立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)838/18-19 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/PL/ITB

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 18 February 2019, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present: Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Claudia MO

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon CHAN Chun-ying

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Members absent : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan

Member attending: Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Public officers attending

: Agenda item IV

Innovation and Technology Bureau

Mr Nicholas YANG Wei-hsiung, GBS, JP Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Mr Davey CHUNG Pui-hong, JP Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Technology (2)

Mr Victor LAM Wai-kiu, JP Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Jason PUN Si-keung

Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Cyber Security and Digital Identity)

Agenda item V

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Edward YAU, GBS, JP Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Mr Clement LEUNG, JP

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries)

Ms Julina CHAN, JP

Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries)

Mr Keith GIANG

Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries)A

Office of the Communications Authority

Mr Chaucer LEUNG

Deputy Director-General of Communications (Telecommunications)

Clerk in attendance : Mr Daniel SIN

Chief Council Secretary (1)6

Staff in attendance: Ms Mandy LI

Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Mr Patrick CHOI

Council Secretary (1)6

Miss Yolanda CHEUK Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(1)588/18-19 -- Minutes of meeting held on

10 December 2018)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 were confirmed.

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

(LC Paper No. CB(1)498/18-19(01) -- Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-

kong's letter dated 21 January 2019 on withdrawal of membership (Chinese version

only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)502/18-19(01) -- Hon Christopher CHEUNG

Wah-fung's letter dated 23 January 2019 on withdrawal of membership

(Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)542/18-19(01)

Joint letter dated 25 January 2019 from Hon James TO Kun-sun, Hon Charles Peter MOK and Hon Alvin YEUNG requesting the Administration to give an account of its decision to defer the agenda item on "Assignment spectrum for fifth generation mobile services" (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1)554/18-19(01)

"Guide to Filming in Hong Kong 2019/2020" provided by the Film Services Office under Create Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)580/18-19(01)

Administration's written response dated 13 February 2019 to the joint letter dated 25 January 2019 from Hon James TO Kun-sun, Charles Peter MOK and Hon Alvin YEUNG [LC Paper No. CB(1)542/18-19(01)]

2. Members noted that the above papers had been issued for the Panel's information.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(01) -- List of outstanding items for

discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(02)

-- List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 11 March 2019

- 3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 11 March 2019 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:
 - Proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer (a)

Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong; and

- (b) Update on smart city development.
- 4. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the Administration might seek the Panel's views on funding proposals on new initiatives relating to innovation and technology following the Financial Secretary's presentation of the 2019-2020 Budget on 27 February 2019. The agenda for the next regular meeting might need to be revised.

(*Post-meeting note*: As proposed by the Administration after the meeting and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the Panel would discuss an item "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" at the regular meeting on 11 March 2019, and discussion on the item "Update on Smart City Development" had been deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 16 April 2019.)

Discussion on the item "Assignment of spectrum for fifth generation mobile services"

- 5. The Deputy Chairman said that he had submitted a joint letter with Mr James TO and Mr Alvin YEUNG on 25 January 2019 regarding the Administration's decision to defer the discussion on "Assignment of spectrum for fifth generation mobile services" (LC Paper No. CB(1)542/18-19(01)) and replace it by "Digital terrestrial television analogue switch-off". He said that the item on spectrum assignment seemed more urgent than analogue switch-off ("ASO") as it involved legislative amendments and he queried whether any delay in the process might affect the spectrum auctions to be conducted in around mid-2019, and the roll out of the fifth generation ("5G") telecommunication networks and services.
- 6. <u>Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development</u> ("SCED") advised that it was the Administration's intention to announce the Chief Executive in Council's decision on ASO as soon as possible, and to brief the Panel on the arrangements early so that stakeholders could make their preparation in advance. <u>SCED</u> also advised that the Panel would be briefed on the assignment of spectrum for 5G mobile services in due course.

