expenditure estimated at about \$780 million. Also, recurrent subvention of about \$310 million will be provided to Hong Kong Productivity Council and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited.

Testing and Certification

In 2012-13, there are 101 posts (100 civil service posts and 1 NCSC post) in ITC responsible for assisting in carrying out the three-year industry development plan of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification and promoting the development of the local testing and certification industry. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$99.3 million. Besides, the ITF will make available some \$2.7 million to support 4 approved research and development projects which are related to testing and certification.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)027

Question Serial No.

1628

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The community's response to the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) has remained lukewarm for a long time. Last year, the number of applications received and processed was zero while that of projects funded and being monitored was one. Such numbers are estimated to be just one and two for this year. Will the Administration redeploy the financial and manpower resources to review and improve the mechanism so as to encourage more people to make use of FGF? If so, what are the details? If not, why not

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) is set up with the main purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we have reviewed its operation and effectiveness and conducted a questionnaire survey among 72 participating institutions/parties and local film companies/organisations, including (a) major industry organisations/bodies, (b) participating lending institutions, (c) parties who have considered or are considering making an application for loan guarantee, and (d) parties who have applied for financing under the Film Development Fund Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme). A total of 38 completed questionnaires were returned to us. The response rate was around 53%.

From the feedback received, we have drawn three main conclusions: (a) most industry members are aware of the FGF to a certain extent, (b) there is a general consensus in the industry that the FGF is effective in assisting local film production companies in seeking film financing, and (c) the majority view in the industry favours or does not oppose the continued operation of the FGF using the existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the industry, we believe the status quo should be maintained, i.e. allowing the FGF to serve as an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme for the local film industry. The review report was submitted to and accepted by the Film Development Council in September 2011. We will keep in view the industry's demand for the FGF and listen to their views.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)028

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat :
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1629

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Administration states that it will continue to examine the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading in Hong Kong. What specific tasks as well as financial and manpower resources are involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The Spectrum Policy Framework published in 2007 points out that our policy inclination is to introduce spectrum trading in Hong Kong in the long term, subject to a feasibility study and resolution of various implementation issues.

In 2009, we commissioned a consultancy study on the feasibility of making such an introduction. The consultancy report was completed in late 2010. We are now studying the report carefully. In the light of overseas experience, we know that the trading of spectrum for mobile communications is in general inactive. We believe that to get more spectrum, operators would prefer licence transfer to spectrum trading. To map out the way forward, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) plans to get into touch with industry members shortly to gauge their views on the introduction of spectrum trading.

The expenditure incurred will be met by the OFTA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)029

Question Serial No.

1630

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Administration states that it will oversee and complete the consultancy study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services for mapping out the way forward. What specific tasks as well as financial and manpower resources are involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The consultancy study on the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services was completed in January 2012. A number of recommendations on various telecommunications regulatory issues have been made by the consultant, including interconnection, standards for network interoperability, connection standards for in-building telecommunications systems and network security, etc. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) briefed its Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee on the recommendations of the consultant on 13 January 2012, and has arranged to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council in March 2012. The expenditure of the consultancy study and the manpower arrangement involved in following up on the study are met by the OFTA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)030

Question Serial No.

2491

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: After the application form for the Film Development Fund is simplified, will the Administration increase its estimates of the number of applications and the amount of funds granted in the following year? If so, please elaborate. If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: Having consulted members of the film industry and with the support of the Legislative Council, the Government introduced at the end of March 2010 a series of measures to improve the Film Development Fund Scheme for Financing Film Production (“the Scheme”) so that the Scheme can better cater to the needs of the industry. Such measures include raising the upper limit of the production budget of a film project eligible for Government financing from \$12 million to \$15 million, raising the upper limit of government funding for each approved film project from 30% to 40% of the film budget and improving the application form, etc. Since the launch of the improvement measures and up to the end of December 2011, we have received a total of 24 applications for film financing or an average of 12 applications per year, which is higher than the total number of 8 applications received in the whole of 2009. This shows that the improvement measures have been instrumental in promoting film production as well as the use of the Film Development Fund.

We anticipate that the number of applications in 2012 will be similar to that in the past two years. Regarding the amount of government funding involved, we are unable to estimate at this stage the specific amount of funds that the applications will involve as this will depend on the amount sought by each applicant. Under the existing Scheme, the maximum amount of government funding for each approved film project is \$6 million.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE

Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development

Post Title (Communications and Technology)

Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)031

Question Serial No.

2492

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Concerning the Film Guarantee Fund, there have been very few applications. No application was received in both 2010 and 2011, and it is estimated there will just be one application in 2012. What expenditure will the application involve? Why is the number of applications to the Fund small? Does the Administration plan to improve the terms and conditions of the applications or other policies so as to encourage applications from the industry?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) is set up with the main purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

The Government launched the Film Development Fund Scheme for Financing Film Production (“the Finance Scheme”) in 2007 and introduced a series of measures to improve the Finance Scheme in end-March 2010. We note that since the launch of the improvement measures, there has been a marked increase in the number of applications in connection with the Finance Scheme, whereas the number of enquiries relating to application to the FGF has dropped noticeably. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the Finance Scheme for film financing since its launch, resulting in the decrease in demand for the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we have reviewed its operation and effectiveness, and conducted a survey among 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. Results of the survey show that the trade generally finds the FGF useful for assisting local film production companies in seeking film financing, and agrees that the FGF should continue its operation in the existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we believe the status quo should be maintained, i.e. allowing the FGF to serve as an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme for the local film industry. The review report was submitted to and accepted by the Film Development Council in September 2011. We will keep in view the trade’s demand for the FGF and listen to their views. We will also offer advice and assistance to those who are interested in applying for loan guarantee.

The single application for 2012 stated in the Controlling Officer's Report is just an estimate, and we are unable, for the time being, to estimate the specific amount of expenditure that the

application will involve. According to the rules and conditions in respect of the FGF Scheme, the maximum loan guarantee provided by the FGF for each application is \$2,625,000.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)032

Question Serial No.

0947

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Commerce and Economic (No. & title):
Development Bureau
(Communications and
Technology Branch)

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: No application has been received and processed in connection with the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) since 2009. The Administration stated when examining the Estimates of Expenditure last year that it would review the operation of the scheme to examine whether it should be retained. What is the outcome of the review?

Some members of the industry reflected that the procedures of making applications to the FGF is too complicated and the vetting criteria too stringent. Will the Administration adjust the commitment and relax the vetting criteria?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) is set up with the main purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we have reviewed its operation and effectiveness and conducted a questionnaire survey among 72 participating institutions/parties and local film companies/organisations, including (a) major industry organisations/bodies, (b) participating lending institutions, (c) parties who have considered or are considering making an application for loan guarantee, and (d) parties who have applied for financing under the Film Development Fund Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme). A total of 38 completed questionnaires were returned to us. The response rate was around 53%.

From the feedback received, we have drawn three main conclusions: (a) most industry members are aware of the FGF to a certain extent, (b) there is a general consensus in the industry that the FGF is effective in assisting local film production companies in seeking film financing, and (c) the majority view in the industry favours or does not oppose the continued operation of the FGF using the existing mode. Among the respondents, four consider the maximum loan amount too low and one considers the application procedures too complicated.

In the light of the feedback from the industry, we believe the status quo should be maintained, i.e. allowing the FGF to serve as an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme for the local film industry. The review report was submitted to and accepted by the Film Development Council in September 2011. We will keep in view the industry's demand for the FGF and listen to their views. We will also offer advice and assistance to those who are interested in applying for loan guarantee.

Name in block letters Ms Elizabeth TSE
Permanent Secretary for Commerce
and Economic Development
Post Title (Communications and Technology)
Date 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)033

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2040

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Since the Government set up 5 Research and Development (R&D) Centres in April 2006, how much expenditure has been incurred for their respective R&D projects and what is the total number of successful R&D projects involved? Please specify the details. Besides, how many successful R&D projects have been brought to the market for application and production?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply: Between April 2006 and December 2011, the 5 R&D Centres conducted 429 R&D projects involving about \$2.25 b of Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) funding, of which 258 projects have been completed. The R&D Centres will actively engage in promoting commercialisation of the R&D results. The relevant statistics are as follows:

	ITF funding (in \$b)	No. of R&D projects	No. of completed projects
R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI)	1.54	217	158
Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS)	0.14	53	34
Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM)	0.21	32	7
Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)	0.18	63	24
Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRTIA)	0.18	64	35
	2.25	429	258

We report regularly the progress of the R&D Centres to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry (C&I Panel). In the paper submitted to the C&I Panel in December 2011, we outlined the Centres' commercialisation efforts in over 25 projects. For example, ASTRI has signed licence agreements with various organisations in Hong Kong and the Mainland for using its LED based intelligent outdoor lighting system, which has subsequently been installed in several Mainland cities and for trial in the local public sector (e.g. the Hong Kong Science Park, public housing estates under the Housing Department, etc.); APAS issued technology licence to a local manufacturer last year regarding its long vehicle wireless backup monitor system; and NAMI has installed its high efficiency amorphous silicon solar cell demonstration system at the Tseung Kwan O Hospital for functional testing in late 2011. Please refer to Annex to LC Paper No. CB(1)624/11-12(05) for details.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)034

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2041

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme introduced in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture, would the Government inform us of the number of successful applications approved so far, the details of the relevant R&D projects and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply: The Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme covers projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted by companies in partnership with designated local research institutions (Partnership projects).

As at end-January 2012, the Scheme has approved a total of 351 applications and \$10.62 m of rebate, benefiting 277 companies. Of these approved applications, 334 pertained to ITF projects while the remaining 17 are Partnership projects, covering various technology areas such as textiles and clothing, electronics, foundation industries, information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, environmental technology, etc. Since the launch of the Scheme, only 9 applications have been rejected. They all involve ITF projects which were approved before 1 April 2009 i.e. beyond the eligibility period and therefore do not meet the application requirements of the Scheme.

To enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme, we have raised the level of cash rebate from 10% to 30% with effect from 1 February 2012 to encourage more companies to participate in the Scheme.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)035

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

1917

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the enhancement of collaboration on research and development (R&D) between Hong Kong and Guangdong, please inform us:

- (a) of the arrangement of the scheme;
- (b) of the detailed expenditure;
- (c) how the effectiveness of the R&D collaboration scheme is evaluated.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply: (a) On Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation, Hong Kong has launched the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS) since 2004 and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme since 2007 with Guangdong and Shenzhen respectively to provide R&D funding for Guangdong-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-Hong Kong technology projects and encourage research personnel of the 2 places to carry out collaboration projects. The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will work with Guangdong and Shenzhen to select technological themes for the Schemes respectively by including R&D focus areas which are of interest to the industry, academic and research sectors of both places, with a view to attracting more applications. We will also set up a panel of experts to assess the funding applications.

The funding criteria of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) have also been relaxed since mid-2009 to allow project applicants under ITF to spend up to 50% of the total project funding outside Hong Kong, thereby providing greater flexibility for Hong Kong research personnel to carry out collaboration projects with their Mainland counterparts.

Furthermore, according to the 3-Year Action Plan under the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation Circle agreed upon by the Shenzhen and Hong Kong governments, 4 local universities have established their Industry, Education and Research Bases in High-Tech Zone, Nanshan District, Shenzhen with a view to further enhancing technological collaboration with the Mainland.

- (b) From 2009-10 to 2011-12, a total of 42 TCFS projects were approved with ITF funding of about \$151 m. In the financial year 2012-13, we estimate that TCFS will approve about 15 projects at an estimated funding of \$50 m.

- (c) The governments of Hong Kong, Guangdong Province and Shenzhen Municipality have been conducting regular review through the established co-operation mechanisms including the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Cooperation in Innovation and Technology and the Steering Group on Shenzhen/Hong Kong Co-operation in Innovation and Technology to ensure smooth technological co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong. These schemes can help promote the overall co-operation on the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and meet the needs of the industries in the region.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)036

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0923

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The financial provision for 2011-12 under this Programme fell by 15% from the original estimate of \$46.7 m to the revised estimate of \$39.7 m. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply: The revised estimate for 2011-12 under Programme (1) Support for Research and Development is \$7 m lower than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the fact that the rebate approved under the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme in the first 9 months of the current financial year was lower than expected. We therefore lowered the estimated expenditure for this area by \$6.9 m.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)037

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0924

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) administers the Patent Application Grant (PAG) Scheme, under which the funding ceiling for each case stands at \$150,000. Will the Administration review the funding ceiling taking into account various factors such as inflation?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply: The main objective of the PAG Scheme is to encourage local company and individual inventors who are first-time patent-seekers to capitalise their intellectual work through patent registration. In February 2010, ITC raised the maximum funding support under the Scheme from \$100,000 to \$150,000. We will review the funding arrangement and level of funding support under the Scheme from time to time.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)038

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0008

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated provision for 2012-13 under this Programme is \$35.9 m, which is 3.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12.

- (a) Please specify the provision used in 2011-12 for launching the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme to nurture young talents to become future leaders in innovation and technology as well as the outcome of the Scheme;
- (b) Please specify the resources used in 2011-12 for overseeing the operation of the Innovation and Technology Student Club which provides a sustainable and interactive platform to nurture young innovative talents as well as the results achieved; and
- (c) How will the Administration use the provision in 2012-13 to promote innovation and technology culture to the general public and nurture more young innovative talents?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: (a) In 2011-12, the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) provided funding support of around \$2.3 m for the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. The Scheme is also sponsored by a charitable fund to match the funding from ITF.

The Scheme sponsors outstanding science undergraduates of local universities to join the following activities:

- (i) Overseas Attachment Programme: awardees are supported to visit an overseas university for a short-term attachment in their related field of study;
- (ii) Local Internship Programme: awardees are arranged to work as an intern in a local technology enterprise, university or government department relevant to their field of study;
- (iii) Mentorship Programme: each awardee is assigned to a mentor, who is an outstanding personality in his/her related field of study, for guidance; and
- (iv) Service Project Programme: awardees are encouraged to contribute to the society with their knowledge of science by, for example, delivering educational activities to local primary and secondary school students to enhance their interest in innovation and technology.

In 2011-12, scholarships were awarded to 25 outstanding science undergraduates from local universities. The Scheme can nurture the awardees' passion for science and encourage them to pursue innovation and technology as a career, thus helping to foster an innovation and technology culture in the community.

- (b) In 2011-12, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) provided some \$0.6 m to support the operation of the Innovation and Technology Student Club (ITSC) administered by the Centre for Innovation and Technology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The Centre submits regular progress reports to ITC on the operation of ITSC.

ITSC fosters young people's interest in innovation and technology by organising various activities including technology seminars, research internships and the Innovation and Technology Ambassador Scheme. The members of ITSC are mainly secondary school students who have received awards on innovation and technology or are recommended by their principals.

As at December 2011, ITSC has recruited over 370 members. In 2011-12 (as at December 2011), it organised over 20 activities related to innovation and technology.

- (c) In 2012-13, ITC will continue to organise and support various promotional and educational activities to promote an innovation and technology culture among the public and nurture more young innovative talents. Major initiatives include:

- (i) organising the InnoTech Month, including the flagship event InnoCarnival;
- (ii) organising the Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition;
- (iii) supporting the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme;
- (iv) supporting the Innovation and Technology Student Club;
- (v) supporting the Joint School Science Exhibition; and
- (vi) supporting the Centre for Creative Science and Technology in the Hong Kong Science Park.

ITC will partner with youth groups, social service agencies, the academic and business sectors as well as relevant government departments in organising the above activities. In 2012-13, the total estimated expenditure of all promotional and educational activities/schemes of ITC is about \$16 m.

Meanwhile, any organisations interested in organising activities to promote an innovation and technology culture can also apply for funding support through the General Support Programme under ITF.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)039

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0009

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated provision for 2012-13 under this Programme is \$35.9 m, which is 3.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12. Would the Administration please advise:

- (a) how the provision will be used in 2012-13 to support the development of Chinese medicines (CM); and
- (b) how much provision will be used in 2012-13 for setting up a new government-led committee to coordinate various parties in promoting the development of research and development (R&D) and testing of CM.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: (a) The provision under Programme (4) of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is mainly for supporting the formulation and co-ordination of innovation and technology policies and sustaining public awareness of innovation and technology. ITC also supports the R&D of CM in Hong Kong through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). There are different funding schemes under the ITF for supporting universities, research institutions and enterprises to conduct applied research projects relating to R&D and testing of CM. In addition, the General Support Programme under the ITF can support projects such as exhibitions, seminars, workshops and surveys, which help enhance and promote the development of the CM industry.

- (b) The Committee on Research and Development of Chinese Medicines (the Committee) was set up in December 2011. As the operation of the Committee is supported by ITC staff, no additional provision is involved. Projects supported by the Committee on promoting the R&D and testing of CM can be funded through the existing ITF funding mechanism. The ITF currently has a balance of about \$2.2 billion and it has no pre-set funding ceiling for specific technology areas. If there are suitable CM applied research projects, the industry can apply for funding support through ITC.

