

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Report of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting during the 2011-2012 session of the Legislative Council. It will be tabled at the Council meeting on 11 July 2012 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology (IT), telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 13 members. Hon WONG Yuk-man and Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho were elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

Radio Television Hong Kong

4. During the session, the Panel closely followed up issues relating to the appointment of the Director of Broadcasting (D of B), the circumstances leading to the adjustments to "phone-in" programmes of Radio Television

Hong Kong (RTHK), the conversion of contract staff to permanent staff, and the proposal to set up the community involvement broadcasting service (CIBS).

5. On the appointment of an Administrative Officer (AO) as D of B, some Panel members urged the Administration to set a time limit for his tenure of office so that the post could be filled by in-house staff. They also considered that the Administration should draw up a succession plan for RTHK so that in-house staff could be groomed for the post of D of B. The Administration advised that the option of posting an officer from another grade to head RTHK had not been considered until it had become clear that the open-cum-in-service recruitment exercise had failed to find a suitable candidate. The Administration considered that there was an imminent need to fill the post for leading RTHK to meet the challenges ahead arising from the enhancement of its operation and services in the coming few years, including the launch of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, the setting up of the media asset management system, the facilitation of community involvement in broadcasting, and re-provisioning of the Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O. The appointment of an AO as D of B was a special arrangement and was not intended to be a standing practice.

6. Noting that the posting of an AO to fill the post of D of B could create mistrust between the staff and the management of RTHK and have a dampening effect on staff morale, some Panel members urged D of B to build up mutual trust with RTHK staff as a matter of urgency. D of B advised that he had given assurance to RTHK staff that in performing his duties, he would adhere strictly to RTHK Charter and uphold the status of RTHK as a public service broadcaster. A working group would be set up to collect the RTHK Programme Staff Union's views on how to streamline the workflow and cut red-tapes.

7. Some Panel members opined that the uniqueness of RTHK made it undesirable for an AO with no relevant professional experience to serve as its Department Head. These members urged D of B to delegate his responsibility as the Editor-in-Chief to his professional subordinates. D of B advised that he would maintain impartiality in accordance with the Charter of RTHK in editorial matters. He was also duty-bound to give his views at the editorial and programme meetings chaired by him.

8. As regards the circumstances leading to the adjustments to "phone-in" programmes of RTHK, the Panel noted the Administration's view that in response to social development and public needs, RTHK would adopt a new format for its "phone-in" programmes starting from 2 January 2012.

Changes included the introduction of outreach interview to tap the views of the public on social issues at the scene, more participation by post-secondary students in producing special programmes on current affairs, continued production of special features on topical issues, and simplification of the hosting arrangement by having a single host so as to allow more time for new programme segments and for listeners to voice their views.

9. Some Panel members queried whether there were any political considerations behind the programme reform and expressed concern about the non-renewal of contracts of the two "phone-in" programme hosts who were considered by some as persons with independent viewpoints and critical minds. These members also opined that the programme reform was only a means to mute dissenting views and restrict freedom of expression in the community. RTHK management stressed that the relevant changes had nothing to do with the style, viewpoints and performance of the two programmes hosts. The opinion platform would continue to be open to all after implementation of the programme reform. Experienced media professionals and experts from all walks of life would continue to be invited to provide quality commentaries to listeners with a wide range of information and opinions. RTHK would also actively introduce and nurture a new generation of public affairs programme hosts.

10. On the progress of promotion and recruitment exercises for the Programme Officer (PO) grade in RTHK, the Panel noted that none of the 70 PO grade officers recommended for promotion or acting appointment were non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. Some Panel members considered the situation undesirable and urged the Administration to exercise discretion to appoint serving NCSC staff in RTHK to fill the civil service posts at promotion ranks of the PO grade. These members also urged the Administration to accord priority to these staff so as to retain quality-serving staff for RTHK. The Administration advised that according to civil service regulations, vacancies at promotion ranks should normally be filled by suitable civil servants from the immediate lower rank of the same grade. RTHK had to observe procedural propriety and the principle of fair play in conducting the recruitment exercises. Nevertheless, RTHK took note of members' views and would exercise discretion in the recruitment exercises as far as possible. RTHK management would try its best to explore the possibility of granting Incremental Credit for Experience to candidates with relevant, specifically needed and particularly valuable experience. The Administration undertook to report progress of RTHK's on-going promotion and recruitment exercises for the PO grade to the Panel at an appropriate time.

