

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)413/13-14
(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, 9 December 2013, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 2 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-yeet, GBS, JP
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

Member absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

**Public officers
attending**

: Agenda item III

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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

Agenda item IV

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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

Agenda item V

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP
Government Chief Information Officer

Miss Joey LAM, JP
Deputy Government Chief Information Officer
(Policy and Community)

Mr Damian LEE
Assistant Government Chief Information Officer
(Strategy Development)

Attendance by invitation : Agenda item III

Radio Television Hong Kong

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

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

Agenda item IV

Radio Television Hong Kong

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

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

Mr LEUNG Chi-wah
Head of Engineering

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Joey LO
Senior Council Secretary (4)3

Ms Anki NG
Council Secretary (4)3

Miss Mandy LAM
Legislative Assistant (4)2

I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)152/13-14(01) -- Press release dated 15 November 2013 regarding the decision of the Communications Authority ("CA") on the 3G spectrum re-assignment arrangements and the considerations of the Secretary of Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") on the relevant spectrum utilisation fee

LC Paper No. CB(4)152/13-14(02) -- Joint Statement dated 15 November 2013 regarding the decision of the CA on the 3G spectrum re-assignment arrangements and the considerations of the SCED on the relevant spectrum utilisation fee

LC Paper No. CB(4)152/13-14(03) -- Consultancy Report regarding the quantitative assessment on the service quality of adopting a hybrid approach for 3G spectrum re-assignment

LC Paper No. CB(4)152/13-14(04) -- Executive Summary of the Consultancy Report)

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

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion
- LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions
- LC Paper No. CB(4)173/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Charles Peter MOK dated 13 November 2013 on issues relating to the unequal sharing of the Multiple Frequency Network for digital terrestrial television services by Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited
- LC Paper No. CB(4)174/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 18 November 2013 on issues relating to the arrangements for the frequency spectrum in the 1.9-2.2 GHz Band upon expiry of the existing frequency assignments for the provision of third generation mobile services and the spectrum utilization fee
- LC Paper No. CB(4)175/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 18 November 2013 on issues relating to the hosting arrangement of "phone-in" programmes of Commercial Radio
- LC Paper No. CB(4)189/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 22 November 2013 on issues relating to the alleged violations of the codes of practice by Television Broadcasts Limited

LC Paper No. CB(4)189/13-14(02) -- Letter from Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing dated 26 November 2013 on issues relating to Television Broadcasts Limited's ban on Next Media)

Regular meeting on 13 January 2014

2. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 13 January 2014 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Arrangements for the frequency spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz Band upon expiry of the existing frequency assignments for 3G mobile services; and
- (b) Issues relating to the unequal sharing of the Multiple Frequency Network for digital terrestrial television services by Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited.

Special meeting for policy briefing on 28 January 2014

3. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting would be held in end of January 2014 to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Panel Chairman, the special meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 28 January 2014 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex.)

Issues relating to the hosting arrangement of "phone-in" programmes of Commercial Radio

4. Referring to her letter of 18 November 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(4)175/13-14(01)) about issues relating to the hosting arrangement of "phone-in" programmes of Commercial Radio ("CR"), Ms Claudia MO proposed that the matter be discussed at a future Panel meeting. Ms Emily LAU, Ms Cyd HO and Mr Charles Peter MOK supported the proposal. Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr Christopher CHUNG, Mr YIU Si-wing, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok, Mr Christopher CHEUNG, Mr Steven HO and Dr Elizabeth QUAT did not support the proposal. After deliberation, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel

would not pursue the matter at this stage but requested the Administration to provide a written response to Ms Claudia MO's letter.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)268/13-14(01) on 27 December 2013.)

Issues relating to the alleged violations of the codes of practice by Television Broadcasts Limited and issues relating to Television Broadcasts Limited's ban on Next Media

5. Regarding the concerns raised by Ms Claudia MO and Ms Emily LAU about the alleged violations of the codes of practice by Television Broadcasts Limited ("TVB") and issues relating to TVB's ban on Next Media, the Chairman said that at the special meeting of the Panel held on 2 December 2013, the Communications Authority ("CA") had advised that based on initial observations, the matters did not involve anti-competition provisions in the TV market. CA had received complaints on the matters and was processing them in accordance with the relevant procedures. In this connection, the Chairman instructed the Secretariat to write to CA requesting for a written response on whether CA had investigated the complaints, and if so, the outcome of the investigation.

