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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 12 April 2010

**Updated background brief on public service broadcasting and
the future of Radio Television Hong Kong**

Purpose

This paper summarizes previous discussions by Members in following up the review on public service broadcasting (PSB) and the future of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK).

Background

2. Broadcasting is often regarded as the most pervasive and powerful instrument to promote the expression of views and core values, as well as to enhance the quality of citizens' life. In the face of the challenges on the economic development of Hong Kong, it is most important that residents of Hong Kong do not solely rely on commercial broadcasters to provide the exposure and values that they would need for the betterment of Hong Kong. In many countries, PSB plays an important part in developing citizens' knowledge, broadening their horizons and enriching the quality of life. In Hong Kong, there is no clear policy on PSB. RTHK, a government department undertaking the role of a public service broadcaster, is caught between the need of the community for greater development in PSB, and the concern about the lack of accountability over RTHK's use of public resources and over the editorial independence given to it.

3. With the continuous changes in the broadcasting market and rising community expectation in recent years, the Government has considered that there is an urgent need to examine the pertinent issues relating to the development of PSB in Hong Kong, and to formulate a clear policy framework for PSB in facilitating both its future development and that of the broadcasting industry. As such, the Chief Executive appointed in January 2006 a Review Committee, comprising seven non-official professionals from the broadcasting and related industries, to study in depth and comprehensively the future development of PSB in Hong Kong.

Previous discussions

4. Issues related to Hong Kong's overall broadcasting policy have received ongoing attention by Members and motions on the subject matter were debated at the Council meetings on 18 February 2004, 8 February and 1 November 2006. Members shared concerns about the need to review Hong Kong's broadcasting policy and urged the Administration to take into account a number of key principles in developing PSB in Hong Kong.

Study of Public Service Broadcasting for Hong Kong

5. Over the years, the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (the Panel) attached great importance to the development of PSB in Hong Kong, in particular the role of RTHK in the delivery of PSB. However, the development of PSB in Hong Kong was quite limited. Other than the services provided by RTHK through its seven radio channels and some allocated airtime on commercial channels, the Panel did not see any clear policy on PSB and how it was going to develop to meet public expectations and demands. In view of the Government's appointment of the Review Committee in 2006 to undertake a fundamental and critical review of PSB and its future development, the Panel invited the Chairman and several members of the Review Committee to Panel meetings in March and August 2006 to explain the scope of the review and the work plan, and also exchange views with members and deputations.

6. The Panel conducted an overseas duty visit to Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom where there had been marked developments in their PSB systems. The Panel published a report in October 2006 on its observations and recommendations on the way forward for PSB in Hong Kong with a view to providing useful reference on how PSB could be taken forward in Hong Kong. In brief, the Panel considered that the future PSB system in Hong Kong should be founded on the core principles of "universality", "diversity", "independence" and "distinctiveness", while "editorial independence" was the core value of a public service broadcaster. The future public service broadcaster, if set up as an independent statutory body, could operate independently of the Government, free from political and commercial interferences and be accountable to the public. The Panel also considered that Hong Kong should have at least one public service broadcaster which was supported mainly by public resources to provide full-fledged services. The Panel also explored other issues including funding sources, corporate governance, accountability requirements and programming of the future public service broadcaster, competition and the opening up of the airwaves. Details of the Panel's deliberations are given in the Panel's Report on the Study of Public Service Broadcasting for Hong Kong in October 2006.

The role and future of Radio Television Hong Kong

7. The Review Committee submitted its report to the Chief Executive on 28 March 2007. Subsequently, the Panel held several meetings to exchange views with the Administration and the Review Committee on its Report findings, and to receive

views from deputations which comprised RTHK's staff representatives, Citizens' Radio, other media executives, academics, various special interest and social concern groups.

