

立法會
Legislative Council

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by the Administration)

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Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 18 November 2014, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

Members absent : Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public officers attending : Agenda item IV
Miss Janet WONG, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Johann WONG, JP
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology

Mr Frank TSANG
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology (Funding Schemes)

Professor YUE On-ching
Science Advisor
Innovation and Technology Commission

Dr Cecilia PANG
Biotechnology Director
Innovation and Technology Commission

Agenda item V

Miss Patricia SO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)³

Ms Ada LEUNG, JP
Director of Intellectual Property

Ms Connie LAW
Acting Assistant Director of Intellectual Property
(Registration)

Ms Magdalene LING
Principal Intellectual Property Examiner

Clerk in attendance : Ms Annette LAM
Chief Council Secretary (1)³

Staff in attendance : Ms Connie HO
Senior Council Secretary (1)³

Miss Rita YUNG
Council Secretary (1)³

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)³

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)212/14-15 -- Minutes of meeting held on 21 October 2014)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since last meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)76/14-15(01) -- Administration's paper on proposed adjustment to fees and charges under the purview of the Trade and Industry Department)

2. Members noted that the above paper had been issued since the last meeting. The Secretariat had not received any requests from members to discuss the proposed fee increase for two strategic commodities-related items under the purview of the Trade and Industry Department.

Luncheon hosted by Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council

3. The Chairman said that Ms Margaret FONG, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, had invited Panel members to a luncheon on 9 December 2014. The relevant circular was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)232/14-15 issued on 17 November 2014. The Chairman requested members to join the luncheon as far as possible.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

4. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 16 December 2014 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) Review of fees and charges of the Intellectual Property Department ("IPD"); and
- (b) Launching of a new Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund

5. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to present the item "Consultation on a new set of Copyright Tribunal Rules" (item 1 on the Panel's List of outstanding items for discussion ("the List")) by way of circulation in the form of an information note. Members who wished to discuss the item at a Panel meeting were requested to inform the Secretariat upon receipt of the relevant paper. If no request for discussion was received by the specified deadline, the item would be deleted from the List.

IV. Comprehensive review of the Innovation and Technology Fund

(LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(03) -- Administration's paper on Final Report on Comprehensive Review on the Innovation and Technology Fund

LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(04) -- Paper on improvements to the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote innovation and application of research and development outcomes prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology ("CIT") briefed members on the findings and the latest recommendations as set out in the Final Report on the Comprehensive Review on the Innovation and Technology Fund ("ITF") (LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(03)).

7. CIT highlighted that over the years, the ITF had evolved continuously to suit prevailing circumstances. In the early years of its set up to 2006, the focus of ITF was more on supporting projects conducted by universities, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. After a large scale consultation exercise, the Administration set up five Research and Development ("R&D") Centres in 2006 to drive and co-ordinate applied R&D in selected areas which had potentials for further development in Hong Kong. Since then, much effort had been made to promote collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors to support R&D, and to drive realization and commercialization of R&D outcomes. Recently, one of the major focuses of the Innovation and Technology Commission ("ITC") on application of R&D outcomes was to facilitate cross-institutional collaboration in projects which could benefit a wider section of the community, such as the elderly. Continued efforts would be made to encourage more private sector investment in R&D, particularly under the themes

of financial technology/e-commerce and biotechnology.

8. CIT further advised that a new and improved Enterprise Support Scheme ("ESS") would be set up to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme to encourage more private sector investment in R&D and strengthen financial support for companies in conducting in-house R&D. The Administration would brief the Panel on the details and timeframe for launching the ESS at the next regular Panel meeting to be held on 16 December 2014.

Discussion

Attracting inward investment in innovation and technology

9. Highlighting the important role and input of overseas technology companies in cross fertilization of ideas and spurring technology, Mr Martin LIAO urged the Administration to step up its effort in attracting overseas technology companies to set up their R&D bases in Hong Kong. In particular, Mr LIAO suggested that the Administration should consider offering tax concession and other incentives to encourage overseas investment in Hong Kong's innovation and technology industry. Sharing a similar view, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed concern that Hong Kong had lost out to neighbouring economies in innovation and technology development. He criticized the Administration for being too conservative in providing funding support or incentives as well as other support measures to attract inward investment from multinational technology companies.

