

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of special meeting
held on Tuesday, 28 January 2014, at 8:30 am
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 Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
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
- Members attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
- Members absent** : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

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

Mr Godfrey LEUNG, JP
Under 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)

Miss Eliza LEE, JP
Director-General of Communications

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

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP
Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Roy TANG, JP
Director of Broadcasting

Mr Jerry LIU
Head of CreateHK

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

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

Miss Mandy Lam
Legislative Assistant (4)2

I. Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address

(LC Paper No. CB(4)319/13-14(01) -- Administration's paper on policy initiatives of Communications and Technology Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(4)348/13-14(01) -- Speaking note of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development)
(*Chinese version only*)
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 28 January 2014*)

Other relevant documents

- (a) Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 15 January 2014 - "Support the Needy, Let Youth Flourish, Unleash Hong Kong's Potential" (*issued on 15 January 2014*); and
- (b) The 2014 Policy Address - "Policy Agenda" (*issued on 15 January 2014*).

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 2014 Policy Address. These included initiatives in the areas of information and communications technology ("ICT"), 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)319/13-14(01)) and SCED's speaking note (LC Paper No. CB(4)348/13-14(01)).

Discussion

Broadcasting service

2. Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the progress of the renewal of the domestic free television ("TV") programme services licences of Asia Television Limited ("ATV") and Television Broadcasts Limited ("TVB"). SCED advised that the Communications Authority ("CA") was currently conducting a public consultation exercise and the CA would later on submit its recommendations on the licence renewal applications of ATV and TVB for the consideration of the Chief Executive ("CE") in Council.

3. Mr SIN Chung-kai asked whether the Administration would put the television spectrum to auction upon expiry of the existing free TV licences so as to promote market competition. SCED advised that the CA and the relevant authorities would take into account matters in relation to the frequency spectrum when processing the applications for renewal of free TV licences of ATV and TVB.

4. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the progress in completing the remaining work relating to the two applications for TV licences submitted by HK Television Entertainment Company Limited ("HKTVE") and Fantastic Television Limited ("Fantastic TV"). Noting that Mr Ricky WONG, Chairman of Hong Kong Television Network Limited ("HKTV"), had filed an application for judicial review against the CE in Council's decision on its licence application, Mr MA enquired whether it would hinder the progress of granting new free TV licences to the other two applicants. In response, SCED advised that the CA had requested HKTVE and Fantastic TV to submit the necessary additional information. The CA would review the information with a view to submitting to the CE in Council recommendations on whether free TV licences should be formally granted. The Administration would not comment on the ongoing legal proceedings relating to the HKTV's application for judicial review.

5. Mr MA Fung-kwok further enquired about the latest development of digital audio broadcasting ("DAB") services and whether the Administration was satisfied with the progress of such services. SCED advised that the Administration had been closely monitoring the progress in rolling out DAB services by DAB broadcasters, including Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK"). The Administration would continue to collaborate with stakeholders to step up publicity measures to promote the DAB services to audience and to keep in view the sale of DAB radios and maintain contact with the industry.

Radio Television Hong Kong

6. In view of the fact that the proposal for construction of the new Broadcasting House ("BH") by RTHK was not approved by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") on 3 January 2014, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun and Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired whether the Administration would submit a revised proposal to PWSC in due course. Mr LO Wai-kwok also asked whether RTHK would adjust the scope of the new BH project and reduce its construction cost.

7. In response, Director of Broadcasting ("D of B") advised that following the public consultation in October 2009, the Government announced a package of arrangements in respect of resources, manpower provision and planning for new services as well as facilities to fully support RTHK's development as the public service broadcaster, including the development of new BH in Tseung Kwan O. The new BH would cater for existing and new services, including DAB, Digital Terrestrial Television ("DTT") and Media Asset Management. RTHK could not fully launch these services unless there was a purpose-built new BH with infrastructure supporting the enhanced services. At present, RTHK could only provide services on a limited scale. SCED added that if the funding application of the new BH was not approved, RTHK and the relevant department and works agents would have to start re-planning of the project taking into account PWSC members' concerns about the high cost estimate and the scope of the project. Re-tender exercise would then be conducted in due course which would delay the development of the new BH project.