<u>Proposed joint-Panel duty visit to the major cities in the Yangtze River Delta Region</u>

7. <u>The Chairman</u> said that views were sought from members of the Panel on Economic Development, Panel on Commerce and Industry, Panel on

Financial affairs and this Panel on 18 January 2019, vide LC Paper No. CB(4)427/18-19, on whether they agreed to conduct a joint-Panel duty visit to the major cities in the Yangtze River Delta Region. Among the 42 members, replies were received from 25 members, of whom 23 members agreed to conduct the visit while two members had no comments. The secretariat would draw up a proposed itinerary for consideration by the relevant Panels accordingly.

IV. Update on information security

(LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(03)

-- Administration's paper on the update on information security

LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(04)

Paper on information security prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

Briefing by the Administration

8. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Secretary for Innovation and Technology</u> ("S for IT") briefed members on the latest overall situation of information security in Hong Kong and Government's work in information security. Details of the briefing were given in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(03)).

Discussion

Overall situation of information security

9. Referring to the Administration's statistics on the security incidents and technology crimes, Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre ("HKCERT") received 10 081 security incident reports in 2018, the majority of which belonged to one of the three main categories, i.e. botnet (3 783 cases), malware (3 181 cases) and phishing (2 101 cases). Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") recorded a total of 7 838 technology crime cases. He enquired about the difference between the two sets of statistics compiled by HKCERT and HKPF and whether there was overlap between them. Mr CHAN also queried why HKPF had not published statistics on hacker intrusion as HKCERT had.

- 10. <u>S for IT</u> said that the number of cases reported in HKCERT's statistics were "security incidents" which might or might not involve a crime as defined in the law. <u>Government Chief Information Officer</u> ("GCIO") advised that there might be overlap in HKCERT and HKPF's statistics. For example, among the 47 hacking activities recorded by HKPF, some involved hacker intrusion/web defacement incidents handled by HKCERT which might be included in the latter's statistics. He added that some of the security incidents such as malware attacks were referred to HKCERT by its overseas counterparts rather than being reported by victims.
- 11. <u>Mr CHAN Chun-ying</u> noted that HKPF recorded three e-banking fraud cases in 2018. He enquired about the difference between those cases and other online fraud cases. <u>GCIO</u> responded that the three cases under the category of "e-banking fraud" were related to e-banking sector directly.

Measures to strengthen information security management of enterprises

- 12. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the rising trend in information security incidents and technology crime in Hong Kong in 2018. He commented that local enterprises should stay vigilant and take proper security precautionary measures to protect their computer equipment and data assets. The Deputy Chairman asked what public education and publicity measures the Administration would implement to raise the awareness of local enterprises on information security. The Deputy Chairman further suggested that the Administration should provide additional resources support for local small and medium enterprises ("SMEs"), such as providing a subsidy of \$100,000 for each SME, to improve its security system on top of the assistance under the Technology Voucher Programme ("TVP").
- 13. <u>S for IT</u> said that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") launched in September 2018 the first local cross-sector platform (Cybersechub.hk) under the Pilot Partnership Programme for Cyber Security Information Sharing ("Pilot Partnership Programme") to enhance Hong Kong's overall defence and resilience against cyber attacks. As at the end of 2018, more than 100 organizations had joined the Pilot Partnership Programme.
- 14. <u>S for IT</u> said that the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("I&TB") was exploring with the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited ("HKIRC") on how best to enhance technical support such as website vulnerability scanning for local organizations including SMEs with websites registered under the ".hk" domain. Apart from engaging HKCERT to publish useful guidelines such as "Seven Habits of Cyber Security for SMEs", OGCIO

would continue to disseminate the latest security advice through social media and collaborate with key players in the Internet infrastructure to promote best security practices as part of a wider effort to maintain Hong Kong as a safe digital city.

