

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)827/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/CI/1

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 November 2011, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
- Members attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
- Members absent** : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP

**Public officers
attending**

: Agenda item IV

Ms Linda LAI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Commerce and Industry)1

Mr Vincent FUNG
Assistant Commissioner for Tourism

Mrs Candy YEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)1

Agenda item V

Mr Christopher WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Commerce and Industry)2

Miss Patricia SO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)3

Ms Ada LEUNG
Acting Deputy Director of Intellectual Property

Miss Finnie QUEK
Assistant Director of Intellectual Property

Agenda Item VI

Miss Janet WONG, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Terence CHAN Sing-sing
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology (Infrastructure and Quality)

Mr John HUNG Leung-bun
Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

Attendance by invitation

: Agenda Item IV

Hong Kong Tourism Board

Ms Gilly WONG
General Manager (MICE & Cruise)

Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Mr Benjamin CHAU
Deputy Executive Director

Mr William CHEUNG
Head of Media & Public Affairs

AsiaWorld-Expo Management Limited

Mr Allen HA
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Kenneth CHAN
Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Rita YUNG
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Action

- I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting**
(LC Paper No. CB(1)164/11-12 -- Minutes of meeting held on
13 October 2011)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2011 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 18 October 2011.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 20 December 2011 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Governance of the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation;
- (b) Comprehensive review of the Research and Development Centres;
- (c) Update on Review of Industrial Estates; and
- (d) Rent allowance for officers posted to the Mainland and Taiwan.

IV. Development of the exhibition industry in Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(03) -- Administration's paper on development of the exhibition industry in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(04) -- Paper on the development of convention and exhibition industry in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(1)349/11-12(01) -- Information provided by the AsiaWorld-Expo Management Limited

- LC Paper No. CB(1)355/11-12(01) -- Submission from Global
(*Chinese version only*) Sources
- LC Paper No. CB(1)368/11-12(01) -- Speech delivered by Mr
(*Chinese version only*) Allen HA, Chief Executive
Officer of the
AsiaWorld-Expo
Management Limited)

Presentation by the Administration, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and AsiaWorld-Expo Management Limited

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)¹ (DSCED(CI)1) briefed members on the latest developments in the Meetings, Incentive travels, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry and measures to encourage the better utilization of the existing exhibition and convention facilities, as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(03)).

5. Chief Executive Officer, Asia World-Expo Management Limited (CEO/AWEML) briefed members on the progress of co-operation between the AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE) and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), and the key findings of the "Exhibitor Survey of September Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem Fair 2010" and "Study on Exhibitors' Perceptions of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) and AWE" conducted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Details of the progress of co-operation and key findings of the surveys were set out in the speech delivered by CEO/AWEML (LC Paper No. CB(1)368/11-12(01)) and information provided by AWEML (LC Paper No. CB(1)349/11-12(01)).

6. Deputy Executive Director, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (DED/TDC) updated members on TDC's work in promoting the trade fairs held in Hong Kong, the assistance provided to local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to promote exports at exhibitions, and the progress of co-operation between TDC and AWE. He also briefed members on the key findings of the "Exhibition Space Demand Study" commissioned by TDC in March and April 2011.

Discussion

Assistance to local SMEs to promote exports at exhibitions

7. Mr Albert CHAN enquired about the assistance provided to local

manufacturing enterprises to help them gain access to international buyers. In response, DSCED(CI)1 advised that the Administration had all along supported local SMEs to expand their businesses through participation in export promotion activities. The SME Export Marketing Fund of the Trade and Industry Department provided cash subsidy to support SMEs' participation in various export promotion activities such as trade fairs, exhibitions and business missions. The maximum amount of grant to SMEs for each successful application would be 50% of the total approved expenses incurred by the applicant in connection with an export promotion activity or \$50,000, whichever was the less.