10. CIT responded that tax issue was under the purview of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau. That said, apart from the ITF, the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme was launched in April 2010 to provide financial incentives to encourage more private sector R&D investment, and reinforce the research culture among private companies. Companies had responded positively towards the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme, especially after the increase of the cash rebate level from 10% to 30% in February 2012. The proposed ESS also aimed to better support in-house R&D carried out by private companies, including R&D arms or subsidiaries of overseas technology companies registered in Hong Kong. The ITC, in collaboration with Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, would proactively reach out to technology companies all over the world to attract them to set up or expand their business and R&D operations in Hong Kong.

11. Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology ("DCIT") further advised that the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTPC") also strived to attract overseas/Mainland technology companies to set up operations in the Hong Kong Science Park ("HKSP"). Currently there were about 450 technology companies in HKSP, around 30% of which were set up by overseas/Mainland technology companies. HKSTPC had also been carrying

out a project titled "Soft-landing Programme for Technology and Innovation Collaboration". The programme aimed to attract Technology Transfer Offices of renowned overseas universities/research institutions to set up strategic outposts in Hong Kong, with a view to exploring collaboration with local partners on R&D and commercialization activities.

12. Noting that companies registered in Hong Kong regardless of size would be eligible for the proposed ESS, Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired how the Administration could prevent large applicant companies from only creaming off the benefits without contributing to the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. CIT responded that apart from the innovation and technology component of the project, relevance to Government policies or the overall interest of the community would be among the major criteria in vetting ESS applications. Since creating employment opportunities and nurturing local talents were the Administration's top priorities, special emphasis would also be put on the applicant's local recruitment plan.

Commercialization of R&D results

13. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted with concern that a non-invasive pre-natal testing for Down's Syndrome developed by The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK") was licensed to a biotechnology company in the United States, rather than a Hong Kong company. Although the test was currently available at private hospitals in Hong Kong, it was more expensive than the traditional tests. Dr CHIANG was disappointed that the test was not available at public hospitals, where more pregnant women could stand to benefit.

14. In response, Biotechnology Director, ITC advised that CUHK had developed a revolutionary non-invasive pre-natal diagnostic approach for Down's Syndrome by direct analyzing fetal deoxyribonucleic acid collected from the mother's blood sample. While the overseas use of the patents of the technology was licensed to a United States company, CUHK had retained the right to commercialize the technology in Hong Kong and the Mainland. The professors of CUHK who invented the technology would set up a company to promote the use of this test technology in private healthcare sector in Hong Kong and aimed to introduce the test in public hospitals for high risk and suspected cases.

15. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan pointed out that the shrinking manufacturing sector had contributed to a meagre 1.5% Gross Domestic Product growth during 2008-2012. She hoped that the promotion of innovation and technology would help boost the development of the manufacturing and other industries. In this connection, Dr CHIANG opined that the ITF should identify specific technology areas with development potential, such as biotechnology, the medicine industry, etc, and focus on funding projects that were commercially viable and suitable for manufacturing in Hong Kong. She also suggested that the Panel should receive

views from the industry sector on ways to enhance commercialization of R&D results at future meeting when discussing the ITF. The Chairman concurred with Dr CHIANG.

16. CIT responded that the Administration had refined the vetting criteria for ITF applications since 2011 so that in assessing a project proposal, besides putting emphasis on its scientific/technical component, consideration was also given to the holistic plan of realization/commercialization so as to encourage and identify projects with greater prospect of realization/commercialization. CIT further advised that biotechnology, Chinese medicine and environmental technology were three important areas which the Administration had seen an increasing trend in the number of projects and funding approved in recent years.

Increasing resources for promoting innovation and technology development

17. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok noted that as at end-September 2014, the ITF had supported 4 187 projects with a total funding of some \$8.9 billion. He pointed out that although ITF had been in operation for some 15 years, on average less than \$1 billion a year would go to supporting innovation and technology development at this slow rate of spending. Ir Dr LO also said that Hong Kong's gross expenditure on R&D as a ratio to Gross Domestic Product at below 0.8% was low compared to other knowledge-based economies. He urged the Administration to step up its support in promoting the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong and said that Members of the Business and Professional Alliance for Hong Kong would support continuous injection of funds into the ITF.

18. Ms Emily LAU urged the Administration to increase resources to vigorously promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. She added that the Government should not be too conservative in supporting the innovation and technology sector for fear of criticism of transferring benefits to private companies, provided that an open and transparent mechanism was in place for vetting and assessment of project applications.