The Committee is chaired by the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology. Its membership comprises representatives from the Government and public organisations (including the Department of Health, Hospital Authority and Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification, etc.), local universities involved in CM R&D, the CM and Western pharmaceutical industries, medical professionals of CM and Western medicine, as well as lay members. The Committee will act as a platform to gauge views from various stakeholders to formulate the broad direction in promoting R&D of CM in Hong Kong, identify key areas of work, monitor progress and recommend areas of

improvement. It will also facilitate sharing of R&D outcome and collaboration among stakeholders to create synergy in R&D of CM and promote collaboration with organisations outside Hong Kong.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)040

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0011

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The provision for the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) in 2012-13 is \$178 m, which is 2.7% lower than the revised estimate for 2011-12. Please advise how the provision will be used to continue to:

- (a) provide integrated support to innovative and growth-oriented Hong Kong companies across the value chain, with the main sectoral focus on manufacturing, particularly in Hong Kong's foundation industries, and related service activities;
- (b) assist local manufacturers in industrial upgrading, business transformation or relocating their operations under the challenges of the Mainland's processing trade policy;
- (c) assist Hong Kong companies and industries to leverage on the business opportunities arising from the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement;
- (d) enhance its support to Hong Kong companies operating in the Pearl River Delta (PRD), through subsidiary consulting firms set up in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan; and
- (e) support research and development (R&D) institutions in commercialising advanced manufacturing and processing technologies, and promote technology commercialisation and effective intellectual property management to Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: The Government's subvention to HKPC in 2011-12 is \$182.9 m, including an additional non-recurrent provision of \$4.9 m for HKPC to procure machinery and equipment. The procurement was completed in January 2012. After deducting such a non-recurrent provision, the Administration's recurrent subvention to HKPC in 2012-13 is the same as that in 2011-12.

In 2012-13, HKPC will continue to provide support services to industrial and commercial sectors on manufacturing technologies, management systems, information technology and environmental technologies:

- (a) Through the provision of integrated support across the value chain, HKPC will assist manufacturers in foundation industries to enhance product innovation capabilities, technical know-how and production process and certification which are necessary for high value-added industry, and help the local manufacturing industry to move up the

value chain in areas such as the automotive and aircraft parts and accessory systems, medical equipment and precision optoelectronics;

- (b) HKPC will help local manufacturers to meet the challenges from industry upgrading, business transformation or relocation of manufacturing bases, through seminars, training courses and study missions in Hong Kong and major cities in the PRD including Dongguan and Shenzhen, and depending on the needs of individual enterprises providing consultancy services for implementation of industry upgrading plans (e.g. enhancing the production process, energy saving and emission reduction);
- (c) To leverage on the business opportunities arising from the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, HKPC will continue to:
 - (i) organise seminars and training courses on entering the Mainland market and the related policies to assist local companies in tapping business opportunities in areas such as environmental protection, testing, medical, and creative industries in the Mainland market and introduce successful cases;
 - (ii) assist enterprises in formulating deployment and business plans through assessment and consultancy services, including branding, domestic sales strategy and intellectual property (IP) protection;
 - (iii) foster collaboration between creative industries and business enterprises through Showcasing Creative Works to Inspire Cross Industry Matching in Commercial Applications with a view to helping enterprises explore the Mainland market through creative products and facilitating greater development of creative industries;
- (d) HKPC's 3 wholly-owned subsidiaries in the Mainland will continue to promote business in the Mainland, provide consultancy services (e.g. ISO certification, cleaner production technologies, etc.) to support Hong Kong companies in the PRD, and launch TURN programmes and set up consultancy platforms in Dongguan, Zhuhai, Huizhou and Jiangmen; and
- (e) HKPC will continue to encourage representatives from local R&D institutes and enterprises to participate in business collaboration and matching fora for emerging industries in the Mainland and to promote Hong Kong's R&D results and services to Mainland enterprises and organisations. For example, the food waste conversion system developed by HKPC has been adopted by a local company and the product has been launched in the market. In 2011, HKPC signed licensing agreements with enterprises from Fujian and Shenzhen on automotive LED headlamps and automotive collision avoidance system respectively.

On IP management, apart from organising training courses and seminars, HKPC will provide a series of services including IP management assessment, patent application and trademark consultancy.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)041

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0012

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated provision for 2012-13 under this Programme is \$41.2 m, which is 3.8% higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12:

- (a) What was the amount used by the Administration in 2011-12 for the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme introduced by the Government in April 2010?
- (b) Please specify the details and the cash rebate amount of each application among the 191 applications approved under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme in 2011-12; and
- (c) The indicators for the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme in 2012-13 as estimated by the Administration are both 250 applications, which are 25% higher than those of 2011-12. Will the relevant estimated provision be increased accordingly? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

- Reply:
- (a) The Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme covers projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted by companies in partnership with designated local research institutions (partnership projects). In 2011-12, the Innovation and Technology Commission staffing expenditure for administering the Scheme is about \$0.64 m.
 - (b) In 2011, the Scheme approved a total of 191 applications and \$6.08 m of rebate, benefiting 166 companies. Among the approved applications, 174 cases pertain to ITF projects while the remaining 17 are Partnership projects, covering various technology areas such as textiles and clothing, electronics, foundation industries, information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, environmental technology, etc. The highest amount of cash rebate disbursed among these cases is \$712,500. The relevant statistics are as follows:

Cash rebate disbursed	No. of approved applications
0 - \$9,999	64
\$10,000 - \$49,999	99
\$50,000 - \$99,999	18
\$100,000 or above	10
Total :	191

- (c) We expect that the number of applications to be received in 2012 will be about 30% more than that in 2011, having regard to the applications approved under the Scheme in the past 2 years and the progress of the relevant ITF projects and Partnership projects, etc. We have also increased the estimate for the Scheme in 2012-13 to meet the necessary expenditure.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)042

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2199

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme, please inform us:

- (a) of the total number of applications received, the expenditure involved, as well as the response to and the effectiveness of the Scheme in 2011-12;
- (b) of the estimated number of applications to be received, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved, in 2012-13;
- (c) whether the Administration has a set of criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: (a) The Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions.

In 2011-12 (up to end-January 2012), a total of 142 applications have been received under the Scheme. We have approved 139 applications and \$4.76 m of rebate.

- (b) Having regard to the applications approved under the Scheme in the past 2 years and the progress of various qualified projects, we expect to receive about 250 applications and to disburse \$8.2 m of rebate in 2012-13. In 2012-13, the Innovation and Technology Commission staffing expenditure for administering the Scheme is about \$0.67 m.
- (c) In 2011, we conducted a review of the Scheme's first year of operation. In July 2011, we briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the outcome and suggested to consider enhancement measures to improve the attractiveness of the Scheme, including reviewing the level of cash rebate to provide greater incentives to companies in conducting R&D. To enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme, we have raised the level of cash rebate from 10% to 30% with effect from 1 February 2012 to encourage more companies to participate in the Scheme.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)043

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2736

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: On Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, would the Administration inform us of the number of Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs) to be funded in 2012-13, the names of such PSKLs, their scope of research and funding amount in respect of the provision of funding assistance to PSKLs in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: At present, there are a total of 12 PSKLs in Hong Kong and their names are as follows:

- (1) PSKL of Emerging Infectious Diseases (The University of Hong Kong)
- (2) PSKL of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (The University of Hong Kong)
- (3) PSKL of Oncology in South China (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- (4) PSKL of Agrobiotechnology (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- (5) PSKL of Millimeter Waves (City University of Hong Kong)
- (6) PSKL of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- (7) PSKL of Molecular Neuroscience (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- (8) PSKL of Marine Pollution (City University of Hong Kong)
- (9) PSKL of Ultraprecision Machining Technology (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
- (10) PSKL of Chirosciences (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
- (11) PSKL of Synthetic Chemistry (The University of Hong Kong)
- (12) PSKL of Liver Diseases (The University of Hong Kong)

Since the financial year 2011-12, each PSKL in Hong Kong can receive an annual financial support up to \$2 m under the Innovation and Technology Fund over a 5-year period. In 2012-13, the 12 PSKLs can receive a total financial support up to \$24 m.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)044

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2737

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP), would the Government inform us:

- (a) of the project details of the 14 applications received and processed in 2011;
- (b) of the details, scheme involved and duration of the 30 projects funded and being monitored in 2011;
- (c) of the number of postgraduates or students of local universities employed to conduct research and development (R&D) under the UICP?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

- Reply:
- (a) The technology areas of the 14 UICP applications received in 2011 include biotechnology, electrical and electronics, information technology, manufacturing technology and nanotechnology, of which 9 applications are under the Matching Grant for Joint Research which provides matching grant to support universities and companies to conduct applied collaborative R&D projects, while the remaining ones are under the Teaching Company Scheme which provides financial support for local companies to employ local university graduates to take part in R&D work. Of these applications, 4 have been approved while the other 9 are still under processing.
 - (b) The technology areas of the 30 R&D projects funded and being monitored under UICP in 2011 (including the 4 applications approved in 2011) include biotechnology, electrical and electronics, information technology and manufacturing technology, etc. Of these 30 projects, 20 projects are funded under the Matching Grant for Joint Research and the remaining ones are under the Teaching Company Scheme. The duration of these projects ranges from 14 to 33 months.
 - (c) Of the UICP projects funded and being monitored in 2011, a total of 77 local university graduates were employed.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)045

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

3283

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: On Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme, would the Administration inform us:

- (a) of the total number of enterprises participating in the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by local enterprises and small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
- (b) whether the Administration has considered launching more concessionary measures to encourage more local enterprises to participate in the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

- Reply:
- (a) The Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. As at end-January 2012, the Scheme has approved a total of 351 applications benefitting 277 companies, of which over 80% are local companies. As for the staff size and scale of individual companies, we do not have such details.
 - (b) In 2011, we conducted a review of the Scheme's first year of operation. In July 2011, we briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the outcome and suggested to consider enhancement measures to improve the attractiveness of the Scheme, including reviewing the level of cash rebate to provide greater incentives to companies in conducting R&D. To enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme, we have raised the level of cash rebate from 10% to 30% with effect from 1 February 2012 to encourage more companies to participate in the Scheme.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)046

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0724

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As mentioned in paragraph 144 of the Budget Speech, the Government proposed a threefold increase in the level of cash rebate under the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme for enterprises' R&D projects, from 10% to 30%, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme. Please inform us:

- (a) of the major areas covered by enterprises' eligible R&D projects approved since the launch of the Scheme in April 2010 and the main reasons for rejecting the other applications;
- (b) whether the Administration has set any specific indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the whole Scheme; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (c) given that a large number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have expressed their wish to participate in and benefit from the Scheme, whether the Administration has considered responding to the aspiration of the industry by launching other enhancement initiatives such as relaxing the funding criteria for enterprises and expanding the scope of R&D projects, in addition to raising the level of cash rebate; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) The Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme covers projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted by companies in partnership with designated local research institutions (partnership projects).

As at end-January 2012, the Scheme has approved a total of 351 applications and cash rebate of \$10.62 m. The ITF projects and partnership projects involved covered various technology areas such as textile and clothing, electronics, foundation industries, information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology and environmental technology. Since the launch of the Scheme, 9 applications have been rejected. They all involved ITF projects which were approved before 1 April 2009 i.e. beyond the eligibility period and therefore do not meet the application requirements of the Scheme.

- (b) In 2011, we conducted a review of the Scheme's first year of operation. In July 2011, we briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the outcome and suggested to consider enhancement measures to improve the attractiveness of the

Scheme, including reviewing the level of cash rebate to provide greater incentives to companies in conducting R&D. To enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme, we have raised the level of cash rebate from 10% to 30% with effect from 1 February 2012 to encourage more companies to participate in the Scheme.

- (c) The Budget has announced that the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) will be enhanced. We will increase the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m. We will also refine the operational details of the SERAP and expand its scope of funding, including the relaxation of application requirements to include companies with venture capital funding and supporting more commercialisation-related activities such as prototype testing and certification. We will closely monitor the response to the Scheme after raising the level of rebate, and consider from time to time other enhancement measures for the Scheme as appropriate.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)047

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0725

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme aims to support applied research and development (R&D) projects which will facilitate the economic development in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) of the reasons for the continuous drop in the number of projects funded and being monitored as estimated by the Administration from 95 in 2010 to 69 in 2012;
- (b) of the actual funding amount under the Scheme and the number of new projects funded in 2011; and whether there will be any real growth expected in the amount of funding and the number of new projects funded in the financial year 2012-13 over 2011-12;
- (c) whether the Administration has conducted any evaluation on the effectiveness of promoting the Scheme; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (d) of the main difficulties or obstacles involved in promoting the Scheme; and whether the Administration has liaised with relevant Mainland authorities for solutions; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) Given the lower number of approved Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) projects between 2010 and 2011 and the successive completion of projects commencing between 2008 and 2009, the estimated number of projects funded and being monitored in 2012 has dropped accordingly. Nevertheless, we expect the figure to climb next year.
 - (b) In 2011, a total of 8 TCFS projects were approved with a funding of about \$32 m under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). As for the financial year 2012-13, we estimate that there will be about 15 projects approved at an estimated ITF funding of \$50 m.
 - (c&d) The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) has been actively exploring possible improvements to the TCFS with the authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen in order to attract more applications. For example, we will continue to expand the scope of funding under the TCFS by including R&D focus areas which are of common interest to the industry, academic and research sectors of both places upon deciding on project themes under which applications will be invited.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)048

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0726

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In paragraph 143 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Administration will start a new round of application exercise for Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs). In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) given that since April 2011 the Government has provided an annual sum up to \$2 m to each of the 12 PSKLs in Hong Kong to support their operation, whether the Administration has reviewed the sufficiency of the sum; if yes, the measures to be taken; if not, the reasons for that;
- (b) of the main difficulties and obstacles encountered by local research institutions in their collaboration with Mainland counterparts on setting up PSKLs according to past experience; and whether the Administration has helped relevant institutions to liaise with the Mainland authorities for solutions; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) PSKLs in Hong Kong are laboratories operated and funded by universities. PSKLs can also receive financial support from the Areas of Excellence Scheme of the University Grants Committee, funding schemes under the Research Grants Council and the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for their individual research projects. Since April 2011, ITF has been providing annual financial support up to \$2 m to each of the 12 PSKLs. We will conduct a review on the scheme in 2014.
 - (b) Local PSKLs may collaborate with relevant Mainland counterparts to promote research and development based on their own research areas and development needs. So far, no PSKLs in Hong Kong have indicated a need for help. The Innovation and Technology Commission can offer assistance or convey views to the Ministry of Science and Technology if necessary.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)049

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0727

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As mentioned in paragraph 143 of the Budget Speech, the Administration will encourage more local research institutions and personnel to take part in national science and technology programmes, and nominate Hong Kong experts for the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database. In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) apart from the initiatives launched since 2010 such as nominating local research projects for the State Science and Technology Awards, whether the Government has responded to the request of the local technology sector to assist them in seeking more participation by local research institutions and personnel in the development of national technical standards from the relevant Mainland authorities so as to help the local industry enter the Mainland market; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.
- (b) apart from nominating Hong Kong experts for the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database, whether the Government has considered any practical measures to encourage local science and technology personnel at the middle and senior levels to actively participate in the technology development in the Mainland; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) Under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, we set up a Hong Kong/Guangdong Working Group on Standardisation with the Administration of Quality and Technology Supervision of Guangdong Province in August 2011 to enhance co-operation between the two sides on standardisation.
 - (b) Hong Kong and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) have been developing and coordinating technology exchange and collaboration between the two places through the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee to encourage more Hong Kong research institutions and personnel to take part in national science and technology programmes. In February this year, MOST approved 56 Hong Kong research personnel to be listed in the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database. In addition, starting from 2010, Hong Kong universities and research institutions can apply direct through their Mainland subsidiaries for funding under the “National Basic Research Programme” (“973” Programme). The research personnel from Hong Kong universities and research institutions can also partner with their Mainland counterparts to submit joint applications for the National Hi-tech Research and Development Programme (“863” Programme). Regarding the Partner State Key Laboratory (PSKL) Scheme, following

MOST's approval of 12 laboratories in Hong Kong as PSKs, we and MOST will start a new round of application exercise for PSKs.

On Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation, Hong Kong, Guangdong and Shenzhen have launched the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS) since 2004 to provide R&D funding for Guangdong-Hong Kong technology projects and encourage research personnel of the two places to carry out collaboration projects. From 2009-10 to 2011-12, a total of 42 TCFS projects were approved under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), with an ITF funding of about \$151 m.

Furthermore, according to the 3-Year Action Plan under the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation Circle agreed upon by the Shenzhen and Hong Kong governments, 4 local universities have established their Industry, Education and Research Bases in High-Tech Zone, Nanshan District, Shenzhen with a view to further enhancing technological collaboration with the Mainland.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)050

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0728

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) needs to enhance technology co-operation with the Mainland at the central, regional, provincial and municipal levels through various co-operation mechanisms, including the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee, the Pan-PRD Joint Conference on Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology, the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Co-operation in Innovation and Technology, and the Steering Group on Shenzhen/Hong Kong Co-operation in Innovation and Technology. In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) of the substantive measures that have been discussed through the above mechanisms since 2010 to help promote technology co-operation between the two places, as well as the results in implementing these measures;
- (b) for those co-operation initiatives on which a consensus may have been reached but which have yet to be implemented effectively, whether the Administration has taken the initiative to work out the solutions with the Mainland authorities; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) ITC is committed to enhancing technology co-operation with the Mainland at different levels and has introduced a series of new co-operation initiatives since 2010, which include:

At the central level, we have been working closely with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) to promote technology co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland through the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee. Since 2010, MOST has allowed research institutions set up in the Mainland by Hong Kong and Macao institutions to directly submit applications under the 973 Programme with a view to encouraging more Hong Kong research institutions and personnel to participate in national science and technology programmes. In respect of the State Key Laboratory Scheme, the 12 Partner State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong have been receiving annual financial support of up to \$2 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) since 2011-12 to further enhance their research capabilities. With the approval of Hong Kong Science Park as a National Partner High-tech Industrialisation Base for Green Technology by MOST in November 2011, more technology enterprises and talents from the Mainland and overseas will be attracted to Hong Kong. We are also following up with MOST on the initiative of setting up a branch of the Chinese National Engineering Research Centre in Hong

Kong. In February this year, MOST approved 56 Hong Kong research personnel to be listed in the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database.

