

For information on
28 May 2012

**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Delivery of the Communications and Technology Policy Portfolio
under the Current Administration**

Purpose

The proposed Technology and Communications Bureau (TCB) will take over all the policy portfolios of the existing Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) other than the creative industries portfolio, which will be transferred to the proposed Culture Bureau (CB). This paper aims to provide information on the policy portfolio of CTB under the current Administration.

The existing policy portfolio of CTB

2. CTB is under the purview of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and has policy responsibilities in the fields of broadcasting, telecommunications, innovation and technology, information technology and creative industries.

3. CTB is headed by the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (PSCT). She is underpinned by the Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) (DSCT), who covers policy matters relating to broadcasting, telecommunications and creative industries. The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) have since 2000 and 2004 respectively been part of the policy bureau, with the heads of both departments reporting to PSCT direct under CTB's hierarchy.

Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is a dedicated office responsible for providing coordinated support and one-stop services to local creative industries. Head of CreateHK is accountable to PSCT for the delivery of government services to the creative sectors. The current organisation chart of CTB is at **Annex**.

Broadcasting

4. The A Division of CTB is responsible for formulating and reviewing policies on broadcasting matters, including policy options to facilitate technology convergence and market liberalisation. It formulates and reviews policy on digital broadcasting, including the development and promotion of digital terrestrial broadcasting and digital audio broadcasting. It handles broadcasting regulatory matters that require the approval of the Chief Executive in Council (including licensing matters relating to domestic free and pay television programme service licences issued under the Broadcasting Ordinance and sound broadcasting licences issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance). The division is also responsible for formulating and reviewing policies on film censorship as well as control of obscene and indecent materials. It assumes house-keeping duties for the Radio Television Hong Kong and the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration.

Telecommunications

5. The B Division of CTB is responsible for formulating telecommunications policies and programmes to facilitate effective competition in the development of an advanced and high bandwidth infrastructure accessible through wireline or wireless means. In particular, the division formulates policies on regulatory regime to respond to technological changes and convergence, spectrum utilisation, and the problem of unsolicited electronic messages. It assumes house-keeping duties for the telecommunications aspects of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) and co-ordinates the overall house-keeping of OFCA.

Creative industries

6. Since 2009, the B Division of CTB has absorbed the additional workload arising from the government initiative to promote creative industries as a new economic pillar. This included developing the strategy for the promotion of creative industries for Hong Kong, securing funding for the \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative, establishing the CreateHK office, recruiting key staffing for the office, and overseeing the smooth and effective running of the various funding schemes for the film, design and other creative sectors. Under the proposed re-organisation of the Government Secretariat, the policy portfolio and support functions for the creative industries would be transferred to the proposed CB. The office of the CreateHK, along with one Assistant Secretary post, would migrate to the proposed CB. More details about the portfolio on creative industries have been set out in the LC Paper No. CB(2)2054/11-12(01).

Innovation and Technology

7. The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is responsible for promoting and supporting the development of innovation and technology (I&T) and testing and certification (T&C), which were identified by the Task Force on Economic Challenges in 2009 as two of the six new industries¹ where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages.

8. On the I&T front, ITC formulates and co-ordinates I&T policies and sustains public awareness of I&T. It administers the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)² which provides funding support for projects that contribute to I&T development, and the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme which was introduced in April 2010 to reinforce the research culture among business enterprises. It works closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation in offering one-stop infrastructural support services to technology-based companies and

¹ The other four new industries are education services, medical services, environmental industries and cultural and creative industries.

² ITF was set up under the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) on 30 June 1999. In July 1999, the Finance Committee approved the injection of \$5 billion into the ITF. As at the end of April 2012, ITF has funded more than 2 700 projects at a total commitment of \$6.5 billion. Taking into account the accumulated income over the years (including investment income from the Exchange Fund), the uncommitted funding balance (i.e. available to support new projects) is about \$2.0 billion.

activities, and provides funding and house-keeping support for five R&D centres (including the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute) and the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