19. CIT responded that the Administration had strived to create a vibrant ecosystem with good software and hardware support for the key players to collaborate on R&D and innovation activities. Over the years, various enhancements were introduced to the ITF for creating a favourable ecology for innovation and technology development as well as for realization and commercialization of R&D results. The introduction of the new ESS would also help strengthen financial support for companies which conduct in-house R&D, thereby encouraging more private sector investment in innovation and technology.

20. CIT further advised that to ensure proper use of public fund, a structured assessment framework was established for vetting and assessing ITF applications

to identify projects that were not just meritorious in scientific or technology content, but also had a better prospect for realization/commercialization and ultimately benefitting the industry and/or community at large. Apart from the ITC, representatives from the academia, professional and industry were involved in assessing the applications to ensure an open and fair assessment.

21. In response to Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok's enquiry on whether the Administration would explore the need for setting up new R&D Centres in other focus areas, CIT advised that the funding for the operation of the existing R&D Centres had been approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council up to March 2017. The Administration would conduct another review of the R&D Centres in 2015 and would assess more comprehensively their performance and put forward recommendations with regard to their future operation as well as the need for setting up new R&D Centres.

22. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the current financial position and future financial arrangements of the ITF. CIT responded that as at end-September 2014, the uncommitted balance of the ITF was about \$0.2 billion and the cash balance was about \$1.3 billion. According to the Administration's latest cash flow forecast, the uncommitted balance of the ITF would be fully committed in around mid 2015 and the cash balance would be exhausted by early 2016. The Administration would consult the Panel on the future financial arrangements of the ITF in due course.

Admin 23. At the request of Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, CIT agreed to provide information on the respective amount of fund approved for the selected examples of R&D projects under various funding programmes of the ITF as listed in the Final Report on the Comprehensive Review on the ITF.

Nurturing and attracting talents

24. Mr SIN Chung-kai noted with concern that over 70% of postgraduate students in local universities, particularly of science, engineering and technology subjects, were Mainland students. He enquired how the Administration could retain these students to pursue a career in the innovation and technology sector in Hong Kong. Sharing a similar concern, Ms Emily LAU enquired about the Administration's efforts in attracting overseas research and innovation and technology talents to work in Hong Kong.

25. In response, CIT and DCIT advised that efforts had been made through various initiatives to nurture local R&D talents and attract overseas talents to work in Hong Kong so as to strengthen Hong Kong's R&D capabilities. As at 2012, the five R&D Centres set up under the ITF employed over 700 R&D and technology personnel, majority of them possessed a Master's or higher degree.

The number of R&D personnel in Hong Kong had also more than doubled, from around 11 000 to 25 000, between 2001 and 2012.

26. CIT and DCIT further advised that there had been feedback that for a postgraduate student working on a project of the University-Industry Collaboration Programme ("UICP") under the ITF as part of his/her doctoral degree, a project period of three years would be more in line with the usual timeframe for completing his/her doctorate. Moreover, allowing a student to work for the company for a longer duration would help groom the student to pursue a career in innovation and technology (e.g. joining the company after the project). Having regard to this, the Administration proposed to relax the timeframe for UICP projects from a maximum of two to three years. The Internship Programme under the General Support Programme of the ITF that provided financial support to organizations undertaking ITF-funded R&D projects to recruit local university graduates as interns also provided exposure and incentives to graduates to explore their interests and start a career in R&D. About 200 to 300 interns participated in the Internship Programme each year, and in the past three years, over 60% of the interns who finished their internship subsequently either found a job, or indicated interest in a future employment, in the R&D field. Furthermore, a new Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities was set up under the ITF in September 2014 to provide funding to six local universities to encourage their students and professors to start technology businesses and commercialize their R&D outcomes. All these initiatives would help to incentivize science, technology and engineering graduates to pursue a career in the innovation and technology sector.

27. CIT and DCIT added that the Administration would continue to encourage more private sector investment in R&D, including attracting multinational technology companies to set up R&D bases in Hong Kong, thereby creating more R&D and technology-related job opportunities.

Admin 28. At the request of Ms Emily LAU, DCIT agreed to provide statistics on the number of overseas research and innovation and technology-related personnel working in Hong Kong.

