

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)903/13-14
(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, 12 May 2014, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon James TO Kun-sun
 - Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
 - Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
 - 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
- Members absent** :
- Hon WONG Yuk-man (Chairman)
 - Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

**Public officers
attending**

: 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 Jerry LIU
Head of Create Hong Kong
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Ivanhoe CHANG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Communications and
Technology)B

Hong Kong Design Centre

Dr Edmund LEE
Executive Director

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 Kingsley WONG
Chief Systems Manager (Digital Inclusion)

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 NG
Council Secretary (4)3

Action

The Deputy Chairman took over the chair in the absence of the Chairman who was unable to attend the meeting.

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)631/13-14 -- Minutes of meeting held on
10 March 2014)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)633/13-14(01) -- Invitation letter from the
Hong Kong Cyberport
Management Company
Limited on Pitching Day and
Celebration Party for
Cyberport Winners in Hong
Kong ICT Awards 2014

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

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(4)646/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Charles Peter MOK dated 3 May 2014 on issues relating to the Communications Authority's consent to the proposed acquisition of CSL New World Mobility Limited by HKT Limited

LC Paper No. CB(4)646/13-14(02) -- Letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 5 May 2014 on issues relating to the Producers' Guidelines of Radio Television Hong Kong)

Special meeting on 17 May 2014

4. Members noted that a special meeting would be held on Saturday, 17 March 2014 from 9 am to 12:30 pm, to receive views from deputations and members of the public on "Proposal to establish a unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework in Hong Kong".

Regular meeting on 9 June 2014

5. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 9 June 2014 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

(a) Progress update on the e-Government development; and

(b) Enriched IT classes.

6. Mr Charles Peter MOK suggested and the Chairman agreed that all other Members, in particular members of the Education Panel, should be invited to join the discussion on item (b).

Issue raised by Hon Charles Peter MOK

7. The Deputy Chairman referred to Hon Charles Peter MOK's letter dated 3 May 2014 to Panel Chairman proposing to discuss issues relating to the Communications Authority's consent to the proposed acquisition of CSL New World Mobility Limited ("CSLNWM") by HKT Limited. Members noted that the Communications Authority ("CA") had issued a press release on 2 May 2014 announcing its decision to give consent, with conditions imposed, to HKT Limited's proposed acquisition of CSLNWM pursuant to section 7P(7)(b)(ii) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap 106). After deliberation, the Deputy Chairman suggested and Mr MOK agreed that the Panel would not pursue the matter at this stage but request the CA to provide a written response to Mr MOK's letter.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)758/13-14(02) on 3 June 2014.)

Issue raised by Hon Claudia MO

8. Referring to her letter of 5 May 2014 about issues relating to the Producers' Guidelines of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK"), Ms Claudia MO proposed that the matter be discussed at a future Panel meeting. Mr Charles Peter MOK and Mr SIN Chung-kai supported Ms MO's proposal. After deliberation, the Deputy Chairman instructed the Secretariat to seek the Panel Chairman's consent to include this item in the agenda for a future meeting.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Panel Chairman, the item "Issues relating to the Producers' Guidelines of RTHK" would be discussed at the next regular Panel meeting to be held on 9 June 2014.)

IV. Progress report on the work of Hong Kong Design Centre

(LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on report on the work of the Hong Kong Design Centre from April 2013 to March 2014

LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(04) -- Paper on Hong Kong Design Centre prepared by the Legislative Council

Secretariat (Updated background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(4)643/13-14(02) -- Administration's paper on (Chinese version only) progress report of the work of (tabled at the meeting and Hong Kong Design Centre subsequently issued via email on (power-point presentation 14 May 2014) material)

Presentation by the Administration

9. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Executive Director of Hong Kong Design Centre ("ED/HKDC") gave a power-point presentation on the work of Hong Kong Design Centre ("HKDC") from April 2013 to March 2014. Details of the presentation were set out in the Administration's papers (LC Papers Nos. CB(4)643/13-14(02) and CB(4)590/13-14(03)).

Discussion

Performance indicators and funding

10. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok and Mr YIU Si-wing opined that economic indicators in terms of job opportunities or the value added to the Gross Domestic Product should be made available to evaluate the work of HKDC. Noting that the time-limited funding currently provided by the Government to support the operation of HKDC as well as Business of Design Week and HKDC Awards would lapse in the middle of 2015, members urged the Administration to set or appraise more pragmatic performance or outcome indicators for assessing the work of HKDC so as to seek the Panel's support for a further funding proposal in the future.

11. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") advised that, according to the statistics produced by the Census and Statistics Department, the value added of the design sector to the economic growth of Hong Kong had increased by 230% from \$1 billion in 2005 to \$3.3 billion in 2012 while the number of persons engaged by the design sector increased by 47% from some 9,600 to some 14,000 during the same period.