11. At the Panel meeting on 12 December 2011, D of B briefed members on the three-month public consultation on the proposals to set up CIBS. A new commitment of \$45 million was also proposed for setting up a Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) to support and encourage community and ethnic minority organizations or individuals to participate in broadcasting through CIBS. Some Panel members expressed grave concern that programmes produced under CIBS would be subject to the standards and requirements set out by RTHK, and would not be able to achieve plurality, diversity and social inclusion. They also expressed concern that certain community organizations such as the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups would dominate CIBF and become its major beneficiary. The Administration advised that as the existing resources of RTHK such as technical hardware were limited, RTHK had to leverage on the support of community organizations and schools in rolling out CIBS. As programmes produced under CIBS would be broadcast on the platform of RTHK, these programmes would be subject to the monitoring of the former Broadcasting Authority (BA).

12. At the Panel meeting on 14 May 2012, D of B further briefed members on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposals to set up CIBS and the establishment of CIBF. Panel members generally expressed support for the proposal to set up CIBF. As CIBS programmes would only be broadcast on RTHK's DAB channel for two hours a day, some Panel members urged RTHK to provide more airtime for CIBS to cater for more interested applicants. These members also urged the Administration to expedite the DAB network rollout to raise the audience rating of CIBS. D of B advised that whether the two-hour-per-day time slot would be extended would depend on the number of applications received and the quality of the programmes produced. With the completion of the first phase network construction of RTHK's DAB service by end of June 2012 and the launching of new programmes on DAB service in the second half of 2012, large scale promotion campaigns and road shows would be launched to raise the awareness and popularity of DAB service.

13. Some Panel members opined that the application requirement to submit audited financial report would create a burden on small non-governmental organizations that had little resources at their disposal. Some other members considered that the selection criteria and process of CIBS and CIBF should be made as transparent as possible. These members also opined that the membership of the Selection Committee on the assessment of applications received should be drawn from diverse background and the selection process should be free from any political considerations. The Administration advised that RTHK would provide relevant templates for reference by successful CIBF applicants. RTHK

would also assign a facilitator to follow up with each successful CIBS application. As regards the Selection Committee, it would comprise three scholars in communications or broadcasting, three experts from different fields (depending on the designated programme themes for each round of application) drawn from the RTHK Programme Advisory Panel, and one other member who was familiar with issues on ethnic minority.

14. The proposed establishment of CIBF was subsequently approved by the Finance Committee (FC) on 25 May 2012.

Establishment of the Office of the Communications Authority

15. The Communications Authority Bill (enacted as the Communications Authority Ordinance (CAO) (Cap. 616)) was passed by the Legislative Council on 30 June 2011 and the enacted CAO was published in the Gazette on 8 July 2011. CAO provides for, inter alia, the establishment of the Communications Authority (CA) and the transfer of the functions of the former BA and the former Telecommunications Authority (TA) to CA. Before CAO came into effect on 12 April 2012, the Administration briefed the Panel on the setting up of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) which would serve as the executive arm of CA among other duties.

16. Some Panel members opined that the existing arrangement of meeting the service need for regulation of the telecommunications industry by staff on NCSC terms might cast doubts on their impartiality required in handling regulatory affairs. These members considered that the new OFCA should better be staffed by civil servants. The Administration advised that to address the problem of impartiality, a new civil service grade of Regulatory Affairs Manager (RAM) would be created after the establishment of OFCA.

17. Some Panel members expressed concern about the separate funding arrangement for OFCA under the OFCA Trading Fund and the new general revenue head as such an arrangement might lack transparency and would be too complicated to execute. The Administration advised that for staff members of OFCA whose schedule of work fell entirely within the divisions of OFCA not related to telecommunications and broadcasting (non-trading fund divisions), their staff costs would be paid out of the new general revenue head. For staff members who would oversee or provide support to both trading fund and non-trading fund divisions, their staff costs would be apportioned between the two sources of funding in accordance with the respective duties and responsibilities.

