

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)274/13-14  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ITB/1

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 11 November 2013, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 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 Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon YIU Si-wing  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, JP  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Members attending :** Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon IP Kin-yuen

**Member absent** : Hon Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP

**Public officers attending** : Agenda item IV

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

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP  
Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Victor LAM, JP  
Deputy Government Chief Information Officer  
(Consulting and Operations)

Mr Timothy CHENG  
Chief Systems Manager (Governance & Resources)

Agenda item V

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 Aaron LIU  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and  
Economic Development (Communications and  
Technology) A

**Attendance by invitation** : Agenda item V

**Radio Television Hong Kong**

Mr Roy TANG, JP  
Director of Broadcasting

Mr TAI Keen-man, JP  
Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes)

Miss Leonia TAI, JP  
Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)

**Architectural Services Department**

Mrs Sylvia LAM  
Project Director 1

Mr LAM Kwai-sang  
Chief Project Manager 103

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

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

Miss Mandy LAM  
Legislative Assistant (4)2

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Action

- I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(4)115/13-14 -- Minutes of meeting held on  
10 October 2013)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2013 were confirmed.

- II. Information papers issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(4)964/12-13(01) -- Referral arising from the  
meeting between Legislative Council Members and Tsuen Wan District Council members on 6 June 2013 regarding the criteria for vetting and approving applications for installing and putting radio base stations into operation (Chinese version only) (Restricted to Members)

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| LC Paper No.<br>CB(4)985/12-13(01)         | -- Joint letter from Hon Charles Peter MOK, Hon SIN Chung-kai and Hon Claudia MO dated 6 September 2013 regarding re-assignment arrangements for 3G spectrum (English version only)                |
| LC Paper No.<br>CB(4)18/13-14(01) and (02) | -- Submission from a member of the public regarding views on the content of a television programme produced by Radio Television Hong Kong and the Administration's response (English version only) |
| LC Paper No.<br>CB(4)101/13-14(01)         | -- Submission from Hong Kong In-media relating to press freedom (Chinese version only)   |
| LC Paper No.<br>CB(4)102/13-14(01)         | -- Submission from a member of the public regarding the fees for broadband and fixed line telephone services (Chinese version only))   |
| LC Paper No.<br>CB(4)117/13-14(01)         | -- Invitation of the Communications Authority on public hearings for the renewal of the domestic pay television programme service licence of PCCW Media Limited                                    |

2. Members noted that the above papers had been issued for the Panel's information.

**III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

Special meeting on 2 December 2013

3. Members noted that a special Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 2 December 2013 at 5:30 pm to discuss the following issues:

- (a) Issues relating to the applications for domestic free television programme service licences;
- (b) Communications Authority's findings of the investigation into the alleged violations of the competition provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance by Television Broadcasts Limited; and
- (c) Communications Authority's findings of the investigation into the control and management of Asia Television Limited.

Regular meeting on 9 December 2013

4. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 9 December 2013 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Retention of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK");
- (b) RTHK - establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television fill-in stations; and
- (c) Review of the Digital 21 Strategy.

Arrangements for the frequency spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz Band upon expiry of the existing frequency assignments for 3G mobile services

5. Ms Claudia MO and Mr Charles Peter MOK requested the Administration to provide the report of the consultancy study on the impact on service quality and customers if the proposed hybrid option in re-assigning the 3G spectrum was adopted as soon as possible, and to brief members on the findings of the study before announcing the decision on the arrangement for the 3G spectrum upon expiry of the current assignment. The Chairman advised that the Panel would follow up the matter at a future Panel meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: On 15 November 2013, the Communications Authority announced its decision to adopt the hybrid approach for the re-assignment of the spectrum upon expiry of the existing*

assignments in October 2016. The Administration also announced the methodology in setting the relevant spectrum utilization fee which would be prescribed through subsidiary legislation. Copies of the joint statement setting out the decisions and the report of the independent consultancy study on service impact were circulated to members vide LC Papers Nos. CB(4)152/13-14(02) and (03) on 18 November 2013.)

