

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 21 May 2013)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Progress report on digital inclusion

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2013, members requested the Administration to provide information on its monitoring of eInclusion's financial and internal control in implementing the Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP"). The Administration has subsequently advised that it will terminate its Funding and Operation Agreement with eInclusion with effect from 19 May 2013.

10 June 2013

At the Panel meeting on 11 March 2013, Hon Charles Peter MOK requested that the Administration should brief the Panel on its termination of the services of eInclusion Foundation Limited and its monitoring of eInclusion's management of ILSP funds. The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)632/12-13(01) on 8 May 2013.

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of the digital inclusion, including the progress of implementation of the ILSP.

**2. Issues relating to the editorial independence of
Radio Television Hong Kong**

At the Panel meeting on 27 March 2013, members noted the letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 15 March 2013 requesting that a meeting be held to follow up issues relating to the editorial independence of Radio Television Hong Kong. Members agreed that the discussion of the subject matter be scheduled at a future meeting within the current legislative session.

10 June 2013

3. Progress update on the e-Government development

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of e-Government development since the last report

8 July 2013

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

in June 2012.

4. Facilitating a digital economy under the Digital 21 Strategy

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of the initiatives that facilitate a digital economy under the Digital 21 Strategy since the last update in July 2012.

8 July 2013

At the meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2012, Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon Charles Peter MOK requested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the development of green information and communications technology ("ICT") and ICT manpower development under the Digital 21 Strategy.

5. Review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2013, the Administration briefed the Panel on the views collected during the second round of public consultation on the review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. The Panel noted that the Administration would study the views received and work with the concerned parties, including the Judiciary, with a view to mapping out the way forward. Members requested the Administration to brief the Panel on the way forward by July 2013 at the latest.

By July 2013

6. Review of the Telecommunications Engineer grade in the Office of the Communications Authority

At the Panel meeting on 4 February 2013, Hon Charles Peter MOK and Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok raised concern about issues relating to the review of the Telecommunications Engineer ("TE") grade in the Office of the Communications Authority.

8 July 2013

Members agreed that the discussion of the subject matter be scheduled at a future Panel meeting within the current legislative session.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

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

End 2013

8. Review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance

During the deliberation of the Bills Committee on Communications Authority Bill, the Administration advised that a staged approach would be adopted in modernizing the regulatory regime for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Administration would first establish the Communications Authority ("CA") through the structural merger of the former Telecommunications Authority ("TA") and the Broadcasting Authority ("BA") to enable the CA to deal with increasing market convergence as soon as possible. Upon establishment, the CA would take over the existing functions of the TA and the BA under the Telecommunications Ordinance ("TO"), the Broadcasting Ordinance ("BO") and other relevant ordinances applicable to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Administration and the CA would then carry out a review of the existing regulatory regimes and introduce legislative changes to update and rationalize the TO and the BO.

To be confirmed

At the meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2012, Hon Charles Peter MOK requested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the progress of the matter.

9. Progress update on the introduction of Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme

The trial operation of the Customer Complaint Settlement

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Scheme for the telecommunications industry has been launched on 1 November 2012, for a two-year trial period. The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress when the Scheme has been operated for some time.

10. Spectrum trading

The former Office of the Telecommunications Authority ("OFTA") (replaced by the Office of the Communications Authority ("OFCA") since 1 April 2012) appointed a consultant to study the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading in Hong Kong for facilitating economic and technically efficient use of this scarce public resource. The Administration is examining the recommendations made by the consultant, together with the latest international trend and the market situation in Hong Kong in detail to map out the way forward.

To be confirmed

On 24 January 2013, the Administration requested that discussion on the issue, originally scheduled for the meeting on 4 February 2013, be deferred. The Administration will brief the Panel on the next step of the work plan once ready.

11. Competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the Communications Authority's investigation into the competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited.

To be confirmed

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

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

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

considered it necessary to introduce legislation to regulate such calls.

After consultation with the industry, the former OFTA issued a benchmark CoP with guidelines requesting telemarketers to disclose identity and calling line identification information when making such calls. Telemarketers are also requested to maintain an in-house unsubscribe list for the public to make unsubscribe request.

According to the Administration, industry associations of four business sectors, namely finance, insurance, telecommunications service and call centre, have pledged support for the voluntary self-regulation scheme. The industry associations of insurance companies, banks, restricted licence banks and deposit-taking companies, all major telecommunications operators, two telemarketing industry associations, and a major telecommunications industry association have implemented their own CoP. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the implementation of the voluntary CoP after it has operated for some time.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
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