- 15. The Deputy Chairman suggested that I&TB should explore with the relevant departments such as Social Welfare Department on providing subsidies to non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to strengthen information security. Social for IT explained that HKIRC was committed to serving the local Internet community, and its new initiative would help SMEs and NGOs with websites registered under the ".hk" domain cope with potential information security risks. Having regard to the experience gained from this initiative, the Administration would consider how to enhance support measures for other SMEs and organizations without ".hk" websites. Social for IT stressed that concerted efforts and collaboration from all enterprises and organizations were crucial in preventing cyber attacks and enhancing information security.
- 16. <u>The Chairman</u> expressed concerns over the security risks in older point-of-sale ("POS") systems. She said that owners of POS systems might be able to store a large amount of personal data, and some of the obsolete POS systems were prone to hacker attacks and data theft. <u>The Chairman</u> asked how the Administration would tackle the security issue. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> echoed the Chairman's view.
- 17. <u>GCIO</u> responded that HKCERT had been collaborating with relevant industry associations to publicize the importance of cyber security and promote information security best practices, etc. OGCIO would explore with HKCERT on ways to further enhance the cyber security awareness of the retail industry in the coming year.

Pilot Partnership Programme for Cyber Security Information Sharing

- 18. <u>The Chairman</u> enquired about the sectors or industries of the 100 organizations that had joined the Pilot Partnership Programme. <u>Mr WONG Ting-kwong</u> made a similar enquiry. He asked what the objectives of the Pilot Partnership Programme were and whether the scope of the Programme would be extended to cover other industries.
- 19. <u>S for IT</u> and <u>GCIO</u> responded that the participant organizations of the Pilot Partnership Programme included: network security companies, information technology ("IT") and security services vendors, tertiary institutions, financial and insurance companies, IT professional associations, telecommunications companies, Internet service providers, critical infrastructure operators, and the

two local Computer Emergency Response Teams. Through the platform, members of the Pilot Partnership Programme could share information on cyber security threats, mitigation solutions, best practices, etc., and disseminate relevant information to the public in a timely manner. <u>S for IT</u> and <u>GCIO</u> advised that OGCIO would continue to encourage more companies and organizations from various sectors to join the Pilot Partnership Programme.

Technology Voucher Programme

- 20. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked how much of the subsidies granted under TVP were used by SMEs in improving information security, whether SMEs had the knowledge and expertise of purchasing the right information security solutions that suit their needs, and whether they had difficulties in coming up with the fund to match the subsidies from the Government under TVP.
- 21. <u>S for IT</u> indicated that TVP had demonstrated to be useful to support SMEs in using technological services and solutions to improve productivity, upgrade or transform business processes and enhance information security. <u>GCIO</u> added that the TVP Committee had received about 1 000 applications so far, of which about 130 applications related to information security were approved, representing a seven-fold increase over last year. It was evident that there were more SMEs making applications under TVP to improve security of information systems.

Measures to tackle cyber security threats in Government

22. Mr CHAN Chun-ying pointed out that many commercial organizations engaged hackers to test the robustness of their systems. He asked whether the Administration would adopt similar measures to identify areas of improving its security system. S for IT confirmed that the Government had conducted ethical hacking on its systems and, at the same time, conducted risk assessments on a regular basis and implemented multiple layers of security measures, including firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems.

Human resources in information security

23. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the Administration had introduced the Technology Talent Admission Scheme to expedite the admission of technology talent to undertake research and development activities in Hong Kong. He asked what other measures the Administration would implement to attract overseas information security talent to work in Hong Kong. GCIO responded that the first Talent List of Hong Kong included 11 professions, including experienced cyber security specialist, who could contribute to the development

of Hong Kong as a high value-added and diversified economy. This would facilitate overseas talents in information security coming to and developing their career in Hong Kong.

