

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(4)742/13-14  
(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, 14 April 2014, 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 Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, 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 Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

**Public officers  
attending**

: Agenda item V

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)

Ms Donna CHAN  
Assistant Government Chief Information Officer  
(Governance & Resources)

Agenda item VI

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Gregory SO, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development

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

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

Innovation and Technology Commission

Miss Janet WONG, JP  
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Johann WONG, JP  
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and  
Technology

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP  
Government Chief Information Officer

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

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

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

Mr Bonny LOO  
Assistant Legal Adviser 3

Miss Mandy NG  
Council Secretary (4)3

Miss Mandy LAM  
Legislative Assistant (4)3

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Action

**I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)507/13-14      -- Minutes of meeting held on  
13 January 2014

LC Paper No. CB(4)503/13-14      -- Minutes of meeting held on  
10 February 2014)

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 January and 10 February 2014 were confirmed.

## **II. Information paper issued since the last meeting**

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 10 March 2014.

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

(LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

### Regular meeting on 12 May 2014

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 12 May 2014 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Progress report on the work of Hong Kong Design Centre; and
- (b) Progress report on digital inclusion.

## **IV. Matters arising**

4. The Chairman informed members that at the special meeting on 15 March 2014, Ms Emily LAU suggested that in view of the wide public concern on the renewal of domestic free television ("TV") programme service licences of Asia Television Limited ("ATV") and Television Broadcasts Limited ("TVB"), the approval of the House Committee should be sought for the priority allocation of a debate slot to him, being the Chairman of the Panel, under Rule 14A(h) of the House Rules for moving a motion for debate on processing the applications for renewal of the domestic free TV programme service licences of ATV and TVB at a Council meeting so as to provide an opportunity for all Members to express views on the subject and for the Administration to respond. The Chairman said that under HR 14A(h), committees and subcommittees of the Council might make a request for priority allocation of debate slots and such request should be put forward to the House Committee for consideration on a case-by-case basis. Should the House Committee accede to such a request, the debate slot would not be counted as the mover's own slot.

5. The Chairman asked members to consider Ms Emily LAU's proposal. The proposed wording of the motion was tabled at the meeting for members'

consideration. The Chairman said that the motion should be neutrally-worded without stating any stance. Subject to the Panel's endorsement, a paper would be prepared to invite the House Committee to consider the Panel's request for the priority allocation of a debate slot to him, for moving a motion for debate on the subject at the Council meeting of 21 May 2014 (the earliest possible date). The Panel might also propose that the debate be held in addition to the two other debates on Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect scheduled for that Council meeting.

6. Of the 15 members present, six members voted for and nine members voted against the proposal. The Chairman said that the proposal was negated.

## **V. Establishing a unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework in Hong Kong**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on establishing a unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework in Hong Kong)

LC Paper No. CB(4)554/13-14(01) -- Administration's paper on establishing a unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework in Hong Kong (Chinese version only) (tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 15 April 2014) (power-point presentation material))

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") briefed members on proposal to establish a unified information and communications technology ("ICT") professional recognition framework in Hong Kong. Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Governance & Resources) ("AGCIO(G&R)") then gave a power-point presentation on the subject. Details of the briefing and presentation were set out in the papers provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(03) and CB(4)554/13-14(01)).

Discussion*Existing local and international practices*

8. Mr Christopher CHUNG opined that Hong Kong had lagged behind the Mainland in the development of a professional recognition framework for the ICT industry. He urged the Administration to explore the possibility of mutual recognition of ICT professional qualifications with the Mainland as a matter of urgency.

9. Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Consulting and Operations) ("DGCIO(CO)") advised that in order to facilitate entry to the Mainland market by local service providers, there were already arrangements under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement ("CEPA") for local practitioners to enter the Mainland market. Based on the Qualifications Framework ("QF") administered by the Education Bureau and the Skills Framework for the Information Age ("SFIA") which was a popular qualification and competency framework used in over 100 countries/economies, the proposed framework would enable the gaining of local and international recognition. The proposed framework was the first step towards the establishment of a unified ICT professional recognition framework in Hong Kong by aligning with international practices. Upon successful implementation of the framework, the Administration would be able to proceed with exploring the possibility of mutual recognition of ICT professional qualifications with other major economies, including the Mainland.