8. While noting the Review Committee's Report which set out the governance structure, accountability measures, funding arrangements and programming for a new public broadcaster to be set up in Hong Kong, the Panel expressed grave concern about the Review Committee's recommendation against the transformation of RTHK into a public broadcaster. Panel members generally considered that without conducting any detailed analysis of the pros and cons of the transformation, the Review Committee should not lightly come up with such a recommendation, and that the public had not been presented with all possible choices including the transformation option for objective deliberation. In this connection, the Panel requested the Administration to include the option of RTHK's transformation into a public broadcaster in the public consultation to gauge the views of the public, and take note of the views and concerns of the Panel and the deputations in formulating the way forward.

9. The Review Committee had advised that its mandate was to review and make recommendations on PSB but not to review the role and future of RTHK. Nevertheless, in examining whether there was a genuine need for PSB in Hong Kong and how best to deliver PSB services, the issue on the role of RTHK would inevitably come up as it was the only publicly-funded broadcaster in Hong Kong. The Review Committee therefore had examined in detail the option of transforming RTHK into a public broadcaster, but noted that the requisite change in RTHK's status, structure and entrenched corporate culture as a Government department would bring about practical problems and difficulties. The transformation of RTHK into a new public broadcaster was therefore not recommended. The Review Committee highlighted that its recommendation was only a proposal put forth for consideration by the Government and the public.

10. The Administration had advised that the Review Committee's recommendations did not represent the Government's views on PSB. The Government would, after a thorough study of the Review Committee's Report and having regard to all other relevant reference materials including the Panel's report, views expressed by the public and Members, formulate its own views on the way forward for public consultation in the second half of 2007.

Public consultation on the new Radio Television Hong Kong

11. Following the deliberations of the Executive Council on 22 September 2009, the Administration issued a LegCo Brief (File Ref: CTB(CR) 9/17/9) announcing that it had decided on the way forward in respect of PSB and the future of RTHK. In gist, RTHK should remain as a Government department with key recommendations in the Review Committee's report implemented to allow it to fulfill its role as a public service broadcaster serving with specific public purposes, strengthened corporate governance and greater accountability to the community. Appropriate resources would be provided for service enhancement to enable RTHK to expand its scope of service to better serve the community.

12. At the special meeting held on 5 October 2009, the Administration briefed the Panel on the Government's decision on the way forward in respect of PSB in Hong Kong and the future of RTHK as announced on 22 September 2009. The Administration also briefed members on the public consultation exercise launched to gauge public views on how best RTHK should operate to achieve its mission as a public service broadcaster. The consultation would cover areas such as the public purposes of the new RTHK, the proposed establishment of a Board of Advisors (the Board) to enhance corporate governance and accountability, the proposed contents of the Charter to be signed by the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Director of Broadcasting, as well as the proposed performance evaluation and new programming opportunities.

13. Some Panel members welcomed the Government's decision on RTHK as it would put an end to the uncertainty surrounding the future of RTHK, and give RTHK new impetus to build on its strong reputation for providing quality broadcasting service to the community.

14. Some Panel members expressed grave disappointment that after protracted discussions in the past and despite the Administration's pledge to widely consult the public before deciding on the way forward for the development of PSB and the future of RTHK, the Chief Executive (CE) in Council had, in the absence of any public consultation, rejected the Review Committee's recommendation to set up an independent public service broadcaster and decided to retain RTHK's status as a Government department while performing the role of a public service broadcaster. They considered that the Administration had not kept its promise to consult the public and was irresponsible in making such a hasty decision. Some members pointed out that none of the public service broadcasters in any of the advanced economies was a government department funded by the government. They expressed doubt whether RTHK, as a Government department dependent on the Government's funding and manpower resources, would have the true freedom and autonomy to competently perform its role as an independent public service broadcaster. Some members questioned the need for setting up the Board. They considered the Board, with its members to be appointed by the CE, a political tool to exert political and financial pressure on RTHK to toe the line of the Government. As the proposed Charter was only a formal document not legislated under the law, there was no statutory provision for judicial review to seek redress in the event its editorial independence was threatened.

