

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)8/13-14  
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by the Administration)

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**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Minutes of special meeting**  
**held on Friday, 18 January 2013, at 4:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon WONG Yuk-man (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon YIU Si-wing  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
- Members attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
- Members absent** : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

**Public officers attending** : Mr Gregory SO, JP  
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Miss Susie HO, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Joe WONG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP  
Government Chief Information Officer

Miss Eliza LEE, JP  
Director-General of Communications

Mr Vincent LIU, JP  
Deputy Director of Film, Newspaper & Article Administration

Mr Roy TANG, JP  
Director of Broadcasting

Mr Jerry LIU  
Head of Create Hong Kong

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms YUE Tin-po  
Chief Council Secretary (4)3

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Anki NG  
Council Secretary (4)3

Miss Iris CHEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (4)2

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**I. Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)310/12-13(01) -- Administration's paper on policy initiatives of Communications and Technology Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau)

LC Paper No. CB(4)341/12-13(01) -- Speaking note of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development  
(*Chinese version only*)  
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 18 January 2013*)

*Other relevant documents*

Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 16 January 2013 - "Seek Change, Maintain Stability, Serve the People with Pragmatism" (*issued on 16 January 2013*)

Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") briefed members on the major initiatives relating to the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") under the 2013 Policy Address. These included initiatives in the areas of information and communications technology, creative industries, broadcasting service and telecommunications service. Details of the policy initiatives were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)310/12-13(01)) and SCED's speaking note (LC Paper No. CB(4)341/12-13(01)).

Discussion

*Development of creative clusters*

2. Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted the new initiatives to be taken by the Administration in the areas of creative industries and enquired about the number of study and training opportunities to be created in talent

development. Head of Create Hong Kong ("Head of CreateHK") advised that CreateHK had nurtured over 120 incubatees from the design sector in the past five years, and about 2 100 job opportunities had been created through the promotional programmes funded or organized by CreateHK. On talent development, CreateHK's support had helped create about 3 200 study and training opportunities every year for the various creative sectors. The organization of mega creative events in Hong Kong also helped reinforce Hong Kong's position as Asia's creative capital.

3. Regarding the establishment of the Comix Home Base ("CHB") as a new landmark for Hong Kong's animation and comics sector, Mr WONG enquired about the total land area of the art community, the number of animation and comic groups to be attracted to CHB and the reasons for launching the promotional campaign in the Wan Chai District. Head of CreateHK advised that "Ani-Com Summer 2013" (tentative title) was the first part of a series of animation and comics-related activities to be presented by CreateHK for the promotion of the opening of CHB in Wan Chai in July 2013, with three mega events including a bi-weekly short films and comics festival at the Arts Centre, a comics carnival tentatively planned for the racecourse in Happy Valley, and the Animation and Comics Expo at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, would be held in the Wan Chai District during the year.

*New strategy for information technology development in Hong Kong and data centre development*

4. In response to Mr Charles Peter MOK's suggestions about renaming the new strategy for IT development in Hong Kong and adding deliverables to assess the effectiveness of the IT strategy, Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that the Administration would consult the industry when conducting the review on Digital 21 Strategy. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the measures to be taken by the Administration in developing green technology. GCIO advised that the Administration and the industry were in support of developing green technology, and the Administration had been adopting certain green technology purchasing standards.

5. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed concern about the land and manpower supply for data centre development in Hong Kong, and energy-saving and tax relief initiatives in developing green data centres. Sharing a similar view, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the standard to be adopted in developing green data centres. GCIO advised that the conversion of industrial buildings to data centres since June 2012 had been well received by the industry for meeting short term demand. Four applications had been received for converting part of existing industrial buildings for data centre use and one application had been approved. The Administration had

also shared the guidelines for implementing green measures in data centres with the industry. In vetting applications for setting up data centres in industrial buildings, the Administration also took into consideration pledged energy saving measures.

*First Feature Film Initiative and the CreateSmart Initiative*

6. Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed support on launching of the First Feature Film Initiative ("FFFI"). In this connection, he enquired about the measures to be taken by the Administration to help develop the film industry given that the cinemas could not survive the high rental in Hong Kong. Head of CreateHK advised that a research on the issue of cinema provision in Hong Kong was being conducted by CreateHK and the first analysis of the research would be available in March 2013. Upon the completion of the research and internal assessment, CEDB would relay its views to the relevant Bureaux and Departments where appropriate.

7. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the financial support provided by the Film Development Fund to the FFFI, whether the distribution costs of the films would be funded, whether the Government would seek to share the profits generated from the distribution of the films, and the measures to be taken by the Administration to facilitate film production in Hong Kong. Head of CreateHK advised that the aggregate production costs of the three winning film proposals would be about \$8 million, together with promotion and related administrative costs, the total funding provided would be around \$9.85 million. The film copyright for the first five years would be licensed to independent distributors through a bidding process, whereas the production companies of the three films would retain the film copyright. CreateHK would arrange pre-screening and pre-sale promotion and sale sessions. The Government would not seek to recoup the costs of the film productions and the related administrative expenses, nor would the Government seek to share the profits. Requests from the winning teams on seeking location filming sites would be closely followed-up by CreateHK.

8. In response to Mr Paul TSE's enquiry about the nature of the creative industries and the target groups that had received funding support from the CreateSmart Initiative ("CSI"), and the performance indicators of the projects supported by the CSI, Head of CreateHK advised that CreateHK would update the Panel on the work of CreateHK in 2012 and give a preview of CreateHK's major initiatives in 2013 in the forthcoming regular Panel meeting to be held on 4 February 2013, including the projects supported by the CSI. A review had been conducted recently with the funding applicants, the programmes participants, the vetting committee members of the CSI and chambers of commerce to gauge their views on the CSI. Different performance indicators had also been set to measure the

effectiveness of the CSI. Detailed information about the CSI funding provided to various creative industries and the nature of the projects in the past three years were also available on the website of CreateHK.