E-Government

18. On the development of E-Government, some Panel members considered that in general, the lead time currently required for enhancing Government IT systems to enable the implementation of new policy initiatives such as additional social security payments was unreasonably long, sometimes as long as six months. They urged the Administration to expedite the process for the benefit of the needy. The Administration assured the Panel that it would strive to shorten the total duration as far as practicable. As regards bureaux/departments who had IT Management Units, they would work very closely with the business side in aligning the plans for the IT enhancements with the business changes.

19. Noting the changing trend of political landscape arising from the popularization of online social media, Panel members urged the Administration to put in place measures to meet such an unprecedented political challenge. The Administration advised that it had been promoting to bureaux/departments the wider use of social networking to reach out to the public. Three IT toolkits had been developed for use by government departments in conducting online public consultation and live content streaming. The Government was also taking measures to enhance its websites in accordance with the latest international standards of the World Wide Web Consortium to facilitate access of online information and services by the elderly and persons with disabilities (PwDs), including the visually-impaired.

20. Some Panel members urged the Administration to facilitate the business operation of small and medium enterprises (SMES) by providing online service for application of licences. The Administration advised that it had been developing application systems for processing e-submission in various Government departments. These included the Road Cargo System and the one-stop service for electronic company incorporation and business registration. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer would also liaise with the Trade and Industry Department with a view to identifying ways to enhance its e-services system.

21. As regards the proposal for implementation of a Government Cloud Platform (GovCloud), Panel members noted that an estimated one-off funding of \$242 million would be required to support about 30 bureaux/departments in rolling out their electronic information management and electronic procurement services for five years from 2013-2014 to 2017-2018. Panel members generally supported the implementation of the proposed GovCloud. The funding proposal was subsequently approved by FC on 8 June 2012.

Digital inclusion

22. On the Government's digital inclusion initiatives, the Panel noted that the Administration aimed to increase computer and Internet usage rates of the elderly from the current 20% and 18.4% to 25% and 23% respectively by 2014. Panel members urged the Administration to set higher performance targets for the elderly group and take proactive steps to meet the targets. They also urged the Administration to strengthen support for PwDs in the adoption of information and communications technology (ICT). The Administration advised that through the "eElderly" portal and other sponsored projects, the Administration was confident that the ICT adoption rate among the elderly would continue to increase. In addition, \$3.6 million had been set aside in 2010-2011 to support the development of ICT-based assistive tools and applications for PwDs.

23. The Panel also noted that the Administration had launched in July 2011 the Internet Learning Support Programme (ILSP) to help eligible low-income families acquire affordable computers and Internet access service, and to provide them with technical and social support. Some Panel members expressed concern that there was a visible difference in the performance between the two Implementers of ILSP. They urged the Administration to follow up the matter with a view to enhance the overall efficiency of ILSP. The Administration advised that each of the Implementers had its own strengths and weaknesses. With the accumulation and exchange of experience between the two Implementers, ILSP was being implemented more smoothly and efficiently. The Administration would continue to work with the Implementers to try to catch up on performance for the remaining term of ILSP.

Cyberport project

24. The Panel followed up closely the progress of the Cyberport Project which was launched since 2004. The Panel noted that as at December 2011, the Government had received a total of about \$18.76 billion in surplus proceeds. This exceeded the Government's capital contribution of \$7.93 billion to the Cyberport Project in the form of land grant for the residential development and the associated essential infrastructure development. There was also an increase in the operating revenue of \$361 million for the year 2010-2011, as compared with \$353 million in 2009-2010.

25. Some Panel members opined that the Cyberport had not yet managed to achieve some of its public missions, such as "to create a strategic cluster of quality IT and IT related companies critical to the development of Hong

Kong into a leading digital city in the region". These members also opined that apart from fostering IT exchanges with the Mainland, Hong Kong should step up exchanges with other countries in the Asia Pacific region such as Korea and Taiwan. The Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited advised that in order to help the incubatees survive after graduation from the Incubation Programme, the Cyberport had established the Collaboration Centre to assist SMEs in the ICT sector to explore and capture emerging business opportunities in other markets. In pursuit of its public missions, the Cyberport announced in 2011 its plans to invest HK\$100 million in Hong Kong's ICT over a period of three years.