(Post-meeting note: CA's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)268/13-14(02) on 27 December 2013.)

III. Proposed extension of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on proposed extension of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(04) -- Paper on the supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on the proposal of the Administration to extend a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B ("AOSGB") (D3) in Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") for five years from 27 May 2014 to 26 May 2019. Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(03)).

Discussion

Long-term service needs of the post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)

7. Mr SIN Chung-kai expressed concern about the expansion of the civil service structure by way of extending supernumerary posts and the increased involvement of Administrative Officers ("AOs") in the management of RTHK. PSCED(CT) advised that following the Government's decision in September 2009 for RTHK to expand its scope of services to fulfill its mission as the public service broadcaster ("PSB") of Hong Kong, the Government announced a package of arrangements concerning the provision of resources, manpower and facilities to fully support RTHK in taking forward its new initiatives. Staffing arrangements of RTHK had since then been smoothed out. The Administration had no intention to regularize the appointment of AOs as RTHK management and the current post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments) ("DD of B/D") was the only supernumerary AO post in RTHK. PSCED(CT) affirmed in response to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry that the staff who first took up the post of DD of B/D in 2011 was an AO.

8. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that the supernumerary post of DD of B/D was necessary for RTHK to maintain strong governance at senior directorate level to tackle tasks arising from the planning and implementation of the new services and projects from the macro perspective, coordinate the efforts across different sections within RTHK, work with bureaux and departments within the Government as well as make use of strong negotiation skills to work with stakeholders such as the free TV operators. He enquired about the details of the work involving negotiation with the free TV operators which he considered was apparently the work of Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) ("DD of B/P"). PSCED(CT) advised that DD of B/D was responsible for negotiating with free TV operators on the terms and conditions for the sharing of common infrastructure facilities for

broadcasting, while DD of B/P was responsible for the day-to-day arrangements for TV programmes.

9. DD of B/D supplemented that the post would also be responsible for providing support to ensure timely commencement of installation of broadcasting and other technical equipment upon the completion of construction works in each phase of the new Broadcasting House ("BH"). In addition, the post would provide the necessary steer to the developments/further developments of digital terrestrial television ("DTT"), digital audio broadcasting ("DAB"), media asset management ("MAM") and other RTHK's new services.

10. Mr YIU Si-wing questioned why the Administration proposed to extend the supernumerary post of DD of B/D for five years from 27 May 2014 to 26 May 2019, having regard to the fact that the last term of the supernumerary post was only created for a period of three years. He also enquired about the details of the work to be performed by DD of B/D in the coming five years. PSCED(CT) advised that with the extension of the DD of B/D post, RTHK would have dedicated support at senior directorate level to oversee and follow through the completion of the new BH, and to lead and coordinate the migration of RTHK from its existing premises to the new building.

11. Ms Cyd HO noted that the installation of the broadcasting facilities, if not planned or implemented properly to ensure correct and timely interfacing of construction, cabling and equipment installation works, would not only delay the installation of equipment but also affect the commissioning date of the new BH. However, she expressed grave concern whether an AO, not being a technical expert, was suitable to lead and coordinate the new BH project. She was of the view that negotiation and co-ordination work of the new BH should be undertaken by D of B. Ms Emily LAU shared a similar view.

12. PSCED(CT) advised that technical support and engineering staff within RTHK would provide the necessary expertise for the relevant installation work. RTHK would need to have careful planning and close monitoring to ensure the timely procurement and delivery of the required equipment. It also had to coordinate closely with Government departments, the contractor of the new BH and RTHK's own contractors of broadcasting facilities in order to establish in advance the necessary broadcasting and information technology infrastructure. The Administration considered that an AO was suitable for the post having regard to the work being undertaken in the past three years. Ms Cyd HO said that she would consider supporting the staffing proposal if RTHK would appoint a technical expert to fill the

supernumerary post of DD of B/D.

13. In response to Mr Christopher CHEUNG's enquiry about the term of the DD of B/D post, PSCED(CT) advised that when creating the supernumerary post of DD of B/D in May 2011, the Administration had advised that RTHK considered it appropriate to keep the term of this post at three years. It would keep in view the development and assess whether the post should be extended or converted to a permanent one, having regard to the progress of implementing various new services and projects. According to the new BH project programme, it would be completed and handed over to RTHK by phases, tentatively from late 2016 to end 2017, with a view to commissioning in 2018. RTHK therefore considered it appropriate to extend the term of the DD of B/D post for a period of five years to 2019. The Administration would further review whether the post should be converted to a permanent post nearer the expiry of its term.