15. On community participation in broadcasting, some Panel members held the view that Hong Kong, despite its claim of being an open and culturally diversified society, was lagging behind many advanced and developing economies in respect of community participation in broadcasting. They opined that the Administration should respond to the community's repeated and strong calls for opening up airwaves for community and public access broadcasting and provide more platforms for participation by the community, ethnic minority groups, religious bodies and non-governmental organizations.

Recent developments

16. At the special meeting on 19 November 2009, the Panel received views from deputations and members of the public on the way forward in respect of PSB and the Government's public consultation on how the new RTHK should operate to fulfil its mission as a public service broadcaster.

17. The Panel noted that the majority view received was against the CE in Council's decision to retain RTHK's status as a Government department while performing the role of a public service broadcaster. Some deputations criticized the Government for making such a pre-determined decision in the absence of public consultation. They opined that the new RTHK could not effectively perform the function of an independent public service broadcaster and be free from any political and financial interference under the proposed governance structure and the direction of the proposed Board. The Government's proposal would only turn the new RTHK into the Government's mouth-piece. They also objected to the setting up of the Board which would overlap with the work of the existing Programme Advisory Panel under RTHK and might be used as a political tool to interfere with RTHK's editorial freedom. Moreover, they considered that the Charter should be drawn up and enshrined in law to safeguard RTHK's editorial independence. The Government should also open up airwaves for different community groups to participate in public access broadcasting so as to encourage a plurality of voices and to promote civic education.

18. The Panel also noted that some deputations supported the Government's decision and urged the Administration to implement the proposals as soon as practicable to enable RTHK to perform its expanded role and achieve its new mission. They also opined that members of the Board should be drawn from various community sectors to ensure broad representation and diversity of views.

19. For members' easy reference, a summary of views expressed by deputations at the Panel special meeting on 19 November 2009 has been prepared in the **Appendix**.

Latest position

20. The Administration will brief members on 12 April 2010 on the consultation report on the future operation of RTHK and the new RTHK Charter.

Relevant papers

Motion at the Council meeting on 18 February 2004 on "Policy on broadcasting"
http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/legco_rpt/l_rpt_0219.htm

Motion at the Council meeting on 8 February 2006 on "Policy on public service broadcasting"
http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/legco_rpt/l_rpt_0209.htm

Report on the Study of Public Service Broadcasting for Hong Kong issued by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel (October 2006)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/itb/papers/itb-rpt061009-e.pdf>

Motion at the Council meeting on 1 November 2006 on "Public service broadcasting for Hong Kong"

http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/legco_rpt/legco_motion1102-e.pdf

Report on Review of Public Service Broadcasting in Hong Kong issued by the Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting (March 2007)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/papers/itbcb1-1258-e.pdf>

Summary of recommendations in the Report on Review of Public Service Broadcasting in Hong Kong

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/papers/itb0517cb1-1259-1-e.pdf>

Paper provided by the Administration for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 17 May 2007

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/papers/itb0517cb1-1584-1-e.pdf>

Minutes of Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 17 May 2007

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/minutes/itb070517.pdf>

Submissions provided by the deputations for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 29 June 2007 (Please refer to the agenda)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/agenda/itag0629.htm>

Minutes of Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 29 June 2007

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/itb/minutes/itb070629.pdf>

Executive Summary of the "Report on the Study of Public Service Broadcasting for Hong Kong" and the relevant extract on public access channels issued by the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel in October 2006

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/itb/papers/itb0129cb1-711-1-e.pdf>

Summary of recommendations in the "Report on Review of Public Service Broadcasting in Hong Kong" and the relevant extract on community broadcasting and public access broadcasting issued by the Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting in March 2007

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/itb/papers/itb0129cb1-711-2-e.pdf>

Minutes of Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 29 January 2008

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/itb/minutes/itb080129.pdf>

Question No. 15 at the Council meeting on 10 December 2008 on "Public Service Broadcasting"

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200812/10/P200812100173.htm>

Paper provided by the Administration for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 13 July 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/itb/papers/itb0713cb1-2180-3-e.pdf>

Legislative Council Brief on public service broadcasting and the future of Radio Television Hong Kong provided by the Administration for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 5 October 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/itb/papers/itb1005-ctbcr9179-e.pdf>