8. DED/TDC supplemented that promoting Hong Kong's merchandise exports had been a key function of TDC. Many of the trade fairs organized by TDC were related to the manufacturing industries. Local exhibitors enjoyed lower exhibiting fees as compared with non-local exhibitors. TDC had also been providing assistance to SMEs in other ways, including the recent introduction of an incentive scheme to encourage them to make use of TDC's promotion platform. Under the scheme, local SMEs could apply for economy booths of six square metres at a number of TDC's fairs since October 2010. This programme aimed to assist those quality companies which had less resources. Supporting initiatives for start-up entrepreneurs included giving them priority in application for economy booths and "Cubic Showcase" at TDC's trade fairs in Hong Kong to display their products and catalogues, so as to assist them in gaining access to international buyers. In response to Mr Jeffrey LAM's enquiry, DED/TDC advised that about 250 SMEs had used these economy booths and "Cubic Showcase" in over 10 trade fairs in the past year.

9. DED/TDC added that TDC would continue to assist local SMEs in participating in leading overseas and Mainland trade fairs by organizing business delegations or facilitating their initial contacts with fair organizers. Consultations with the industry outreach programmes as well as seminars would also be conducted to better understand the promotional need of SMEs, so as to launch services that could best meet their needs.

Utilization of AWE

10. Noting the space availability of AWE in 2011 for the adoption of the "one show, two locations" co-operation model as set out in the information provided by AWEML (LC Paper No. CB(1)349/11-12(01)), Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the utilization and economic viability of AWE as it was built with public money. She opined that AWE should not confine itself to staging conventional trade fairs, but also other types of events, and that the Administration was also responsible for encouraging utilization of both AWE

and HKCEC. She suggested that AWE should explore the possibility of developing part of its facilities into a retail outlet.

11. Concurring with Ms Emily LAU's suggestion, Mr Vincent FANG opined that on the size of exhibition space, AWE had competitive advantage over HKCEC, and that AWE should explore those exhibition themes requiring large exhibition space such as aviation and boat shows.

12. In response, DSCED(CI)1 advised that the information provided by AWEML regarding the space availability of AWE in 2011 covered only the trade fairs held at AWE. In fact, apart from trade fairs, other types of events such as large scale international examinations had also been organized at AWE, bringing in thousands of candidates from the Mainland to Hong Kong to take the examinations, and thus, benefiting the economy of Hong Kong.

13. CEO/AWEML supplemented that the total expenditure from exhibitions and conferences at AWE had grown steadily in recent years. Recently, a German exhibition organizer had decided to hold a large scale logistics exhibition (originally held at HKCEC in previous years) at AWE in 2012. An international equestrian event would also be held, in Asia for the first time, at AWE in 2012. Apart from the "one show, two locations" approach, AWEML would continue to strengthen communication and step up co-operation with TDC. Looking ahead, AWE should be able to benefit from the overall growth and development of the convention and exhibition industry in Hong Kong. The scheduled completion of nearby infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Tuen Mun Western Bypass and the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link would significantly reduce the travelling time for those AWE visitors coming from the Pearl River Delta region and Northwest New Territories. AWEML would grasp the opportunities arising from the enhanced connectivity and seek to host more events at AWE.

"One show, two locations" approach

14. Ms Tanya CHAN noted that the "Exhibition Space Demand Study" commissioned by TDC revealed that over 80% of the exhibitor respondents did not prefer splitting TDC exhibitions into two locations at HKCEC and AWE if the exhibition grew significantly larger in the future. On the other hand, according to the survey conducted by CUHK, a large percentage of the exhibitor respondents expressed "neutral" to "very positive" opinion on the "one show, two locations" approach. Ms CHAN expressed concern about the opposite results of the exhibitors' views. She also enquired about the key factors to be considered when adopting the "one show, two locations" approach.

15. Mr Vincent FANG said that the crux of the success or otherwise of the "one show, two locations" approach was the willingness of the exhibitors to choose AWE. According to the feedback he obtained from the industry towards the Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem Fair, exhibitors were very reluctant to stage exhibitions at AWE.

16. In response, DSCED(CI)1 advised that the purpose of the "Exhibition Space Demand Study" of TDC was to find out the perceptions of exhibitors and buyers on HKCEC and AWE so as to ascertain the demand and level of industry support for splitting TDC exhibition(s) into the two locations for future planning purpose. Therefore the surveys were conducted on people and stakeholders relevant to the three TDC shows with unmet demand for exhibition space. These three shows were the Jewellery Show, the Gifts and Premium Show and the Electronics Show held in March, April or October 2011 respectively. DSCED(CI)1 added that since the target respondents of TDC's surveys and the surveys conducted by CUHK were different, the results of these two survey studies should not be compared directly.