Staff cost for the proposed extension of the post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)

14. Mr Christopher CHUNG enquired whether the staff cost for the proposed extension of the supernumerary directorate post was included in the estimated cost for the proposed construction of the new BH. PSCED(CT) advised that the duties and responsibilities of DD of B/D were related to the construction of the new BH and the implementation of other new services provided by RTHK. The cost for a staffing proposal was separate and different from the estimated cost for a public works proposal. It was therefore not included in the estimated construction cost of the new BH. Mr CHUNG opined that such staff cost should be included in the estimated cost for construction of the new BH. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan shared a similar view.

15. Ms Emily LAU and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung were of the view that the proposed extension of the post of DD of B/D should be considered after the proposal for the construction of the new BH had been approved by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC"). PSCED(CT) responded that the Administration's plan was to submit the proposed extension of DD of B/D to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") for consideration after the approval of the construction of the new BH by PWSC.

Division of work among RTHK management staff

16. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern about the division of work between DD of B/P and Controller (Production Services) under DD of B/D

who was responsible for overseeing departmental administration and production resources as shown in the organization chart of RTHK (Annex A to LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(03)). Dr CHIANG Lai-wan also expressed concern about the apparent duplication of work of the RTHK management as shown in the organization chart of RTHK.

17. DD of B/D advised that Controller (Production Services) was responsible for the supporting work for production services such as engineering and information technology while DD of B/P was responsible for the programme services of RTHK. PSCED(CT) added that part of the RTHK staff was responsible for programmes production and arrangement while the rest was responsible for the infrastructure work of RTHK, including construction of the new BH.

18. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok sought explanation for the division of responsibilities between DD of B/D and Controller (Production Services) under DD of B/D regarding departmental administration and production resources of RTHK. DD of B/D advised that DD of B/D was responsible for overseeing departmental administration and resources management for ensuring the optimal, efficient and effective use and deployment of the financial, human and production resources of RTHK, while Controller (Production Services) was responsible for supporting work for programme production services. DD of B/P also advised that with the launching of new services such as DTT, DAB and MAM, strengthening of the development of production support services was required at the management level to lead and co-ordinate such developments. PSCED(CT) supplemented that the staff working under DD of B/D would be redeployed to work under the supervision of DD of B/P upon expiry of the former post in accordance with the arrangement prior to the creation of the post.

Summing up

19. The Chairman noted that while Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok, Mr Charles Peter MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Ms Claudia MO, Mrs Regina IP, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Ms Emily LAU and Mr James TO supported the proposed extension of the supernumerary post of AOSGB in RTHK for five years from 27 May 2014 to 26 May 2019, Mr Christopher CHUNG, Mr YIU Si-wing, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr WONG Ting-kwong and Mr Steven HO were against the proposal. Two members, namely, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Ms Cyd HO did not state whether they were in favour of or against the proposal. The Chairman concluded that the majority of Panel members present supported in principle the submission of the Administration's proposal for consideration by ESC.

IV. Radio Television Hong Kong - establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television fill-in stations

(LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(05) -- Administration's paper on establishment of fill-in stations for the digital terrestrial television service of Radio Television Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(06) -- Paper on Radio Television Hong Kong - establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television fill-in stations prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on the proposal for establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television ("DTT") fill-in stations of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK"). Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(05)). Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments) ("DD of B/D") supplemented that the capital cost of the project for establishing hardware facilities would be about \$64.2 million, comprising mainly the cost for procurement and installation of DTT transmission equipment, construction of equipment cubicles and contingency.

Discussion

Resource allocation and development of DTT transmission network

21. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that RTHK's development strategy was to set up transmission facilities at the existing network stations of Asia Television Limited ("ATV") and Television Broadcasts Limited ("TVB") so as to share space, electricity supply and transmission antennae at their existing sites. He enquired about the agreement between RTHK, ATV and TVB regarding the sharing of these facilities. DD of B/D advised that the two commercial DTT broadcasters were required to share their transmission facilities with other DTT broadcasters. Guidelines had also been drawn up

for regulating the payment for sharing these facilities. RTHK had made payments to ATV and TVB ("the two commercial broadcasters") for renting space, using electricity supply and transmission antennae etc.. In this connection, Mr MA enquired about whether RTHK's DTT transmission network could be shared with the two commercial broadcasters. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) ("DD of B/P") replied in the negative since the frequency band of the signals used by RTHK was different from those of the two commercial broadcasters.