**IV. Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems

LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(04) -- Paper on Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on the 2014-2015 funding requirement for the implementation of computerization projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund ("CWRF") Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX ("block allocation") – New administrative computer systems. PSCED(CT) sought members' support for the proposed block allocation of \$920 million, which was \$30 million (about 3.4%) higher than the provision of \$890 million for 2013-2014. Details of the funding requirement, breakdown of the expenditure items and new projects to be funded by the block allocation were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(03)).

Discussion*Increase in block allocation*

7. Mr SIN Chung-kai queried whether the proposed increase of \$30 million in block allocation (about 3.4%) in 2014-2015 would be sufficient for the implementation of computerization projects under the block allocation, given that the increase appeared to be lower than inflation rate. Mr Charles Peter MOK shared the view of Mr SIN. Quoting an example of new projects (such as the replacement of Transport Management Information System II by the Hong Kong Police Force with an amount of about \$9.9 million) to be initiated in 2014-2015 under item (d) in Annex C to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(03)), Mr MOK opined that the proposed increase of about 3.4% in block allocation might not be sustainable even for maintenance of existing information systems by relevant bureaux/departments ("B/Ds").

8. The Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that CWRP Head 710 Computerization was the Head of Expenditure for funding administrative computer system projects and related studies. Such projects could broadly be categorized into Block Vote ("BV") projects costing above \$150,000 but not exceeding \$10 million each, and major projects costing above \$10 million each. BV projects were funded through the block allocation under CWRP Head 710 Subhead A007GX. The Financial Secretary had delegated to GCIO the authority to approve projects and authorize expenditure under the block allocation. Major projects were funded under separate subheads under CWRP Head 710 and subject to the approval of the Finance Committee. The block allocation in 2010-2011 was \$715 million while the block allocation in 2013-2014 had been increased to \$890 million, already representing an increase of about 25%. Allocation only referred to the amount of cash flow allocated to a Bureau or Department with reference to the estimated expenditure requirement of the approved project in a given financial year.

9. Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the low percentage of increase in the expenditure of implementation services (0.3%) and contract staff (4.8%) when compared to software (5.6%) and hardware (5.8%) in the breakdown of the expenditure items for the proposed increase in block allocation for 2014-2015 (Annex A to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(03))). He opined that the relatively low percentage of increase under the contract staff item might lead to a low salary increase of the staff concerned. In reply, GCIO advised that the contract rates of contract staff were stipulated in the relevant Standing Offer Agreements and would not be affected by the percentage increase in the block allocation.

Deputy GCIO (Consulting and Operations) ("DGCIO(C&O)") supplemented that the increase in staff salary levels would also be subject to their relevant employment contracts. Moreover, the adjustment of contract rates was an annual exercise independent of the block allocation.

10. Mr YIU Si-wing sought information on the amount of allocation and expenditure by B/Ds under the block allocation in the past few years, spending position of CWRP Head 710 computerization, and the Administration's plan or guidelines to upgrade the computer systems of individual B/Ds. GCIO advised that an average of about 90% to 95% of the block allocation for the past four years had been expended. The projects were reviewed every half-yearly or quarterly to ensure optimum utilization of the block allocation. As regards the management of IT projects, the relevant B/Ds would submit a departmental IT project portfolio to the Office of the GCIO ("OGCIO") every year outlining the existing projects and upcoming projects to be implemented in the coming five years. OGCIO would share the latest technologies and updates with the senior management and IT units of individual B/Ds on how best to achieve their proposed projects, with a view to keeping relevant B/Ds abreast of the latest developments in information and communications technology ("ICT"). At the request of Mr YIU Si-wing, the Administration undertook to provide the relevant amount of allocation and expenditure by B/Ds under the block allocation in the past four years.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)217/13-14(01) on 10 December 2013.)*

11. Mr NG Leung-sing noted that provisions had been earmarked for the deployment of funds to meet the requirements of urgent or higher priority projects under the block allocation. He enquired about the type(s) and the relevant percentage of projects under this category. GCIO advised that the Administrative Computer Projects Committee was responsible for assessing whether the proposed projects submitted by B/Ds were urgent or at higher priority. For example, a project involving the upgrade of Windows XP and Office software had a higher priority than other projects as the relevant technical support for the software would expire in April 2014. The relevant percentage of projects under this category was about 20% of the allocation each year.