Complaints against Asia Television Limited

26. Following the issue of the former BA's press release on its investigation into the complaint cases about non-compliance by Asia Television Limited (ATV) with the relevant codes of practice, the Panel held a meeting to receive a briefing on the outcome of the former BA's investigation into the complaints against ATV. The Panel noted that the former BA found the complaints about inaccurate news reporting on the death of the former national leader Mr JIANG Zemin on 6 July 2011 and late correction of factual errors substantiated. While a financial penalty of \$300,000 would be imposed on ATV, the former BA did not consider it advisable, in discharge of its role as regulator, to inquire into the relationship between ATV's management and its News Department, or draw any conclusion regarding the alleged interference by ATV's management in its News Department. As the editorial independence of the news team within ATV was not a matter regulated by the former BA, it made no findings on the issue. As for the role of Mr WONG Ching, the investor of ATV, the former BA found no direct evidence to ascertain his role in the misreporting incident. Nevertheless, an investigation into the role of Mr WONG in the control and management of ATV had been initiated and the investigation was continuing as a separate exercise.

27. Some Panel members considered that more stringent sanctions should be imposed on ATV, including issuing a warning letter to ATV, to the effect that if ATV was found in breach of the TV Programme Code again, a recommendation should be made to the Chief Executive (CE) in Council for the revocation of its television programme service licence. Noting that the Senior Vice President (Corporate Development and External Affairs) of ATV was the source of the death news, Panel members expressed dissatisfaction with the senior management's interference in the editorial independence of the News Department of ATV. As there were conflicting representations about the source of the death news made by ATV to the former BA and the Panel, some members opined that ATV was no longer in compliance with the

fit and proper person requirement of a television programme service licensee under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562). These members urged the former BA to follow up the issue of fit and proper person in its ongoing investigation into the role of Mr WONG Ching in the control and management of ATV.

Applications for domestic free television programme service licences

28. The Panel was briefed on the progress of processing the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences. Panel members noted that it had been almost 30 months since the submissions by the applicants, and over 12 months since the recommendations on the applications submitted by the former BA. Members considered the delay unreasonable, both from the perspectives of the public and the commercial operators. They urged CE in Council to make a final decision on the applications as soon as possible. The Administration advised that it was the Government's policy to promote the sustainable development of the local broadcasting industry and encourage competition and investment, thereby leading to the provision of more choices of quality programmes to the public. The Government had been processing the recommendations submitted by the former BA expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The outcome would be announced as soon as CE in Council made a decision.

29. Some Panel members enquired about the reasons for withholding the decision on the applications by CE in Council. They also expressed concern that if a decision could not be made before the takeover of the new Administration, the whole application process might have to start all over again, and there could be a change in policy under the new Administration. The Administration advised that it was not in a position to disclose the proceedings of CE in Council which were classified as confidential. The Panel was assured that it was not necessary for CE in Council to start the process all over again after the takeover of the new Administration.

Digital terrestrial television broadcasting

30. As regards the implementation of DTT service, Panel members expressed concern about the slow progress of the DTT take-up and enquired if the target date for analogue switch-off (ASO) in end of 2015 would have to be further postponed. The Administration advised that DTT take-up rate by the viewing public had increased from 3.5% in early 2008 to 68.6% in end of 2011. It was envisaged that the take-up rate would continue to grow in the run-up to end of 2015, albeit at a slower pace.

31. Some Panel members opined that there were still buildings in Hong Kong where the television reception system had not been upgraded to receive DTT signals. This would pose a problem to DTT take-up and should be tackled before ASO could be implemented. The Administration advised that the communal aerial broadcast distribution (CABD) systems had been installed in multi-storey buildings. The former OFTA had issued technical specifications and guidelines for the reception and distribution of DTT signals in buildings. Incorporated owners and building managers were encouraged to upgrade their CABD systems for DTT reception and to install additional amplifiers/filters for DTT channels.