10. Mrs Regina IP expressed support in principle for the establishment of the proposed framework which had been advocated by the ICT industry for a long time. She agreed that the proposed framework would be beneficial to the industry in the long run by raising the professional profile of the industry and paving the way for mutual recognition with comparable international frameworks. Sharing a similar view, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired how the proposed framework would tie in with the QF, and whether the proposed framework was designed to supersede the QF in respect of the ICT industry.

11. DGCIO(CO) advised that the QF aimed to help local people set clear goals for continuous learning and vocational training to obtain quality-assured qualifications. The QF was a seven-level hierarchy of job responsibilities and covered some 20 industries including ICT industry. Whereas, the proposed framework was a professional recognition yardstick, initially pitched at level 5 of the SFIA, and was broadly equivalent to level 5 or 6 of the QF in respect of the ICT industry. The proposed framework would be complementary to the QF which would not be subject to replacement.

12. Dr Elizabeth QUAT said that there were conflicting views on the proposed framework in the ICT industry. While some practitioners might welcome the proposed framework, others considered that the proposed framework would cause confusion as there were already similar professional recognition frameworks in the market offered by various professional bodies. She enquired if the Administration had a timetable for the mutual recognition of ICT professional qualifications with other countries after the implementation of the framework. She also enquired about the impact of the framework on the recruitment of civil servants, and on the Government ICT tenders.

13. DGCIO(CO) advised that the Task Force on ICT Professional Development and Recognition ("Task Force") consisted of members from different sectors, including representatives from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers ("HKIE"), the Hong Kong Computer Society and the British Computer Society. The representatives were generally in support of the proposed framework. It was expected that as soon as the framework was launched by end of 2014, the local and international professional qualification schemes satisfying the recognition requirements could be embraced under the framework. DGCIO(CO) added that there would be little impact on the recruitment of civil servants as the proposed framework was pitched at level 5 of the SFIA which was a professional level, whereas civil servants were normally appointed at the entry level, the requirement of which was pitched at the equivalent of level 2 to level 3 of the SFIA. Nevertheless, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer would make reference to the SFIA in formulating its internal requirements on qualifications and training, and explore the application of the framework to civil service appointments and promotions in future if the need arose. As regards Government ICT tenders involving project management and information security, requirements were already stated in the tender documents that such projects should be taken up by persons with certain professional qualifications. When the framework was successfully implemented and had gained market recognition, similar requirements for professional qualifications under the framework would be included in relevant Government tender documents.

### *Key principles*

14. Mr Charles Peter MOK declared that he was a member of the Task Force. He said that the spirit of the proposed framework was to facilitate mutual recognition with other economies in future. The proposed framework was designed to align with local and international ICT qualification and competency frameworks. He agreed that the implementation of the proposed framework was long overdue and should be proceeded with as a matter of urgency. He said that the vast majority of the industry practitioners were in support of the proposed framework in that it would be beneficial to the grooming of talents in

the industry and raise their professional image. Noting that one of the key principles of the proposed framework was its voluntary-based approach, Mr MOK asked the Administration to explain the rationale behind the choice of this approach.

15. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that the Task Force had decided after thorough discussion that as a start, having a voluntary framework could help establish a standard for the local ICT profession, thereby raising the ICT professional profile of Hong Kong without creating a barrier for entry into the ICT profession or career advancement. This approach could avoid any disruption to ICT manpower supply. If the industry and the community considered in future that a mandatory approach should be adopted, and such an approach would not thwart the development of the profession, the Administration would consider turning the framework into a mandatory one for critical ICT activities.

#### *Operational arrangement*

16. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the proposed operational arrangement of establishing a non-statutory Awarding Body incorporated under the Companies Ordinance ("CO") (Cap. 622), as opposed to a statutory Awarding Body. He was in favour of establishing a statutory Awarding Body as in other professions, which would provide statutory backing and ensure the authorized professional status of the Awarding Body. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok shared a similar view.

17. PSCED(CT) advised that as the Administration's target was to launch the framework by the end of 2014, establishing a non-statutory Awarding Body incorporated under the CO without having to enact legislation could provide more flexibility and streamline the process. Nevertheless, the establishment of a statutory Awarding Body in future in response to changing market needs had not been ruled out, and would be subject to further study and consultation.

18. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support in principle for the establishment of the proposed framework. In view that the ratio of lay membership was important in maintaining a balance of views in the organization components for the management, operation and on-going development of the proposed framework, Mr YIU enquired about the ratio of lay membership in the composition of the Governing Board, Assessment Committee and Appeal Panel in this respect.