22. Having noted that the hilltop sites occupied by the two commercial broadcasters were Government land, Mr WONG Ting-kwong enquired about the possibility of negotiating with the two commercial broadcasters on the renewal of their television ("TV") broadcasting licences for a rent-free term for use of the hilltop sites by RTHK. Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("DSCED(CT)") advised that the negotiation of appropriate terms for renewal of the TV broadcasting licences of the two commercial broadcasters would be undertaken before expiry of their licences. RTHK would still need to pay charges for the use of electricity supply and transmission facilities at the hilltop sites even if the rent-free term was included in the agreement between the parties concerned.

23. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about measures available to secure the use of DTT fill-in stations by RTHK at the hilltop sites if the TV broadcasting licences of the two commercial broadcasters were not renewed. PSCED(CT) advised that the TV broadcasting licences of the two commercial broadcasters would expire in 2015 and the proposed network of DTT fill-in stations was planned for completion by 2018. The Administration would have sufficient time to arrange for measures to secure such use by RTHK. DSCED(CT) supplemented that appropriate contractual arrangements would be made and in addition, certain statutory powers would be exercised by the Government to purchase the DTT transmission facilities and equipment owned by the two commercial broadcasters if their TV broadcasting licences were not renewed.

24. Noting the financial implications for establishment of the DTT fill-in stations of RTHK, Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the timeframe for renewal of the TV broadcasting licences of the two commercial broadcasters. DSCED(CT) advised that a licensee should submit its application to renew its TV broadcasting licence not less than 24 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence, and the Communications Authority would submit its recommendations to the Chief Executive in Council in relation to the renewal of the TV licence not later than 12 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence. In fact, both TVB and ATV had already

submitted their applications for renewal of their domestic free TV programme service licences.

Independence and programming of RTHK

25. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern that the human resources management and the administration of RTHK being monitored by a Government Bureau might have undermined the independence of RTHK. She was of the view that RTHK should maintain its editorial independence and integrity as the public service broadcaster ("PSB") of Hong Kong.

26. Mr Charles Peter MOK noted that a large number of locally-produced TV programmes, especially comics, were not broadcast by commercial TV broadcasters. He was of the view that RTHK should broadcast more locally-produced programmes to address public calls for more local productions and greater programme diversity in TV broadcasting.

The impact of digital TV broadcasting of RTHK on the television broadcasting industry

27. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the impact of digital TV broadcasting of RTHK on the TV broadcasting industry. PSCED(CT) advised that from a policy point of view, as RTHK was the PSB of Hong Kong and not a commercial broadcaster, the nature of services provided by RTHK was different from and not in direct competition with those provided by commercial broadcasters. RTHK would provide quality TV services that were not adequately provided by commercial TV broadcasters.

Seeking funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee

28. Mr Christopher CHUNG and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan were of the view that the proposal for establishment of the DTT fill-in stations of RTHK should be discussed after the funding proposal for construction of the new Broadcasting House ("BH") had been approved by Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee.

29. Ms Cyd HO supported the proposal in respect of the fill-in stations and opined that the establishment of the DTT fill-in stations by RTHK was independent of the construction of the new BH.

30. DD of B/P advised that as the PSB of Hong Kong, one of the objectives of RTHK was to provide quality TV services that were not adequately provided by commercial TV broadcasters, and to provide a

diversity of TV programmes to serve a broad spectrum of audiences. To effectively fulfill this objective, the Administration considered it necessary and in the public interest for RTHK's DTT service coverage to reach around 99% of the territory's population, matching that of the other commercial DTT broadcasters, through the establishment of the supplementary network of fill-in stations. Since 1 July 2012, RTHK had been conducting signal tests for the TV channels and would start trial of DTT channel transmission from January 2014.