Updated background brief on public service broadcasting prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 5 October 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/itb/papers/itb1005cb1-2663-1-e.pdf>

Minutes of Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel meeting on 5 October 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/itb/minutes/itb20091005.pdf>

Updated background brief on public service broadcasting prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel special meeting on 19 November 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/itb/papers/itb1119cb1-382-2-e.pdf>

Minutes of Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel special meeting on 19 November 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/itb/minutes/itb20091119.pdf>

Submissions provided by deputations for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel special meeting on 19 November 2009 (Please refer to the agenda)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/itb/agenda/itb20091119.htm>

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 April 2010

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Public service broadcasting and the future of Radio Television Hong Kong

Summary of views expressed by deputations at the Panel special meeting on 19 November 2009

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
(1) Public consultation	
Citizens' Radio IT Voice	<p>The Administration had not kept its promise to consult the public before deciding on the way forward for the development of public service broadcasting and the future of RTHK.</p> <p>The current consultation was a show and a sham as the CE-in-Council had made a pre-determined decision for RTHK to continue to operate as a Government department with a public service broadcaster role which was against the recommendation of the Committee on the Review of Public Service Broadcasting (RC) and the general public expectation for an independent public service broadcaster.</p>
Mr Martin OEI Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor Unitarian Universalists Hong Kong Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union Hong Kong Unison Limited Hong Kong Journalists Association	The Administration should discard the current consultation document, revise its proposal and conduct a more comprehensive review and wide public consultation before deciding on the way forward.
Green Radio Hong Kong Unison Limited	RTHK as a Government department, depending on Government funding and resources, could not effectively fulfil its public service mission. The Administration should solicit public views on whether RTHK should remain a Government department or be independent, operating at arm's length from the Government and be free from any commercial and political interferences.
Unitarian Universalists Hong Kong	The Government's decision was against Hong Kong people's wish for RTHK to be independent and free from Government political influences, and to become a genuine public service broadcaster of Hong Kong.

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
The Civic Party	Criticized the Government for its black-box decision on RTHK's future. The decision, which was taken in the absence of any proper public consultation, was contrary to public expectation and the general consensus that a public service broadcaster should be free from government pressure and void of any political and commercial interests.
The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	Protracted uncertainty over the future had impeded RTHK's development of serious programme content, research and development, new experimental work and reaching out to wider, new audiences. With the uncertainties removed, and appropriate allocation of resources to provide for service enhancement, RTHK now had the new opportunities to build on its 80-year history, its track record of public service and its reputation for quality programming to further expand its services to better serve the community and meet the rising audience expectations in the new digital age.
Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, Eastern District Councillor Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Welcome the CE-in-Council's timely decision to put an end to the uncertainty surrounding the future of RTHK, and to give RTHK new impetus to build on its strong reputation to provide a comprehensive mix of programme genres, and continue to serve the community with enhanced broadcasting services. The Government should implement the proposals as soon as practicable to enable RTHK to perform its expanded role and achieve its new mission. There was no need to further extend the consultation period as the matter had already been dragged for a long time.
(2) Public service broadcasting and public purposes	
Radio Television Hong Kong Programme Staff Union	In line with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's definition of PSB and the international practice, a genuine public service broadcaster should serve the community, be accountable to the public and be free from any Government pressure as well as political and commercial interference.
SynergyNet Asian Human Rights Commission	The Administration had no real intention of transforming RTHK into a genuinely independent public service broadcaster. The Administration had misled the public into believing that the new RTHK, with its enhanced function and expanded scope of service, could effectively perform the role of a genuine public service broadcaster.