19. GCIO advised that the ratio of lay membership in these organization components had yet to be determined subject to the views gathered in the public consultation. He said that the Assessment Committee which would be



responsible for performing assessment on the applications for recognition should be made up of academics and professionals.

20. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired about the Government representation on the Governing Board, and whether the membership of the Governing Board, Assessment Committee and Appeal Panel would be drawn from the same group of persons. She also enquired about the selection method of the Chairman of the Governing Board.

21. AGCIO(G&R) said that the membership of the Governing Board would be drawn from the academia, professionals, industry, end-user organizations, Government and lay members without any overlap with the membership of the Assessment Committee and Appeal Panel. GCIO added that there would be two Government representatives in the Governing Board. The Chairman of the Provisional Governing Board for the first year of operation would be appointed by the Government, and the Chairman of the Governing Board for the second year and beyond would be elected by the members of the Governing Board.

#### *Recognition criteria*

22. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed support in principle for the proposed framework as it would provide practitioners with a clear direction on career and professional requirement. She enquired about the recognition criteria of the proposed framework.

23. AGCIO(G&R) advised that when giving recognition to a professional qualification scheme, a number of factors would be taken into account, including whether the type of qualification awarded met an appropriate professional standard, for example, whether the award was made based on a combination of academic qualification, examination, experience assessment and/or other forms of competency-based assessment.

24. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether a delisting mechanism would be put in place to withdraw the recognition given to a professional qualification scheme if the scheme no longer met the professional standard requirement, and whether the Assessment Committee would be responsible for the delisting mechanism.

25. GCIO advised that the Assessment Committee was responsible for performing assessment on the applications submitted through ICT professional qualification schemes rather than by individual professionals. Should any recognized scheme be found unable to meet the required level of professional standard, it could be subject to delisting by the Governing Board.

26. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was a member of the HKIE and was involved in discussion on the establishment of the proposed framework at the early stage. He also noted that the HKIE was represented on the Task Force. He enquired how the proposed framework would be able to ensure the professional and ethical standard of the professional organizations to which recognitions were given.

27. DGCIO(CO) advised that when giving recognition to a professional scheme, the Assessment Committee would consider whether continuing professional development requirements, enforceable code of ethics and conduct, and the necessary processes and expertise to evaluate qualification of individuals were put in place to ensure the ongoing quality of the individuals.

#### *Sustainability*

28. Noting the Administration's intention to provide funding for the operating expenses for the first three years of operation of the proposed framework, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired whether the Administration would formulate a timetable for the proposed framework to achieve financial sustainability.

29. DGCIO(CO) said that there were about 78 000 practitioners in the ICT industry, among which about 12 000 should qualify for the proposed framework. The professional organizations with their professional qualification schemes recognized were expected to attract a critical mass of professionals joining their schemes, and therefore be able to jointly bear the operating cost of the Awarding Body, which was estimated to be around \$2 million per year.

#### *Anticipated benefits*

30. Mr Charles Peter MOK relayed the concern of the small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") and start-ups that the proposed framework might drive up the cost or make it harder to recruit qualified ICT practitioners.

31. DGCIO(CO) advised that from the employer's perspective, the SMEs consulted in February and March 2014 were of the view that the proposed framework would provide an objective yardstick for them to assess ICT practitioners' competency and professionalism and help assure consistent quality of their ICT employees in terms of their skills and professional ethics. As regards the possibility of driving up the cost to recruit qualified ICT practitioners, as the proposed framework would target at the professional level, employing qualified professionals would raise product quality and increase productivity, and reduce overall cost.

*Way forward*

32. Members proposed and the Chairman agreed that a special meeting should be held to receive views from the ICT industry and members of the public on the proposed framework. In this connection, representatives of the Task Force would be invited to attend the meeting to answer members' questions pertaining to the proposal.

*(Post-meeting note: The special meeting was scheduled for 17 May 2014 at 9:00 am and all other Members were invited to attend the meeting.)*

**VI. Proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(04) -- Administration's paper on proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau)

LC Paper No. CB(4)554/13-14(02) -- Administration's paper on proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau (power-point presentation material)  
(Chinese version only)  
(tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 15 April 2014)

LC Paper No. CB(4)570/13-14(01) -- Submission on the proposed Innovation and Technology Bureau from Hon Charles Peter MOK to the Administration dated 12 February 2014)  
(tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via e-mail on 15 April 2014)

33. With the aid of powerpoint presentation, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") briefed members on the proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB"). Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's papers (LC Paper No. CB(4)532/13-14(04) and CB(4)554/13-14(02)).