With regard to Hong Kong/Guangdong technology co-operation, ITC will continue to work with relevant authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen to implement the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS). From 2009-10 to 2011-12, a total of 42 TCFS projects were approved with an ITF funding of about \$151 m.

As for our co-operation with Shenzhen, Shenzhen and Hong Kong have been actively promoting the development of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle. The 3-Year Action Plan involving government departments, universities, research institutions and non-governmental institutions of both places comprises 24 co-operation projects, which are making good progress in general. Four Hong Kong universities have established their Industry, Education and Research Bases in High-Tech Zone, Nanshan District, Shenzhen to promote Shenzhen/Hong Kong co-operation.

- (b) The innovation and technology co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland has been smooth. We will continue to actively promote the science and technology co-operation with the Mainland.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)051

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0739

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: There are 3 schemes under the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP), namely the Teaching Company Scheme, Matching Grant for Joint Research, and Industrial Research Chair Scheme. In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) of the respective percentages of funding provision for the above 3 schemes and the respective numbers of enterprises benefited and research personnel involved since 2010;
- (b) whether the Administration has conducted regular review on the effectiveness of the above 3 schemes; and whether it will consider enhancement measures in the near future; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) The UICP under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) aims to foster collaboration between local universities and companies in undertaking research and development (R&D) projects.

In 2010 and 2011, the total expenditure under UICP amounted to \$8.5 m. The details are as follows:

	Funding provision as a percentage of the total expenditure		No. of enterprises		No. of R&D personnel funded	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Teaching Company Scheme	5.4%	6.3%	8	10	8	11
Matching Grant for Joint Research	94.6%	93.7%	17	20	59	66
Total :	100%	100%	25	30	67	77

The Teaching Company Scheme provides financial support for local companies to employ local university graduates to take part in R&D work.

The Matching Grant for Joint Research provides matching grant to support universities and companies to conduct applied collaborative R&D projects.

The Industrial Research Chair Scheme provides funding support for companies to invite local university professors to lead designated R&D projects. In 2010 and 2011, we did not receive any applications under the Industrial Research Chair Scheme.

- (b) In early 2011, the Innovation and Technology Commission completed the first phase of ITF review, covering the Innovation and Technology Support Programme and the General Support Programme. A series of enhancement measures were then implemented last year. We have just completed a review to enhance the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme under ITF. We will review the UICP later this year.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)052

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0740

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As mentioned in paragraph 145 of the Budget Speech, the Government will enhance the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) by increasing the funding ceiling for each project under the SERAP from \$4 m to \$6 m. In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) whether the Administration has conducted a detailed review on the operational details and the scope of funding of the Programme since 2010 and whether it has studied the factors leading to the significant drop of nearly 30% in the number of applications received and processed in 2011 over 2010; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.
- (b) given that the funding ceiling for each project will be increased to \$6 m, whether this measure is only applicable to new projects; if yes, whether the Administration will consider including existing projects if they would like to be benefited as well; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) The SERAP under ITF supports the research and development (R&D) activities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on a matching grant basis. As at February 2012, the Programme has supported over 350 R&D projects with a total funding of about \$400 m.

We review the funding programmes under ITF from time to time. In 2011, we conducted a review on SERAP. In this respect, we have sought views from fund recipients, trade associations and assessors of the Programme. To further encourage SMEs to conduct R&D, the Budget announced that SERAP will be enhanced by increasing the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m. We will also refine the operational details of SERAP and expand its scope of funding, including the relaxation of application requirements to include companies with venture capital funding and supporting more commercialisation-related activities such as prototype testing and certification.

The number of SERAP applications is affected by various factors, including the overall economic situation and the development plans of individual companies. Although the number of applications in 2011 was lower than that in 2010, the number of applications approved was more or less the same. As there is no limit on the total amount of SERAP funding provided each year, we welcome applications from all quality projects and will

strengthen the promotion of the enhanced Programme to provide R&D support to more SMEs.

- (b) We plan to launch the enhanced SERAP in April 2012. The new measures will be applicable to applications submitted after the launch. Companies which have submitted applications can choose to let their applications be continued to be processed under the existing Programme or submit a revised application after April in order to be benefited from the enhanced Programme.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG
Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)053

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

0741

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As mentioned in paragraph 146 of the Budget Speech, the Government will increase the monthly allowance for interns by nearly 20% to inspire more young people to engage in research and development (R&D). In this regard, please inform us:

- (a) of the respective numbers of undergraduates and postgraduates among the more than 800 internships under the Internship Programme of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) in the past 3 years; and whether the Administration has followed-up on whether the interns remained in the field upon completion of their internship so as to evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (b) besides increasing the monthly allowance for interns, whether the Administration has conducted a detailed review on other operational details of the Programme, such as expanding its scope of funding to include organizations conducting R&D projects not funded under ITF; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The Internship Programme has funded 863 intern positions in the past 3 years, of which 501 were first-degree graduates and the remaining 362 possessing a Master degree or above. Of the 253 interns who completed their internship in 2011, we have received 95 evaluation reports. About 50% of the respondents said that they had secured R&D-related jobs, and more than 40% indicated that they planned to either further their studies in relevant technology areas or continue with R&D work. Only around 10% of the respondents indicated that they had already switched to other sectors.
 - (b) The existing Programme ensures that the R&D teams under ITF projects can make appropriate arrangements for interns to participate in the R&D tasks of the projects. We also monitor the relevant expenditure and the interns' situations through existing ITF management mechanism. We will review the response to the Programme following the increase in the monthly allowance and where appropriate, consider other enhancement measures for the Programme from time to time.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)054

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

1976

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: To inspire more young people to engage in research and development (R&D), the Government sets up the Internship Programme which provides allowances to interns. In this regard, please inform us whether the Government has considered providing appropriate allowances similar to the Internship Programme for local university graduates in relevant disciplines who have just entered the innovation and technology industry but not employed as interns, so as to encourage more young people to join the innovation and technology ranks, or by providing tax concessions to innovation and technology enterprises for recruiting these fresh local university graduates; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: Under the Internship Programme, all R&D projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) can engage 2 additional interns for a maximum internship period of 24 months. In the past 3 years, the Programme has funded 863 intern positions, offering a valuable opportunity for graduates to take part in R&D work. To inspire more local university graduates to engage in R&D, with effect from 1 February 2012, we have increased the level of monthly allowance for each intern from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for Bachelor degree graduates, and for those with a Master or higher degree, this has been raised from \$12,000 to \$14,000.

For the time being, we will not consider providing allowances or tax concessions for enterprises outside ITF projects to employ university graduates as this will involve a wide range of areas, industries and organizations. It is rather difficult to define all personnel in the innovation and technology industry, not to mention the complex administrative and monitoring issues involved.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)055

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2493

Programme: (6) Quality Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In the estimate for 2012-13, there is an 19.6% increase in estimated expenditure and an addition of 16 non-directorate posts. What are the reasons and the major responsibilities of the officers concerned and how much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The provision for quality support in 2012-13 is \$99.3 m, which is 19.6% higher than that of \$83 m in 2011-12. The increased provision is mainly for supporting the development of the testing and certification industry. About \$8.5 m is for the procurement of equipment for the Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) to provide new high-end instrument calibration services and about \$6.8 m is for the creation of 16 non-directorate civil service posts. Out of these posts, 15 will take up the work currently performed by non-civil service contract staff to enhance the capabilities of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service and the SCL in providing new services required by the industry. The remaining 1 post is an Administrative Officer post newly created for the Secretariat of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to assist it in exploring new business opportunities and to promote the industry in providing new services.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)056

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2494

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the reasons for the downward trend in the number of applications and projects funded and being monitored under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP)? Why does the Administration estimate that there will be an increase in the relevant figures for 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The SERAP under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) supports the research and development (R&D) activities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on a matching grant basis. As at February 2012, the Programme has supported over 350 R&D projects with a total funding of about \$400 m.

The number of SERAP applications is affected by various factors, including the overall economic situation and the development plans of individual companies. Although the number of applications in 2011 was lower than that in 2010, the number of applications approved was more or less the same. As there is no limit on the total amount of SERAP funding provided each year, we welcome applications from all quality projects.

To further encourage SMEs to conduct R&D, this year's Budget announced that SERAP will be enhanced. We will increase the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m as well as refining the operational details of SERAP and expanding its scope of funding. We plan to launch the enhanced SERAP in April 2012. In the coming year, we will step up the promotion of SERAP through, for example, seminars organised by trade associations and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation to attract more SMEs to submit applications.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)057

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Subhead
Innovation and Technology (No. & title):
Commission

Question Serial No.

2495

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration indicated that it will review the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) in 2012-13. When and how will the review be conducted to better support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to conduct research and development (R&D)?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The SERAP under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) supports the research and development (R&D) activities of SMEs on a matching grant basis. As at February 2012, the Programme has supported over 350 R&D projects with a total funding of about \$400 m.

We review the funding programmes under ITF from time to time. In 2011, we conducted a review on SERAP. In this respect, we have sought views from fund recipients, trade associations and assessors of the Programme. To further encourage SMEs to conduct R&D, this year's Budget announced that SERAP will be enhanced. We will increase the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m. We will also refine the operational details of the Programme and expand its scope of funding, including the relaxation of application requirements to include companies with venture capital funding and supporting more commercialisation-related activities such as prototype testing and certification. We plan to launch the enhanced SERAP in April 2012.

Name in block letters Miss Janet WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date 20.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)058

Question Serial No.

0963

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration plans to work with the Mainland authorities to institute arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates in 2012-13. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of personal and corporate users and the expenditure involved in the e-Cert services currently provided by the Postmaster General and the Digi-Sign Certification Services Limited;
- (b) The expenditure of the “Pilot Applications for Mutual Recognition of Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong”, the respective number of personal and corporate users of the two places as well as the experience gained; and
- (c) The pilot application scheme specifies that the authorities concerned are not responsible for any loss or damages arising from any cause associated. What is the existing mediation mechanism for handling disputes between organisations of the two places arising from the differences in the laws of the two places?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) As at January 2012, the Postmaster General and Digi-Sign Certification Services Limited have issued about 63 000 and 50 000 valid recognised digital certificates for use by individuals and organisations respectively.

Since 1 April 2007, the Postmaster General has outsourced the operation of e-Cert services to a private contractor. In 2011-12, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has provided Postmaster General with \$4.3 m to enable it to monitor the outsourced service. On the other hand, Digi-Sign Certification Services Limited is a private organisation operating on commercial terms. No public fund is involved.

- (b) In 2009-10, OGCIO paid \$25,000 for Hong Kong's share of the development and maintenance cost of a dedicated website for the pilot applications of “mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong” (Mutual Recognition). In 2011-12, OGCIO spent \$1.43 m in commissioning a consultancy study on the framework for the Mutual Recognition, so as to facilitate formulation of standing arrangements for the Mutual Recognition. The pilot projects can help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. The end-users of the pilot projects are

mainly enterprises involved in cross-boundary trade. We do not have information on the number of end-users involved.

- (c) The pilot projects will not affect the existing legal relationships between the relying parties and certification authorities and their responsibilities. The end-users of the pilot projects should observe the laws and regulations of Hong Kong and Guangdong, and make reference to the certification practice statements of the corresponding certification authorities when they use the electronic signature certificates issued in Hong Kong and Guangdong. As at today, the governments of the two places have not received any report about dispute arising from the differences in the laws of the two places.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)059

Question Serial No.

0964

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding working with the Mainland authorities to facilitate the collaboration of the information and communications technology (ICT) industries of Hong Kong and the Mainland to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan, including positioning Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing, please provide the following information:

- (a) Details of the relevant plans, including the implementation timetable and the counterparts for collaboration;
- (b) Ways to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan; and
- (c) Reason(s) to position Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

- Reply:
- (a) The National 12th Five-Year Plan sets out the Central People's Government's continued support for Hong Kong to develop its information industry and other high value-added service industries, and advocates uplifting the overall level of informatisation and technological capabilities of the Mainland's public and private services, including cloud computing and e-business. We will continue our work to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan and cooperate closely with the information technology industry in the Mainland. The details of our work are set out below.
 - (b) With regard to information and communications technology (ICT), the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Government) will complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan in the following three areas –
 - 1. Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong

According to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation (FA), pilot projects under "Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong" (Mutual Recognition) are now in operation. These pilot projects help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. Making reference to the experience gained in the pilot projects, Hong Kong and the Mainland

authorities are working closely to establish standing arrangements for Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2012-13. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has also set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of Mutual Recognition. The work required will be absorbed by OGCIO's existing resources.

2. Technology Collaboration

The Government encourages Hong Kong experts and industry members to collaborate closely with the Mainland and join standardisation organisations in the Mainland to contribute to the development of cloud computing standards when opportunity arises. The Government also provides financial support through the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote joint scientific researches in both places. Examples include:

- (i) Representatives from the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) joined the Technical Committee on Information Technology of Standardisation of Guangdong Province in July 2011. The Committee is mainly responsible for related technical work on standardisation of information technologies in Guangdong Province;
- (ii) ASTRI received funding support from Innovation and Technology Fund in 2011 to work with Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology (SIAT) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct joint researches in high performance computing and cloud computing. These researches aim to set up an Internet-based network for sharing technological resources and services between the two places and to work on the cloud computing related standards; and
- (iii) Cyberport will join the Guangdong Cloud Computing Industry Alliance, which seeks to unite the industry, academia, research institutes and end-users for promoting exchanges among stakeholders in the cloud computing industry chain in the Guangdong Province, researches in core technologies, establishment of industry standards, and provision of industry application solutions and technology consulting services.

3. Technology Exchanges

The Government will collaborate with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and related organisations to organise expert forums. For example:

- (i) In March this year, OGCIO and Cyberport will organise a Cloud Computing Symposium in Cyberport. We have invited senior officials of some Mainland provincial and municipal governments as guest speakers to share their valuable experience with the participants. Cyberport will be responsible for the expenditure incurred; and
 - (ii) In May this year, OGCIO will participate in the 16th International Soft China Expo to be held in Beijing by MIIT. OGCIO has set aside \$0.9 m for setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion to showcase quality Hong Kong ICT products and services, as well as organising a Cloud Computing Forum to share experience.
- (c) In recent years, cloud computing has become a global trend. In the foreseeable future, cloud computing will be an important area of development of information technology enterprises, as well as public and private sector businesses. Hong Kong's first-class communications infrastructure, free flow of information and sound intellectual property protection have provided a good foundation for local development of cloud computing

services. We therefore position Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)060

Question Serial No.

1914

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the implementation of the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme with enhanced provision of free Wi-Fi service for the public, please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the arrangements for the programme?
- (b) What are the details of expenditure?
- (c) What are the expected outcomes of the work?
- (d) Will relevant review be conducted for the programme? If so, what are the contents? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply:
- (a) The next generation Government Wi-Fi (GovWi-Fi) Programme aims at providing free Wi-Fi service at government premises with high public patronage, and facilitating access to the Internet and e-government services by citizens. The new Programme will continue the provision of GovWi-Fi service at around 400 existing government premises and extend the service to about 40 new premises. The Programme will also introduce technology improvements to enhance the service.
 - (b) The estimated total expenditure for the new Programme is about \$152 m, covering the cost for setting up Wi-Fi facilities in existing and new premises, related service enhancements, as well as the 5 years' operating cost of the service.
 - (c) In addition to extending the service to more premises to facilitate access to the Internet and e-government services by citizens, the next generation GovWi-Fi Programme will also adopt more advanced Wi-Fi standard (802.11n) for better service coverage, more stable wireless connection, and faster performance. It will also support the use of both the existing and next generation Internet Protocols, i.e. IPv4 and IPv6, so as to facilitate citizens to access the increasing number of web sites and Internet services running on IPv6. We will also enhance the GovWi-Fi web portal to enable the provision of a greater number of more convenient e-government services and contents. For example, we will adopt location-based technology to facilitate the provision of e-government services relevant to the premises where citizens are visiting.
 - (d) We conduct regular review on the service level and usage of the GovWi-Fi Programme.

According to the latest information, the number of Internet connections through the service has increased by over 4 times with an average monthly growth rate close to 6%, since the full roll-out of the service in June 2009. The average number of users and Internet connections per day exceed 20 000 and 36 000 respectively. The service is well received by the public. To meet the continuous public demand for GovWiFi service, we proposed in 2011 to implement the next generation GovWiFi Programme with extended service scope and enhanced service level. We will continue to regularly review the service level and usage of the GovWiFi Programme.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)061

Question Serial No.