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
SaveRTHK Campaign	Objected to the "pseudo-PSB" proposed by the Administration. Genuine PSB should tolerate opposing and extreme views including criticisms directed at the Government.
Hong Kong Unison Limited The Civic Party	"Monitoring Government", "reflecting public opinions", "safeguarding public interest" and "promoting social justice" should be made the public purposes of PSB and the public mission of RTHK.
Asian Human Rights Commission	In keeping with the public purpose for PSB in sustaining citizenship and civil society, "safeguarding free flow of information, freedom of press and expression" should be made the public purposes for PSB.
Mr Martin OEI Savantas Policy Institute	PSB should supplement commercial broadcasting and seek to provide what is lacking in commercial broadcasting and cater for the specific needs and interests of minority groups in the community.
The Professional Commons	<p>Through the provision of a diversity of programmes, a public service broadcaster should help promote public engagement, facilitating different levels of public participation in community broadcasting including programme production.</p> <p>Instead of acting as the Government's mouthpiece, a public service broadcaster should serve the community and cater for the specific needs and interests of different groups in the community.</p>
Citizens' Radio	PSB should not be monopolized by RTHK. The Government should bring in competition by allowing different players and community groups to participate in broadcasting.
Mr Pindar WONG	The Government should open up the monopoly in PSB in the public interest.
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	By insisting on RTHK's Government department cum public service broadcaster status, the Administration had gone against the explicit popular wish for an independent public broadcaster, and deprived the public's right to freedom of expression and independent PSB.
(3) Future operation of RTHK	
Hong Kong Journalists Association Save RTHK Campaign	Urged for RTHK's transformation into a genuinely independent public service broadcaster in fulfillment of its mission to "educate, entertain and inform" the public. The governance structure of a public service

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
	broadcaster should be enshrined in law to uphold organizational and editorial independence, to ensure appropriate resource provision, transparency and accountability and to safeguard pluralism and programme diversity.
<p>In-Media (Hong Kong) FM 101 Radio Green Radio Save RTHK Campaign</p>	<p>None of the public service broadcasters in overseas jurisdictions, except North Korea, was a Government department. The Government's decision for RTHK to remain as a Government department was against the explicit wish of the RTHK Programme Staff Union for independence.</p> <p>Objected to RTHK retaining its status as a Government department cum public service broadcaster, as well as the proposal to increase the number of civil service posts in RTHK. Such arrangement was an attempt on the part of the Government to "buy" RTHK's staff into giving up the pursuit of ideals of genuine PSB and editorial freedom, and would turn RTHK into a Government mouthpiece similar to North Korea and CCTV. The RTHK's management and production team should not be staffed by civil servants as their career aspiration in the civil service might lead to self censorship of programme content</p>
RTHK Programme Staff Union	RTHK staff was against RTHK remaining as a Government department. The Administration, under the pretext of giving RTHK staff certainty on the future development of RTHK, had distorted the picture of genuine PSB.
<p>The Society for Truth and Light Mr Martin OEI</p>	While RTHK, as a Government department, should dedicate part of its airtime for Government officials to publicize and promote government policies, it should not be tasked to produce programmes to help promote government policies. Production of programmes such as Police Magazine and TV and radio Announcements of Public Interests should be taken up by the Government Information Services instead.
Mr Martin OEI	<p>RTHK should model on the Special Broadcasting Services Corporation in Australia to serve the ethnic minority and the under privileged by producing programmes on art, music and culture which commercial broadcasters might not have the economic incentive to invest in.</p> <p>RTHK should not be responsible for publicizing Government policies.</p>
Asian Human Rights Commission	Supported the transformation of RTHK into the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong. RTHK should be revamped to strengthen its corporate governance, enhance its independence and increase its