*Business opportunities for local small and medium sized enterprises*

12. Mr WONG Ting-kwong expressed concern about the measures put in place by the Administration to help small and medium sized enterprises

("SMEs") in the ICT sector to compete fairly in Government IT contracts and tenders, and whether a policy inclination for awarding Government IT contracts and tenders to SMEs was available. The Deputy Chairman shared the concern of Mr WONG and said that SMEs had experienced difficulties in bidding for Government IT contracts as the contracts were usually awarded to those with low bidding price, thus creating intense competition among SMEs in the ICT sector. She enquired about the criteria for awarding Government IT contracts and tenders.

13. GCIO advised that OGCIO had recently introduced a listing arrangement for the procurement of government public cloud services. Out of the 40 listed service providers, about one-third of them were SMEs. In addition, the Administration had also invited some ICT award-winners to display their winning projects in areas next to the Wanchai Government Complex, and held seminars for these award-winners to introduce their products to government departments. Winning projects were also introduced to overseas trade fairs and international expos. Where the existing procurement policies so permitted, the Administration would seek to facilitate participation of local SMEs in the projects.

14. GCIO further advised 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. When awarding Government IT contracts and tenders, the Administration was guided by two policy objectives of achieving best value for money and maintaining open and fair competition. To achieve the best value for money, the Administration took into account in the tender evaluation not only the competitiveness in price, but also the technical and quality assessment, the weightings of which (ranged from 30% to 50%) would be considered in the evaluation of tenders, depending on individual project requirements.

*Tendering process for Government contracts and procurements*

15. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired about details of the technical and quality assessment in the tendering process for Government contracts and procurements, and the relevant body which performed the assessment. GCIO advised that the technical and quality assessment would include compliance with users' requirements, reliability of tenderer's performance, qualitative superiority of proposals, etc. Project steering committees formed by B/Ds responsible for individual projects would perform the relevant assessment.

16. The Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to observe the international norm of adopting a "reasonable price" approach in awarding Government IT contracts and procurements. GCIO advised that a fair and reasonable tendering approach had been adopted in awarding contracts under the Standing Offer Agreement for the Procurement of Quality Professional Services ("SOA-QPS"). According to feedback collected by OGCIO, the companies under the SOA-QPS scheme considered the bidding prices reasonable.

17. Mr NG Leung-sing enquired whether the selection criteria of the tender for Government contracts and procurements had been cleared with the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and whether those criteria were made known to the tendering parties. GCIO advised that the whole tendering process, including selection methods and criteria, had been cleared with the anti-corruption team of ICAC before implementation. The selection criteria and methods were also stipulated in the tender document.

18. Noting that different B/Ds had different computerization requirements, the Chairman enquired whether the contractors selected through tender were based on the recommendations made by the relevant B/Ds or the decision of the OGCIO, in particular information security services. GCIO advised that as part of the Government's IT outsourcing strategy, the OGCIO had awarded SOA-QPS contracts to a certain number of companies (the existing number was 44) in an open and fair manner and B/Ds would select service providers from these companies for major and minor IT services, including information security services.

