

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)1103/13-14
(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 June 2014, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon YIU Si-wing
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
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Members absent** : Hon WONG Yuk-man (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, 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)

Office of the Government Chief Information
Officer

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP
Government Chief Information Officer

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

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

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

Agenda item V

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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

Office of the Government Chief Information
Officer

Mr Daniel LAI, BBS, JP
Government Chief Information Officer

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

Mr Dominic KWONG
Chief Systems Manager (Industry Facilitation)

Education Bureau

Mr Stephen YIP
Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum
Development)

Agenda item VI

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

Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr Roy TANG, JP
Director of Broadcasting

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

Related organization

Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff
Union

Ms CHOY Yuk-ling
Chairperson

Ms WONG Ngar-man
Committee Member

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)742/13-14 -- Minutes of meeting held on
14 April 2014

LC Paper No. CB(4)733/13-14 -- Minutes of special meeting
held on 3 May 2014)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2014 and 3 May 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)730/13-14(01) -- Letter from Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen dated 21 May 2014 on issues relating to local telecommunications service (Chinese version only))

3. Members noted that the above letter had been issued since the last meeting.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion)

LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 14 July 2014

4. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 14 July 2014, at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Progress update on digital economy; and
- (b) Information security.

(Post-meeting note: Since the Council meeting of 9 July 2014 continued on 14 July 2014, the next regular meeting was re-scheduled to 22 July 2014.)

Domestic free television programme services

5. Ms Cyd HO proposed to invite the Communications Authority to brief members on the public consultation on an application for a domestic free television programme service licence by Hong Kong Television Network Limited at the forthcoming meeting. The Deputy Chairman instructed the Secretariat to seek the Panel Chairman's consent to include this item in the agenda for the next regular meeting.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Panel Chairman, the item mentioned in paragraph 5 was included in the agenda for the next regular meeting on 22 July 2014.)

IV. Progress update on the e-Government development

(LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on progress update on e-Government development)

LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(04) -- Paper on e-Government development prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") briefed members on the latest progress of e-Government development and the Administration's plan and measures to support Bureaux/Departments ("B/Ds") achieve respective policy objectives and initiatives through wider and better adoption of information technology ("IT"). Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(03)).

Discussion

E-Government services

7. Mr Christopher CHUNG opined that the progress of e-Government development in Hong Kong was slow and certain e-Government services, such as the Hongkong Post e-Cert ("e-Cert") and eTAX of the Inland Revenue Department ("eTAX"), were neither user-friendly nor convenient to the public. GCIO advised that the departments concerned had greatly improved the interface design and user experience so as to encourage wider use of e-Cert and eTAX. It was anticipated that the use of digital identity would play a vital role when e-cheque services were in place in the future. Under the new Digital 21 Strategy, the Administration proposed to work with the relevant parties to facilitate the provision of free digital certificates to all Hong Kong citizens, thus unlocking the potential of digital identity and enabling the public to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner.

8. Mr Charles Peter MOK noted that certain B/Ds had encountered difficulties in solving financial and legal issues involving in new e-Government services and in developing Application Programming Interfaces ("APIs") for making their data available to the public. He opined that the Administration should enhance the internal support and communication among B/Ds in this respect. In response, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") advised that the Office of GCIO ("OGCIO") actively worked with B/Ds to facilitate the development and delivery of e-Government services. The Commerce and Economic Development

Bureau would also coordinate effort and support among B/Ds to resolve legal and financial issues. PSCED(CT) added that where applicable, OGCI would develop the APIs as common services for use by B/Ds.

9. Noting the introduction of the Mutual Use of Automated Clearance Service launched by the Immigration Department ("ImmD") in December 2013, Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the role and involvement of OGCI in developing such service. GCI advised that professional staff of OGCI were deployed to work in ImmD's IT team to develop the new service. The ImmD, as the owner of the project, undertook to engage publicity programmes for promoting the service to the public.

10. Noting the efforts of the Administration to facilitate the e-Government services, Mr Charles Peter MOK and Mr YIU Si-wing urged the Administration to put in place key performance indicators or objective targets to better track the progress and evaluate the effectiveness of such services.