- 24. <u>Mr WONG Ting-kwong</u> observed that large corporations such as local financial institutions and airlines often downsize their IT departments and then outsourced IT service to a third party service to save costs. <u>Mr WONG</u> expressed concern about security risks associated with outsourced IT projects/services, and the impact on the overall level of information security in Hong Kong.
- 25. <u>S for IT</u> responded that to enhance the overall information security in Hong Kong, the Government attached great importance to cultivating a collaborative culture among local industries for sharing of cyber security information. The Administration also encouraged tertiary education institutions to offer more information security training courses in relevant disciplines to nurture more talents.
- 26. The Deputy Chairman relayed the concerns of IT practitioners that the scope of the Continuing Education Fund ("CEF") did not cover the examination fees of professional qualifications in IT occupations. He suggested that the Labour and Welfare Bureau should consider expanding the scope of CEF subsidy to cover the examination fees for professional qualifications with a view to enhancing knowledge and skills of IT practitioners in the area of information security.

Public awareness and education

- 27. The Chairman expressed concerns on the recent incidents involving leakage of customer data owned by large corporations such as TransUnion Limited ("TransUnion") and Cathay Pacific. She held the view that cyber crimes had become increasingly serious but the information security awareness among local enterprises, especially SMEs, was inadequate. The Chairman asked how the Administration would strengthen cyber security and support to SMEs. She suggested the Administration should disseminate messages and short videos of cyber security through mobile devices.
- 28. <u>GCIO</u> advised that OGCIO and HKCERT had produced several series of promotional messages on information security issues that were commonly encountered by SMEs such as email frauds, malware, etc. for dissemination through various channels like social and electronic media. A series was actually being broadcast on the radio. To raise public awareness against cyber frauds, OGCIO, HKPF and HKCERT organized a series of promotional activities in

- 2018. OGCIO would continue to disseminate other information security messages to the public through various promotional channels.
- 29. <u>GCIO</u> further said that in the 2017/2018 school year, OGCIO collaborated with professional bodies to organize school visits to enhance the knowledge of information security and promote the correct attitude towards the use of the Internet for over 9 100 teachers and students. As of December 2018, OGCIO had conveyed information security messages to more than 5 900 teachers and students in the current school year.
- 30. As regards the progress of the second round of cyber security campaign launched by HKPF in 2018, Mr CHAN Chun-ying enquired about (a) the number of downloads of mobile anti-virus and scanning software; (b) whether the feedback from members of the public was positive; and (c) whether, upon the completion of the campaign, the Administration would continue to provide free malware cleaning and removal tools for the public to protect their mobile devices. GCIO advised that HKPF would continue with the on-going efforts in raising public awareness in protection of mobile smart devices. He undertook to ask HKPF to provide information requested by Mr CHAN after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note*: The Administration's response was circulated to members on 19 March 2019, vide LC Paper No. CB(1)735/18-19(01).)

Legislative review

- 31. The Chairman noted that arising from recent data breach incidents, there were views that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") should introduce legislation to specifically regulate online privacy and related issues. She asked about the roles the Administration and OGCIO would play in formulating legislation on online privacy. The Chairman said that the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") adopted by the European Union involved new provisions requiring data processors or controllers to implement technical measures to ensure compliance with data protection regimes overseas. She expected that PCPD would take into account the views of OGCIO and the possible impact of the new regulatory framework for data protection in GDPR when drafting the legislative proposal.
- 32. <u>S for IT</u> advised that the Government would review the relevant laws from time to time and introduce amendments as necessary. Relevant departments would also monitor closely the latest trends of technology crimes in Hong Kong. In addition, a sub-committee under the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong commenced a study on cybercrime in January 2019. As regards the recent incident concerning the leakage of consumer credit data maintained

- by TransUnion, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with PCPD, was reviewing the relevant provisions and penalties under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), and would consider how the regulatory framework could be enhanced, in particular with respect to data breach notification. OGCIO would provide technical advice as necessary.
- 33. The Chairman said that children might be particularly vulnerable in the age of 5G technology and Internet of Things, as they were more susceptible to being tracked by hackers. She quoted an overseas case where hackers infringed upon the privacy of children through Internet-connected toys and harassed them. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation similar to the data protection rules of the United States to protect children's privacy.