12. Head of Create Hong Kong ("CreateHK") also advised that the HKDC itself or its programmes were mentioned in 1,148 news clippings, with the public relations media value generated estimated to be some \$110 million while the total expenditure involved in such HKDC-organized programmes were some \$84 million. PSCED(CT) added that the impact of programmes

conducted by a design promotional agency such as HKDC was not always quantifiable and readily ascertainable. Nevertheless, the Administration would work with HKDC to invite experts and academia in this aspect to conduct tracking surveys and set performance indicators for assessing the work of HKDC, as part of the emerging design culture or ecosystem in Hong Kong.

13. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry about funding support for the operation of HKDC, Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) advised that the funding proposal of \$100 million to support the operation of HKDC for five years was approved by the Finance Committee ("FC") on 25 May 2007. Following the approval of the FC on 22 May 2009, the Administration set up the CreateHK which was a dedicated office for creative industries. As such, the same \$100 million non-recurrent commitment for HKDC was then transferred to CreateHK under the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. In April 2012, FC further approved the provision of \$133.75 million to support the operation of HKDC for three years. Head of CreateHK added that the funding was to cover the basic operating expenditure of HKDC, namely staffing, overhead and administration as well as basic expenses of certain promotional programmes.

Nurturing talents

14. Mr NG Leung-sing enquired whether HKDC had provided support to young persons who were non designers/design graduates but were interested in pursuing their career in the design sector. Head of CreateHK advised that under the current policy, HKDC provided support measures to young design practitioners and design graduates with recommendation from their respective tertiary institutions. ED/HKDC supplemented that the Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award under the HKDC Awards provided design graduates and young design practitioners opportunities to undertake work attachment at overseas design companies.

15. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that the Administration should carry out various initiatives to promote design on a continuous and ongoing basis rather than as one-off events. She also suggested that the Administration should draw on the experience from South Korea in promoting the creative industries. Focal points in the format of design workshops could be set up in collaboration with other related organizations such as tertiary institutions and Police Married Quarters ("PMQ") so as to gather, promote and nurture young talents in the design sector.

16. Head of CreateHK advised that although initiatives supported by the funding scheme of the CreateSmart Initiative ("CSI") were approved on an one-off basis, many projects which had been successfully implemented had received repeated funding support to continue their work during the past few years. As regards HKDC, it had been focusing more on promoting the use of design in the business and public sectors to add value to their products or services, whereas CSI had also supported career-oriented youth programmes and professional training programmes to arouse the youth's interest in design, and inspire them to undertake further studies or pursue a career in the design field. For on-going inspirational programmes on design for youth, Head of CreateHK advised that the District Offices and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department had been providing activities on a regular basis in this aspect.

Research support

17. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that usability study and user behavior research could facilitate successful commercialization of research and development results as usability in product design was a critical success factor. She suggested that the Government should make reference from Singapore to set up user laboratory to carry out studies on products' usability and user experience. She also urged the Administration to step up efforts in facilitating scientific researches and analyses which could provide useful data for the design process.

18. In reply, Head of CreateHK advised that the CreateSmart Initiative ("CSI") under CreateHK had been sponsoring tertiary educational institutions in conducting various researches in the design areas in recent years. ED/HKDC also advised that the Knowledge of Design Week and insight study provided a platform for local talents in the design sector to exchange views with world-renowned masters and speakers regarding usability research. PSCED(CT) took note of the Deputy Chairman's views and advised that research should be driven by market needs.

V. Progress report on digital inclusion

(LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(05) -- Administration's paper on progress report on digital inclusion

LC Paper No. CB(4)643/13-14(01) -- Administration's paper on progress report on digital inclusion (power-point
(Chinese version only)
(tabled at the meeting and inclusion

subsequently issued via email on 14 May 2014) presentation material)

LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(06) -- Paper on digital inclusion prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief)

19. With the aid of power-point presentation, Chief Systems Manager (Digital Inclusion) ("CSM(DI)") briefed members on the progress of the Government's digital inclusion initiatives. Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's papers (LC Paper No. CB(4)590/13-14(05) and CB(4)643/13-14(01)).

Discussion

Internet Learning Support Programme

20. Noting that it had been over a year since eInclusion Foundation Limited ("eInclusion"), a former Implementer of the Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP"), was reportedly involved in irregularities, Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the follow up actions taken in respect of the alleged irregularities committed by eInclusion.

21. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") advised that as eInclusion had breached the provision of its Funding & Operation Arrangement ("F&OA") with the Government, the Administration had taken necessary action to terminate the F&OA with eInclusion with effect from 19 May 2013 and requested the Boy's & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong ("BGCA"), which was the guarantor of eInclusion under the F&OA, to take over the implementation of the ILSP in the eastern part of Hong Kong in accordance with the F&OA. Any alleged irregularities which might involve breach of law had been referred to the appropriate agencies for follow up. PSCED(CT) stressed that the Administration had taken all necessary follow-up actions.

22. Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Community) added that having thoroughly reviewed the accounts related to eInclusion, the Administration found that the Government had not suffered any financial loss.

23. Noting that the cumulative potential doubtful debts and write-offs arising from delinquent installment payments from hire purchase of computer

equipment and broadband services amounted to \$683,000 and \$211,000 respectively, Mr Christopher CHEUNG enquired whether the problem was due to ineffective programme monitoring and what remedial measures would be taken. He also enquired about the relatively high unit cost of \$1,500 for providing the service of reselling computers.