#### *Green data centre development*

19. The Deputy Chairman urged the Government to formulate a set of "Green Data Centre Standards" for data centres in Hong Kong, including setting a target for energy saving, providing incentives to encourage these centres to save energy and implementing environmental protection measures for these centres. GCIO advised that the Administration was in the process of consolidating six government data centres with a view to saving power consumption and implementing other green data facilities. For the existing data centres managed by OGCIO, the target was to lower the power usage effectiveness ("PUE") of data centres by about 5%. He added that the PUE of government data centres currently stood at an average of around 2.0 to 3.0. The PUE value of the new consolidated data centre would be on par with the average PUE value of data centres around the world which was currently about 1.8. The Administration would continue to consolidate existing data centres on this front.

*Information technology audit and assessment*

20. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired whether the Administration had conducted any information technology audit or assessment on B/Ds in the implementation of computerization projects, for example, the "IT Security Risk Assessment and Audit" to be conducted for the Social Welfare Department and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau under item (a) in Annex C to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(03)). Mr SIN also enquired about the criteria for selecting the relevant B/Ds for audit and assessment, and the timeframe for conducting such exercise on other B/Ds.

21. GCIO advised that relevant security risk assessment and audit were conducted periodically on these B/Ds, usually by a third-party contractor, and the relevant report would be provided to OGCI for reference. The relevant project information relating to the conduct of the audit and assessment on the B/Ds was available on the website of the OGCI.

22. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the use of ICT within the Government in comparison with other governments in advanced countries. GCIO advised that OGCI had, through its e-government initiatives, liaised with different B/Ds on their use of ICT and compared its initiatives with the use of ICT in other countries. The Administration undertook to provide information in this respect.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)217/13-14(01) on 10 December 2013.)*

Summing up

23. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the proposed block allocation for consideration by the Public Works Subcommittee.

**V. Development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(05) -- Administration's paper on construction of the new Broadcasting House for Radio Television Hong Kong at Area 85, Tseung Kwan O

LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(06) -- Paper on the development of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on the proposed construction of the new Broadcasting House ("BH") of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") in Tseung Kwan O ("TKO"). The Director of Broadcasting ("D of B") supplemented that the current estimated cost of the proposed project was \$6.056 billion in money-of-the-day prices, compared to an estimate of \$1.5 billion in 2000 and \$1.6 billion made in September 2009. The net operational floor area ("NOFA") of the proposed new BH would amount to almost 77% more than the total operational usable area of RTHK's existing premises. NOFA was allocated to the users of a building for carrying out the intended activities, and was different from the construction floor area which took into account all areas within the building structure envelope.

25. D of B elaborated that the estimated cost of \$1.6 billion of the proposed BH project made in September 2009 had not taken into account the provision and planning for new services as well as facilities to fully support RTHK's development as the public service broadcaster ("PSB") as announced by the Administration in September 2009. The proposed scope of the BH project comprised the provision of sound broadcasting facilities, digital terrestrial television ("DTT") broadcasting facilities, news centre, miscellaneous areas for engineering and media asset management ("MAM"), office accommodation for staff, departmental common facilities, information technology and new media technical facilities, specialist facilities, and parking spaces for departmental vehicles, staff, guests and artists.

Discussion

*Increase in the estimated cost of the proposed construction of the new Broadcasting House*

26. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the substantial increase in the estimated cost of the proposed construction of the new BH,

and a possible further increase in the cost in the subsequent years before the commissioning of the new BH. D of B advised that the type of facilities and resources required by RTHK in developing the new services were under close monitoring and supervision by a cross-departmental Property Vetting Committee under the chairmanship from the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") with members from the Government Property Agency and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau. The estimated cost of the BH project came from a tendering result comprising a works reserve component and a cost adjustment mechanism taking into account inflation rates. The possibility for further increase in the cost for the project should be on the low side given the above provisions. ArchSD, being the project manager, would also closely monitor the expenditure and the progress of the BH project.