1915

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the development of more mobile applications to facilitate further delivery of mobile public services, please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the arrangements for the project?
- (b) What are the details of expenditure?
- (c) What are the expected outcomes of the arrangements?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply:
- (a) The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer plans to launch three common mobile applications in 2012-13. Two of them serve to disseminate government notifications and information on government events respectively. More than 10 government departments have indicated intention to adopt these applications. The third application is an umbrella application for some 30 existing government mobile applications to facilitate searching by category and use.
 - (b) The development of the above three mobile applications is estimated to cost about \$3 m, and require 4 full-time staff members for a period of 12 months.
 - (c) These mobile applications will provide a one-stop platform for the public to receive notifications and event information from different government departments according to their personal preference and needs, and allow members of the public to search and download various government mobile applications more conveniently and securely among the myriad of mobile applications available in the market.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)062

Question Serial No.

0925

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2011-12, OGCIO implemented a green data centre strategy and best practices to reduce carbon footprints and environmental impact in government data centre operations. Please give an account of the specific measures as well as the expenditure and resources involved.

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply: In 2011-12, the expenditure for implementing the green data centre strategy was about \$200,000. Specific measures taken include:

- (a) with reference to industry best practices in green data centre management, we developed relevant guidelines and references and promulgated them to bureaux and departments (B/Ds);
- (b) provided sample specifications for green procurement and disposal of IT equipment and data centre facilities for reference and adoption by B/Ds; and
- (c) arranged training and experience sharing activities on green data centre management for B/Ds.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)063

Question Serial No.

0926

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will continue to facilitate the setting up of data centres, particularly high-tier ones, in Hong Kong. What specific plans does the Administration have? What are the expenditure and resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply: In 2012-13, the OGCIO will continue to implement various measures to facilitate the establishment of data centres (in particular high-tier data centres) in Hong Kong. Major measures are as follows:

- (a) The Chief Executive announced in the 2011-12 Policy Address that about two hectares of land in Tseung Kwan O had been reserved for data centre development. We are now making preparations for the requisite town planning procedures. We expect that the first site will be available for open bidding in 2013 at the earliest. The Government will tailor-make the Conditions of Sale of the site for high-tier data centre use and assess the tender reserve price on that basis.
- (b) The Financial Secretary announced in the 2012-13 Budget that two time-limited measures will be introduced in 2012-13 to encourage use of existing industrial buildings or industrial lots for data centre development. First, the Government will exempt the waiver fee for changing parts of eligible industrial buildings to data centre use. In addition, the Government will assess the premium for lease modification of industrial lots for developing high-tier data centres on the basis of actual development intensity and high-tier data centre use. We are now working on the implementation details with a view to introducing these two measures by mid-2012 for application until 31 March 2016.
- (c) The Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) under OGCIO will continue to provide assistance to companies interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, and disseminate information on data centre development in Hong Kong through its data centre website (<http://www.datacentre.gov.hk>). In view of the unique building and facilities needs of data centres, DCFU will collaborate with other government departments to explore ways of fine-tuning the existing requirements to cater for their operation.

The implementation of the above measures is part of OGCIO's regular work, and the expenditure and manpower involved will be absorbed within its existing resources.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)064

Question Serial No.

2777

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: During 2012-13, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will implement the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme with enhanced provision of free Wi-Fi service for the public, and will develop more common mobile applications to facilitate bureaux/departments' further delivery of mobile public services. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the details and estimated expenditure of the related work.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply: The next generation Government Wi-Fi (GovWi-Fi) Programme aims at providing free Wi-Fi service at government premises with high public patronage, and facilitating access to the Internet and e-government services by citizens. The new Programme will continue the provision of GovWi-Fi service at around 400 existing government premises and extend the service to about 40 new premises. The Programme will also introduce technology improvements, including the adoption of more advanced Wi-Fi standard (802.11n) for better service coverage, more stable wireless connection, and faster performance. It will also support the use of both the existing and next generation Internet Protocols, i.e. IPv4 and IPv6, so as to facilitate citizens to access the increasing number of web sites and Internet services running on IPv6. We will also enhance the GovWi-Fi web portal to enable the provision of a greater number of more convenient e-government services and contents. For example, we will adopt location-based technology to facilitate the provision of e-government services relevant to the premises where citizens are visiting. The estimated total expenditure for the new Programme is about \$152 m, covering the cost for setting up Wi-Fi facilities in existing and new premises, related service enhancements, as well as the 5 years' operating cost of the service.

As for the development of common mobile applications, we plan to launch 3 common mobile applications in 2012-13. Two of them serve to disseminate government notifications as well as information on government events. More than 10 government departments have indicated interest in using these applications. The third application will help organise around 30 existing government mobile applications into different categories to facilitate searching and use by the public. The development of the above 3 applications is estimated to cost around \$3 m and require 4 full-time staff for a period of 12 months.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)065

Question Serial No.

0819

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The revised estimates of the total value of work undertaken and outsourced by the Administration in 2011-12 are around \$1,287 m and \$1,149 m respectively, and the estimates of the total value of the two items in 2012-13 will increase to about \$1,800 m and \$1,622 m respectively. What are the details of the projects? What are the major works involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: **Project details**

Regarding the revised estimates for 2011-12 and the estimates for 2012-13, details of projects, including individual major projects and “block allocation” projects, are set out under Head 710 – Computerisation of the Capital Works Reserve Fund in “The 2012-13 Budget” at <http://www.budget.gov.hk/2012/eng/pdf/cwrf-10.pdf>.

Major works involved include:

- (a) Feasibility study (where necessary);
- (b) Procurement (hardware / software / service);
- (c) System analysis, design, development and installation;
- (d) System security risk assessment and audit;
- (e) System test and trial run;
- (f) Data conversion (where necessary);
- (g) User acceptance test;
- (h) System nursing; and
- (i) User training.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)066

Question Serial No.

0820

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: According to the Administration, in 2012-13, it will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to facilitate the collaboration of the information and communications technology industries of Hong Kong and the Mainland to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan, including positioning Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing. What are the details of the work concerned? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The National 12th Five-Year Plan sets out the Central People's Government's continued support for Hong Kong to develop its information technology industry and other high value-added service industries, and advocates uplifting the overall level of informatisation and technological capabilities of the Mainland's public and private services, including cloud computing and e-business. With regard to information technology, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Government) will complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan in the following three areas:

1. Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong

According to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, pilot projects under "Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong" (Mutual Recognition) are now in operation. These pilot projects help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. Making reference to the experience gained in the pilot projects, Hong Kong and the Mainland authorities are working closely to establish standing arrangements for Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2012-13. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has also set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of Mutual Recognition. The work required will be absorbed by the existing resources of the OGCIO.

2. Technology Collaboration

The Government encourages Hong Kong experts and industry members to collaborate closely with the Mainland and join standardisation organisations in the Mainland to contribute to the development of cloud computing standards when opportunity arises. The Government also provides financial support through the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote joint scientific researches in both places. Examples include:

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)067

Question Serial No.

2661

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide detailed information on Government's annual effort to encourage the development and application of ICT-related assistive technology for persons with disabilities over the past 3 years, including expenditure, progress, outcomes, and ways to encourage such development, etc. Did the Government assess whether the relevant estimate was adequate? What are the estimate and work direction in 2012-13? Did the Government provide subsidies for persons with disabilities to use these research deliverables?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: To promote wider ICT adoption by persons with disabilities and encourage the development of ICT-based assistive tools and applications for them, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has been taking the following measures since 2010-11:

In 2010-11:

We provided funding support of \$0.4 m to a non-government organisation for organising a forum on ICT adoption by persons with disabilities in December 2010. The forum provided a platform for more than 200 participants from local and overseas organisations in public and private sectors to share experience and exchange ideas on the support for persons with disabilities in ICT adoption as well as the development of assistive technologies and applications.

In 2011-12:

We allocated \$3.3 m to support the development of ICT-based assistive tools and applications for persons with different kinds of disabilities in April 2011. 9 projects are sponsored and development work will be completed by April 2012. The products will be made available for free download, distribution to needy groups, or further development.

We launched the Web Accessibility Campaign in October 2011 to promote adoption of web accessibility design in public and private sectors with a view to facilitating persons with disabilities to access online information and services. We have held seminars and workshops for organisations and webmasters to raise their awareness on web accessibility and encourage the adoption of web accessibility design in their websites. We have also produced a management handbook and set up a portal to provide information and practical guide on web accessibility for reference. The expenditure in 2011-12 is \$1 m.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)068

Question Serial No.

0746

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated provision for Programme (2) in 2012-13 is \$48.5 m, which is 6.1% higher than the original estimate in 2011-12.

- (a) How will the provision be used to collaborate with the Mainland authorities in taking forward measures related to informatisation under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation and the National 12th Five-Year Plan?
- (b) How will the provision be used to position Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing? And
- (c) How much of the provision will be used to institute arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates between Hong Kong and the Mainland? And is there any plan to extend the use of electronic signature certificates to places other than the Guangdong Province?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: (a) The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Government) will, through the following work, collaborate with the Mainland authorities to implement measures related to informatisation:

In accordance with the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), we shall continue to take forward the pilot applications for “Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Guangdong and Hong Kong” (Mutual Recognition). We shall also work with the Mainland authorities to put in place standing arrangements to promote the wider application and use of the Mutual Recognition.

Under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, we will continue to promote the co-operation in informatisation between Hong Kong and Guangdong through the Hong Kong/Guangdong Expert Group on Co-operation in Informatisation, including encouraging the industry to participate in organising standards working groups.

In addition, we will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to facilitate the collaboration of the information and communications technology (ICT) industries of

Hong Kong and the Mainland to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan, including positioning Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing. The work required will be absorbed by existing resources of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO).

- (b) Nourishing cloud computing experts is led by the industry to meet the market needs. The Government, through the Innovation and Technology Fund, provides financial support to promote research and development and co-operation with the Mainland in cloud computing technology. The Government also, through industry organisations such as the Cyberport and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI), promotes cloud computing applications and standards. OGCIO is also implementing a Government Cloud environment to support more e-Government initiatives such as electronic information management, collaborative working and electronic procurement. Government information technology professionals, local industry members and service providers will be able to participate in the implementation of the Government Cloud environment and further enhance their skills in relevant domains in cloud computing.

In May this year, OGCIO will participate in the 16th International Soft China Expo to be held in Beijing by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. OGCIO has set aside \$0.9 m for setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion to showcase quality Hong Kong ICT products and services, as well as organising a Cloud Computing Forum to share experience. We believe through sharing and exchanges, in-depth participation and on-the-job training, the industry should be able to meet and satisfy the demand of the market in these areas.

The following programmes will also help nourish experts in relevant domains in cloud computing:

- (i) ASTRI received funding support from Innovation and Technology Fund in 2011 to work with Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct joint researches in high performance computing and cloud computing. These researches aim to set up an Internet-based network for sharing technological resources and services between the two places. Through these researches, ASTRI will liaise with the industry participants to collect their ideas on cloud computing standards, and reflect these ideas to the Mainland authorities when opportunities arise;
- (ii) Cyberport will join the Guangdong Cloud Computing Industry Alliance for promoting exchanges among stakeholders in the cloud computing industry chain in the Guangdong Province, establishment of industry standards, and provision of industry application solutions and technology consulting services; and
- (iii) In March this year, OGCIO and Cyberport will organise a Cloud Computing Symposium in Cyberport. We have invited senior officials of some Mainland provincial and municipal governments as guest speakers to share their valuable experience with the participants. Cyberport will be responsible for the expenditure incurred.
- (c) The Government and the Mainland authorities take forward pilot applications for Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong according to the Supplement V to CEPA. Both sides aim to put in place standing arrangements for the Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2012-13. OGCIO has set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of the Mutual Recognition. After the standing arrangements for the Mutual Recognition are put in place, both sides will in due course conclude the experience and explore development direction for the next stage.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)069

Question Serial No.

0747

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated financial provision for Programme (1): Use of IT in Government in 2012-13 is \$501.2 m. How will the provision be used for the following items (including the amount and percentage of provision, and the details on the use of the provision)?

- (a) Implementation of the government cloud platform to support e-government programmes;
- (b) Implementation of the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme with enhanced provision of free Wi-Fi service for the public; and
- (c) Continued promotion of the green data centre strategy.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: In 2012-13, the estimated financial provision of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer for Programme (1) is \$501.2 m. The provision covers the expenditure in supporting the overall use of information technology (IT) in Government, including development of government IT standards, policy and practices, provision of various IT professional services and facilitation measures to bureaux and departments (B/Ds), development and implementation of IT-enabled change projects, development and operations of shared IT infrastructure, as well as management of government IT profession.

- (a) Implementation of the initial phase of the government cloud programme is proposed to be funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRP). The implementation programme will last for 5 years, with an estimated total investment of \$242 m. We will brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in middle of this year for the commencement of the related work. In 2012-13, the emolument of civil service staff for the coordination, management and implementation of the programme is about \$3 m that is about 0.6% of the financial provision for Programme (1).
- (b) The next generation Government Wi-Fi Programme is also funded by the CWRP. The Programme will last for about 5 years, with an estimated total expenditure of about \$152 m. The Finance Committee has approved the required funding. In 2012-13, the emolument of civil service staff for the coordination, contract administration and support of the programme is about \$1.67 m that is about 0.3% of the financial provision for Programme (1).

- (c) For the continued promotion of the green data centre strategy, we will spend about \$200,000 that is about 0.04% of the financial provision for Programme (1) in 2012-13. Major tasks involved will include:
- (i) Promoting best practices of green data centre management to B/Ds;
 - (ii) Providing sample specifications for green procurement and disposal of IT equipment and data centre facilities for reference and adoption by B/Ds; and
 - (iii) Arranging training and experience sharing activities on green data centre management for B/Ds.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)070

Question Serial No.

0130

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: During 2012-13, OGCIO will start to implement the government cloud platform by phases. In this connection:

- (a) What are the details of the implementation work? For instance, how many phases are there for the whole implementation work? What are the departments, costs, manpower and implementation timetable involved in each phase?
- (b) What is the estimated number of job opportunities created during the implementation and upon its completion? What types of work and posts will be involved?
- (c) What existing government services or projects will be abolished during the implementation of the government cloud platform? What departments will be involved?
- (d) What are the expected objectives and outcomes of implementing the government cloud platform?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) As announced in the 2011-12 Policy Address, the Government will develop a Government Cloud Platform (GovCloud) in the next few years. We are now working on the technical design and implementation approach of the GovCloud. We plan to consult the Task Force on Industry Facilitation and the Task Force on E-government Service Delivery of the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee in April this year. We will then brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in the middle of this year for the commencement of the related work.

GovCloud aims at enabling more agile and cost-effective delivery of common e-government infrastructure and services. The initial phase of GovCloud will cover infrastructure services over five years supporting the development and hosting of common e-government services, such as electronic information management and e-procurement services, for shared use by all government bureaux and departments (B/Ds). We expect that more than 30 B/Ds will join the initial phase. The infrastructure services of GovCloud is expected to be put to production use by the end of 2013. The estimated 5-year total investment of the initiative is about \$242 m.

The initiative will involve creation of 4 time-limited posts for a period of 3 years, including 1 Senior Systems Manager, 1 Systems Manager and 2 Analyst/Programmer I's, to

coordinate and manage the initiative and related service procurement and contract management.

- (b) We will adopt an outsourcing approach for implementing the GovCloud. It will generate demands for various types of information technology (IT) professional positions and services, including data centre hosting, operation and management, project management, IT system integration, as well as application development, maintenance and support services.
- (c) GovCloud provides infrastructure services for new common e-government services. It does not involve replacement or abolishment of any existing services or projects.
- (d) GovCloud facilitates more efficient and agile provision of IT resources which help expedite delivery of e-government services. Through adopting the cloud computing model and outsourcing arrangement, the overall capacity of e-government service delivery will be increased, and e-government services can be delivered in a more cost-effective manner through on-demand and agile resource provision.

GovCloud is a shared government infrastructure, which brings about economy of scale and enhances the capability of cross-departmental collaboration. The initiative will also facilitate the development of cloud computing technology and services in the local IT industry.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)071

Question Serial No.