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
	accountability to the public.
The Civic Party The Society for Truth and Light	RTHK which used public fund should serve as the mouthpiece of the people and not of the Government.
民間公營廣播監察小組	<p>RTHK should be the mouthpiece of the Government and Hong Kong people, facilitating the smooth implementation of Government policies and the expression of public views.</p> <p>Supported the CE-in-Council's decision for RTHK to remain as a Government department while performing the role of a public service broadcaster with expanded scope of service, strengthened corporate governance and greater accountability to the public.</p> <p>As a Government department, RTHK should be part of the Government and be subject to the established internal procedures and control mechanism of the civil service.</p>
Dr Robert CHUNG of Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong	<p>RTHK, with its good brand name and having been consistently ranked in public surveys as the most credible electronic media in Hong Kong, should continue to strengthen its leading role in conducting survey of public satisfaction level/audience ratings, and in the production of quality programmes on civic education and social responsibility.</p> <p>RTHK's archive should be open to the public to increase its utilization.</p> <p>On performance evaluation, RTHK should be evaluated in respect of its leadership role, the utilization of its archive and its performance in promoting civic education and multi-cultural humanities.</p>
Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers	RTHK should have television channels of its own to enable it to provide a wide diversity of programmes to the community and to enrich the cultural life of Hong Kong people.
Savantas Policy Institute	Supported the Government's decision to allocate additional financial resources and frequency spectrum for RTHK to enhance its operation and expand its scope of services including the provision of dedicated digital television and radio channels so as to provide a full range of broadcasting services to the community. RTHK in its role of a public service broadcaster should serve with specific public purposes,

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
	<p>viz sustaining citizenship and civil society, fostering social harmony and promoting pluralism, establishing education value and promoting lifelong learning, and stimulating creativity and excellence to enrich the multi-cultural life of Hong Kong people.</p> <p>While the new RTHK would run one high-definition television channel on its own, commercial broadcasters should continue to carry PSB programmes until digital television became popular with a high penetration rate.</p>
Mr Pindar WONG	<p>Supportive of RTHK remaining as a Government department with a role to coordinate, not control, content programming for public service broadcasting.</p> <p>The new RTHK should provide platform for public participation in community broadcasting and open exchange of views.</p> <p>The public should have free access to RTHK's 80-years rich archive of programmes and materials commissioned by public money.</p>
(4) Corporate governance and the Charter	
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	The new RTHK could in no way effectively perform the function of an independent public service broadcaster and be free from political and financial interference under the current proposed governance structure and the direction of the proposed Advisory Board.
The Professional Commons	The governance structure of the public service broadcaster should not be Government-driven. Instead, it should be open to the participation of different stakeholders in setting the direction for the development of PSB.
Mr Martin OEI	It would be difficult for D of B, in his capacity as a civil servant, to disregard the advice of the Advisory Board and maintain his independence.
Citizens' Radio	Objected to the setting up of a Board of Advisors (the Advisory Board) to advise the Director of Broadcasting (D of B) on all matters pertaining to editorial policy, programme standards and the quality of

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
Asian Human Rights Commission SaveRTHK Campaign	RTHK programmes The Advisory Board might become a super-power impairing RTHK's editorial and operational independence and/or be used as a political tool to interfere with the editorial policy of RTHK.
Dr Robert CHUNG of Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong	The existing Programme Advisory Panel was highly transparent in its operation and should be further strengthened.
IT Voice The Civic Party RTHK Programme Staff Union Hong Kong Unison Limited	Given that the existing Programme Advisory Panel was functioning well, the proposed Advisory Board which overlapped the work of the existing Programme Advisory Panel was redundant and should be scrapped.
SynergyNet	The proposed Advisory Board should be scrapped. Failing that, "press freedom" should be made the mission of PSB, and the Advisory Board should be tasked to "safeguard editorial independence of RTHK and production freedom of its programming staff" with its powers and responsibilities clearly defined. In the event that the Advisory Board was established against popular wish, it should only advise RTHK on governance matters, provide guidance on programming direction, editorial policy and resource deployment and should not be directly involved in day-to-day management nor have the power to interfere in operational and editorial policy matters.
民間公營廣播監察小組	It was proper and in order for the Advisory Board to advise RTHK on editorial policy and programme standards. Members of the public had other channels to voice their opinion if the advice of the Advisory Board did not meet with public expectations.
Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, Eastern District Councillor	Cautioned against over-politicizing the proposed Advisory Board. RTHK had all along enjoyed editorial freedom as evidenced by its criticism of the Government on numerous occasions in the past. As such, there was no cause of worry that the Advisory Board would interfere with RTHK's editorial policy, turning it into a Government mouthpiece.