17. DSCED(CI)1 and DED/TDC advised that there were two pre-requisites for adopting the "one show, two locations" approach, namely a substantial unmet demand for exhibition space at HKCEC and the availability of exhibition space at the same timeslot in AWE. Moreover, the exhibitors' and buyers' attitude towards the approach was also a key factor warranting consideration.

18. At the request of Ms Tanya CHAN, DED/TDC and CEO/AWEML agreed to provide for members' perusal the complete reports of the relevant study and survey commissioned by TDC and conducted by CUHK respectively.

(Post-meeting note: The "Exhibition Space Demand Study Quantitative and Qualitative Findings" provided by TDC (English version only) was issued to Panel members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)620/11-12(01) on 15 December 2011, and the report on "Hong Kong Trade Exhibition – An Industry Review (Phase 2)" (English version only) provided by AWEML was issued to Panel members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)661/11-12(01) on 19 December 2011.)

Expansion of HKCEC

19. Mr Vincent FANG opined that HKCEC should not be restrained from expansion for the benefit of AWE as it would thwart the development of the exhibition industry in Hong Kong. He considered that both venues should

further be developed in order to let the market grow larger to achieve a win-win situation.

20. Mr Jeffrey LAM declared interest as a Council member of TDC, and an experienced exhibitor and participant in trade fairs at HKCEC and AWE. Sharing Mr Vincent FANG's view, he enquired about the Administration's plan on the development of Phase 3 expansion of HKCEC to meet the strong demand from SMEs for exhibition space at HKCEC.

21. In response, DSCED(CI)1 advised that various factors had to be considered before coming to a decision on the expansion of HKCEC, such as the availability of land and the traffic issues arising from the expansion project. While the feasibility study of the expansion of HKCEC was still underway, the Administration would continue to explore the possibilities of developing new convention and exhibition facilities at the West Kowloon Cultural District and New Cruise Terminal at Kai Tak.

Promotion of Lantau Island as a MICE destination

22. Ms Tanya CHAN opined that suitable traffic arrangements should be made to enable tourists to travel between various tourist attractions, including AWE, on Lantau Island for the benefit of the local economy and the overall tourism development of Hong Kong. Assistant Commissioner for Tourism responded that in order to enhance the promotion of Lantau Island as a MICE destination, the Tourism Commission and the Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong Office under the Hong Kong Tourism Board had successfully linked up all major attractions and venue providers on the Lantau Island to jointly launch a publicity campaign in October 2011 and the feedback was positive. With the joint efforts of the Administration, AWEML and public transport operators, including franchised bus operators and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited, a number of improvement measures had been put in place on days with events at AWE, with a view to enhancing the transportation arrangement of AWE.

V. Review of the patent system in Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(05) -- Administration's paper on review of the patent system in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(06) -- Paper on the patent registration system in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council

Secretariat (updated background brief)

http://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/doc/en/consultation_paper_e.pdf -- Consultation paper on review of the patent system in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)327/11-12 -- Administration's paper on review of the patent system in Hong Kong (power-point presentation material)
(Chinese version only, tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 16 November 2011)

Presentation by the Administration

23. At the invitation of the Chairman and with the aid of power-point, Acting Deputy Director of Intellectual Property (Ag DDIP) briefed members on the key points of the consultation paper issued on 4 October 2011 on the review of the patent system in Hong Kong, and the consultation arrangements. Details of the briefing and presentation were set out in the Administration's papers (LC Paper Nos. CB(1)277/11-12(05) and CB(1)327/11-12).

Discussion

24. Mr WONG Kwok-hing welcomed the review of the patent system in Hong Kong. He enquired whether the Administration would consider introducing an "original grant" patent (OGP) system with substantive examination outsourced to the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) in the Mainland. He also expressed concern whether sufficient resources would be allocated if an OGP system with in-house substantive examination was to be adopted in Hong Kong.

25. In response, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)2 (DSCED(CI)2) advised that an OGP system with in-house substantive examination would require significant investment in a team of qualified patent examiners (who had practical knowledge and experience in diversified and highly developed fields of technology) and a comprehensive technical database. While building up the above would require time and resources, in the short run, one possible option for pursuing an OGP system was to outsource the substantive examination to other examination authority as in the case of Macao, which had entrusted the substantive examination of patent applications to SIPO. DSCED(CI)2 supplemented that if an OGP system with outsourced substantive examination was adopted, the Administration might in the longer run explore the possibility of engaging home-grown expertise for the substantive

examination of patent applications that fell within selected technological niches where Hong Kong was regarded as a centre of excellence.