24. Sharing a similar view, Mr Christopher CHUNG noted that the potential doubtful debts relating to WebOrganic amounted to \$317,000 and involved 259 cases, whereas the potential doubtful debts relating to BGCA, the Implementer which took up the responsibility for implementing the ILSP in the eastern part of Hong Kong from eInclusion, was only \$1,000 involving four cases. He opined that the Administration had not strengthened programme monitoring in the aftermath of the incident relating to eInclusion. He enquired whether the ILSP should be sustained, revamped or replaced by other direct funding schemes.

25. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that the Implementers of ILSP would review all the delinquent cases on an individual basis. Families with genuine financial problems would be followed up by social workers, and their debts could be written off if deemed necessary. Both Implementers had put in place appropriate measures and processes to handle such cases and minimize similar occurrences. The Programme Steering Committee, led by the GCIO and comprising representatives from the Education Bureau and the Social Welfare Department, maintained oversight of programme delivery and performance, including the delinquent cases. He added that subsequent to the mid-term review on the ILSP in 2013 and the implementation of a series of improvement measures, the average unit cost of providing the service of reselling computers had been reduced to \$500.

Admin

26. PSCED(CT) added that the Administration would carry out another review of the ILSP in 2015-2016 which would cover the issue of doubtful debts. At Mr CHUNG's request, the Administration agreed to provide information on doubtful debt and write-offs in the ILSP and the Administration's follow up actions.

27. Noting that the BGCA had a much lower average cost-per-service and a much higher total number of services provided to eligible families compared to WebOrganic, Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired about the reasons for the difference and measures to bridge the gap.

28. GCIO advised that the mode of implementation of the ILSP by BGCA and WebOrganic was different. Whilst BGCA made use of its own community centres to provide the service, WebOrganic had to rely on other

non-government organizations and their resources to provide frontline service to the ILSP beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the Implementers regularly exchanged views and experience on ways to reduce service costs.

29. In response to Dr QUAT's enquiry about the key performance indicators ("KPI") for the ILSP in 2014-2015, GCIO advised that within the period from April 2014 to March 2015, each of the Implementers would be required to achieve 51 000 cumulative eligible enrolments since launch, 9 000 eligible families served, 3 000 families first served in the period and 25 000 services provided to eligible families. Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that a KPI should also be devised for average cost-per-service provided by the Implementers.

Digital inclusion mobile applications for underprivileged groups

30. Noting that funding support would be provided to successful applicants for the development of mobile applications ("apps") for underprivileged groups, Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether there would be on-going monitoring of the performance of the developers in maintaining the apps after funding had been approved. Sharing a similar view, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the Administration's promotion activities in this regard. Noting the limited number of downloads of certain apps such as the "Searching & Exploring with Speech Augmented Map Information", Dr Elizabeth QUAT opined that the promotion for the apps should be stepped up to encourage the use of such apps.

31. GCIO advised that the digital inclusion mobile apps for underprivileged groups were funded on a one-off basis. The organizations receiving the funding were required to provide the Administration with post implementation reports one year after the apps were launched. The Administration would follow up the performance of the funded projects for a period of up to three years. A wide range of promotional activities including press conferences, seminars and training classes, leaflets, online promotions, advertorials, etc., were organized to foster awareness of the apps. A two-day exhibition was also organized at the Hong Kong ICT Fair on 19 and 20 April 2014 to showcase the apps.

Outreaching services for institutionalized and "hidden" elderly

32. In response to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's enquiry about the operation of the ICT outreaching services for institutionalized and "hidden elderly", GCIO advised that the Administration had commissioned three elderly service organizations, namely the Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service — Hong Kong and the

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited, to implement ICT outreach programmes for institutionalized and "hidden" elderly. With relevant expertise and service networks, the three selected organizations would reach out to these seniors and tailor make activities to help them use tablets and arouse their interests in ICT.

33. Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired about the percentage of the elderly in general public who had used the Internet. GCIO advised that at present, 21% of the elderly had used the Internet. Pending the actual findings of the Thematic Household Survey to be conducted by the Census and Statistics Department by end of 2014, the Administration anticipated that 25% of the elderly should have used the Internet by now. The target in the longer term was that 50% of the elderly should have used the Internet, smartphones or tablet computers in three years' time. At Dr QUAT's request, the Administration agreed to provide information on the increase in percentage of elderly who had used the Internet over the past ten years in light of the experience of other overseas cities/economies.

Web Accessibility Campaign

34. Noting that only 136 websites met the stipulated accessibility criteria and 31 mobile apps were awarded in the second round of the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme, Dr Elizabeth QUAT opined that more efforts should be put in to encourage adoption of web accessibility by business and non-governmental organizations, as well as personal websites of LegCo Members and District Council members. At Dr QUAT's request, the Administration agreed to provide information on the percentage of statutory and public sector organizations meeting the stipulated accessibility criteria under the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme.

Admin

VI. Any other business

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