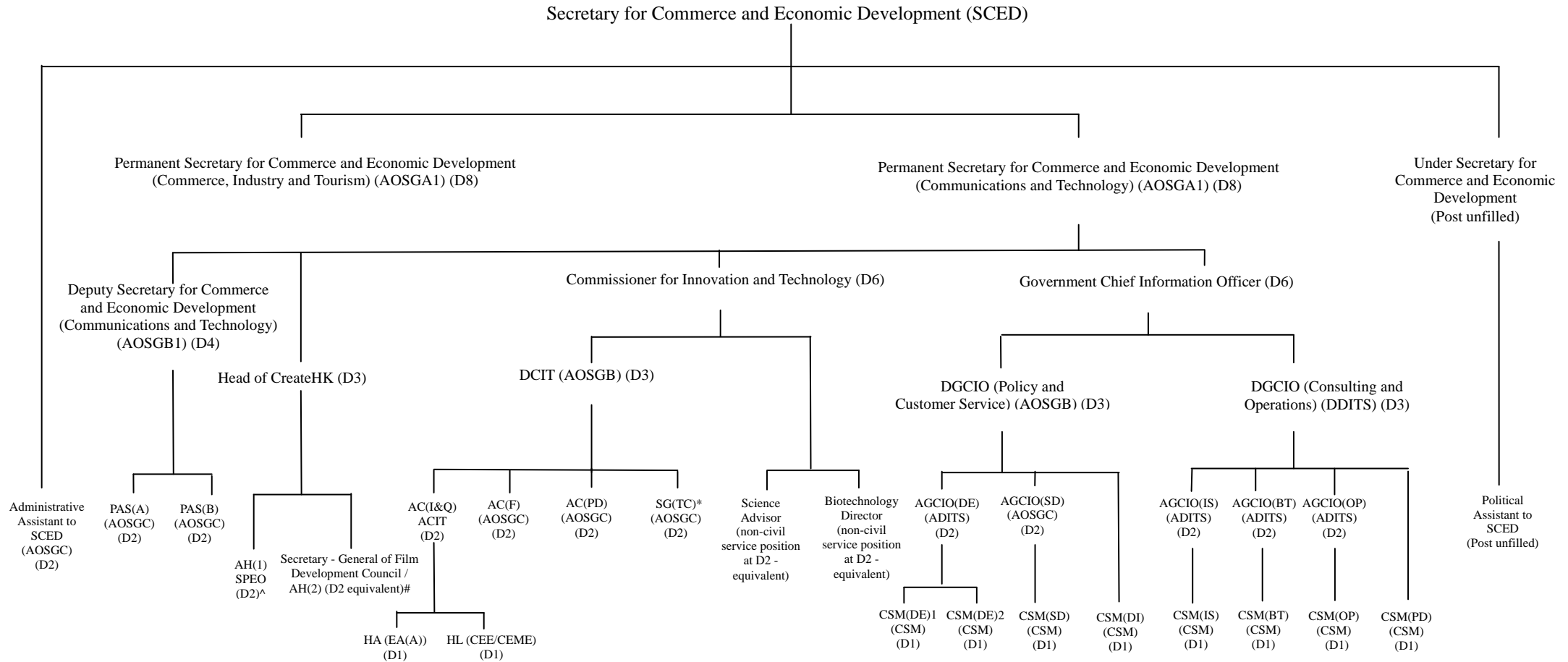
9. On the T&C front, ITC operates the Standards and Calibration Laboratory, the Product Standards Information Bureau and the Hong Kong Accreditation Service to promote internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technology development and international trade. It provides secretariat support to the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) which advises the Administration on the overall development strategy and initiatives for promoting the growth of the testing and certification industry, and coordinates Government efforts in implementing HKCTC's three-year market-oriented development plan.

Information Technology

10. OGCIO is responsible for information technology (IT) policies, strategies, programmes and measures under the Digital 21 Strategy, in addition to providing IT services and support within Government. OGCIO ensures that Government provides the public with information and services they need in an efficient and convenient manner by using IT appropriately, and supports bureaux/departments to make best use of IT to achieve their policy objectives. In addition, OGCIO promotes and facilitates the wider use of IT in the business sector and the community, and contributes to building a digitally inclusive society in Hong Kong.

Communications and Technology Branch
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
May 2012

Existing Organisation Chart of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)



Legend

PAS : Principal Assistant Secretary
 AOSGA1 : Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1
 AOSGB1 : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1
 AOSGB : Administrative Officer Staff Grade B
 AOSGC : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C
 DGCIO : Deputy Government Chief Information Officer
 AGCIO : Assistant Government Chief Information Officer
 DDITS : Deputy Director of Information Technology Services
 ADITS : Assistant Director of Information Technology Services
 CSM : Chief Systems Manager
 CEME : Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer

DCIT : Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
 ACIT : Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
 AC(F) : Assistant Commissioner (Funding Schemes)
 AC(I&Q) : Assistant Commissioner (Infrastructure & Quality Services)
 AC(PD) : Assistant Commissioner (Policy and Development)
 SG(TC) : Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)
 HA : Head, Accreditation Service
 HL : Head, Standards and Calibration Laboratory
 EA(A) : Executive Administrator (Accreditation)
 CEE : Chief Electronics Engineer
 AH(1) : Assistant Head of CreateHK (1)
 AH(2) : Assistant Head of CreateHK (2)

AGCIO(DE) : AGCIO (Digital Economy Facilitation)
 AGCIO(SD) : AGCIO (E-government Service Delivery)
 AGCIO(IS) : AGCIO (IT Strategy)
 AGCIO(BT) : AGCIO (Business Transformation)
 AGCIO(OP) : AGCIO (IT Operations)
 CSM(DI) : CSM (Digital Inclusion)
 CSM(PD) : CSM (IT Professional Development)

^ Permanent post to be created in the 2011-12 legislative session subject to LegCo's approval
 # Non-civil service position until 15.11.2013
 Supernumerary post with Legco's approval up to 31.3.2014

Note: For the purpose of this paper, only permanent posts and supernumerary posts created with LegCo's approval/to be created in the 2011-12 legislative session subject to LegCo's approval, and supernumerary posts created under delegated authority for more than 6 months are featured.