32. Noting that the frequent re-run of DTT programmes by domestic free television programme licensees would affect the DTT take-up rate, some Panel members opined that provisions governing the frequency of the re-run programmes should be included in the licence conditions of these licensees to prevent the excessive re-run of programmes. The Administration advised that the former BA had drawn attention to one of the licensees complaints about the frequency of re-run programmes and the need to put precious radio spectrum into optimal use. Nevertheless, the licensees would have the autonomy in programme content.

Assignment of the available radio spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band for wireless broadband services

33. On the assignment of the available radio spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band for wireless broadband services, some Panel members opined that to avoid market domination by large conglomerates, new entrants should be given better chances of winning the bid in the auction. As such, these members considered that a spectrum cap should be imposed on existing mobile network operators (MNOs). The Administration advised that given that the mobile market in Hong Kong was extremely competitive, it was not necessary to impose any restriction on the amount of spectrum that a bidder could acquire in the proposed auction.

34. As regards members' concern about spectrum hoarding, the Administration advised that spectrum was a scarce public resource. Having paid hefty sums of money for the spectrum, MNOs would no doubt put the spectrum into speedy and effective use in order to obtain returns on their investment. Apart from the obligation to rollout the network and service, successful bidders were required to lodge a performance bond to ensure compliance with rollout obligations. Given such safeguards and according to past experience, spectrum hoarding was not a cause for concern.

Implementation of fair usage policy for the provision of mobile and fixed broadband services

35. On the implementation of the fair usage policy (FUP), the Panel noted that the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) had received from time to time complaints about the application of FUP by mobile service providers (MSPs). The objectives of implementing FUP by these MSPs were to ensure that their customers might have a fair opportunity to enjoy and access to their services, and to prevent possible abuse or improper use of the network resources by certain atypical customers. The Panel also noted that the former OFTA had identified several problems with the current implementation of FUP, including different understanding and non-uniform application of FUP by MSPs, broad terms and conditions, and lack of understanding of FUP by customers. With a view to addressing the relevant problems and to better protect consumer interest, the former TA subsequently promulgated on 9 November 2011 the Guidelines governing how service providers should implement their FUP for the provision of mobile or fixed broadband services.

36. Some Panel members opined that given different interpretations to the FUP by service providers, it would be unfair to customers when a service provider took action against them on grounds that they had breached FUP. To address the problem, these members urged the Administration to provide a uniform set of FUP for compliance by all service providers to ensure consistency in interpretation. The Administration advised that under the Guidelines, a set of guiding principles had been formulated to enable service providers to develop and apply FUP in a broadly uniform manner. This would enhance customers' understanding and maintain a degree of consistency across services.

37. Some Panel members also opined that given the lack of understanding of FUP by customers, service providers should be refrained from attaching any qualifications, conditions and usage thresholds to service plans with the name described or promoted as "unlimited". This would avoid any misunderstanding or misleading information relating to promotion of such plans. The Administration advised that whether "unlimited" usage plans should be prohibited was subject to dispute as many members of the public had expressed a clear preference for the freedom to choose amongst different service plans. According to the Guidelines, service providers seeking to promote or offer service plans with the term "unlimited" must clearly present any qualifications if any form of restriction or FUP was applicable. This would serve to avoid misunderstanding by customers.

Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme

38. The Administration briefed the Panel on the way forward for the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme (CCSS) for the telecommunications industry. The CCSS aimed to resolve contractual disputes between telecommunications service providers and their customers outside the judicial system. The CCSS offered the parties concerned a quick and economical way of disputes resolution with less legal formality and without the need for expensive legal cost. Panel members generally supported the implementation of a sustainable CCSS for the telecommunications industry.

39. Some Panel members suggested that the scope of CCSS should be extended to cover complaints about unsolicited person-to-person marketing calls from telecommunications service providers to residential/personal customers. The Administration advised that CCSS would mainly depend on the use of mediation which was considered most effective in resolving billing disputes. Other types of disputes, including those relating to service quality and contract terms as well as person-to-person marketing calls, would be more effectively addressed by the issuance of guidelines and codes of practice to the telecommunications service providers.