0131

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme to be implemented in 2012-13:

- (a) What new premises will be provided with Wi-Fi service? What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) Will the government Wi-Fi service be provided in tourist spots for tourist use? If so, which tourist spots will be involved and what is the implementation timetable? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)? Does the Administration have any plan to provide the Wi-Fi service in tourist spots, or will it consider doing so in the future?
- (c) What changes in the usage of government Wi-Fi service in public places are expected upon the implementation of the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) A total of 38 government premises including public libraries, cultural and recreational centres, sports centres, sports grounds, community halls/centres, government offices, parks and cruise terminal are confirmed to be added into the next generation Government Wi-Fi (GovWiFi) Programme (For details, please refer to the annex). We will continue to discuss with different departments and include more premises, if found suitable, into the Programme. The estimated total expenditure for the new Programme is about \$152 m, covering the cost for setting up Wi-Fi facilities in existing and new premises, related service enhancements, as well as the 5 years' operating cost of the service.
 - (b) The GovWiFi Programme aims at providing free wireless Internet service at government premises with high public patronage, and facilitating access to the Internet and e-government services by citizens. For the convenience of tourists, we have already included in the current Programme provision of GovWiFi service at major tourist spots managed by the Government, including Peak Road Garden, Avenue of Stars, Hong Kong Park, Repulse Bay Beach, museums, Hong Kong Tourism Board's Kowloon Visitor Centre, etc. We will include more tourist spots in the new Programme such as the new cruise terminal at Kai Tak.
 - (c) The next generation GovWiFi Programme will adopt more advanced Wi-Fi standard (802.11n) for better service coverage, more stable wireless connection, and faster performance. It will also support the use of both the existing and next generation Internet Protocols, i.e. IPv4 and IPv6, so as to facilitate citizens to access the increasing number of

Government Wi-Fi Programme

List of Confirmed New Premises

	Public Libraries		Community Halls/Centres
1.	New public library (in Tin Shui Wai)	20.	Sheung Tak Community Hall
2.	New public library (in Tseung Kwan O)	21.	Mei Foo Community Hall
3.	New public library (in Tung Chau Street)	22.	Kin Choi Community Hall
4.	New public library (in Yuen Chau Kok)	23.	Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
5.	New public library (in Lei King Wan)	24.	King Lam Neighbourhood Community Centre
		25.	Tsui Lam Community Hall
	Cultural and Recreational Centres		
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre		Government Offices
7.	Tai Po Civic Centre	26.	Water Supplies Department - Mong Kok Customer Enquiry Centre
8.	Yuen Long Theatre	27.	Water Supplies Department - Wan Chai Customer Enquiry Centre
9.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	28.	Hong Kong Cremation Booking Office (Wan Chai District)
10.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	29.	Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery (Central & Western District)
11.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	30.	Hong Kong Public Records Building (Kwun Tong District)
12.	Ko Shan Theatre & Annex Building	31.	Inland Revenue Department - Central Enquiry Counter (Wan Chai District)
		32.	Inland Revenue Department - Stamp Duty Office (Wan Chai District)
	Sports Centres and Sports Grounds	33.	Inland Revenue Department - Business Registration Office (Wan Chai District)
13.	Kowloon Bay Park - Natural Turf Pitch	34.	Transport Department - Hong Kong Licensing Office (Central & Western District)
14.	Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground		
15.	Mong Kok Stadium		Parks
16.	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	35.	Po Kong Village Road Park
17.	New sports centre (in Tsing Yi)	36.	Kai Tak Avenue Park (Phase I)
18.	New sports centre (in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O)	37.	Runway Park at Kai Tak
19.	New sports centre (in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O)		
			Cruise Terminal
		38.	New Cruise Terminal Building at Kai Tak

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)072

Question Serial No.

0132

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the development of more common mobile applications:

- (a) What is the total number of mobile applications involved? What are the departments, costs and manpower involved for each application?
- (b) Are there any outsourcing projects involved in the development of the above mobile applications? If so, what departments are involved in these projects and what are the details? What is(are) the reason(s) for outsourcing these projects?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) plans to launch three common mobile applications in 2012-13. Two of them serve to disseminate government notifications and information on government events respectively. More than 10 government departments have indicated intention to adopt these applications. The third application is an umbrella application for some 30 existing government mobile applications to facilitate searching by category and use. The development of these three mobile applications is estimated to cost about \$3 m, and require 4 full-time staff members for a period of 12 months.
 - (b) The above mobile applications are mainly developed in-house by OGCIO, but security risk assessment and audit, which constitute a small part of work, will be outsourced to ensure independence.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)073

Question Serial No.

0133

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the formulation of a blueprint for the future arrangements for data centre services in bureaux/departments:

- (a) Has the timetable for the related work been mapped out? If so, what are the details? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?
- (b) Will the professional bodies or professionals from the information and communications technology sector be consulted during the formulation of the blueprint? If so, what are the details and how will the Administration handle and follow up on the views collected from the consultation? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider consulting the sector before formulating the blueprint in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) We have commissioned a consultancy study in October 2011 to examine the present situation and future development needs of the data centres in bureaux and departments, and to formulate a blueprint for the long-term development and service arrangements of government data centres. The study is expected to be completed by mid-2012.
 - (b) In conducting the study, the consultant will make reference to data centre development projects and relevant experiences in other places of the world in order to have a better understanding of the international trends and standards on data centre development. Besides, the consultant will take into account the industry best practices as well as the latest development of data centre service delivery and related technology in the local information and communications technology sector.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)074

Question Serial No.

0134

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the review of government information security related regulations, policies and guidelines:

- (a) What is the current progress?
- (b) What are the expected completion date of the review and the expected announcement date of the result at the earliest?
- (c) Has the preliminary review result been made available at this stage? If so, what are the details?
- (d) How will the Administration follow up on the review upon its completion?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: The Government reviews its information security related regulations, policies and guidelines regularly to ensure that they keep in pace with technology advancement, as well as the developments of industry and international best practices. The status of the review exercise is as follows:

- (a) Currently we are interviewing stakeholders, including management and operation staff responsible for information security in various bureaux and departments (B/Ds), to gather their views and suggestions and discuss with them on their needs. In addition, we will collect information security policy information of other economies for making comparisons and references. For some emerging information technologies, including cloud computing, mobile technology and social networks, we are examining their impacts on the information security requirements.
- (b) We expect to complete the review and promulgate the revised government information security related regulations, policies and guidelines by September 2012.
- (c) As we are still collecting and analysing the relevant information, preliminary review result cannot be made available at this stage.
- (d) After the completion of the review, we will hold briefings and use other channels to disseminate the revised regulations, policies and guidelines to government staff. We will also provide advice and technical support services to B/Ds in case their information systems are required to make changes to cope with the new security requirements.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)075

Question Serial No.

0433

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the facilitation of collaboration of the information and communications technology (ICT) industries of Hong Kong and the Mainland to complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan, including positioning Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing:

- (a) What work projects are involved in complementing the National 12th Five-Year Plan on the whole? What are the specific contents of each project (including the costs and manpower involved as well as the implementation timetable, etc.)? What specific collaboration arrangements will be made between the HKSAR Government, the Mainland authorities and the local ICT sector?
- (b) What will the Administration implement to position Hong Kong as a source of experts in relevant domains in cloud computing? What can be done in education to support the work? Does the Administration set the objective of training a certain number of relevant experts annually? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: (a) The National 12th Five-Year Plan sets out the Central People's Government's continued support for Hong Kong to develop its information technology industry and other high value-added service industries, and advocates uplifting the overall level of informatisation and technological capabilities of the Mainland's public and private services, including cloud computing and e-business. With regard to information technology, the Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan in the following three areas:

1. Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong

According to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, pilot projects under "Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong" (Mutual Recognition) are now in operation. These pilot projects help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. Making reference to the experience gained in the pilot projects, Hong Kong and the Mainland authorities are working closely to establish standing arrangements for Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2012-13. The Government of the

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Government) has also set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of Mutual Recognition. The work required will be absorbed by the existing resources of OGCIO.

2. Technology Collaboration

The Government encourages Hong Kong experts and industry members to collaborate closely with the Mainland and join standardisation organisations in the Mainland to contribute to the development of cloud computing standards when opportunity arises. The Government also provides financial support through the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote joint scientific researches on cloud computing in both places. Examples include:

- (i) Representatives from the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) joined the Technical Committee on Information Technology of Standardisation of Guangdong Province in July 2011. The Committee is mainly responsible for related technical work on standardisation of information technologies in Guangdong Province;
- (ii) ASTRI received funding support from Innovation and Technology Fund in 2011 to work with Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct joint researches in high performance computing and cloud computing. These researches aim to set up an Internet-based network for sharing technological resources and services between the two places and to work on the cloud computing related standards; and
- (iii) Cyberport will join the Guangdong Cloud Computing Industry Alliance, which seeks to unite the industry, academia, research institutes and end-users for promoting exchanges among stakeholders in the cloud computing industry chain in the Guangdong Province, researches in core technologies, establishment of industry standards, and provision of industry application solutions and technology consulting services.

3. Technology Exchanges

The Government will collaborate with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and related organisations to organise expert forums. For example:

- (i) In March this year, OGCIO and Cyberport will organise a Cloud Computing Symposium in Cyberport. We have invited senior officials of some Mainland provincial and municipal governments as guest speakers to share their valuable experience with the participants. Cyberport will be responsible for the expenditure incurred; and
 - (ii) In May this year, OGCIO will participate in the 16th International Soft China Expo to be held in Beijing by MIIT. OGCIO has set aside \$0.9 m for setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion to showcase quality Hong Kong ICT products and services, as well as organising a Cloud Computing Forum to share experience.
- (b) Nourishing cloud computing experts is led by the industry to meet the market needs. The Government, through the Innovation and Technology Fund, provides financial support to promote research and development and co-operation with the Mainland in cloud computing technology. The Government also, through industry organisations such as the Cyberport and ASTRI, promotes cloud computing applications and standards. OGCIO is also implementing a Government Cloud environment to support more e-Government initiatives such as electronic information management, collaborative working and electronic procurement. Government information technology

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)076

Question Serial No.

0434

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the institution of arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates:

- (a) What are the outcomes of the pilot projects under the “Pilot Applications for Mutual Recognition of Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong”? Are there any difficulties encountered that have yet to be resolved through negotiation between the governments of Hong Kong and Guangdong? If so, what are the details?
- (b) When will the arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and the Mainland be instituted at the earliest? Will the arrangements be implemented by phases? If so, what is the implementation timetable? What are the expenditure and manpower involved? And
- (c) What are the expected ultimate outcomes of implementing arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The current pilot projects help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. As each pilot project needs to go through the application procedure individually, it is not very conducive to the wider application of the “Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong” (Mutual Recognition). To promote the wider application of the Mutual Recognition, the governments of the two places are working closely to put in place standing arrangements for it.
 - (b) We expect to announce the “certificate policy for mutually recognized electronic signature certificates” and its related technical standards in the third quarter of 2012-13. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of the Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong. The work required will be absorbed by OGCIO’s existing resources.
 - (c) The implementation of standing arrangements for the Mutual Recognition will facilitate trade and investment between Hong Kong and Guangdong, ensure secure e-transactions and promote rapid development of e-transactions between the two places.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)077

Question Serial No.

0440

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The revised estimates of the total value of work undertaken and outsourced in 2011-12 are both nearly 15% higher than the actual expenditures of 2010-11. What is(are) the reason(s) for that? The estimates of the total value of the above two items in 2012-13 are more than 40% higher than the revised estimates of 2011-12. What is(are) the reason(s) for that? What are the major internal and outsourced projects involved? Please list out the top five internal and outsourced projects which involve the highest expenditure respectively, and the expenditure and manpower involved in each of these projects.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: **2011-12 (Revised Estimate) vs 2010-11 (Actual Expenditure)**

Regarding the total value of work undertaken and outsourced, the revised estimate for 2011-12 is higher than the actual expenditure in 2010-11 by 15%. It is mainly due to the increase in cashflow requirements of projects implemented in 2011-12.

2012-13 (Estimate) vs 2011-12 (Revised Estimate)

The estimated total value of work undertaken and outsourced for 2012-13 is higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12 by 40%. It is mainly due to the anticipated increase in 2012-13 cashflow requirements as shown below:

- (a) increase in cashflow requirements of block vote projects (i.e. projects costing \$10 m or below each) from the revised estimate of \$730 m in 2011-12 to the estimate of \$860 m in 2012-13; and
- (b) substantial increase in cashflow requirements of some major projects (i.e. projects costing more than \$10 m each). For example:

Bureau / Department	Project	Increase in cashflow requirements (\$M)
Immigration Department	Enhancement of computer systems to process electronic Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao and extension of e-Channel service	89
Food and Health Bureau	Development of a Territory-wide Electronic Health Record Sharing System	81

Top 5 outsourced projects with the highest estimated expenditure in 2012-13:

Bureau / Department	Project	Estimated Expenditure in 2012-13 (\$M)	Estimated staff cost in 2012-13 (\$M)
Food and Health Bureau	Development of a Territory-wide Electronic Health Record Sharing System	202.3	0.0
Immigration Department	Enhancement of computer systems to process electronic Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao and extension of e-Channel service	133.4	2.6
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Provision of Wi-Fi wireless internet facilities at Government premises	65	1.7
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	New Hosting Infrastructure for e-Government Services	60	6.2
Fire Services Department	Implementation of Integrated Licensing, Fire Safety and Prosecution System	31.3	0.0

Top 5 non-outsourced projects with the highest estimated expenditure in 2012-13:

Bureau / Department	Project	Estimated Expenditure in 2012-13 (\$M)	Estimated staff cost in 2012-13 (\$M)
Customs and Excise Department	Replacement of the Case Processing System	35.1	3.3
Customs and Excise Department	Implementation of Information Systems Strategy Projects	12.0	0.0
Customs and Excise Department	Technology refreshment of Air Cargo Clearance System	7.3	0.0
Lands Department	Pilot Project on extension of GeoInfo Map services to support common mobile devices	3.4	1.6
Marine Department	Redevelopment of the Seafarer Examination and Certificates System	2.9	0.2

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)078

Question Serial No.

0441

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the results of post-implementation departmental returns on completed IT projects, while the percentage of projects completed within the budget was 100% in 2010 and 2011, it will reach only 90% in the 2012 estimate.

- (a) What is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (b) What are the projects that cannot be completed within the budget? What are the costs and manpower involved in each of these projects? And
- (c) What impacts will be caused if these projects cannot be completed within the budget?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has established a comprehensive project governance mechanism to enable projects to be completed within budget. Nevertheless, this cannot completely eliminate the risk of projects running out of budget. According to the past performance data, we estimate that at least 90% of the projects can be completed within budget in 2012.
 - (b) At this stage, there is no indication of any project which cannot be completed within budget.
 - (c) In the past, projects could not be completed within budget mainly because there were changes in business requirements or technical problems encountered in the course of implementation. Additional manpower or computer hardware/software may be required in order to achieve the project objectives and comply with the specifications. The established funding application procedures should be followed when additional resources are required.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)079

Question Serial No.

0442

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the public sector information (PSI) pilot scheme, the Government had promoted the value-added re-use of PSI made available through the Data.One portal launched last year. What is the preliminary outcome? What is the timetable for the review of the pilot scheme? What are the costs and manpower involved? Will the Administration consult the public or the information and communications technology industry bodies when formulating the long-term strategy on the value-added re-use of PSI?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: The Government launched the Data.One portal on 31 March 2011 to make available two types of PSI, namely real-time traffic data and geo-referenced public facilities data. Response has been encouraging. The number of downloads of real-time traffic data has been increasing significantly, with daily average downloads of traffic snapshot images increasing from 1 900 in April 2011 to 407 000 in January 2012. The daily downloads of the traffic speed map, journey time indicator and special traffic news also averaged from 10 000 to 18 000 each. Besides, at least 10 mobile applications making use of these real-time traffic data have been developed, most of which are available for free download. As geo-referenced public facilities data are static information, frequent downloading is unnecessary. There are on average over 300 downloads every month.

The pilot scheme will be completed in September this year. We are now reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme, and collecting views on the scheme from PSI users, information and communications technology practitioners and other stakeholders through various channels. We will consider the way forward in the light of the outcome of the review.

The review of the pilot scheme does not involve additional manpower and resources.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)080

Question Serial No.

0443

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Data Centre Facilitation Unit set up last year,

- (a) What are its preliminary performance and achievements on the whole?
- (b) How many enquiries or requests for assistance have been received since the setting up of the Unit? What are the major issues involved? With which departments had the Unit liaised to seek their assistance in handling these issues?
- (c) What are the respective numbers of cases in which the Unit had offered or failed to offer assistance? What is(are) the main reason(s) for failing to offer assistance?
- (d) What is the number of data centres established with assistance from the Unit? What are the scales, locations and trades involved of each of these data centres?
- (e) What are the existing staffing establishment and expenditure of the Unit? Will its manpower and expenditure be increased in 2012-13? If so, what are the details? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) Since the establishment of the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) and the launch of its dedicated website in July 2011, the industry's response has been positive and enthusiastic. DCFU has received enquiries from local, Mainland and overseas parties, and there have been more than 38 000 visits to its dedicated website, of which 50% are from Hong Kong, 30% from overseas and 20% from the Mainland. The accumulated number of visits to the website has reached 254 000.
 - (b) Since July 2011, we have received over 60 enquiries or requests for assistance from local, Mainland and overseas companies and individuals. We have explained the advantages of setting up data centres in Hong Kong vis-a-vis other places, and provided information on market conditions, site search, government regulatory requirements, power and network supply, etc. We have also liaised with relevant government departments (e.g. Planning Department, Lands Department and Transport Department) to handle enquiries on data centre application procedures and regulations. In addition, we have been working with Invest Hong Kong to closely follow up and render assistance to Mainland and overseas parties interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)081

Question Serial No.