V. Digital terrestrial television – analogue switch-off

(File Ref.: CCIB/A 200-10-40/1(C)

-- Legislative Council Brief on Digital Terrestrial Television – Analogue Switch-off issued by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on 11 February 2019

LC Paper No. CB(1)564/18-19(05)

Paper on the implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

Briefing by the Administration

34. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>SCED</u> briefed members on the plan of switching off analogue television ("TV") services and said that Hong Kong would enter an era of full digital TV broadcast on 1 December 2020. <u>SCED</u> said that with the coverage and penetration rates of digital terrestrial TV ("DTT") broadcasting services reaching 99% and 88% respectively, it was the right time for the Administration to confirm the date for ASO so as to allow sufficient time for the public to make necessary preparation. <u>SCED</u> said that a total of

160 MHz of spectrum vacated after ASO could be deployed initially for indoor mobile services in Hong Kong, which could help relieve the congested indoor mobile hotspots and support the overall telecommunications services.

Discussion

Digital terrestrial television assistance scheme

- 35. <u>Members</u> noted that the Administration intended to seek funding from the Community Care Fund ("CCF") and engage a partner NGO to launch a DTT Assistance Scheme ("the Scheme") to help households in financial difficulties access free TV infotainment after ASO. The Scheme would subsidize an eligible household to replace an analogue TV set with a basic model digital TV set, or add a "set-top" box. <u>Members</u> also noted that there were about 180 000 analogue TV households in Hong Kong, and that about 160 000 households might benefit from the Scheme.
- 36. Mr CHAN Chun-ying and Mr Alvin YEUNG surmised that the 180 000 households who still used analogue TV sets were mostly financially in need. They asked why there were 20 000 of these households who might not be eligible for assistance under the Scheme. Mr CHAN also asked what qualified for a "basic model digital TV set" under the Scheme.
- 37. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) ("PS(CCI)") said that, according to a survey conducted in late 2017, about 180 000 households were estimated to be receiving analogue TV services only. According to the survey, respondents who had not switched to digital TV services cited different reasons, and not necessarily due to a lack of means. For example, some chose to keep their old analogue TV sets because they seldom watched TV, some said that their TV sets were still functional, while others said that they usually watched TV programmes online using computers or mobile devices.
- 38. <u>PS(CCI)</u> added that under the Scheme, eligible households would receive assistance to either replace their analogue TV set with a basic model digital TV set or install a "set-top" box to their existing TV set. The Administration would consult the CCF Task Force and Commission on Poverty ("CoP") on the implementation details, including the specification of a "basic model digital TV set".
- 39. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed the implementation of ASO. She hoped that following ASO, spectrum could be vacated and re-assigned as early as possible for the development of the fifth generation mobile services. As regards the DTT

Assistance Scheme, the Chairman expressed concerns about the application procedures and arrangements which should not be too onerous. The Chairman added that many locals were already making enquiries to District Council ("DC") members about the Scheme and she expected that most elders would turn to local DC members for help. She asked when the Administration would publicize the relevant details regarding eligibility and application procedures so that DC members could make necessary preparations to help the applicants.

- 40. <u>SCED</u> advised that the Administration had announced the ASO date being end-November 2020. People who were still receiving analogue TV services would have 21 months to switch to digital TV services at their own pace. Meanwhile, the Administration would work out the eligibility criteria, the level and kind of assistance to be provided and the estimated financial implication of the Scheme for the CCF funding application. The Administration would then enlist the support of suitable NGOs to implement the Scheme.
- 41. The Chairman asked whether a household in financial needs but had no TV set at home could benefit from the Scheme. SCED explained that the Scheme aimed at helping needy analogue TV households to continue to have access to free TV infotainment after ASO and thus providing assistance to them to switch to digital TV services. As for households which had no TV set at home, SCED added that there were a number of organizations in Hong Kong which run charity programmes that gave away refurbished TV sets to people in need.
- 42. <u>Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok</u> commented that the DTT Assistance Scheme should be simple to operate, convenient to the target beneficiaries, and that its implementation should not incur excessive public expenditure. Technical support should also be provided to eligible applicants as necessary. <u>SCED</u> responded that the Administration would consult the CCF Task Force and CoP on the implementation details. The Administration would implement the Scheme through NGOs as they had established a wide service network in the community and it would be more effective for these organizations to reach out to, and to assess the needs of, the potential beneficiaries of the Scheme.

