

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 6 October 2003)

Telecommunications

Proposed timing for discussion*

1. Consultation paper on draft merger guidelines for Hong Kong telecommunications markets

To be decided

As agreed at the meeting of the Bills Committee on Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2002, the Administration would brief the Panel on the outcome of the consultation on the draft merger guidelines for Hong Kong telecommunications markets before the guidelines were issued. A special meeting to receive the deputations and to discuss with the Administration was arranged to be held on 29 September 2003 for the purpose.

However, subsequently, some telecommunications operators have requested to extend the deadline of submissions to the Panel and to defer the meeting on 29 September 2003 to allow them more time to prepare their responses. Having considered the matter, the Panel Chairman has agreed to defer the meeting to a later date. (LC Paper No. CB(1)2453/02-03)

2. Broadband Internet services

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Hon SIN Chung-kai who would like the Administration to brief the Panel on the number and nature of complaints received on the provision of broadband Internet services, the relevant complaint handling procedures and the review of the related legislation regarding broadband Internet service.

3. Review of the policy and regulatory regime for Type II Interconnection

To be confirmed

The Administration has briefed the Panel on issues set out in the consultation paper on the review of the regulatory policy for Type II interconnection on 9 June 2003. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel on its proposals after first round consultation by late 2003.

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

4. Labelling Scheme for hand-held mobile phones

Early 2004

To ensure that mobile telephone being marketed in Hong Kong meet the international standards on radiation safety, the Administration has implemented a voluntary labelling Scheme from 1 April 2003 to facilitate consumers' choice on mobile phone. Hon Fred LI has raised a question on the subject at the Council meeting held on 14 May 2003. It has been proposed that the Administration should review the implementation of the scheme with the Panel, preferably in about six months' time.

The Administration has just advised that OFTA would require more time to see the effect of the scheme and to gauge the market response. Hence, it proposes to review the scheme with the panel in early 2004.

IT-related issues

5. Review of 2001 Digital 21 Strategy

October /
November 2003

The Government is now reviewing the Digital 21 Strategy promulgated in May 2001 with a view to updating it to further drive IT development in Hong Kong. The Administration intends to conduct a public consultation on the direction, focus and major initiatives of the new Strategy. When ready, the Administration would like to brief Members on the review and seek Members' views on the consultation paper.

6. Building a digitally inclusive society and related issues

November 2003

Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong proposes the Panel to discuss issues related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and to invite deputations to present views to the Panel (vide attached letter [in English only]).

The Panel has previously discussed with deputations on the issue of digital divide and building a digitally inclusive society on 14 May 2001 and reviewed with the Administration its subsequent actions on 9 July 2001 and 13 May 2002. The Panel Chairman has advised that to follow up, the Panel may invite further views from these deputations on issues related to building a digitally inclusive society, as well as other issues related to the WSIS. As usual, a general notice will be posted on the Council's web site to invite submissions from all interested parties. The Administration will also be invited to inform the Panel of its work, as well as its involvement in WSIS.

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

7. E-government Programme

January 2004

At the Panel meeting on 21 July 2003, the Administration was requested to review the progress in relation to e-utilization targets for E-government programme and include the information in its next progress report in January 2004.

8. Progress of Cyberport Project

January 2004

Last discussed on 21 July 2003. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel again on the progress of Cyberport Project in January 2004.

Broadcasting and film services

9. Digital Broadcasting

Late 2003/Early
2004

Last 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.

The Administration's information paper on 'Progress of the Formulation of Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting Policy' was issued to members on 2 July 2002 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2183/01-02.

10. Sound broadcasting service

To be confirmed

When considering issues relating to sound broadcasting licence renewal at the Panel meeting on 27 June 2003, the Administration was requested to brief the Panel on the feasibility of opening up more radio channels, including a channel for the public, in due course.

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

11. Issues of concern to the development of film industry

March 2004

At the Panel meeting held on 4 March 2003, the Administration was requested to brief the Panel on issues relating to the development of the film industry in about a year's time.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 October 2003

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