Motion moved by Dr CHIANG Lai-wan

31. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan proposed the following motion which was seconded by Mr Christopher CHUNG:

"本事務委員會促請政府當局於工務小組委員會及財務委員會通過興建香港電台新廣播大樓撥款申請後，再將 "香港電台 —— 建設 22 個數碼地面電視輔助發射站" 的議題提交本事務委員會討論。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel urges the Administration to revert the issue of "Radio Television Hong Kong - establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television fill-in stations" to this Panel for discussion after the funding proposal for the construction of the new Broadcasting House for Radio Television Hong Kong has been approved by the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee. "

32. The Chairman considered that the proposed motion was directly related to the agenda item under discussion and members agreed that the motion should be dealt with at the meeting. The Chairman put the motion to vote. The Chairman announced that of the 12 members who were present and voted, seven members (namely, Mrs Regina IP, Mr NG Leung-sing, Mr Steven HO, Mr YIU Si-wing, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Mr Christopher CHUNG) voted for the motion, five members (namely, Ms Emily LAU, Ms Cyd HO, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles Peter MOK and Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok) voted against the motion and no member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

(Post-meeting note: The wording of the motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)220/13-14 on 10 December 2013.)

V. Review of the Digital 21 Strategy

(LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(07) -- Administration's paper on public consultation on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy

LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(08) -- Paper on review of the digital 21 strategy prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(4)215/13-14(01) Administration's paper on public consultation on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy (power-point presentation material))
(*Chinese version only*)
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 10 December 2013*)

Presentation by the Administration

33. At the invitation of the Chairman, Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") briefed members on the proposed new Digital 21 Strategy and the related public consultation. Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's papers (LC Paper Nos. CB(4)196/13-14(07) and CB(4)215/13-14(01)).

Discussion

Development of cloud computing

34. Mrs Regina IP enquired about the Administration's initiatives on developing cloud computing services in Hong Kong. GCIO advised that the Government had taken the lead in using cloud services to drive industry development. The Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and Standards was established in 2012 with members from the industry, academia and professional bodies, to facilitate and drive cloud computing adoption and deployment in Hong Kong, as well as facilitate exchanges among cloud experts both within Hong Kong and with the Mainland. The Expert Group had developed a set of best practices and guidelines for the local community, so that cloud services could be deployed and adopted widely while ensuring security. Down the road, the Administration would develop common standards and best practices on cloud computing, particularly on cloud security and data privacy. With the development of these common standards, best practices and guidelines, Hong Kong would establish itself as

a leader in the management of cloud services.

Industry support

35. Mr Christopher CHUNG opined that despite the time and resources invested by the Administration, Hong Kong's pace of development in Information and Communications Technology ("ICT") remained slow due to the lack of concrete measures to foster a thriving ICT industry. He suggested that more matching funds should be set up to encourage ICT investment by the industry and the small and medium enterprises ("SMEs"). In this regard, Ir Dr LO Wai-ki urged the Administration to provide more business opportunities to local SMEs by procuring more ICT services from local suppliers. Sharing a similar view, Mr Charles Peter MOK considered that steering from the top echelon of the Government was vital for the successful implementation of the proposed new Digital 21 Strategy.

36. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") advised that the Administration attached great importance to the development of ICT in Hong Kong. After the public consultation, the proposed new Digital 21 Strategy would be further deliberated among the various bureaux and departments concerned. The Administration would also consult the Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology (chaired by the Financial Secretary to coordinate the formulation and implementation of innovation and technology policies) on the proposed new Digital 21 Strategy where appropriate.

37. GCIO added that currently most of Government's ICT projects were awarded to local service providers. 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. Where the existing procurement policy so permitted, the Administration would seek to facilitate participation of local SMEs in the projects.

ICT talent development

38. Noting that many mainland ICT talents were admitted to Hong Kong under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme ("QMAS"), Ms Claudia MO urged the Administration to step up effort in grooming local ICT talents. GCIO advised that the Administration recognized the importance of grooming local ICT talents to cater for the continuous growth of the ICT industry. To this end, the Administration had been implementing various initiatives in order to create an environment for an agile ICT workforce to meet the needs of the society. GCIO added that compared to the talents

from the mainland under QMAS which numbered around two hundred each year, around 6 800 local graduates were groomed by ICT programmes annually.

City-wide Wi-Fi for the public and visitors

39. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's and Dr Elizabeth QUAT's enquiries about the development of public Wi-Fi service, GCIO advised that with the concerted efforts of the service providers, the private sector and the Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots were now widely available across the 18 districts in Hong Kong, covering Government premises and public areas. Currently, the GovWiFi service for free Wi-Fi Internet access to the public was provided at about 440 Government premises. The Administration would extend the service scope to cover 30 additional Government premises in light of strong public demand. To ensure efficient use of public resources, the service would not be extended to cover all Government premises.

VI. Any other business

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:25 pm.