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
Mr MAN Chi-wah, Central and Western District Councillor	Although the D of B was to give due weight and consideration to all advice provided by the Advisory Board, he was in no way required to follow all advice of the Advisory Board.
<p>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong</p> <p>SynergyNet</p> <p>The Society for Truth and Light</p>	<p>Members of the Advisory Board should be drawn from various community sectors to ensure broad representation and diversity of views. RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, should be accountable to the public and be subject to public scrutiny through a set of key performance indicators.</p> <p>Of the 15 members of the Advisory Board, one-third should be appointed by the CE, one-third nominated by professional and media groups and the remaining one-third recommended by the LegCo.</p> <p>Membership of the Advisory Board should be increased to 30. Its members, though appointed by the CE, should be nominated by different community sectors and professional groups. A special unit should be set up to handle complaints and public opinion about programme quality and content.</p>
<p>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong</p> <p>The Civic Party</p> <p>SaveRTHK Campaign</p> <p>SynergyNet</p> <p>The Society for Truth and Light</p>	<p>The proposed Charter should clearly set out the governance structure, define the relationship between the Government and the new RTHK, and entrench the importance of editorial independence.</p> <p>The Charter which set out the relationship between the Government and RTHK should stipulate clearly that RTHK would not be subject to any pressure from the Government and quasi-government bodies.</p> <p>The proposed Charter should be drawn up following public consultation and enshrined in law to safeguard RTHK's editorial independence and to ensure statutory provision for judicial review to seek redress in the event its editorial independence was threatened.</p> <p>The Charter should be reviewed every two years with established channels for RTHK staff and the public to participate in the review.</p> <p>The Charter should stipulate that Administration Officer would not be appointed to the management of the RTHK.</p> <p>Called for focused discussions on ways to help ensure that the proposed Charter would safeguard RTHK's</p>

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
民間公營廣播監察小組	<p>editorial independence and that the Advisory Board would not unduly interfere with RTHK's operation.</p> <p>The reference to "safeguarding editorial freedom of RTHK" in the Charter should be removed or amended.</p>
(5) Funding arrangements	
Savantas Policy Institute	To enhance transparency and accountability to the community, RTHK should account for the deployment of its financial and human resources.
RTHK Programme Staff Union	<p>From the perspective of RTHK programme staff, the current sponsorship rules had, on some occasions, imposed restrictions on new programme initiatives.</p> <p>RTHK should have the flexibility to raise its own fund to finance the production of new programmes, thereby enhancing its accountability to the public through the provision of a wide diversity of programmes.</p>
(6) Community broadcasting and the opening up of airwaves	
Citizens' Radio	Queried the Administration's rejection of CR's application for a sound broadcasting licence on the grounds of unavailability of suitable frequency spectrum. As a bandwidth of 0.2 MHz could carry one radio channel, the frequencies in the 87 MHz - 108 MHz could support up to 100 independent channels without interference.
FM 101 Radio	Called on the Government to uphold the true value of PSB by opening up airwaves for independent community groups to participate in public access broadcasting so as to encourage a plurality of voices and to promote civic education.
Green Radio	Called on the Administration to review the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) and the existing mechanism for spectrum allocation and management with a view to opening up airwaves and lowering the threshold for the grant of licences to operate community radio service.