Government Wi-Fi Programme

11. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed concern about the coverage of the Government Wi-Fi programmes ("GovWi-Fi"). Sharing similar concerns, Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr YIU Si-wing urged the Administration to increase the coverage of public Wi-Fi services so as to further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city. In this regard, the Deputy Chairman relayed the concern of the Wi-Fi service providers about the difficulty encountered when making use of lamp posts for the installation of Wi-Fi equipments to provide public Wi-Fi services.

12. In response, GCI advised that OGCI regularly monitored the service quality of GovWi-Fi and it had clear targets to extend the coverage of the GovWi-Fi service which was currently provided at some 450 Government premises with 2,300 hotspots. By 2015, the service would extend to 600 Government premises with 3,000 hotspots. With the concerted efforts of the industry and the Government, it was estimated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots would be doubled from currently 10,000 to 20,000 by the end of 2014. To make it easier for the public and visitors to access free public Wi-Fi service in Hong Kong, a common Wi-Fi Branding, "Wi-Fi.HK" providing completely free or time-limited free of charge service, was launched currently in 3,700 Wi-Fi hotspots and would be extended to 6,000 Wi-Fi hotspots in 2014.

Government mobile applications and digital inclusion

13. Noting that the Administration had launched a wide array of mobile applications ("apps") for the use by the public, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the number of downloads, the overall utilization and publicity programmes of these apps. Ms Claudia MO also enquired the contents of the mobile apps launched by the Government. Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Community) ("DGCIO(P&C)") advised that mobile apps served as platforms to provide useful information, such as news about weather, traffic, food and safety etc. Certain mobile apps were developed to serve specific needy groups and the number of downloads was not substantial. OGCIO had published a booklet and produced a video to promote these apps to the public. DGCIO(P&C) assured members that OGCIO would step up its publicity effort in this respect.

14. Ms Claudia MO enquired about the progress of measures to facilitate persons with disabilities to access online information and services. DGCIO(P&C) advised that web accessibility had been incorporated in all government websites with 90% had been enhanced to comply with the Level AA of the latest version (Version 2.0) of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines promulgated by the World Wide Web Consortium. The remaining websites would be enhanced to comply with the standard in 2014-2015.

Government cloud platform

15. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the progress of developing and promoting the use of cloud computing by government B/Ds and whether any study was conducted on the benefits of using the Government Cloud platform ("GovCloud"). GCIO advised that GovCloud was launched to support hosting of common e-Government services for shared use by B/Ds, such as Electronic Recordkeeping System, e-Procurement System and Government Human Resources Management Services. The new e-Government Infrastructure Services ("EGIS") was also rolled out in April 2013 to host 110 additional e-Government services progressively on top of the 118 e-Government services in the former platform.

16. GCIO added that external cloud platforms maintained by contractors were also available to support certain B/Ds' operations such as collaborative workspace, servers for websites, video conferencing systems and office automation. New e-Government services, such as the programme providing subsidy for low-income working families, would be recommended to be incorporated into GovCloud, if appropriate. In addition, a study on the development of an "Enterprise Architecture" for the Government was being

conducted with a view to stepping up the utilization of government cloud platforms.

V. Enriched IT classes

(LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(05) -- Administration's paper on Enriched IT programme in secondary schools

LC Paper No. CB(4) 795/13-14(01) -- Administration's paper on Enriched IT programme in secondary schools (power-point presentation material)
(*Chinese version only*)
(*tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued via email on 10 June 2014*)

Presentation by the Administration

17. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Chief System Manger (Industry Facilitation) ("CSM(IF)") gave a power-point presentation on the proposed Enriched IT Programme ("the Programme") in Secondary Schools. Details of the presentation were set out in the papers provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(05) and CB(4)795/13-14(01)).

Discussion

Programme monitoring

18. Mr Charles Peter MOK expressed support for the Programme. Noting that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") would take the lead in the implementation of the Programme, he enquired about the involvement of other bureaux/departments in the drawing up of the curriculum. Sharing a similar view, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the selection criteria for the students.

19. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") advised that the proposed curriculum framework for Enriched IT Classes would be designed by a Steering Committee, which comprised representatives of the OGCIO and the Education Bureau, with the support of the tertiary institutions, professional bodies and renowned IT corporations. All local secondary schools would be invited to submit proposals. There would be an evaluation and selection process in which factors including the track record in organizing or participating in IT activities, availability of information and

communications technology ("ICT") subject for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education ("HKDSE") and the ICT academic results, as well as the school's IT teaching team, would be considered. The course content and selection of students would be decided by the individual schools. At the request of the Deputy Chairman, the Administration agreed to provide supplementary information on the proposed composition of the Steering Committee, and the proposed curriculum framework for Enriched IT Classes.

(Post-meeting note: The information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)887/13-14(01) on 2 July 2014.)

Partner schools

20. Ms Claudia MO noted that the Programme would comprise Enriched IT Classes in up to eight selected secondary schools to provide intensive IT training to students who were interested and talented in IT, and enriched IT activities organized by other secondary schools to foster a pro-IT atmosphere in the school community. She opined that the Programme would promote elitism by branding the eight selected partners schools as elite IT schools. Sharing a similar view, the Deputy Chairman opined that in order to provide equal opportunities for all schools, the scope of the Programme should be extended to cover more than eight schools, and to cater for cross-district students and underprivileged students.

21. GCIO advised that in view of the intensive resources and commitment in terms of suitable IT teachers and heavy involvement of industry bodies and tertiary institutions, it would be more pragmatic to keep the number of partner schools under the pilot Programme to a manageable number of five to eight at the outset. Nevertheless, partner schools would be required to share their deliverables of IT classes and activities, such as teaching materials, among the school community and interested stakeholders. GCIO added that under the Programme, each partner school would run at least three IT activities each year for students, and other schools would be invited to submit applications for enriched IT activities. The Administration expected to fund up to 30 such activities a year and each proposal would be granted up to HK\$50,000.

22. Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Community) supplemented that as the Programme was a novel initiative, the Administration would review the effectiveness of the Programme two years after its implementation, and consider extending the Programme to other schools.

23. The Deputy Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the Programme.

VI. Issues relating to the Producers' Guidelines of Radio Television Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(06) -- Administration's paper on issues relating to the Producers' Guidelines of Radio Television Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(4)646/13-14(02) -- Letter from Hon Claudia MO dated 5 May 2014 (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(4)767/13-14(01) -- Submission from Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union dated 3 June 2014)

Welcoming remarks by the Deputy Chairman

24. The Deputy Chairman welcomed representatives of the Administration and Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union ("PSU") to the meeting. She reminded representatives of the PSU that, when addressing the Panel at the meeting, they were not covered by the privileges and immunities provided under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382), and their written submissions were also not protected by the said Ordinance.

Presentation by the Administration

25. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) ("PSCED(CT)") advised that the Producers' Guidelines ("PG") of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") served as internal guidelines on editorial principles and operational matters. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau respected RTHK's editorial independence and did not participate in the work relating to the proposed revision of the PG. The Director of Broadcasting ("D of B") then gave a briefing on the proposed revision of the PG. Details of the briefing were set out in the paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)726/13-14(06)).

26. D of B advised that the PG was an important professional tool which provided guidelines to staff on day-to-day editorial and operational matters. In the past four years, both the staff and Management had been working under the consensus that only revisions absolutely necessary for the daily operation should be pursued. The originally proposed addition on "promotion of public values" for RTHK by the Working Group formed to review the PG was as follows:

"We promote freedom of expression, open and democratic society, civic participation and a caring community. We also pledge to serve the people, produce quality programmes, nurture talent, monitor any infringement of public interest, and retain the trust that the community has placed in us."

27. D of B further advised that the proposed addition was a major departure from the abovementioned consensus, and went beyond the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization definition of public service broadcasting. The RTHK management was of the firm view that if the values of RTHK were to be repeated in the PG at all, they must track the wording of public purposes in the RTHK Charter ("the Charter") to avoid any confusion. If RTHK were to adopt new values different to those set out as public purposes in the Charter, the procedure set out in clause 37 of the Charter must be followed. Clause 37 of the Charter provided that the Charter might be subject to review and renewal in consultation with the D of B and the Communications Authority every five years or when necessary. It was therefore inappropriate for the internal Working Group, or the PSU, to unilaterally alter the public purposes of RTHK which were the outcome of extensive consultation, including LegCo and members of the public, with various stakeholders in 2010.

