Legislative Council

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of Issues to be considered
(As at February 2002)

<u>Items</u>	<u>Tentatively scheduled for discussion in</u>
1. Cyberport The Administration has reported and will continue to report mile-stone-based progress of the Cyberport project to the Panel periodically. The Panel was briefed on the project on 12 June 2000, 11 December 2000 and 9 July 2001. The Administration will report to the Panel in due course the profile of Cyberport tenants, the institutional arrangements for future management of the Cyberport etc. The Administration has proposed to give progress reports in February and July 2002.	February and July 2002
2. The Administration of Internet Domain Names in Hong Kong The Administration has agreed to brief Members on the latest development in respect of the administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong, including the progress of the implementation of new Internet domain name registration policies and the setting up of a new non-profit making and non-statutory corporation to be responsible for the overall administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong.	February 2002
3. Review of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance The Administration has undertaken to inform and seek the views of Members on a public consultation paper on the review of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance to be issued by ITBB.	March/April 2002[*]
4. Community IT User Support Service Proposed by the Administration to brief Members on the joint initiative by the Government and the Hong Kong Computer Society to set up a call centre to provide assistance to members of the community in the use of computer and common applications.	March/April 2002*

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[*] The meeting where the item will be discussed will be subject to confirmation nearer the time.

Items	**Tentatively scheduled for discussion in**
5. Proposed Regulation of Mergers and Acquisitions Activities in the Telecommunications Market	March/April 2002[*]

The Administration has suggested to brief Members on the outcome of the consultation on proposed regulation of mergers and acquisitions activities in the telecommunications market.

6. Domestic Free Television Programme Service Licence Renewal	April/May 2002*

Proposed by the Administration to brief Members on the major issues to be reviewed in connection with the renewal of ATV and TVB's domestic free television programme service licences.

7. Digital Broadcasting	April/May 2002*

Discussed on 11 December 2000. The consultation on digital terrestrial broadcasting in Hong Kong ended on 28 February 2001. Hon David CHU has suggested that the Administration should consider adopting the Mainland's standard having regard that many Hong Kong TV programmes are also broadcast there. The Administration has undertaken to brief Members on the way forward for digital terrestrial broadcasting and digital audio broadcasting.

8. Digital Divide	April/May 2002*

The Administration will brief Members on the progress of existing initiatives and new measures to address the issue of digital divide.

9. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation in Information and Communications Technology	April/May 2002*

Proposed by the Administration to report on the Administration's MOU activities with other countries.

10. IT Manpower	April/May 2002*

The Administration will report to the Panel the progress of implementing the measures recommended in the Report of the Task Force on IT Manpower.

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[*] The meeting where the item will be discussed will be subject to confirmation nearer the time.

Items	Tentatively scheduled for discussion in

11. Progress Report on Promotion of In-building Access of Telecommunications Services

May/June/July 2002*

Last discussed in December 2001. The Administration will update the Panel the progress of promotion of in-building access of telecommunications services.

12. Promotion of IT Adoption in the Business Sector

May/June/July 2002*

Proposed by the Administration to brief Members on the measures taken by the Government to promote and assist IT adoption in the business sector, in particular SMEs.

13. Review of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance

May/June/July 2002*

The Administration has agreed to brief Members on the comments received during the public consultation and the Administration's revised proposals, formulated having taken into account the comments received, to update and improve the Ordinance.

14. Digital Entertainment

May/June/July 2002*

The Administration will brief the Panel on the development of digital entertainment in Hong Kong.

15. Coverage of mobile services network

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Proposed by Hon Albert CHAN who commented that the roll-out of mobile services network lags behind the in-take of population in new districts. As such, there is no service coverage in some newly completed residential estates in these area. An information paper provided by the Administration was issued to members on 21 January 2002 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)868/01-02.

16. Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO)

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The Panel discussed the captioned review on 8 May 2000, which proposed improvements to the COIAO to address community concerns and the inadequacies of the current classification system. The Panel also received deputations on the subject at its meeting held on 20 June 2000. As reported

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Items	**Tentatively scheduled for discussion in**

by the Administration, over 3,700 submissions were received during the consultation. The Administration is studying the submissions and is carefully considering whether and if so, how the policy proposals should be revised so as to strike a proper balance between protecting public morals and our youths from obscene and indecent materials and preserving freedom of expression and free flow of information. The Administration will brief the Panel before introducing any legislative amendments to implement the revised proposals.

17. Encouraging software development in Hong Kong

To be decided by the Panel

During the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members' meeting with Yau Tsim Mong District Council (YTMDC) members on 24 May 2001, some YTMDC members expressed concern about the monopolization of the Hong Kong market by the copyright owners of patented computer software. LegCo Members attending the meeting suggested that the Panel might consider whether the Government and non-government organizations should take the lead to design software for PC platform of their own, or use non-patented software for PC platform, so as to break the market monopoly posed by patented software for PC platform and encourage the development of computer software. Members may wish to consider whether to discuss the item.

18. E-government Programme

July 2002*

At the Panel meeting held on 14 January 2002, the Administration was requested to submit a progress report on the E-government programme in six months' time.

Legislative Council Secretariat
February 2002

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* The meeting where the item will be discussed will be subject to confirmation nearer the time.