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
Hong Kong Journalists Association	<p>In keeping with the spirit of PSB and the principle of freedom of expression, the Administration should open up airwaves to provide more platforms to cater for diversity of views as well as specific needs and interests of different groups in the community in response to rising community expectation for direct public participation in broadcasting.</p> <p>Instead of participation in RTHK programmes moderated by RTHK programme hosts, community groups should be allocated airtime to broadcast their own programmes.</p>
FM 101 Radio Green Radio Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers	<p>Suggested that a fund be set up to provide financial and technical support for community and interested groups to actively participate in broadcasting and content productions to provide multi-cultural programmes on art and music, and to promote and facilitate local original content production to stimulate creativity and enrich the multi-cultural life of Hong Kong people.</p>
In-Media (Hong Kong)	<p>Urged the Government to set up a fund to promote training in community broadcasting and facilitate cooperation between professionals of the broadcasting sector and community groups in programme production for broadcast in public access channels.</p>
Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers	<p>Supported the proposal for RTHK to devote part of its airtime and resources within the development of its digital service to provide a platform for community participation in broadcasting.</p>
Dr Robert CHUNG of Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong	<p>RTHK was best placed to assume the role of developing public access channels to provide more platform for the free exchange of views.</p>
Mr MAN Chi-wah, Central and Western District Councillor	<p>Did not consider it worth using public money to fund 24-hour public access broadcasting. RTHK could dedicate more airtime for programmes that allow individuals and community groups to express and exchange their views, and to provide a platform for community participation in broadcasting.</p>
<p>(7) New programming and development of new media services</p>	
Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	<p>RTHK, as a public service broadcaster and a non-commercial operation, should shoulder the responsibility for educating, informing, providing entertainment to the underprivileged such as viewers with impaired</p>

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
	<p>hearing.</p> <p>The Administration and the RTHK should take into account the needs of the deaf in formulating public broadcasting policies and in mapping out how the new RTHK should operate to fulfill the mission of a public service broadcaster. Suggestion was made to provide sign language and subtitles in news broadcasts, educational and informational programmes, live broadcasts of major events and media briefings by key Government officials, educational and informational programmes as well as setting up fax and short messages hotlines for the deaf to lodge complaints and make enquiries.</p>
Hong Kong Unison Limited	RTHK should be Hong Kong people's station and it was not necessary for RTHK to relay the television and radio broadcasts of China Central Television (CCTV) and China National Radio (CNR) as the two incumbent domestic free TV programme service licensees and pay TV had already provided such services.
Unitarian Universalists Hong Kong Mr Martin OEI	Objected to the Administration's proposal to relay television and radio broadcasts of CCTV and CNR which were already broadcast by a number of TV stations. More airtime should be made available for the broadcast of programmes of community and minority groups instead. The surplus channel capacity should be released for community use.
Mr Paul SIU Che-hung, Wan Chai District Councillor	<p>Called on the Government to broadcast more Putonghua speaking programmes to increase more Putonghua learning opportunities for Hong Kong people.</p> <p>Suggestion was also made to relay good quality programmes of the CCTV and news broadcast about Ghuanzhou, Pearl River Delta and Taiwan so as to enhance Hong Kong people's understanding of developments in the Mainland and the neighbouring region as part of civic education.</p>
Mr Martin OEI	<p>Suggested that RTHK Radio Six (on British Broadcasting Corporation World Services (BBC)) be reassigned from the existing AM frequency to FM Band to enable more members of the public to listen to the English channels.</p> <p>The existing FM frequency spectrum assigned for broadcasting had not been efficiently deployed and fully utilized as the Hong Kong Government failed to negotiate with the Mainland Government for more FM frequency.</p>

Deputations / individuals	Views / concerns
	Suggested that one FM frequency be used to broadcast BBC programme as in the case of Singapore to help improve Hong Kong people's English and broaden their international horizons.
Dr Robert CHUNG of Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong	RTHK should take a leading role in developing new media and cross media services.
Mr Pindar WONG	<p>Expressed concern that RTHK, if continued on its existing path, would risk losing relevance to the "iPod-Generation" who wanted to have greater participation in and control of the content of the new media.</p> <p>RTHK as a public service broadcaster should "coordinate", not "control" content programming.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to commissioning programmes produced by independent producers/production houses, and acquiring programmes from outside sources in addition to in-house productions.</p>
Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association	<p>RTHK should help promote local original content animation/multi-media production and achieve the public purpose of stimulating creativity and excellence to enrich the multi-cultural life of Hong Kong people through the production, commission and acquisition of distinctive and original content.</p> <p>RTHK should further explore the copyright of outsourced and original content programmes with a view to increasing programme producers' revenue to help foster the development of local multi-media industry.</p>