27. The Deputy Chairman said that the Construction Cost Indices ("CCI") from 2000 to 2013 had increased by about 75%. The estimated cost of the proposed construction of the new BH in proportion to the increase in the CCI should be about \$3 billion instead of \$6.056 billion. D of B advised that the estimated cost in September 2009 did not take into account the provision and planning for new services and facilities to fully support RTHK's development as the PSB as announced by the Administration in September 2009, the inclusion of which had accounted for the substantial increase in the estimated cost.

28. Noting that hardware facilities such as recording and broadcasting equipments were included in the estimated cost, Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired whether these equipments would be made available for use in the community involvement broadcasting service ("CIBS"). D of B advised that radio production was relatively less complicated. The applicants for participation in CIBS were able to rent their own facilities for production. Given that television ("TV") production was relatively more complicated and that the TV facilities planned for the new BH would be marginally sufficient for use by RTHK, he considered it difficult to provide these equipments for public sharing in TV production. At the request of Mr SIN and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan who expressed support for the proposal, the Administration undertook to provide information on the further development of RTHK as the PSB of Hong Kong after the commissioning of the new BH.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)230/13-14(01) on 11 December 2013.)*

29. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed support for the construction of the new BH. Given the high estimated cost for the project and the low audienceship of digital audio broadcasting ("DAB"), and probably DTT also, of RTHK, Mr MOK expressed concern about whether the substantial use of public fund for the construction of the new BH would be conducive to the development of public service broadcasting and the role of RTHK as the PSB. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared a similar concern. PSCED(CT) advised that the policy for developing public service broadcasting and the role of RTHK as the PSB were determined by the Government in 2009. RTHK had produced good quality programmes which had won various accolades and prizes in the past. The Administration would continue to provide adequate resources and full support to RTHK in fulfilling its role as the PSB of Hong Kong, including the provision of the new services with the commissioning of the new BH in 2018.

30. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the details of and the reasons for the increase in NOFA for news facilities (+696%) and information technology ("IT") and new media technical facilities (+495%), as shown in items (c) and (g) of Enclosure 3 to the Administration's paper ((LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(05))). D of B advised that the additional areas for news facilities were mainly required for making up shortage in office accommodation as the existing provision was below the standard provision. As the PSB of Hong Kong, RTHK would develop its TV broadcasting services, including news broadcasting. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments) supplemented that the additional area required for the provision of the IT and new media technical facilities would help develop DAB, DTT and MAM services.

31. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern about the substantial increase of 105 new posts to the 560 existing posts in the manpower of RTHK according to the information provided to the Finance Committee ("FC") during the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-2014. D of B advised that the number of RTHK posts provided to the FC included civil service posts only. As at October 2013, the total staff establishment of RTHK was 939, comprising 659 civil service posts and 280 non-civil service contract positions. The new BH had reserved space for accommodating about 40 additional posts, which was of a relatively low percentage.

32. Mr YIU Si-wing urged the Administration to reduce the cost for the construction of the new BH in view of the huge increase in NOFA for the facilities for news centre, DTT broadcasting, engineering and MAM, and IT and new media technical facilities. D of B advised that RTHK currently had a TV output of about 780 hours per year. To support three DTT channels in future, the TV output per year would need to increase to about 4,000 to

6,000 hours. The TV production centre would also be enlarged to support future production of TV programmes. The increase in area and manpower resources was necessary to support the development of DTT service by RTHK.

33. Mr Christopher CHUNG sought explanation for the increase in project costs to about \$6 billion and details of the breakdown of the estimated costs on the facilities listed in Enclosure 3 to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No, CB(4)113/13-14(05)). He also enquired about the existing annual operational expenditure and the estimated annual operational expenditure of RTHK after the commissioning of the new BH. D of B undertook to provide the requisite information after the meeting. At Mr CHUNG's further request, the Administration would also provide information on the possible impact on the television broadcasting industry of the television service of RTHK after the commissioning of the new BH.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)230/13-14(01) on 11 December 2013.)*

34. Mr Paul TSE enquired whether the additional areas required for the new BH could be reduced with more efficient use of office accommodation. He opined that with the development of digitisation of TV programmes, less space would be required for storage of programme film rolls. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) ("DD of B/P") advised that the additional areas were mainly required for DAB and DTT services, and the increase in the use of IT facilities and MAM. In this connection, he informed members that a Visitors' Path for exhibition of the broadcasting history and milestones and various libraries for supporting programme production would be included in the new BH project. The original copy of programmes would be retained even the content had been digitised and stored in digital format.