26. Ms Emily LAU noted that a drawback of establishing an OGP system in Hong Kong was that it was likely to result in very high registration fees. She expressed concern whether it would increase the business operating cost and hence affect the competitiveness of Hong Kong enterprises.

27. The Chairman opined that although an OGP system might involve higher registration fees compared with the current "re-registration" system, OGP system would complement the efforts being made to encourage more entrepreneurs to use Hong Kong as a launching pad for their research and development businesses. That might in turn help fortify the further development of Hong Kong as a regional innovation and technology hub. It might also stimulate the growth of patent agency business in Hong Kong, help build up local expertise in drafting and processing applications for patent, and offer added career opportunities for graduates with science and technical background.

28. In response, DSCED(CI)2 advised that the Administration was committed to maintaining an effective patent protection regime in Hong Kong, with a view to creating an environment that was conducive to attracting talent and sustaining the further development of Hong Kong as a regional innovation and technology hub. In considering whether an OGP system should be introduced in Hong Kong, the Administration needed to take into account various factors, including cost effectiveness, and whether the system would facilitate patent users or help encourage local investment in innovation and technology. The Administration had no preconceived notions as to how the current system should further evolve, and would carefully consider views received before formulating the way forward. The Administration would brief members on the results of the public consultation and the proposed way forward in the first half of 2012.

29. Dr PAN Pey-chyou suggested that the Administration should explore the possibilities of fostering mutual recognition of patents between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and sharing the work of substantive examination of patent applications between the two places, so as to help save costs for and facilitate the users. DSCED(CI)2 responded that the Administration would draw reference from the experience of different jurisdictions and take into account the latest international developments in mapping out a patent system that would best suit the needs of Hong Kong.

30. The Chairman opined that an OGP system should be introduced in Hong Kong. In the short to medium term, the Administration should

outsource the substantive examination to other examination authorities, and explore the possibility of developing in-house substantive examination in the long run. The current "re-registration" system should be retained alongside the OGP system as the dual system would give users the added choice of applying for a standard patent in Hong Kong direct or through "re-registration" depending on their market and operation needs. Noting that the drafting of claims and specifications for patent applications required specialized technical skills and knowledge, the Chairman opined that a regulatory regime for providers of patent agency services should be established in Hong Kong so as to benefit the parties seeking patent protection and enhance the credibility of the patent agency profession.

VI. Progress report of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

(LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(07) -- Administration's paper on progress report of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(08) -- Paper on promoting the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

31. At the invitation of the Chairman, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (CIT) briefed members on the work of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) in promoting testing and certification services, and the Administration's proposal to retain a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2) post, designated as Secretary-General (Testing and Certification) in the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014. Details of the work of HKCTC and the staffing proposal were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)277/11-12(07)).

Discussion

32. The Chairman and Ms Starry LEE expressed concern about the slow progress of development of the testing and certification services in the trade

of Chinese medicines. In response, CIT and Secretary-General (Testing and Certification) of HKCTC (SG(TC)) advised that the testing and certification industry had already built up testing capability in relation to the safety of Chinese medicines, such as the testing on heavy metals, toxic elements and pesticide residues. HKCTC's Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Chinese Medicines Trade's current focus was on supporting the industry to build up technical capability to authenticate Chinese herbal medicines by microscopic examination and physicochemical methods according to the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS). At present, HKCMMS for 60 types of Chinese herbal medicines had been developed, and would be expanded to cover about 200 by 2012.

33. SG(TC) supplemented that HKCTC was now organizing an inter-laboratory comparison exercise so that testing laboratories could assess their technical competence by comparing testing results with other laboratories. Participation in inter-laboratory comparison was required if testing laboratories wanted to apply for accreditation on authentication of Chinese medicines from the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) in due course. HKCTC had also invited universities to consider providing short courses to equip practitioners in testing laboratories with the necessary technical skills in authentication of Chinese medicines.