Development of HKSP

29. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was a member of the Board of Directors of HKSTPC. He pointed out that the innovation and technology sector was greatly disappointed at the proposed rezoning of a site of some eight hectares at Pak Shek Kok (East), originally reserved for the development of HKSP Phase 4, to residential use for medium-density private residential development. Despite that the Administration had reserved sites in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area ("NDA"), Lok Ma Chau Loop area and Hung Shui Kiu NDA for R&D and related uses, Ir Dr LO opined that expanding HKSP, where cluster

effect could be achieved, would be more conducive to the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong in the long run.

30. In response, CIT and DCIT advised that HKSP Phase 3 would be completed in stages between 2014 and 2016. Upon completion, the gross floor area of HKSP would increase by about 105 000 square metres to meet the demand for floor area arising from R&D activities up in the coming few years. The Administration and HKSTPC would closely monitor the occupancy rate of HKSP, and would continue to look for ways to make further optimal use of the existing land to meet the future development needs of HKSP. Given that the Pak Shek Kok site was not needed for the expansion of HKSP in the short to medium term while the community had a pressing need for housing land, the Administration considered it appropriate to rezone the site to residential use upon review of all relevant information.

Summing up

31. The Chairman concluded that the Panel affirmed the role of the ITF in promoting the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong and looked forward to the Administration's updates on the future financial arrangements of the ITF including bid for additional resources as fit. He called on the Administration to take note of members' views and ensure effective utilization of the ITF funding to support technology and R&D activities.

V. Application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

(LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(05) -- Administration's paper on consultation on proposed application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)

Presentation by the Administration

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Intellectual Property ("DIP") briefed members on the issues and arrangements of the three-month consultation on the proposed application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks ("Madrid Protocol") to Hong Kong, details of which had been set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)211/14-15(05)).

Discussion*Impact on the business of trade mark agents*

33. While appreciating that joining the Madrid System administered by the International Bureau ("IB") of the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO") would greatly simplify the process of seeking trademark registration and protection in multiple countries or jurisdictions and help foster the economic development of Hong Kong, Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the impact of the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong on the business of the local trade mark agents. In this connection, the Chairman enquired about the number of agents and lawyers engaged in trade mark registration business in Hong Kong who would be affected by the proposed implementation.

34. In response, DIP advised that about 80% of the 37 000 applications for trade mark registrations received last year were submitted through trade mark agents, a majority of them being legal practitioners. It was anticipated that the number of relevant applications would further increase to 39 000 this year. She said that while the adoption of the Madrid System was an international trend, some trade mark agents had reservation about the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong for fear that it would have an adverse impact on their business due to the possible decrease in the number of domestic applications made by foreign applicants in Hong Kong. DIP said that a study of overseas experience showed that subsequent to their joining the Madrid Protocol, some countries had experienced an overall increase in the number of applications for trade mark registration, both domestic and international applications, while some other countries had recorded an increasing number of international applications only. DIP added that the increase in international applications might result in more local trade mark agents and lawyers being engaged by foreign international applicants or registration holders in handling provisional refusals or oppositions and in undertaking legal work in connection with infringement actions and dispute settlements, thereby increasing the volume and value of work for the legal profession.

Enhancing trade mark protection and expediting trade mark registration process in Mainland China

35. Pointing out that some famous Hong Kong brands were unable to register their trade marks in Mainland China where trademark squatting was a common phenomenon, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired whether the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong could help address such a problem faced by Hong Kong enterprises. DIP advised that the Madrid System provided procedural convenience for trade mark applicants to register and manage their marks in multiple countries and jurisdictions. The registration requirements and the related disputes resolving mechanism in a particular country was subject

to the relevant local legislation and practice.

36. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired whether the application of the Madrid Protocol could help expedite the processing of applications for trade mark registration in Mainland China. DIP advised that the application of the Madrid System could generally help to speed up trademark registration process as it provided a specific timeframe for processing international applications by trade mark offices of the contracting parties. Under the Madrid Protocol, substantive examination of the trade mark was handled by the trade mark office of the particular designated contracting party ("Designated Office") in accordance with the respective local laws and procedures. Each Designated Office was required to notify the IB of WIPO of any refusal within the time limit specified in the Madrid Protocol. If no refusal was notified to the IB within the prescribed time limit, the protection of the mark in each designated contracting party was the same as if the mark had been registered by the trade mark office of that contracting party.