8. Mr SIN Chung-kai expressed concern about the frequent re-run of programmes on the three DTT channels of RTHK. He opined that the spectrum assigned to RTHK should be put for auction if RTHK failed to produce more programmes for these three channels. Sharing a similar view, Mr NG Leung-sing enquired whether RTHK would continue to relay programmes of China Central Television ("CCTV")-9 Documentary.

9. D of B responded that RTHK had already fully utilized the existing four production studios and had no extra facilities to produce more programmes. He said that RTHK TV 31 was a channel offering general programmes on current affairs, education, information, culture and arts and drama. RTHK TV 32 was a live feed channel which aired to broadcast live feed programmes such as Legislative Council Meetings. RTHK TV 33 would continue to relay programmes of CCTV-9 Documentary. In response to Mr SIN Chung-kai, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) advised that the spectrum assigned to the RTHK would not be put for auction.

Establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau

10. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the progress of the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB") and its future organization. SCED advised that the Administration was taking active steps to proceed with the work of setting up the ITB and would brief the relevant Panels on the proposal within the legislative session. Most likely, the two Government Departments that were responsible for innovation and technology matters, namely the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, would be subsumed under the new ITB, while Create Hong Kong ("CreateHK") would remain under the CEDB. Mr Leung Kwok-hung opposed the establishment of the new ITB.

GovCloud, GovWifi and Government data centre complex

11. The Deputy Chairman commented that while the Administration had only focused on enhancing the quality of e-government services as a whole, it failed to seek funding for the replacement of servers for different bureaux/departments ("B/Ds"). She urged the Administration to conduct an ICT audit on computer software and hardware which were due for replacement. The Administration should also develop guidelines on procurement of such items for B/Ds. In this connection, she enquired about the timeframe to launch the Government Cloud Computing ("GovCloud").

12. In reply, Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") said that the Administration would continue with the implementation of the Government Cloud Computing Strategy and ride on the newly-established GovCloud Platform to launch various shared applications and services. However, individual B/Ds still had to replace their hardware periodically due to operational needs. GCIO also said that there was an urgent need to upgrade some 20,000 computers with Window XP in Government B/Ds, as Microsoft would terminate its support services for Windows XP operating system after 8 April 2014.

13. Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the land use of the vacated site following the shelving of the plan by Google to set up a data center at Tseung Kwan-O Industrial Estate. He also urged the Administration to speed up the migration of the new government data centre complex and provide details of the migration arrangement. In view of the slow migration process of the Government data, he was of the view that the Administration should reserve enough space for future expansion to meet the long-term needs for data center services. GCIO advised that the Administration had completed the relevant technical feasibility study for the complex which was

expected to commence operation in 2019. In response to Mr Charles Peter MOK, SCED advised that the Administration would have a holistic review on the land use of industrial estates.

14. Mr YIU Si-wing sought information on the Administration's plan to extend the hotspots of Government Wi-Fi Programme ("GovWi-Fi") service to privately-owned shopping malls and premises managed by The Link Real Estate Investment Trust ("The Link"). GCIO responded that the Government would only provide GovWi-Fi service at public areas of government premises under the current policy. Nevertheless, the Administration would explore, in collaboration with the Link, the possibility of extending the coverage of the service to premises managed by the Link. He added that the Administration had already worked with other public organizations to provide GovWi-Fi service at their premises (such as public hospitals). The Administration also conducted meetings with the Wi-Fi operators regularly to review and streamline the approval process and requirements, so as to facilitate installation of Wi-Fi equipment by such operators.

Support for the creative industry

15. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the efforts made by the Administration to encourage cinema patronage for Hong Kong-produced movies to broaden the audience base. Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun also enquired whether the Administration would further promote Hong Kong movies to the tourists and the mobile population in Hong Kong. Head of CreateHK advised that the Administration had discussed with stakeholders possible Government support measures to promote development of the local film industry, including encouraging having more screening timeslots for Hong Kong-produced films, and providing financial support to step up media advertising and other publicity efforts in promoting Hong Kong-produced movies.

16. Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan opined that there was no publicity to promote the competition of the First Feature Film Initiative ("FFFI") and the winning film projects under the FFFI. She also enquired about the mechanism to review the FFFI and whether the Administration would systemically nurture back-stage talents for the film industry. In reply, Head of CreateHK said that there was substantial coverage in some local newspapers about the FFFI competition results, owing to the three winning projects featuring popular and award-winning producers to supervise the productions. He elaborated that the three winning movies were still in the stage of pre-production (i.e. before commencement of the filming stage). As such, production publicity including finalized casting and behind-the-scene footages would only be released to media for publicity purpose when filming stage had begun. The

Administration would also conduct a review of the FFFI in different aspects after theatrical releases of the films in Hong Kong. These included the nomination and selection processes of competing entries, composition of the assessment panel, stakeholders' feedback and production cost review. Head of CreateHK added that there were some 130 back-stage talents trained by the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers ("FHKF") with funding support from Film Development Fund in 2010-2011. The Administration would contact FHKF in providing training to nurture talent if need be.

17. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the promotion initiatives to be launched by the Administration for the PMQ, the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road, after its opening. Head of CreateHK advised that the soft opening of the PMQ was scheduled for mid April 2014 and the grand opening was expected to be held in late May to mid June 2014. Upon commencement of PMQ's operation in mid-April 2014, CreateHK would print a guidebook for visitors to the PMQ, and produce giveaway promotion and souvenir items for distribution by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices overseas. Meanwhile, CreateHK would also install bunting and banner display at the Central to mid-level escalator, as well as at the PMQ premises, to increase public awareness of the PMQ.

Admin 18. At the request of Mr MA Fung-kwok, the Administration undertook to provide information on its effort to facilitate Hong Kong's publishing industry in developing the Mainland market, including effort undertaken under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)777/13-14 on 5 June 2014.)

Telecommunications services and intellectual property regime

19. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed deep concern about complaints raised by the public in relation to the radiofrequency radiation emitted by the mobile radio base stations. He enquired whether the Administration would have any plan to conduct investigation and compile statistics in this respect. He also asked whether the Administration would engage any universities with relevant research experience to conduct a study.

20. SCED advised that the Administration had already followed up the complaints. Since the testing results so far had met the safety standards set by the World Health Organization, the Administration would not invite any universities to conduct a research. Mr WONG did not subscribe to the Administration's response.

21. The Deputy Chairman enquired how the Administration handled network congestion of 3G services while 4G services were underutilized. She highlighted that the 3G network congestion problem was acute along the Mass Transit Railway ("MTR") lines during busy hours. Director-General of Communications advised that the Administration understood from enquiries with the mobile network operators ("MNOs") and the MTR that they had recently entered into agreements in deploying 4G spectrum along the MTR lines. The Administration had also reminded the MNOs to postpone the refarming of spectrum currently deployed for 3G services to 4G services.

22. Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun enquired whether the Administration would introduce relevant legislative proposal to amend the existing laws so as to protect the intellectual property regime in Hong Kong. SCED advised that the Administration was setting up the "original grant" patent system and reached a cooperation arrangement with the State Intellectual Property Office in the Mainland to secure its support in providing technical assistance and manpower training and development assistance in building up Hong Kong's indigenous examination capability. The Administration would also conduct a public consultation exercise on treatment of parody under the copyright regime.

Admin 23. To enhance Hong Kong's position as the premier digital city and telecommunications hub of Asia, Mr NG Leung-sing requested the Administration to provide information on locally developed ICT products such as mobile applications.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)900/13-14 on 4 July 2014.)

Unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework in Hong Kong

24. Ms Ann CHIANG Lai-wan asked if the proposed unified ICT professional recognition framework would provide young practitioners with a clear direction on career and professional development. SCED advised that the proposed recognition framework aimed to raise the ICT professional profile of Hong Kong, enhance the quality of ICT human resources and professional services, attract more young and talented people to join the ICT profession, facilitate professional and career development and advance Hong Kong's position as a leading knowledge-based society.

II. Any other business

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:00 am.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
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