34. SCED advised that the proposed ITB would be led by the future Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("S for IT"). The new bureau would be responsible for formulating policies and promoting the development of innovation and technology as well as information technology in Hong Kong, and coordinating relevant efforts within the Government. The new bureau would take up the policy responsibilities in innovation and technology from the

existing Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB"). The two Government departments which were responsible for innovation and technology matters, namely the Innovation and Technology Commission ("ITC") and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO"), would report to the ITB upon its establishment.

### Discussion

#### *Proposed structure of the new ITB*

35. Ms Claudia MO opined that as the policy areas to be covered under the proposed portfolio of S for IT had already been covered by SCED, the proposed ITB would create a cumbersome structure and pose obstacles to the coordination work in policy implementation. Noting that innovation and technology were inseparable from each other, Ms MO expressed disagreement about the title of the proposed ITB, Innovation and Technology Bureau, which seemed to separate "innovation" from "technology". She also expressed doubts whether the purpose of the proposal to establish the ITB was to strengthen the Government's control of freedom of expression on the Internet.

36. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed support for the creation of the proposed ITB to sustain the development of innovation and technology of Hong Kong in the long run. He said that the information and communications technology ("ICT") industry had been ardently hoping that a dedicated bureau would be established to oversee Hong Kong's policy on innovation and technology. Neighbouring countries such as Singapore and South Korea had placed technology at the forefront of their economic development strategy and had established dedicated authorities to oversee the relevant policy. Mr MOK opined that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO"), being a Government department and a technical agency, was not in a position to take policy carriage in respect of innovation and technology. In this regard, he disagreed that the proposed ITB was a cumbersome structure. Citing the establishment of the former Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau which had existed for a good reason from 1998 to 2002, he was of the view that there was a genuine need to establish the ITB to take charge of the policy in this respect. He also opined that innovation and creativity were two sides of the same coin and should not be separated. In this regard, he suggested that Create Hong Kong ("CreateHK"), which was responsible for the development of creative industries, should also be transferred from CEDB to the proposed ITB along with OGCIO and the ITC.

37. Mr SIN Chung Kai expressed support in principle for the establishment of the ITB. While pointing out that the organization of the proposed ITB was inefficient, he opined that the portfolios relating to creative industry,

communications and broadcasting should be transferred to the proposed ITB. Dr Elizabeth QUAT shared a similar view.

38. Mr Christopher CHUNG expressed support for the establishment of the ITB. In view that creative industries, particularly the film industry, involved heavy use of ICT in the production and distribution processes, he opined that CreateHK should not remain under CEDB and should be transferred to the proposed ITB. He also opined that the candidates to be considered for the post of S for IT should be familiar with the industry and possessed vision and foresight on the development of innovation and technology. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan shared a similar view.

39. SCED advised that the proposed structure of the new ITB was expected to fully capture the opportunities provided by advancements in technology and the commercial potential they offered through a dedicated high level leadership, and stronger policy coordination across the innovation and technology industries. It signified the Government's commitment and determination to stay ahead in the global race. The ITB would develop policies to strengthen the support for the innovation and technology sector, including strategies for facilitating the realization of research and development results.

40. SCED added that creativity and innovation and technology both played a part in various business activities. For example, creativity permeated in the film and publishing industries. Creativity was also closely intertwined with the ICT and broadcasting industries. Apart from the innovation and technology industries, creativity was also crucial for sustaining the development of industries, including the design industry which had a part to play in all trades and professions. Meanwhile, Hong Kong witnessed the mushrooming of start-ups in the creative industries such as the comics industry which might not necessarily involve the heavy use of innovation and technology. On the other hand, innovation and technology was also employed in different areas, including the medical and environmental industries. Under the current proposal, the ICT and broadcasting portfolios would remain under CEDB. Such a design was in line with the objective of the Administration to allow more room for the future ITB to foster the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong.

41. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and a member of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification. He said that Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong was in support of the establishment of ITB for which he had all along been lobbying the Administration. He opined that apart from ITC and OGCIO, the Intellectual Property Department ("IPD") should also be transferred to the new ITB as

intellectual property ("IP") was an integral part of innovation and technology.