Presentation by the Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union

28. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Chairperson of Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union briefed members on the stance of the PSU on the RTHK Management's rejection of the Working Group's proposed addition to the PG. Details of the briefing were set out in the paper provided by the PSU (LC Paper No. CB(4)767/13-14(01)). Chairperson of Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union clarified that the PSU had never proposed to amend the Charter. The PSU only questioned the decision of the RTHK Management to unilaterally reject the proposed addition to the PG which had undergone extensive consultation with RTHK staff.

Discussion

Position of the RTHK Management versus the stance of the PSU

29. Noting that the Working Group's proposed wording on "promotion of public values" were fairly neutral in tone, Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the significance of the Working Group's proposed addition on "promotion of public values" to the PG and whether the absence of the proposed edition would in anyway debar RTHK from producing any programme genre. Chairperson of Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union said that the Working Group was highly representative as members from different divisions/sections were included. Its proposal was the result of thorough discussion and reflected the core values which RTHK staff recognized, and their belief and mission in carrying out public service broadcasting. It was unreasonable for the RTHK management to dismiss the PG as only an operation manual, and ignore the mission and values behind it. She added that the PG came into existence in 1998, well before the Charter which was promulgated in 2010. The question of amending the Charter did not exist.

30. D of B said that the public purposes and mission of RTHK was already stipulated in the Charter. The proposed addition by the Working Group had clearly gone beyond the wording of public purposes in the Charter and therefore was tantamount to amending the Charter unilaterally, which would set a dangerous precedent. In addition, the PSU had all along failed to provide a sound reason for the proposed addition on operational grounds. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) ("DD of B") added that values such as the need to uphold freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law were already enshrined in the existing PG.

31. Ms Claudia MO opined that the RTHK Mangement had taken an authoritarian stance in unilaterally rejecting the proposed addition of the Working Group. The decision was made in violation of RTHK's editorial independence. She expressed deep regret that even the suggestion of the Chairman of the Working Group, i.e. DD of B to use a more neutral version "we *believe in* freedom of expression, open and democratic society, civic participation and a caring community" instead of "we *promote* freedom of expression, open and democratic society, civic participation and a caring community" in the amendment to the PG had been ruled out by the D of B and the Strategy Group of RTHK.

Relationship between the Charter and the Producers' Guidelines

32. Noting that the PG had existed before the Charter, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether there was a subordinate relationship between the PG and the Charter. D of B said that the relationship between the Charter and the PG resembled that of a constitution and a piece of subsidiary legislation. He added that when the Charter was promulgated in 2010, the missions and values of RTHK as promulgated in a Vision, Mission and Value Statement in 2000 had already been preserved in entirety in clause 5 (Mission), clause 4 (Public Purposes), and clauses 6 to 8 (Editorial Independence) of the Charter. As the Charter was signed amongst the Government, RTHK and the Communications Authority, it would be rash, and setting a dangerous precedent, for RTHK to act unilaterally in altering its values as the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong.

Admin

33. Noting that the revised PG as endorsed by the Strategy Group would be tabled at the Editorial Meeting for approval, Ms Emily LAU requested that D of B should report the outcome of the Editorial Meeting on the proposed revision of PG to the Panel.

Motion moved by Ms Claudia MO

34. Ms Claudia MO proposed the following motion:

"本事務委員會促請香港電台管理層尊重及採納員工操守意向，秉承港台編採獨立精神。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel urges the management of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") to respect and adopt the staff's stance on conduct issues, and uphold RTHK's spirit of editorial independence."

35. The Deputy Chairman considered that the proposed motion was directly related to the agenda item under discussion. As no members disagreed to deal with the motion, the Deputy Chairman informed the meeting that the motion would be proceeded with. The Deputy Chairman put the motion to vote. The Deputy Chairman announced that five members, namely Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Ms LAU Wai-hing, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles Peter MOK and Mr Ronny TONG voted for the motion and no member voted against the motion. Four members, namely Mr Christopher CHEUNG, Ms Ann CHIANG, Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr Steven HO abstained. The Deputy 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)799/13-14 on 10 June 2014.)

VII. Any other business

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:45 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
3 October 2014