0743

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What specific measures will be taken by the Administration to facilitate the setting up of data centres, particularly high-tier ones, in Hong Kong? What are the specific contents, costs and manpower required as well as the implementation timetable of each of these measures? What is the estimated or expected number of large multinational enterprises that will be attracted to set up high-tier data centres in Hong Kong in the coming year? What industry sectors will be involved in these data centres? What are the locations of these data centres? And how many job opportunities are expected to be created in Hong Kong by these data centres?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: In 2012-13, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will continue to implement various measures to facilitate the establishment of data centres (in particular high-tier data centres) in Hong Kong. Major measures are as follows:

- (a) The Chief Executive announced in the 2011-12 Policy Address that about two hectares of land in Tseung Kwan O had been reserved for data centre development. We are now making preparations for the requisite town planning procedures. We expect that the first site will be available for open bidding in 2013 at the earliest. The Government will tailor-make the Conditions of Sale of the site for high-tier data centre use and assess the tender reserve price on that basis.
- (b) The Financial Secretary announced in the 2012-13 Budget that two time-limited measures will be introduced in 2012-13 to encourage use of existing industrial buildings or industrial lots for data centre development. First, the Government will exempt the waiver fee for changing parts of eligible industrial buildings to data centre use. In addition, the Government will assess the premium for lease modification of industrial lots for developing high-tier data centres on the basis of actual development intensity and high-tier data centre use. We are now working on the implementation details with a view to introducing these two measures by mid-2012 for application until 31 March 2016.
- (c) The Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) under OGCIO will continue to provide assistance to companies interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, and disseminate information on data centre development in Hong Kong through its data centre website (<http://www.datacentre.gov.hk>). In view of the unique building and facilities needs of data centres, DCFU will collaborate with other government departments to explore ways of fine-tuning the existing requirements to cater for their

operation.

The implementation of the above measures is part of OGCIO's regular work, and the expenditure and manpower involved will be absorbed within its existing resources.

We believe that the above measures are conducive to Hong Kong's development into a regional data centre hub. However, it is difficult at this stage to provide the detailed information as requested in the question.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)082

Question Serial No.

1658

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the provision of free Wi-Fi service for the public by the Government, please provide the following information:

- (a) Is there any plan to extend the service to non-government premises? If so, what are the specific contents and implementation timetable? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?
- (b) Will the Administration consider providing subsidy to grassroot or low-income families, in order to ensure that they will not be deprived of the right to access to the Internet because of financial difficulty? If so, what are the details? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?
- (c) Will the Administration consider implementing a public-private partnership project to enhance the provision of free Wi-Fi service for the public? If so, what are the project details, progress and implementation timetable? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and whether a feasibility study on public-private partnership will be conducted?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

- Reply:
- (a) The Government Wi-Fi (GovWi-Fi) Programme aims at providing free Wi-Fi service at government premises with high public patronage, and facilitating access to the Internet and e-government services by citizens. We currently have no plan to extend the GovWi-Fi service to non-government premises which would involve the issues of premises ownership and to avoid competing with commercial Wi-Fi services.
 - (b) As web-based learning has become an integral part of education nowadays, the Government has been disbursing the Internet access subsidy to the low-income families with school children since 2010/2011 school year to reduce their financial burden in providing their children with access to the Internet at home. We further launched the five-year Internet Learning Support Programme in July 2011 to help these families effectively use the subsidy to acquire affordable computer equipment and Internet access service, and provide them with free training, user and social support to facilitate their beneficial use of the Internet for learning at home.
 - (c) Implementation of the GovWi-Fi Programme has stimulated the development of other Wi-Fi initiatives in the private sector. Since the launch of GovWi-Fi service in March 2008, the overall number of public Wi-Fi locations in Hong Kong has grown by 20% from about 4 200 to over 5 000. Among these public Wi-Fi service locations, some are

also providing free Wi-Fi services, e.g. 14 MTR stations with iCentres, around 170 buses of New World First Bus and Citybus, shopping malls, etc. The Housing Authority has also introduced measures to provide free Wi-Fi services in public rental housing estates to its tenants. Currently, there are around 150 public rental housing estates installed with more than 1 000 access points, facilitating estate tenants to enjoy free wireless access to the Internet. In addition, the Hong Kong International Airport and some large exhibition venues are also providing free Wi-Fi service. In view of the above developments, we have no plan to consider or examine a public-private partnership arrangement at the present stage.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)083

Question Serial No.

1791

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

- Question:
- (a) Please provide information on the usage and costs of various government online services in the past two years.
 - (b) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for further promotion of e-government services? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved as well as implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider introducing relevant measures in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

- Reply:
- (a) The Government provides around 180 online services through the GovHK portal. In 2010 and 2011, these online services were used over 7.9 million times and 9.4 million times respectively. These online services are provided by more than 50 departments and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer does not have the cost information on each of these online services.
 - (b) There is plan to develop or enhance 24 e-government services in 2012-13, with a total budget of around \$140 m. Details are set out at Annex. The manpower required for the development and implementation of these projects will be absorbed by the internal resources of the bureaux/ departments concerned.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

	Department	e-Service	Project Estimate (\$'000)	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
1.	Housing Department	Minor Works Management System	6,980	01.04.2012	30.04.2013
2.	Marine Department	e-Payment Portal	3,283	01.08.2012	31.03.2014
3.	Marine Department	Redevelopment of the Seafarer Examination and Certificates System	5,280	01.07.2012	31.12.2013
4.	Marine Department	Online submission of Dangerous Goods Movement Record and application for licensing and survey of a vessel, etc, and enhance online payment function	2,200	01.04.2012	30.09.2013
5.	Hong Kong Police Force	Enhancement to the Central Licensing System Phase II	2,533	01.04.2012	31.08.2013
6.	Registration and Electoral Office	Development of an electronic channel to meet the requirements stipulated under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance in relation to the processing of electoral documents	2,131	01.11.2012	31.05.2014
7.	Water Supplies Department	Provide e-bills alerts and water suspension notices through smart phone small mobile application program	900	01.07.2012	30.09.2013
8.	University Grants Committee Secretariat	Research Assessment Exercise Electronic System	4,620	01.06.2012	31.10.2013
9.	University Grants Committee Secretariat	Online submission of assessment information	9,570	01.04.2012	30.09.2013
10.	Labour and Welfare Bureau	e-Application for Community Investment and Inclusion Fund and project management system	2,777	01.04.2012	30.06.2013
11.	Labour and Welfare Bureau	Information management system for Central Registry for Rehabilitation (CRR)	2,989	01.04.2012	31.12.2013
12.	Buildings Department	Revamp of Building Records Access and Viewing On-line system	9,716	01.04.2012	31.10.2013
13.	Transport Department	Provision of mobile applications for real-time traffic and transport information	950	01.04.2012	31.10.2012
14.	Immigration Department	Addition of automated vehicle clearance e-Channels at Lok Ma Chau Control Point	9,888	01.04.2012	31.12.2013
15.	Immigration Department	Provision of cross boundary student e-Channels at Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point	9,586	01.04.2012	31.12.2013

	Department	e-Service	Project Estimate (\$'000)	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
16.	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Common shop inspection platform cum geographic information system for Electrical Products Safety and Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling System	7,500	01.04.2012	01.10.2014
17.	Planning Department	Implementation of Electronic Planning Application Submission System	4,950	01.04.2012	31.12.2012
18.	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Enhancement of Leisure Link e-services system to integrate with MyGovHK	7,320	01.07.2012	31.12.2013
19.	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Procurement of additional self-charging terminals for Hong Kong Public Libraries	9,800	01.04.2012	31.03.2014
20.	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Upgrade of Online Patron Registration System and Integration with MyGovHK	6,490	01.07.2012	31.12.2013
21.	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Implementation of a Single Sign-On solution for e-services of the Hong Kong Public Libraries	8,170	01.04.2012	31.07.2013
22.	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Mobile and accessible version of the MyGovHK	9,300	01.04.2012	30.09.2014
23.	Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department	Enhance the e-forms for application of licenses and activity booking services	6,685	01.04.2012	31.01.2013
24.	Lands Department	Pilot project on extension of GeoInfo Map services to support common mobile devices	6,545	01.04.2012	31.07.2014

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)084

Question Serial No.

1792

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details on the measures taken by the Bureau in the past two years and in 2012-13 to promote the practices on “green data centre management”, including the specific contents, manpower involved, year of implementation and detailed expenditures.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: With reference to industry best practices in green data centre management, we developed relevant guidelines and references and promulgated them to bureaux and departments (B/Ds) last year. We will continue our work in this area in 2012-13. Specific tasks involved include:

- (a) Promoting best practices of green data centre management to B/Ds;
- (b) Providing sample specifications for green procurement and disposal of IT equipment and data centre facilities for reference and adoption by B/Ds; and
- (c) Arranging training and experience sharing activities on green data centre management for B/Ds.

The estimated total expenditure in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to implement the above measures is about \$400,000, and staff resource of about five man-months is involved.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)085

Question Serial No.

1793

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details on the measures related to informatisation under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation and the National 12th Five-Year Plan, including the implementation progress, projects that have yet to be implemented, and the contents of projects to be implemented in 2012-13. Please also give an account of the expenditure or estimate of each of these projects.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) have put in place a number of liberalisation measures related to the information technology industry under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). These liberalisation measures include: allowing Hong Kong service suppliers to apply for qualification certification of computer information system integration; allowing Hong Kong service suppliers to set up wholly-owned enterprises in the Mainland; allowing Hong Kong permanent residents to set up individually owned business in the Mainland; and allowing Hong Kong residents to take professional qualification examinations in Hong Kong. Regarding trade and investment facilitation measures under CEPA, pilot projects under mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong are now in progress. We shall continue to explore more liberalisation measures under CEPA with the Mainland authorities based on feasible suggestions from the local information technology industry.

In implementing the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (FA), OGCIO will continue to promote the co-operation in informatisation between the two places through the Hong Kong / Guangdong Expert Group on Co-operation in Informatisation. The co-operation initiatives include: taking forward the pilot applications for mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong; supporting enterprises of both sides to jointly develop e-business systems; as well as encouraging the industry to gradually adopt common Radio Frequency Identification standards and participate in organising standards working groups. These initiatives are in good progress as scheduled.

With regard to information technology, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Government) will complement the National 12th Five-Year Plan in the following areas:

1. Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong

According to CEPA and FA, pilot projects under “Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong” (Mutual Recognition) are now in operation. These pilot projects help save time and cost in the preparation of trade-related documents. Making reference to the experience gained in the pilot projects, Hong Kong and the Mainland authorities are working closely to establish standing arrangements for Mutual Recognition between Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2012-13. The Government has also set aside \$1 m for promoting the wider application and use of Mutual Recognition. The work required will be absorbed by OGCIO’s existing resources.

2. Technology Collaboration

The Government encourages Hong Kong experts and industry members to collaborate closely with the Mainland and join standardisation organisations in the Mainland to contribute to the development of cloud computing standards when opportunity arises. The Government also provides financial support through the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote joint scientific researches in both places. Examples include:

- (a) Representatives from the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) joined the Technical Committee on Information Technology of Standardisation of Guangdong Province in July 2011. The Committee is mainly responsible for related technical work on standardisation of information technologies in Guangdong Province;
- (b) ASTRI received funding support from Innovation and Technology Fund in 2011 to work with Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct joint researches in high performance computing and cloud computing. These researches aim to set up an Internet-based network for sharing technological resources and services between the two places and to work on the cloud computing related standards; and
- (c) Cyberport will join the Guangdong Cloud Computing Industry Alliance, which seeks to unite the industry, academia, research institutes and end-users for promoting exchanges among stakeholders in the cloud computing industry chain in the Guangdong Province, researches in core technologies, establishment of industry standards, and provision of industry application solutions and technology consulting services.

3. Technology Exchanges

The Government will collaborate with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and related organisations to organise expert forums. For examples:

- (a) In March this year, OGCIO and Cyberport will organise a Cloud Computing Symposium in Cyberport. We have invited senior officials of some Mainland provincial and municipal governments as guest speakers to share their valuable experience with the participants. Cyberport will be responsible for the expenditure incurred; and
- (b) In May this year, OGCIO will participate in the 16th International Soft China Expo to be held in Beijing by MIIT. OGCIO has set aside \$0.9 m for setting up a Hong Kong Pavilion to showcase quality Hong Kong ICT products and services, as well as organising a Cloud Computing Forum to share experience.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)086

Question Serial No.

1794

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details on the monitoring of the launch of ‘.香港’ full Chinese domain names and implementation of accredited registrars in Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited. Please state the estimated expenditures and manpower involved as well as the progress schedule of the project.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC) launched the “.香港” full Chinese domain names registration service in March 2011. As at 1 February 2012, there are over 25 000 “.香港” domain name registrations, accounting for about 11% of all domain names registered under the Hong Kong country code top level domain.

As for the Registry-Registrar model which was launched in July 2011, HKIRC has accredited 6 local registrars (including the Hong Kong Domain Name Registration Company Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HKIRC) and 9 overseas registrars as at 1 February 2012.

Both the manpower and expenditure involved in monitoring the above services of HKIRC are absorbed within the existing resources.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)087

Question Serial No.

1796

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

- Question:
- (a) Please give an account of the total expenditure, expenditure items and amount involved in each of these items for launching the Web Accessibility Campaign over the past two years.
 - (b) Please list out the names of the private organisations that have collaborated with the Government to launch the Web Accessibility Campaign, the website projects jointly implemented by the Government and these private organisations and the expenditure of each of these projects.
 - (c) Will the campaign be continued in 2012-13? If so, what is the estimate for it? If not, what is(are) the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

- Reply:
- (a) In 2010-11, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) provided funding support of \$0.3 m to the Internet Professional Association (iProA) for the Web Care Campaign 2010, which included an award scheme to encourage the adoption of web accessibility design in the public and private sectors, and a series of seminars, workshops and visits to enhance awareness of web accessibility and safe use of the Internet among primary and secondary students as well as their parents.

To further promote web accessibility in the public and private sectors with a view to facilitating persons with disabilities to access online information and services, the OGCIO launched the Web Accessibility Campaign in October 2011. We have organised seminars and workshops for organisations and webmasters to raise their awareness on web accessibility and encourage the adoption of accessibility design in their websites. We have also produced a management handbook and set up a portal to provide information and practical guide on web accessibility for their reference. The expenditure in 2011-12 is \$1 m.

Over the past two years, the total expenditure on promoting web accessibility is \$1.3 m.

- (b) In mid-2011, the OGCIO engaged a vendor, Access Testing HK Limited, as the service contractor for the Web Accessibility Campaign to produce a management handbook, organise seminars and workshops as well as build a dedicated portal for the Campaign. The total expenditure involved is \$0.86 m.

- (c) The OGCIO will continue to take forward the Web Accessibility Campaign in 2012-13, including sharing the best practice and related skills of web accessibility design with web developers, and launching an award scheme in recognition of public and private organisations that have committed to the cause of web accessibility. The estimated total expenditure is \$2 m.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)088

Question Serial No.

1797

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title):
Office of the Government
Chief Information Officer

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the work to support projects to promote wider information and communications technology adoption among the elderly, please give an account of the supported projects over the past two years, and the provision estimate as well as the expenditure of each of these projects, and whether there is over-spending.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has launched a series of projects over the past few years to promote wider information and communications technology (ICT) adoption among the elderly. Details are as follows:

- (a) In 2009-10, the OGCIO provided a funding support of \$2.8 m to the Hong Kong Society for the Aged (SAGE) for the development of “eElderly”, a dedicated portal for the elderly. Launched in June 2010, the “eElderly” portal is an information platform with user-friendly interface and design, integrating information around the needs and interests of the elderly. The portal not only encourages the elderly to acquire ICT skills to engage with information and expand their horizon, but also forges closer communication with their younger family members.
- (b) In 2010-11, the OGCIO allocated \$2.95 m to SAGE for the second-phase development of “eElderly” to incorporate more interesting contents and features for the elderly. The development work will be completed by April 2013. The OGCIO also allocated a funding of \$2.56 m in the same year to implement an elderly learning programme under the District Cyber Centres Scheme in collaboration with “eElderly”, which seeks to enhance the capacity of district-based elderly centres by providing them with customised training and elder-friendly equipment, such as large computer monitors with touch-screen function. The aim is to encourage their elderly members to access “eElderly” and other online resources. This programme will be completed in March 2012.
- (c) In 2011-12, the OGCIO provided funding support totaling \$840,000 to 3 community organisations for launching various activities to enhance the awareness and knowledge on ICT among the elderly, and encourage them to adopt ICT in their daily lives. These 3 projects will be rolled out later in 2012.

There is no over-spending in respect of the above projects. Details of actual expenditure will be provided in the final reports submitted by the implementing organisations upon completion of the projects.

Name in block letters: Daniel Lai

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 22.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)089

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0909

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

- Question:
- (a) In regard to the data collected upon the soft launch of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) formally conducted in November 2011, when would be the timing for DAB to commence full operation? What are the related details? What will be the estimated expenditure?
 - (b) It is expected that more commercial DAB stations will have completed their soft launch in the coming year, please state the reason(s) for not broadcasting more popular Radio 1 and Radio 2 in the RTHK DAB soft launch stage? If proceeded with the said work, would there be a huge rise in the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

- Reply:
- (a) According to the current progress, construction of the 7 hilltop transmitters over the territory is expected to be completed by end of March this year, whence the DAB service will be in full swing. The estimated cost for construction of DAB transmitters is no more than \$38 million by approximation, and the cost will be shared among the 4 operators (Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited, Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited, Phoenix U Radio Limited and RTHK).
 - (b) Currently, RTHK Radio 1 and Radio 2 are transmitted via VHF (FM) on stable reception and clear sound quality generally receptive to the audience. However, complaints demanded for improvement have been received at times related to medium-wave (AM) transmission which could be susceptible to interference in reception. In addition, numerous high-rise buildings constructed in the recent years have also hindered the reception. In view of the priority of impacts, RTHK decided to set forth enhancement of the sound quality with AM channels, which comprise Radio 3, Radio 5, Radio 6 and PTH Channel, plus relay the China National Radio (Hong Kong Edition). Programmes of the said 5 channels in total will be delivered via DAB platform. At the present stage, RTHK has not worked out the plan on broadcasting programmes of Radio 1 and Radio 2 via DAB platform nor the related estimated expenditure.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)090

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0910

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the work plan for construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O? What are the related work details in the current year? What will be the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: The technical feasibility study on re-provisioning of new Broadcasting House has been completed. The selected site (at Tseung Kwan O Areas 85) had to go through a town planning process to change the land use. The Town Planning Board had no objection to the application after public consultation. The Planning Department will take follow-up actions to seek formal approval for revising the Outline Zoning Plan.