Frequency coordination with the Mainland and consultation with the trade

43. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the implementation of ASO and the Scheme. He commented that ASO would enable the vacated spectrum to be released for other mobile telecommunications services, and the Scheme could help bridge digital divide in the community. While the Deputy Chairman understood that when the vacated spectrum could be reassigned after ASO would depend on further coordination with Mainland authorities, he asked how

the Administration could ensure that the planned use of vacated spectrum would proceed at the earliest opportunity without delay. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> also asked whether the Administration would consult the public and the telecommunications sector on the use of the 160 MHz of spectrum in the 600/700 MHz bands vacated after ASO.

44. <u>SCED</u> advised that as the 160 MHz of spectrum in the 600/700 MHz bands vacated after ASO would be re-assigned for indoor mobile services initially, this could proceed on its own while the coordination work with the Mainland continued. <u>PS(CCI)</u> added that the Administration and the Office of the Communications Authority would conduct public consultation on the use of the 160 MHz of spectrum in the 600/700 MHz bands initially for indoor mobile services in accordance with the established practice.

Catching up on full digital terrestrial television broadcast

- 45. Noting that Hong Kong had been simulcasting digital and analogue TV services for more than 10 years while places such as Japan and Taiwan had already fully switched to DTT broadcasting in as early as 2011 or 2012, Mr KWONG Chun-yu queried whether Hong Kong was behind world trend in DTT broadcasting and needed to catch up. SCED maintained that the implementation of ASO in late 2020 was appropriate, taking into account the relevant considerations namely, the impact of ASO to the public and the use of spectrum vacated after ASO.
- 46. <u>SCED</u> explained that the DTT coverage had reached 99% and the DTT penetration rate was about 88%. Coupled with the Administration's Scheme to help households in need to switch to digital TV sets or add "set-top" boxes to receive DTT services, implementing ASO in 2020 would cause minimal impact on the public. Furthermore, the vacated spectrum, which was a valuable public resource, would not be left idle but would be re-assigned for enhancing indoor hotspots and network capacity of indoor mobile telecommunications services. Announcing ASO now, which was 21 months ahead of its target date, would allow sufficient time for relevant stakeholders to make the necessary preparation.
- 47. Mr Alvin YEUNG noted that there were still pockets of area where people could not receive DTT signals. He asked whether the Administration would extend coverage to these areas. SCED replied that the Administration had been putting continuous efforts to improve the DTT coverage. Any person could report TV signal coverage issues to the Administration for follow-up.

Viewership of traditional television broadcast

- Mrs Regina IP asked whether the Administration had examined the behaviour of TV audience as she understood that many young people nowadays did not watch TV. PS(CCI) said that the survey conducted in 2017 on the DTT penetration rate had also made some observation of respondents' habit in watching TV. According to the survey, a significant portion of respondents who did not own TV sets or were still receiving analogue TV services reported that they obtained infotainment from mobile devices or through other channels instead. SCED added that the survey also showed that among those who had no TV sets, only about 6% of the respondents said they had financial difficulties in buying new digital TV sets.
- 49. In response to a further enquiry from Mrs Regina IP, <u>PS(CCI)</u> said that the RTHK's analogue TV channels would cease after ASO while two simulcasting TV channels would continue to be broadcast via DTT services.

VI. Any other business

50. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:08 pm.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
2 April 2019