Reducing the costs of trade mark registrations

37. The Chairman and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired whether Hong Kong's joining of the Madrid System could help local enterprises save costs in trade mark registrations. DIP responded that under the Madrid System, applications for trade mark registrations in multiple jurisdictions could be done by simply filing a single international application in one language, paying one set of fees with the Office of Origin (the trade mark office where the basic mark was held) and designate one or more contracting parties in which the applicant wished to register his or her mark. This one-stop process of applying for trade mark registrations in multiple jurisdictions would dispense trade mark owners with filing an individual application in each jurisdiction in which protection was sought, thus enabling considerable savings in terms of time and costs. DIP added that the Intellectual Property Department ("IPD") would determine the fee levels of international applications under the Madrid System in accordance with the cost-recovery principle. The fees charged by the IPD on processing international applications designating Hong Kong under the Madrid System were expected to be lower than those on domestic applications as checks on formality and classification would be conducted centrally by IB of WIPO before the international application was sent to the designated contracting parties for further processing, and the trade mark owners concerned would need to pay only the costs of the substantive examinations to the individual trade mark offices.

Implementation timeframe and details

38. Noting that the three-month consultation was launched on 11 November 2014 and it would take some three to four years to implement the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong after a decision was made, the Chairman and Ms Emily LAU

expressed grave concern about the long lead time for implementation given that the proposal was not controversial and was beneficial to Hong Kong. They urged the Administration to compress the relevant work schedule and expedite the implementation such that Hong Kong could reap the benefits offered by the Madrid System early.

39. DIP said that if a decision was taken to go for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, amendments would have to be made to the existing Trade Marks Ordinance and Trade Marks Rules to accommodate international applications pursuant to the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong's legislation. Additional resources and manpower would also be required to modify and enhance the information technology infrastructure for receiving and handling international applications and post-registration matters and for training of staff. Moreover, the Administration would need to work out the implementation details of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong with the Mainland China Trademark Office ("CTMO") of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and IB of WIPO, for example, regarding the fees level, language requirements of incoming and outgoing international applications and the procedures for receiving and processing such applications. DIP said that subject to the progress of the discussion on implementation details with the relevant authorities, the Administration would strive to expedite the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong as far as practicable.

40. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the future operation of the Madrid System in Hong Kong given that Hong Kong was not a contracting party to the Madrid Protocol. He was particularly concerned about whether it was compulsory for trade mark owners in Hong Kong to apply for trade mark registrations in overseas countries through the Madrid System once the Madrid Protocol was applicable to Hong Kong, and whether such applications must be routed through CTMO as PRC, not Hong Kong, was the contracting party to the Madrid Protocol.

41. DIP clarified that implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong just provided an additional pathway for Hong Kong trade mark owners to apply for trade mark registrations in multiple jurisdictions through a one-stop process available under the Madrid System. Notwithstanding the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, trade mark owners in Hong Kong could still choose to file separate applications for trade mark registration directly with the concerned overseas trade mark offices. In the event that the Madrid Protocol was applied to Hong Kong, trade mark applicants who wished to seek trademark registration in overseas countries under the Madrid System should submit their international applications to the Trade Mark Registry ("TMR") of IPD, not CTMO, to certify that the relevant applications fell within the scopes of the basic marks before the international applications were forwarded to IB of WIPO for checks on formality and classification. As the substantive examination of the trade mark

under the Madrid Protocol was to be handled by the trade mark office of the particular designated contracting party in accordance with the respective local laws and procedures, international applications seeking trade mark registrations in Hong Kong would be assessed in accordance with Hong Kong's trade mark law and subject to the approval of TMR of IPD. That said, details of the future implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong, including the procedures for receiving and processing of incoming and outgoing international applications, as well as communication between IPD and IB, would have to be further discussed and agreed with CTMO and IB.

42. Given that the Mainland China, not Hong Kong, was the contracting party to the Madrid Protocol and the counterpart of IB was CTMO and not IPD, Mr SIN Chung-kai said that the Administration should set out clearly the work flow regarding the processing of international applications under the Madrid System when submitting the relevant legislative proposals on the implementation of the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong to the Legislative Council. DIP took note of the suggestion.

Summing up

43. The Chairman said that the Panel noted that the proposed implementation of the Madrid Protocol would be in the overall interest of Hong Kong. He urged the Administration to take into account the views and comments received from the public and the stakeholders during the consultation and to expedite the application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong as far as practicable.

VI. Any other business

44. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:28 pm.