#### *Green facilities and data centre of RTHK*

35. The Deputy Chairman enquired whether the new BH would be a green architecture (綠色建築) according to international standards and whether green facilities would be provided for the new BH. Project Director of Architectural Services Department ("PD/ArchSD") advised that guidelines were available on the provision of green facilities for the new BH. She undertook to provide the requisite information after the meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)230/13-14(01) on 11 December 2013.)*

36. The Deputy Chairman enquired whether the data centre of RTHK would be located within the new BH area or whether it would be in a separate location, for example, by making use of the Government's data centre. Mr SIN Chung-kai also enquired about the Tier level of the data centre as this would affect the construction cost of the new BH. DD of B/P advised that the "data centre" for IT and new media technical facilities would be managed by RTHK in the new BH area. At members' request, the Administration undertook to provide the requisite information.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)230/13-14(01) on 11 December 2013.)*

#### *Independence of RTHK*

37. Ms Claudia MO said that the public was in support of public service broadcasting as no commercial and political considerations were involved. She enquired about the integrity of the RTHK management in maintaining the independence of RTHK in developing its TV broadcasting service, and was concerned that the TV news services to be provided by RTHK might be in direct competition with the commercial sector. D of B advised that the public purposes and mission of RTHK for serving as the PSB of Hong Kong were enshrined in the RTHK Charter ("the Charter") promulgated in August 2010. RTHK would strive to maintain its independence in accordance with the principles in the Charter, and would provide TV broadcasting service free from any commercial sponsorship or interference.

38. Ms Claudia MO also expressed concern that as the human resources management and administration of RTHK was monitored by a Government Bureau, this might have undermined the independence of RTHK. In response, DD of B/P stressed that the role of RTHK was to provide good quality programmes to safeguard public interests. When compared to commercial broadcasting, public service broadcasting was free from political or economic interference, and could hence maintain its independence.

#### *Other issues*

39. Ms Cyd HO declared that she knew the programme host of the RTHK programme "大愛同盟". She expressed concern about the low

audienceship of the timeslot allocated for the programme. As such, she enquired whether a better timeslot could be allocated for broadcasting homosexual programmes as currently these programmes were broadcast in the mid-night of Saturdays. DD of B/P advised that the radio audienceship of RTHK was maintained at a reasonably stable level. The existing timeslot for the programme concerned was one of the popular timeslots according to past records.

40. In response to Ms Cyd HO's further enquiry, D of B advised that the land occupied by the existing buildings of RTHK would be returned to the Government after the commissioning of the new BH. Ms Cyd HO said that she would consider supporting the proposal for the construction of the new BH if RTHK would establish a redress mechanism for RTHK staff to lodge complaints against RTHK management for interference with freedom of expression of RTHK staff.

41. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was a director of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTPC") and he sought clarification on whether the new BH would be located within the areas managed by HKSTPC. PD/ArchSD advised in the negative.

42. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok also enquired about the programming of TV productions by RTHK as apparently there were inadequate existing programmes relating to the economic, engineering and IT aspects of Hong Kong. DD of B/P advised that RTHK would continue to produce programmes relating to the industrial and IT aspects in 2014, including "IT 行者" in IT industry and "總有出頭天" on the participation by the new generation in the construction industry.

### Summing up

43. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the proposed construction of the new BH of RTHK for consideration by the Public Works Subcommittee.

## **VI. Any other business**

44. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:29 pm.