RTHK will draw up arrangements relating to the design, construction and tendering of the new Broadcasting House as early as possible. RTHK will also seek necessary funding through the established mechanism. The manpower required for coping with this project and other new development projects of RTHK (including Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Services and the Media Asset Management) has been covered by the 35 posts created for RTHK in 2011-12.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)091

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0911

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated that RTHK had previously produced special programmes for the LegCo Election and the Election Forum in delivering local and international events. Since the seats of the Legislative Council will be increased as far as the so-called “super councillors’ seats” is concerned, will RTHK give more resources (such as extend the programme hours for the Election Forum) to this end? If yes, what will be the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: RTHK will produce special programmes and Election Forum(s) for the 2012 Legislative Council Election. The related expenditure will be absorbed by internal resources allocated within the department. The actual expenditure is subject to the details as well as the number of candidates running for the said election.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)092

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

2820

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: A local Pay TV station was said to have secured an exclusive broadcast deal in the 2012 London Olympics. Will RTHK give more resources to produce related specials as compared to the previously held Olympic Games, such that the general public will be given an equal opportunity to enjoy the event? What are the preparation details and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: In regard to the 2012 London Olympics, a TV programme “Glamour Of Sport” (RTHK co-produced with the Major Sports Events Committee) will be shown at 7 p.m. on TVB Jade, every Sunday. RTHK is discussing with ATV and TVB respectively on arranging for the English edition of the said programme to be shown.

“Glamour Of Sport” is an eight-episode documentary of the following contents:

- (1) On Olympic Spirit – reveal what London has equipped for the Olympic Games; previous Olympic medal winners (H.K./British athletes) are invited to bring up the topic of Olympic Spirit; show how elite athletes of HK and their support teams rise to the Olympic challenge;
- (2) Cycling Representatives – reveal preparation of the Olympic Games by athletes in the senior and the younger generations;
- (3) Disabled Athletes Team–live-report on their preparation for competing in swimming / running events;
- (4) Table Tennis Team – on report of locally trained athletes and new bloods from China to get on the go for relay events;
- (5) Badminton Team – show their readiness to beat the Olympic Games;
- (6) Athletes’ Buddies–a professional team from Sports Science of Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) (physical therapists / psychological therapists from HKSI). Reveal their roles in managing athletes’ physical and psychological status in dealing with grand events;
- (7) Team Sport–see how rugby / basketball teams prepared themselves to representing H.K. at the Olympic Games; and

- (8) School Participation – reveal secondary school students’ mindset regarding the spirit of Olympics.

The programme “Glamour of Sport” (Chinese and English Edition) is a full HD production with production cost at about \$2.3 million.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)093

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2821

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: How many HD programmes (expressed in ratio) were there among the TV production of RTHK in the previous year? Currently, how much is the production cost of HD TV over Analog TV? Will there be an increase of the said proportion in this year? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply: Among the TV production of RTHK in 2011-12, it is estimated that a total of 200 hours of which are HD programmes, accounting for about 32% out of the total output hours (630 hours).

Currently, the production costs of HD TV and Analog TV have recorded a difference at about 25%. As RTHK will continue to increase HD TV production in 2012-13, the increases in the actual output hours and expenditure are subject to procurement progress of the related equipment and the ancillary facilities for HD production.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)094

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2689

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please state the number of RTHK livecast(s) in regard to local football matches as well as the expenditure involved in each livecast match. Please list the provision that has been reserved for football match livecast(s), and illustrate the selection criteria of livecast programmes.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply: RTHK livecast a total of five football matches in 2011-12. The direct expenditure of each match ranges from \$12,500 to \$15,000. RTHK's livecast selecting criteria in 2012-13 included: the importance and popularity of the match, copyright for relaying the match, impacts to listeners of the programme originally at that particular timeslot, and obtaining consent of broadcast from the football match organizer(s). Generally speaking, the direct expenditure reserved in 2012-13 for football match livecast(s) will be comparable with that for 2011-12.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)095

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1413

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in the 2011-12 Policy Agenda that to facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the community, more radio programmes in minority languages will be provided. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the project? What are the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (b) The Budget has indicated the percentage of the estimate appropriated for special interests group (including the elderly, minorities and underprivileged) in the distribution of output by programming nature. If programmes for the ethnic minorities are increased, will there be a corresponding decrease in the estimate for programme production for the other underprivileged groups?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) To facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the community, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has produced a number of radio programmes in minority languages in recent years, including a current two-hour programme “Beautiful Sunday” produced by Radio 2 every week and dedicated for people speaking Indonesian as their mother tongue. The annual direct expenditures of the programme are about \$200,000. In addition, Radio 3 produces 2 one-hour programmes every week, namely “Saptahik Sandesh” in Nepali and “Hong Kong Ki Shaam” in Urdu respectively. The annual direct expenditures of the 2 programmes total around \$200,000. With regard to manpower, the workload of all the programmes is absorbed by producers and programme assistants.

On the other hand, RTHK plans to launch a 3-year pilot project for Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) in the next financial year. The Government has earmarked \$45 million for funding applications from groups interested in the project. The CIBS project has two programme branches, namely the Chinese Language Service and the Non-Chinese Language Service. We have commenced a 3-month public consultation which will conclude on 29 March 2012. It is expected that ethnic minorities and the underprivileged will be engaged in the project.

- (b) Even if RTHK increases programme productions for ethnic minorities, it will not reduce the estimate for programme productions for the other underprivileged groups.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)096

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2465

Programme: (1) Radio
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration has stated that it will continue to work on the preservation and digitisation of analogue TV and audio archives in the coming year. Would the Administration please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) How does the Administration assess which programmes needed to be digitised? What is the rank of the officers responsible for the assessment? What is the estimate for completing the digitisation of the TV and audio archives?
- (b) What is the progress of work in 2011-12 and what are the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (c) What are the resources and expenditures involved in the full digitisation of the archives?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

- Reply:
- (a) In 2009, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) commissioned a consultancy company to conduct a study on the digitisation and management of programme archives. The consultancy company then set out priorities of digitisation for different categories of archive materials (including video footages, sound and music, photos and reference materials, etc.) in accordance with their historical and cultural value, extent of deterioration, quantities of old media player available in stock, operational effectiveness and economic value. According to RTHK's assessment, the most valuable materials comprise about 25% of its archives and it plans to digitise this portion of archive materials first. The Media Asset Management project will receive funding totaled around \$99 million from the Government in 5 years starting from 2011-12.
 - (b) In 2011-12, RTHK set up workshops in the government offices at the car park in Rumsey Street and commenced the digitisation of sound and photo archives. In the first half of the year, RTHK mainly proceeded with the fitting-out works on the workshops, procurement of machines and recruitment of staff. The workshops have come into operation since last October. It is expected that by 2012-13, about 1 600 hours of sound recordings and about 120 000 units of films will be digitised and kept as permanent collection. In 2011-12, the expenditures incurred are about \$6.4 million. A total of 21 employees, who are all non-civil service contract staff and of different ranks, are deployed for the work. When the works on the workshops at Sai Kung Government Offices are completed at the end of 2012, digitisation of video footages can commence.

- (c) According to the consultancy report of 2009, if RTHK takes forward full digitisation of its archives, the total expenditures involved will amount between \$132 million and \$223.3 million.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)097

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0927

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under the said programme, the financial provision in 2011-12 has been reduced by 23.1% from the original \$27.7 million to the revised estimate at \$21.3 million. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yea, Regina

Reply: The revised estimate for 2011-12 has been reduced by \$6.4 million from the original as certain developments in the New Media service have occurred to be more time-consuming than they were expected, whereas the related work and expenditure will be postponed to 2012-13.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)098

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2651

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Among the staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), what are the respective numbers, percentages and emoluments of civil servants (CS) and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff? Please advise the numbers of NCSC staff by posts. Among the staff recruited this year, what are the respective numbers of CS and NCSC staff? What are the numbers of staff employed by internal recruitment and open recruitment respectively? What is the distribution of such posts by ranks and what are the remuneration packages?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: As at 31 January 2012, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has a total strength of 774 staff, including 434 civil servants (CS) (56.1% of the total staff) and 329 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (42.5% of the total staff). The remaining 11 are staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The salaries of CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks	Salaries of the Ranks	Staff Numbers
Programme Director of Broadcasting Officer Grade:	\$177,300 - \$182,650	1
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$147,150 - \$160,600	1
Assistant Director of Broadcasting	\$126,500 - \$138,350	1
Controller (Broadcasting Services)	\$106,600 - \$116,500	1
Chief Programme Officer	\$82,975 - \$95,595	12
Principal Programme Officer	\$68,110 - \$80,080	13
Senior Programme Officer	\$53,060 - \$65,300	46
Assistant Programme Officer	\$21,175 - \$39,220	87
Programme Assistant	\$10,885 - \$20,160	18
Other ranks	\$9,030 - \$160,600	147
Total		434

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Staff Posts' Comparable Civil Service Ranks	Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade: Principal Programme Officer	\$69,010 - \$74,110	5
Senior Programme Officer	\$38,685 - \$59,670	15
Programme Officer	\$24,120 - \$43,010	40
Assistant Programme Officer	\$12,380 - \$25,585	167
Programme Assistant	\$9,080 - \$14,010	26
Other ranks	\$8,280 - \$89,075	76
Total		329

As at 31 January 2012 in 2011-12, a total of 10 CS were recruited at the rank of Assistant Programme Officer with a salary of \$21,175. Among them, 7 were former NCSC staff of RTHK. Meanwhile, a total of 55 persons were recruited as NCSC staff. Their salaries are as follows:

NCSC Staff Posts' Comparable Civil Service Ranks	Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade: Senior Programme Officer	\$38,685 - \$44,400	2
Programme Officer	\$24,120 - \$35,785	3
Assistant Programme Officer	\$12,380 - \$20,000	17
Programme Assistant	\$9,080 - \$9,565	13
Other ranks	\$9,030 - \$50,775	20
Total		55

Name in block letters Roy TANG
 Post Title Director of Broadcasting
 Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)099

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2652

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Service with 5 channels was launched in November 2011. One of the channels relays programmes especially produced for the Hong Kong audience by the China National Radio. What are the expenditures involved for the relay? Please provide a breakdown on the expenditures. Since the soft launch of the DAB Service, what are the weekly numbers of listeners of the China National Radio as compared with those of the other programmes?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The China National Radio produces a programme China National Radio (Hong Kong Edition) especially for the Hong Kong audience which is relayed on Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) digital channel DAB 32. The production costs are paid by the China National Radio whereas RTHK is only responsible for the costs incurred for the relay project. The expenditures are comparable with those currently incurred for relaying the programmes of BBC World Service, that is about \$530, 000 per year.

As we are still in the stage of a soft launch, no audience rating surveys have been conducted.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)100

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2662

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please advise the estimate for the RTHK Board of Advisors in 2012-2013. What are the work plans of the Board in 2012-2013? What are the expenditures and work for the past year? Is there any plan of opening the meetings to the public so as to enhance their transparency?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) provides RTHK Board of Advisors with secretariat support service through internal deployment of staff. RTHK has not drawn up 2012-13 estimate for the Board.

For the past year, the Board of Advisors received briefings and provided its views on various key development projects of RTHK, including the projects on Digital Audio Broadcasting, Community Involvement Broadcasting Service and Media Asset Management. The Board also received quarterly updates on programmes and complaints as well as the annual plan from RTHK. In addition, the Board members also attended functions and events staged by RTHK so as to enhance their understanding of RTHK's operation. In 2012-13, the Board will continue to perform its functions stipulated in the Charter of RTHK, particularly in conducting public opinion surveys on RTHK's fulfilling the public purposes and mission as a public service broadcaster, and advising RTHK on the pilot project for Community Involvement Broadcasting Service.

The Board of Advisors attaches great importance to enhancing the transparency of its work. The agendas, discussion papers, minutes of meetings and annual reports of the Board are all uploaded on RTHK website to enable the public to know more about its work. The Board has no plan of opening its meetings.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)101

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0745

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimate for Programme (1) in 2012-13 is \$233.7 million which is 2.3% lower than the original estimate in 2011-12. The Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is planning to produce a series of special programmes, including the 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the London 2012 Olympic Games, the Legislative Council Election, the Chief Executive's Policy Address, the 18th Chinese Communist Party Congress and the United States Presidential Election. How much will be the financial provision and the percentage allocated for RTHK to produce the above programmes? What are the estimated audience rating, output hours and cost for each programme?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: In 2012-13, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) plans to produce a number of special programmes. The estimated production hours, estimated expenditures and their percentage shares of the Radio Division's production expenditures are set out in the following table:

	Production hours	Estimated expenditure	Percentage shares of the Radio Division's production expenditure
15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	42	\$650,000	1.27%
London 2012 Olympic Games	30	\$500,000	0.98%
Programmes related to the Legislative Council Election	40	\$600,000	1.17%

Besides, the New Media Unit will set up a dedicated website to introduce the special programmes listed above. The expenditures are met by internal deployment of resources in the Department. There is no need for additional funding.

The other special programmes, including the Chief Executive's Policy Address, the 18th Chinese Communist Party Congress and the United States Presidential Election, etc. will be produced as news features. Apart from the expenditures incurred for overseas reporting activities, there will be no additional production costs or production hours.

The special programmes will be arranged to be broadcast on different channels at different time periods on different dates. Hence, it is difficult to estimate the audience ratings.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)102

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2548

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Analysis of Financial and Staff Provision, it is stated that there will be an increase of 12 posts in 2012-13. What are the respective ranks, emoluments and service areas of the 12 posts?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: Among the 12 additional posts under Programme (1) Radio for Radio Television Hong Kong in 2012-13, 2 posts are created to provide support to Digital Audio Broadcasting Service and the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service. The ranks and salaries of the 2 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number	Monthly Salaries
Programme Officer	1	\$41,070 - \$51,670
Assistant Programme Officer	1	\$21,175 - \$39,220
Total	2	

The remaining 10 civil service posts are created to absorb corresponding non-civil service contract positions which have established a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio programmes. The ranks and salaries of the posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number	Monthly Salaries
Principal Programme Officer	1	\$68,110-\$80,080
Senior Programme Officer	1	\$53,060-\$65,300
Programme Officer	5	\$41,070 - \$51,670
Assistant Programme Officer	3	\$21,175 - \$39,220
Total	10	

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)103

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2549

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: According to the revised estimate in 2011-12, the documentary programmes under “per hour per programming strand (in cost)” is expressed as \$646,800, representing an increase of \$127,200 over the original \$519,600; whereas the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 will be \$796,300. Please give details regarding the said changes.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: Major reason(s) for an increase in the cost of documentary production per hour for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are the increases in the overall provision to Capital Account of T.V. production that catered for enhancing equipment of T.V. production as well as its transmitter network(s). Specifically, there will be an additional provision of \$19.4 million in 2012-13 for procurement of servers and related IT equipment to cope with non-linear tapeless production, plus migration from SD production to HD production by upgrading audio and visual equipment in T.V. studios. Also, there is an additional provision of \$33.91 million for 2011-12 and \$6.5 million for 2012-13 on procurement of related equipment for set-up of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) transmitter network(s).

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)104

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2201

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Soft launch of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) was implemented by RTHK in November 2011, would the Administration please inform us on: -

- (a) The estimated total expenses and manpower involved regarding the launch of DAB services in 2011-12;
- (b) The estimated total expenses and manpower involved regarding the launch of DAB services in 2012-13, and the content of services;
- (c) Is there any plan to formally launch DAB in 2012-13? If yes, please give the plan details;
- (d) Whether the Administration has planned to set aside resources for the radio operation to strengthen relevant work-related training for her staff before introducing DAB services? If yes, please give the details. What are the expenses and manpower involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

- Reply:
- (a) RTHK in 2011-12 will focus on the initial preparatory work of DAB, while four officers (1 Chief Programme Officer, 1 Principal Programme Officer, 1 Assistant Programme Officer and 1 Administrative Assistant) who will undertake programme production are involved. It is yet at the soft-launch stage, and thus there is no direct expenditure regarding programme production. The cost for construction of transmitters is no more than \$38 million by approximation, and the cost will be shared among 4 operators (Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited, Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited, Phoenix U Radio Limited and RTHK).
 - (b) From 2012-13 onwards, the estimated expenditure will be at an increase of \$1.314 million as RTHK will start to produce and deliver new programmes on DAB platform with the additional two programme officers (1 Programme Officer and 1 Assistant Programme Officer) incurred in this respect.
 - (c) According to RTHK's plan, the DAB service will be formally launched in 2012-13. In addition to relay of the current 5 channels (RTHK Putonghua Channel, RTHK Radio 3, RTHK Radio 5, Hong Kong Edition of China National Radio and BBC World Service Channel) in full, value-added services related information will be delivered. After July 2012, RTHK will progressively produce brand-new programmes for DAB channels.