42. Mrs Regina IP said that the New People's Party had all along advocated the establishment of a dedicated Government bureau to steer the development of innovation and technology of Hong Kong. Ever since the replacement of the former Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau ("CITB") by the CEDB in the Government reorganization in 2007, Hong Kong had been deprived of a dedicated bureau in charge of the policy on innovation and technology. She agreed that it was only reasonable that the proposed ITB should include CreateHK and IPD.

43. Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed support in principle for the establishment of the ITB. He opined that creativity and technology were closely intertwined and should not be separated from each other. For example, technology was heavily used in the film production process. He also shared the view that IPD and CreateHK should be included in the portfolio of the proposed ITB. He hoped that the Administration could set out the vision for the future development of innovation and technology of Hong Kong with the establishment of the ITB. Sharing a similar view, Mr YIU Si-wing also expressed support for the establishment of the ITB. Nevertheless, he opined that the objective of the establishment of ITB should be to facilitate the development of innovation and technology of Hong Kong rather than to relieve the workload pressure on CEDB.

44. SCED said that while IP was a vital part of innovation and technology, it involved a host of issues including copyright, trademark, commercial secrets and IP trading, etc, which were closely related to business and commerce. As such, the Administration considered it appropriate to retain IPD under the purview of CEDB at this stage. Nevertheless, it did not rule out the possibility of transferring IPD to ITB depending on future development needs.

45. SCED added that the Administration attached great importance to fostering the innovation and technology industry, and would continue to create an environment conducive to its development, encourage investment in this area and enhance co-operation among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors. Taking the view that a more progressive approach should be adopted to further develop the innovation and technology industry, the proposed ITB aimed to strengthen, both in depth and breadth, policy support for the development of innovation and technology. The proposed S for IT would provide the devoted strategic leadership of the new bureau and lead the ITB in the formulating of holistic policies, overseeing execution, and monitoring the outcome. He was of the view that the vision of the proposed ITB should be left for the future S for IT to determine.

*Candidate for the post of Secretary for Information and Technology*

46. Ms Claudia MO queried whether the appointment of the proposed post of S for IT would be made under favoritism or nepotism. Sharing a similar view, Mr Charles Peter MOK was of the view that the nominee for the post of S for IT should be invited to answer questions from Members in order to assess his suitability for the post.

47. SCED advised that under the Principal Officials Accountability System, Principal Officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government were appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive.

*Manpower needs of the proposed Information and Technology Bureau*

48. Dr Elizabeth QUAT said that the ICT industry had been striving for the establishment of the ITB to spearhead the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong was in support of the establishment of the ITB. Noting that the current workload of ITC and OGCIIO had already reached their full capacity, Dr QUAT enquired whether the ITC and the OGCIIO would have sufficient manpower to deal with the increased workload under the proposed new structure.

49. SCED advised that under the current proposal, three politically appointed officials, four directorate civil service posts and 19 new non-directorate civil service posts would be created under the new structure. It would be up to the future S for IT to determine/enhance the structure, establishment and manpower needs of the ITB based on long-term development needs.

*Alternatives to the setting up of Information and Technology Bureau*

50. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen opined that the Administration should consider other alternatives such as internal redeployment, or creating a new Permanent Secretary post under SCED to oversee the technology portfolio, before coming to the conclusion that the new ITB should be established. Sharing a similar view, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed objection to the establishment of the ITB. He also expressed doubts about the Administration's commitment to promote innovation and technology.

51. SCED advised that there was broad consensus among the society and the industry that the establishment of the ITB to spearhead the development of innovation and technology should be the way forward. Besides, the current workload of ITC and OGCIIO had already reached their full capacity, and all the

existing permanent directorate officers were already fully engaged in their respective portfolios in promoting the development of innovation and technology with no room for redeployment. SCED added that under the present proposal, a new Permanent Secretary post at the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 (D8) would report to S for IT and would be the Controlling Officer in the ITB.

### *Way forward*

52. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("CI Panel") would hold its regular meeting on 15 April 2014 to receive a briefing by the Administration on the proposal to establish ITB. Members might attend the CI Panel meeting if they so wished. Members proposed and the Chairman agreed that a special meeting should be held to receive views from the ICT industry and members of the public on the proposal to establish the new ITB.

*(Post-meeting note: The special meeting was scheduled for 3 May 2014 at 9:00 am and all other Members, in particular members of the CI Panel, were invited to attend the meeting.)*

## **VII. Any other business**

53. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
29 May 2014