*Enhancing competitiveness of small and medium enterprises*

9. Given that the Government procurement policy and the award of contracts were subject to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement and the tendering requirements of individual project, Mr Steven HO enquired about the measures taken by the Administration to facilitate local small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") to compete fairly in Government information and communications technology ("ICT") tenders and procurements and participate in Government projects. SCED advised that where the existing procurement policies so permitted, the Administration had allowed the provision of bank guarantee for contract deposits and lowered the number of years of experience required for enterprises to take up the projects. Mr HO also enquired about the reasons of failure of local enterprises to participate in these projects. SCED advised that local SMEs might not be able to participate in Government projects due to the tremendous size of the projects or the inability to provide sufficient trading track records. The Administration would continue to explore new opportunities, including trial schemes, to help SMEs to compete fairly in Government ICT tenders and procurements.

*Wi-fi coverage and adoption of ICT among SMEs*

10. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry about the possibility of providing full coverage of free Government Wi-Fi ("GovWiFi") service to tourist areas such as Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok in 2013, GCIO advised that currently GovWiFi service were provided at government premises only so as to avoid competition with the commercial sector in providing Wi-Fi service, and some tourist attractions such as the new cruise terminal would also be provided with GovWiFi service. The service would be extended to other public government premises such as playgrounds.

11. Mr YIU also enquired about the ongoing initiatives to be taken by the Government to encourage SMEs to take advantage of ICT to increase efficiency and productivity. SCED advised that since 2004, the Administration had sponsored about \$19 million for 16 different sectors under the Sector-Specific Programme and the IT Training Programme for SMEs. Recently, the Administration had provided funding support to the retail industry to develop an application to take advantage of ICT for enhanced business benefits. The Administration would continue to support and encourage different sectors to use ICT.

*Mobile telephones signal coverage*

12. Mr WONG Ting-kwong expressed concern about the unsatisfactory mobile telephones signal coverage in tunnels and indoor lifts. He said that the coverage in these premises had been improved in other countries. Director-General of Communications ("DGC") advised that there was already good mobile telephone services coverage in tunnels in Hong Kong. The installation of mobile telephone base stations in indoor lifts was also possible if mobile network operators ("MNOs") and management offices/incorporated owners of individual buildings could reach agreements. Mr WONG enquired whether the Administration would implement new initiatives to improve the signal coverage in these premises. DGC advised that the provision of signal coverage in these premises was based on individual commercial agreements between MNOs and tunnel companies/incorporated owners of different buildings.

*Applications for domestic free television programme service licences*

13. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the progress of applications for domestic free television programme service licences despite the related ongoing judicial proceedings. Sharing a similar concern, Ms Emily LAU and Ms Claudia MO considered that the Administration should provide a response on the timeframe for issuing the licences. SCED advised that the Administration was adopting an open-market approach and the Chief Executive in Council would continue to process the applications in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562), taking into account the effect on local broadcasting industry and economic development. The Chairman advised that the Panel would hold a special meeting on 25 January 2013 to follow up the matter and to meet with representatives of relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the subject.

*Public service broadcasting by Radio Television Hong Kong*

14. Ms Emily LAU and Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about the capability of the Director of Broadcasting ("D of B") in performing his duties, given that he had been an Administrative Officer with no broadcasting experience before his appointment as D of B. They also expressed concern about the reduction of manpower resources of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK"). D of B advised that the supporting staff of RTHK had been increased by more than 120 in the past two years, and the financial support on RTHK had been increased by about HK\$300 million. Ms LAU enquired whether D of B had maintained the principle of freedom of speech and freedom of press for RTHK staff. D of B advised that the editorial decisions of RTHK were made weekly by a professional team and he had strived to maintain the editorial independence of RTHK.

15. Ms Emily LAU also enquired about the progress of constructing the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O. D of B advised that the pre-tendering activities for the contract had been completed and the tender would be awarded early next year after the plan had been scrutinized by the Public Works Subcommittee and the Panel by the end of 2013. It was anticipated that the construction of the Broadcasting House would be completed in 2018.

16. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about the discontinuation of employment of Mr NG Chi-sum with RTHK, the progress of training of new RTHK staff and the rating of RTHK programmes. She said that Mr NG was a well-known host of the "phone-in" programme "Open Line, Open View" with independent viewpoints and critical minds. D of B advised that the change of programme contents last year was an editorial decision made to meet with changes in the society and the public needs. Other RTHK staff had taken up the role as hosts of the two programmes "Talk About" and "Open Line, Open View" since the departure of Mr NG. D of B added that the rating survey of RTHK programmes was being conducted by The University of Hong Kong and the result was still awaited.

17. Ms Cyd HO said that a large proportion of the new RTHK programme hosts of "Open Line , Open View" were older than Mr NG Chi-sum. She urged D of B to provide training to younger staff to replace the older generation. D of B advised that the hosts named by Ms Cyd HO were guest hosts which were changed at least every 6 months, and RTHK's training for new young generation for its programmes was in progress.

#### *Establishment of the Technology Bureau*

18. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the Administration's plan for the establishment of the Technology Bureau. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok opined that the establishment of the Technology Bureau was necessary to actively support the promotion and development of innovation and technology. He enquired about the estimated timeframe for setting up the Technology Bureau and whether a Deputy Secretary would be provided to take charge of the work of the Bureau. SCED advised that the establishment of the Technology Bureau would need support from the Legislative Council and the Administration would submit the proposal to Members for consideration in due course. A Deputy Secretary would oversee a whole range of work portfolios under the CEDB.



**II. Any other business**

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:30 pm.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
16 October 2013