40. To encourage more customers to use CCSS service, some Panel members suggested that the proposed fee of \$100 should be lowered, and customers should be allowed to make verbal instead of written representations to CCSS. The Administration advised that as public resource was incurred in operating CCSS, it would minimize submission of wholly unmeritorious claim and possible abuse by requiring the customer to pay a reasonable amount of fee. Written representations would be required for cases that had come to a deadlock.

Creative industries

41. On the work of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK), the Panel noted the proposal to create a permanent post of Senior Principal Executive Officer (SPEO) (D2) under CreateHK to assist in formulating strategies, implementing various initiatives, and reviewing the effectiveness of such initiatives. Some Panel members urged the Administration to step up measures in promoting the work of CreateHK to the general public. Efforts should be made in matching the creative industry with the manufacturing industry in order to achieve synergy and bring maximum benefits to the local economy. Some other members suggested that CreateHK should participate in large scale events in Hong Kong's design scene such as the annual Hong Kong Footwear Design Competition.

42. The Panel was briefed on the work of the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) and the proposal to provide \$107.5 million to HKDC with a view to further driving the development of the local design sector. The Panel supported in principle the funding proposal. Some Panel members opined that the concept of design should not be limited to product design only, but should be broadened to include innovative designs for business systems such as the supply chain management system. Some other members opined that Hong Kong should tap into the design talent of its own young generation as the grooming of talents was vital to the development of the design industry. A member expressed concern about the corporate governance of HKDC. To enhance transparency, she suggested that HKDC should make public on its website the attendance rate of its directors at Board meetings. The Administration advised that HKDC had completed internal audit exercises conducted by an outside audit firm and put in place internal control measures to improve corporate governance.

43. The Panel was also briefed on the funding proposal to extend the Design Incubation Programme (DIP) to offer two-year incubation services for 60 design start-ups and for HKDC to administer the second phase of DIP. The Panel supported in principle the funding proposal to extend DIP. Some Panel members opined that HKDC should step up effort in helping incubatees build their brands with international renown and explore collaboration opportunities with the Mainland industries.

44. The relevant funding proposals were subsequently approved by FC on 13 April 2012.

Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390)

45. On 16 April 2012, the Government launched the second round of public consultation on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). The Panel noted that the first round of consultation confirmed general support for retaining the regulatory regime under COIAO and imposition of heavier penalties for breaches to enhance its deterrent effect. In the second round of consultation, the Administration would consult the community on the outstanding issues on, inter alia, how the institutional set-up of the Obscene Articles Tribunals (OAT) should be reformed. The Administration was inviting comments on the two options to reform OAT institutional set-up which sought to address the Judiciary's fundamental concerns of requiring OAT to perform both administrative classification and judicial determination functions.

46. The Panel noted that OATs were currently set up under COIAO as part of the Judiciary to classify submitted articles. OATs had exclusive jurisdiction to determine for the purposes of COIAO whether any article was obscene or indecent or neither, and any publicly displayed matter was indecent. Some Panel members objected to the first option which involved the setting up of a statutory classification board and a statutory appeal panel to carry out the administrative classification function. These members preferred the second option which sought to abolish the administrative classification function.

47. Some Panel members opined that the term of office of the adjudicators of OAT should be shortened, so that the composition of the adjudicators would be changed more frequently to provide plurality, and would more accurately reflect the prevailing public standards of morality. According to the Administration, adjudicators were recruited through open invitation of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. Eligible persons from all walks of life could apply to become adjudicators. The Judiciary had been improving the existing operations of OAT in response to public concerns. To enhance the representativeness of OAT adjudicators and to allow more opportunities for members of the public to serve as adjudicators, the Judiciary decided in 2010 to increase the total number of adjudicators from 280 to 500 and to apply the nine-year rule in the re-appointment of serving adjudicators.

48. From October 2011 to end June 2012, the Panel held a total of 13 meetings, including one meeting held jointly with the Panel on Education to discuss the education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 July 2012

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Membership list for 2011 - 2012 session

Chairman	Hon WONG Yuk-man
Deputy Chairman	Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Members	Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
	Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
	Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
	Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
	Hon LEE Wing-tat
	Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
	Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
	Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
	Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
	Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
	Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
	(Total : 13 members)
Clerk	Ms YUE Tin-po
Legal Adviser	Mr Bonny LOO