

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)113/13-14(06)

Ref. : CB4/PL/ITB

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 11 November 2013

**Background brief on the development of the new Broadcasting House
in Tseung Kwan O**

Purpose

This paper summarizes the latest views and concerns expressed by Members on the development of the new Broadcasting House ("BH") in Tseung Kwan O ("TKO").

Background

2. Public service broadcasting ("PSB") and the future of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") has been a matter of public concern for over 20 years. Following the deliberations of the Executive Council on 22 September 2009, the Administration announced its decision on the way forward in respect of PSB and the future of RTHK. In gist, RTHK would remain as a Government department and be tasked to take up the mission to serve as the public service broadcaster for Hong Kong. The Government committed that appropriate resources would be provided for service enhancement to enable RTHK to expand its scope of service to fulfil its role and mission and better serve the community. In October 2009, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau published the consultation paper on "The New Radio Television Hong Kong: Fulfilling its Mission as a Public Service Broadcaster". A three-month consultation was subsequently launched by the Government to gauge public views on how best RTHK should operate to achieve its mission as a public service

broadcaster. The Administration announced the outcome of the public consultation exercise in March 2010, details of which are given in the Government's consultation report issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1520/09-10(05) on 1 April 2010.

3. After conducting the consultation exercise, the Government then announced in December 2010 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 reprovisioning of the new BH in TKO.

4. According to the Administration, the construction of a new BH in TKO would cost an estimate of \$1,600 million (the land value of the site was about \$190 million at 2008 price level), subject to the detailed architectural design and accommodation requirements. The planning and construction of the new BH would require a lead time of around five years. The new BH would have an enhanced capacity to cater for existing and new services, including Digital Audio Broadcasting Service, Digital Terrestrial Television Service and Media Asset Management.

Previous discussions

5. The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Panel") generally supported the development of the new BH in TKO and received regular reports from the Administration on the progress of the implementation.

Meetings of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

6. At the Panel meetings on 10 December 2010 and 20 October 2011, members noted that the Government had decided that TKO Area 85 would be the site for the development of the new RTHK BH and had completed the technical feasibility study on the building of the new BH. Members also noted that rezoning of the selected site was under way and public feedback collected from the consultation on the building of the new BH in TKO was positive. RTHK had since then work out arrangements for the design and building as well as tendering of the new BH in TKO. The Panel called on the Administration to expedite the reprovisioning of the new BH and the acquisition of related facilities and equipment to enhance programme production.

7. At the Panel meetings on 18 January and 11 March 2013, members noted that the application for change of land use of the site for the construction of the new BH was approved by the Town Planning Board in April 2012. Members also noted that the tender exercise to invite contractors to participate in the design-and-build contract for the new BH commenced on 5 February 2013 with a closing date on 3 May 2013. Upon completion of the tendering procedure, RTHK would seek funding for the project through established mechanism in the last quarter of 2013. Subject to the approval of the necessary funding, construction of the new BH was scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2014 with a view to commissioning in the last quarter of 2018.

Finance Committee meeting

8. At the special meeting of the Finance Committee on 10 April 2013, Mr POON Siu-ping, Mr Kenneth CHAN and Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired about the plan and progress of construction of the new BH for RTHK in TKO, including the estimated total expenditure and the manpower involved. The Administration advised that in 2011-2012, 35 civil services posts and non-civil service contract positions were created to cover the manpower required for the planning of the new BH and the rest of the new developments. These posts had continued/would continue to undertake the aforesaid work in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. In addition, the Architectural Services Department estimated that the project would incur a total expenditure of around \$5 million and \$3 million in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 respectively for pre-contract consultancy service.

Latest position

9. The Administration will brief the Panel on 11 November 2013 on the development of the new BH in TKO.

Relevant papers

10. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks is at:
http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/itb/papers/itb_ab.htm
http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/itb/papers/itb_ab.htm
http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/fc/w_q/cedb-ct-e.pdf

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 November 2013