34. The Chairman noted that under Supplement VII to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) signed in May 2010, testing laboratories in Hong Kong were allowed to co-operate with designated Mainland organizations in testing products for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System on a pilot basis. This applied to four types of products (viz. toys, circuit installation, information technology equipment and lighting apparatus) processed in Hong Kong. As of October 2011, HKAS had only accredited one testing laboratory as capable of performing CCC testing for toys and was processing seven other applications. The Chairman enquired about the Administration's initiatives to help Hong Kong's testing laboratories capture the opportunities to provide testing services in the Mainland. He also urged the Administration to speed up its work in this respect. Echoing the Chairman's view, Mr Vincent FANG also enquired about the mutual recognition of testing laboratories in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

35. In response, CIT and SG(TC) advised that the implementation details of the CEPA measures were announced in January 2011. On 28 February 2011, HKCTC co-organized with HKAS and the Trade and Industry Department a seminar on "Business Opportunities for Testing and Certification in the Mainland of China". Mainland officials were also invited to brief the industry on the implementation details of the CEPA

measures. HKCTC and ITC would continue to work closely with the industry to facilitate laboratories to perform CCC testing, e.g. Mainland experts would be invited to share technical know-how in technical seminars to be held in Hong Kong.

36. CIT added that in August 2011, the Mainland agreed to extend the coverage of the pilot from four types of products to all 23 types of products under the CCC System that were processed in Hong Kong. This reflected further acceptance of Hong Kong's testing and certification results by the Mainland. ITC was now discussing with the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the Mainland on the implementation timetable and details.

37. Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Infrastructure and Quality) (ACIT) supplemented that through HKAS's active participation in international organizations for accreditation, HKAS had concluded multilateral mutual recognition arrangements with over 80 accreditation bodies in about 65 economies, including the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment.

38. Ms Emily LAU supported the staffing proposal. She enquired about HKAS's initiative to require all accredited organizations to develop and implement a code of conduct in accordance with the "Corruption Prevention Guide for Testing and Certification Industry" (the Guide) developed by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). She also expressed concern about the integrity issues when testing laboratories in Hong Kong co-operated with Mainland organizations in testing products.

39. In response, ACIT advised that HKAS ensured that the accredited organizations, including testing laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies, were competent in providing the service in accordance with international standards of practice. High professional integrity of the practitioners had always been well recognized as one of the major competitive edges of Hong Kong's testing and certification industry. To uphold this edge, ICAC developed the Guide which provided tailor-made internal control measures for the industry. On 3 November 2011, HKCTC and ICAC together launched the Guide at the Ethical Management Seminar for Testing and Certification Industry. SG(TC) added that over 200 practitioners in the industry, including representatives from the Market Supervision Administration of Shenzhen Municipality, attended the seminar. The participants shared experiences on integrity management and how ethical business practices could add values to the competitiveness of a service provider. CIT supplemented that HKCTC and ICAC would work closely to promote the Guide, which was set to promote the integrity of the industry to the next higher level.

40. Ms Emily LAU noted that Hong Kong's export trade had been adversely affected recently amidst the uncertainties in the external economic environment. She expressed concern whether it would affect the business of the testing and certification industry. CIT responded that the testing and certification industry supported manufacturing, export and other service industries in Hong Kong, and was an integral part of the overall economic chain. CIT advised business level could have been affected by external economic climate that the Administration would keep a close watch on the situation.

41. Mr Vincent FANG supported the retention of the supernumerary post of SG(TC) at the rank of AOSGC from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014 to lead the Secretariat for HKCTC. He considered that the Administration should step up its effort in and increase the resources for promoting testing and certification services, in particular in the cases of the food trade and small and medium enterprises, and therefore the SG(TC) post should be retained on a permanent basis.

42. CIT responded that HKCTC was set up in September 2009 and had formulated a three-year industry development plan in March 2010 which would end in March 2013. By that time, SG(TC) would have to support HKCTC in conducting a comprehensive review on the progress made and formulating a plan to further support the industry, including the long term role and functions of HKCTC based on the experience after more than three years of operation. ITC would review the need for retaining the SG(TC) post for a longer period or on a permanent basis upon HKCTC's comprehensive review of its long term role.

43. Summing up, the Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the retention of the supernumerary AOSGC post from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014 to lead the Secretariat for HKCTC.

VII. Any other business

44. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:40 pm.