- (d) Please refer to the above para. (b) on areas regarding the additional resources. Staff training has been arranged in the DAB service preparation period earlier on and continually, by making reference to worldwide recognized experience and practices in programme production as well as knowledge learnt at international seminar(s) attended. The related expenditure for 2012-13 is expected to be \$0.15 million.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)105

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2202

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the planning on construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O, would the Administration please inform the Council on:

- (a) The estimated total expenditure and manpower involved in the said project in 2011-12.
- (b) The estimated total expenditure and manpower involved in the said project in 2012-13, as well as the content of the service.
- (c) The availability of timetable to lay out the completion and operation dates of the said building. If yes, please give the details, plus the relevant expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply: The technical feasibility study on re-provisioning of new Broadcasting House has been completed. The selected site (at Tseung Kwan O Areas 85) had to go through a town planning process to change the land use. The Town Planning Board had no objection to the application after public consultation. The Planning Department will take follow-up actions to seek formal approval for revising the Outline Zoning Plan.

RTHK will draw up arrangements relating to the design, construction and tendering of the new Broadcasting House as early as possible. RTHK will also seek necessary funding through the established mechanism. The manpower required for coping with this project and other new developments (including Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Services and the Media Asset Management) has been covered by the 35 posts created for RTHK in 2011-12.

It is expected that the construction works of the project will be completed in 2017 at the earliest and the new Broadcasting House will put into operation in 2018 upon installation of the equipment.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)106

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0391

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Radio Television Hong Kong has stated that the number of non-directorate posts will be increased by 22 to 553 posts as at 31 March 2013. Please inform this Committee of the nature of work, ranks and salaries of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: Among the 22 additional non-directorate posts for Radio Television Hong Kong in 2012-13, 2 posts are created to provide support to Digital Audio Broadcasting Service and the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service. The ranks and salaries of the 2 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number	Monthly Salaries
Programme Officer	1	\$41,070 - \$51,670
Assistant Programme Officer	1	\$21,175 - \$39,220
Total	2	

The remaining 20 civil service posts are created to absorb corresponding non-civil service contract positions which have established a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and rendering support to the work of corporate communications and standards as well as business developments. The ranks and salaries of the posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number	Monthly Salaries
Principal Programme Officer	1	\$68,110 - \$80,080
Senior Programme Officer	2	\$53,060 - \$65,300
Programme Officer	6	\$41,070 - \$51,670
Assistant Programme Officer	11	\$21,175 - \$39,220
Total	20	

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)107

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0477

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide the following information on the employment of “Non-Civil Service Contract” (NCSC) staff:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts			
Distribution of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	()	()	()
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	()	()	()
• Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	()	()	()
• Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	()	()	()
• Between \$5,001 and \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842	()	()	()
• Number of employees with monthly salary between \$5,842 and \$6,500	()	()	()
The NCSC staff's length of employment			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• From 3 years to 5 years	()	()	()
• From 1 year to 3 years	()	()	()
• Less than 1 year	()	()	()
The number of NCSC staff successfully switched to civil servants	()	()	()
The number of NCSC staff failed to be switched to civil servants	()	()	()
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	()	()	()
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	()	()	()
The number of employees with paid meal breaks	()	()	()
The number of employees without paid meal breaks	()	()	()
The number of employees working 5 days a	()	()	()

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
week	()	()	()
The number of employees working 6 days a week			

() increase and decrease as expressed in percentage each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: Details on the employment of full-time “Non-Civil Service Contract” (NCSC) staff in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows. For 2012-13, as most of the open recruitments of civil servants are still under progress and the number of NCSC staff changes from time to time in accordance with service and operational needs, no information is available for the time being.

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of NCSC staff	-	326 (as at 31.12.2011)	327 (as at 31.3.2011)
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	-	Various posts	Various posts
Distribution of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	-	Around \$77 m (as at 31.12.2011)	Around \$99 m
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	-		
• \$30,001 or above		67	51
• Between \$16,001 and \$30,000		148	152
• Between \$8,001 and \$16,000		111	120
• Between \$6,501 and \$8,000		0	4
• Between \$5,001 and \$6,500		0	0
• \$5,000 or below		0	0
• Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842		0	0
• Number of employees with monthly salary between \$5,842 and \$6,500		0 (as at 31.12.2011)	0
The NCSC staff's length of employment	-		
• 5 years or above		135	129
• From 3 years to 5 years		74	56
• From 1 year to 3 years		70	95
• Less than 1 year		47 (as at 31.12.2011)	47
The number of NCSC staff successfully switched to civil servants	-	No relevant record.	No recruitment of civil servants.
The number of NCSC staff failed to be switched to civil servants	-	No relevant record.	No recruitment of civil servants.
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	-	42%(-1%) (as at 31.12.2011)	43%
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	-	32%(-1%) (as at 31.12.2011)	33%
The number of employees with paid meal breaks	-	309(+1%)	306
The number of employees without paid meal breaks	-	17(-19%) (as at 31.12.2011)	21
The number of employees working 5 days a week	-	Around 280	Around 280
The number of employees working 6 days a week (and the number of employees not working 5 days a week)	-	Around 50 (as at 31.12.2011)	Around 50

Note: Figures do not include short-term NCSC staff employed for ad hoc production needs.

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)108

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0502

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide information regarding the hiring of “agency staff” as follows:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
The number of contracts on agencies	()	()	()
Total contract value with each agency	()	()	()
Total commission to each agency	()	()	()
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	()	()	()
Number of employees from the agencies	()	()	()
Distribution of agency staff's positions			
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees			
• 30,001 or above			
• Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	()	()	()
• Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	()	()	()
• Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	()	()	()
• Between \$5,001 and \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• No. of employees with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• No. of employees with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
The agency staff's employment period			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• From 3 to 5 years	()	()	()
• From 1 to 3 years	()	()	()
• Less than 1 year	()	()	()
The no. of agency staff out of the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	()	()	()
The total sum paid to agencies out of the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	()	()	()
The no. of employees with paid meal break	()	()	()
The no. of employees without paid meal break	()	()	()
The no. of employees on 5-day work	()	()	()
The no. of employees on 6-day work	()	()	()

() increase and decrease as expressed in percentage each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: Please note the following information:

	2012-13 (Estimate)	2011-12 (Revised Estimate)	2010-11 (Actual)
The number of contracts on agencies (issued in the current year)	No plan	No plan	0
Total contract value with each agency (included services based on valid contract(s) issued in the previous year)	Total Expenses \$0 (0%)	Total Expenses \$0 (-100%)	Total Expenses \$95,000
Total commission to each agency	NIL	NIL	Without additional commission
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	NIL	NIL	NIL
Number of employees from the agencies	NIL	NIL	N.A. (as at 31.3.2011)
Distribution of agency staff's positions	NIL	NIL	NIL
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30,001 or above ● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000 ● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000 ● Between \$6,501 and \$8,000 ● Between \$5,001 and \$6,500 ● \$5,000 or below ● No. of employees with monthly salary below \$5,824 ● No. of employees with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500 	NIL	NIL	NIL
The agency staff's employment period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 years or above ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year 	NIL	NIL	NIL
The no. of agency staff out of the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	NIL	NIL	NIL
The total sum paid to agencies out of the total recurrent expenses in the department (in percentage)	NIL	NIL	Less than 0. 1%
The no. of employees with paid meal break The no. of employees without paid meal break	NIL	NIL	NIL
The no. of employees on 5-day work The no. of employees on 6-day work	NIL	NIL	NIL

() increase and decrease as expressed in percentage each year

The above figures do not include the fixed-term contracts under the centralized management of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OCGIO).

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)109

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2948

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide the following information on the hiring of “outsourced staff”:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of outsourcing contracts	()	()	()
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	()	()	()
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	()	()	()
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	()	()	()
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services and telecommunication technology, etc.)			
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees	()	()	()
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	()	()	()
• Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	()	()	()
• Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	()	()	()
• Between \$5,001 and \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842	()	()	()
• Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842 and \$6,500			
The outsourced staff's employment period			
• 5 years or above	()	()	()
• From 3 years to 5 years	()	()	()
• From 1 year to 3 years	()	()	()
• Less than 1 year	()	()	()
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the department	()	()	()
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	()	()	()
The number of employees with paid meal	()	()	()

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
break The number of employees without paid meal break	()	()	()
The number of employees working 5 days a week	()	()	()
The number of employees working 6 days a week	()	()	()

() increase and decrease as expressed in percentage each year

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: The major outsourcing service contracts of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are related to broadcasting technical support, property security, maintenance and repair of mechanical and electrical system in the property as well as cleansing service. Information required is as follows:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of outsourcing contracts	4	4(-)	4(-)
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	Around \$80.25 million	Around \$51.52 million	Around \$37.06 million
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	2 x 1 year 1 x 3 years 1 x 5 years	2 x 1 year 1 x 3 years 1 x 5 years	2 x 1 year 1 x 3 years 1 x 5 years
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	Around 190	Around 190	Around 190
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services and telecommunication technology, etc.)	Staff engaged in cleansing and security services, engineers and technicians.	Staff engaged in cleansing and security services, engineers and technicians.	Staff engaged in cleansing and security services, engineers and technicians.
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • Between \$16,001 and \$30,000 • Between \$8,001 and \$16,000 • Between \$6,501 and \$8,000 • Between \$5,001 and \$6,500 • \$5,000 or below • Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842 • Number of employees with monthly salary below \$5,842 and \$6,500 	Two of the contracts do not have the information required. In the other two contracts related to cleansing and security services, the monthly salaries of 14 full-time posts are between \$8,001 and \$16,000; the monthly salaries of 10 posts are between \$6,501 and \$8,000.	Two of the contracts do not have the information required. In the other two contracts related to cleansing and security services, the monthly salaries of 14 full-time posts are between \$8,001 and \$16,000; the monthly salaries of 10 posts are between \$6,501 and \$8,000.	Two of the contracts do not have the information required. In the other two contracts related to cleansing and security services, the monthly salaries of 14 full-time posts are between \$8,001 and \$16,000; the monthly salaries of 10 posts are between \$5,001 and \$6,500.
The outsourced staff's employment period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years or above • From 3 years to 5 years • From 1 year to 3 years • Less than 1 year 	No information.	No information.	No information.
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the department	Around 24 %	Around 24%	Around 24%

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	Around 25%	Around 17%	Around 13%
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	No information.	No information.	No information.
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	The contracts require 6-day or 7-day service a week. Information on the work arrangement of individual employees is unavailable.	The contracts require 6-day or 7-day service a week. Information on the work arrangement of individual employees is unavailable.	The contracts require 6-day or 7-day service a week. Information on the work arrangement of individual employees is unavailable.

() increase and decrease as expressed in percentage each year

Name in block letters Roy TANG

Post Title Director of Broadcasting

Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)110

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong
Kong

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2476

Programme: (1) Radio
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
(4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, RTHK will create additional posts, viz 12 posts for Radio, 8 posts for Public Affairs and General Television Programme, as well as 2 posts for the New Media. Are these 22 vacancies created in the capacity of civil service contract posts? If yes, will RTHK consider filling the vacancies by the non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff serving in the RTHK? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: In 2012-13, the 22 posts created under Programme (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme as well as (4) New Media are all civil service posts. RTHK must comply with the prevailing civil service appointment policies and regulations in filling these posts. Vacancies at the entry rank or the recruitment rank will be filled by most suitable candidates selected through open, fair and competitive recruitment procedures. Posts at the promotion rank will normally be filled by promoting suitable officers in the immediate lower rank of the same grade. Where no suitable civil servants from the immediate lower rank can be identified for promotion, open recruitment exercises may be conducted.

Name in block letters Roy TANG
Post Title Director of Broadcasting
Date 28.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)111

Head: 180 Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration Subhead 000 Operating
(No. & title): Account

Question Serial No.

0389

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration has stated that the number of non-directorate posts will be decreased by 68 to 54 posts as at 31 March 2013. Please inform this Committee of the nature of work, ranks and salaries of the posts to be deleted. Why is there such a big decrease? Will the decrease affect the normal operation of the Office? If yes, of the details; if no, of the reason.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply: Upon the establishment of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) on 1 April 2012, the functions of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) in relation to broadcasting will be transferred to the OFCA Trading Fund, while those in relation to entertainment and miscellaneous licensing will be taken up by the Home Affairs Department (HAD). As for the functions of film classification, the control of obscene and indecent articles as well as newspaper registration, they will be assumed by the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA). The existing strength of the 122 non-directorate posts in TELA will accordingly be transferred to OFNAA, the OFCA Trading Fund and the HAD to continue with their respective functions originally discharged in TELA as mentioned above. Regarding the redeployment of the posts concerned, we have provided the full details to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB Panel) as well as the Finance Committee (FC) under the Legislative Council, and members of the FC and the ITB Panel supported the proposed establishment changes.

Name in block letters: Vincent LIU

Post Title: Commissioner for Television and
Entertainment Licensing

Date: 27.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)112

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper
and Article Administration Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0437

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper
Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the promotion of protecting the youth from obscene and indecent materials, what specific work will be carried out in 2012-13? How many resources will be involved and what are the changes as compared with 2011-12? In respect of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) Subsidising Scheme, how many projects were sponsored in the past 3 years? What was the amount of subsidy for each project? Will the Administration consider raising the subsidy limit or increasing the block allocation? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply: Over the past two years, the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) has substantially increased its resources to strengthen publicity and public education of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) with a view to promoting the importance of healthy information among children and youngsters, and building up their resistance to harmful materials. In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure of OFNAA for organising publicity and public education programmes in relation to the COIAO will be maintained at around the same level as that in 2011-12, i.e. \$6.7 million, which represents a significant increase of around 50% as compared to that of \$4.4 million in 2009-10.

In 2012-13, the following major publicity and public education programmes in respect of the COIAO have been planned :

- (a) school talk;
- (b) parental workshop on filtering software;
- (c) Meritorious Website Contest;
- (d) Healthy Mobile Phone / Tablet APPS Nomination Programme;
- (e) radio drama;
- (f) Healthy Internet Video Contest;
- (g) Healthy Information Student Ambassadors Scheme;
- (h) school drama tour;
- (i) electronic comic book; and
- (j) education project for retail outlets and chain stores.

Over the past three years, the COIAO Subsidising Scheme has sponsored a total of 36 publicity and public education programmes organised by schools or voluntary agencies, details of which are as follows:

- (a) In 2009-10, the total amount of subsidy for the 14 sponsored projects was \$369,345, with subsidies for specific projects ranging from \$4,702 to \$93,067;

- (b) In 2010-11, the total amount of subsidy for the 12 sponsored projects was \$127,297, with subsidies for specific projects ranging from \$2,437 to \$33,947; and
- (c) In 2011-12, the total amount of approved funding for the 10 sponsored projects was \$220,507, with approved funding for specific projects ranging from \$6,500 to \$55,620. The final amount of subsidy for each project is subject to the actual expenditure incurred upon its completion.

The maximum amount of subsidy for a project under the COIAO Subsidising Scheme is \$150,000. Among the 36 approved activities conducted over the past three years, no organisation has ever applied for subsidies exceeding the maximum amount. In view of this, TELA has no plan to raise the subsidy limit at the moment. However, if there are activities applying for a subsidy amount of more than \$150,000 in future, we will consider each case on its own merits.

Name in block letters Vincent LIU
Post Title Commissioner for Television and
Entertainment Licensing
Date 27.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)113

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper
and Article Administration

Subhead
(No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3493

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper
Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

- Question:
- (a) Over the past 3 years, how many cases has the Administration received in relation to the application for membership of the panel of adjudicators under the Obscene Articles Tribunal?
 - (b) With regard to the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, what specific work will be taken by the Administration? What is the estimated expenditure?
 - (c) Regarding the public opinion survey on the awareness and standards of the three-tier film classification system, what specific work will be taken by the Administration? What is the estimated expenditure?
 - (d) How will the Administration gauge public opinion on film classification standards? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

- Reply:
- (a) At present, all applications for membership of the panel of adjudicators under the Obscene Articles Tribunal are submitted to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB), which will then refer them to the Judiciary for consideration and appointment. Over the past 3 years, we have received a total of 294 such applications.
 - (b) The Administration plans to conduct the second round of public consultation this year. The expenditure of this review exercise will be met by the existing financial provision of the CEDB.
 - (c) The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) will conduct “Public Opinion Survey on Film Classification System” regularly. In such Survey, public views on film classification standards would usually be collected through random sampling and focus group discussions. A provision of about \$800,000 has been earmarked for the next “Public Opinion Survey on Film Classification System” in 2012-13.
 - (d) To ensure that the film classification standards are in line with community standards, members from the Panel of Film Censorship Advisers will be invited to give their views on the classification of films. Established under the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap.392), the Panel consists of about 300 members from all walks of life. A provision of about \$10,000 has been earmarked to meet the administrative costs of the Panel in 2012-13.

Name in block letters Vincent LIU
Post Title Commissioner for Television and
Entertainment Licensing
Date 27.2.2012