Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Session No. : 12

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CEDB(CT)144	3703	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	55	
CEDB(CT)145	3727	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	55	(1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries
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CEDB(CT)149	4985	MOK, Charles Peter	55	(2) Telecommunications
CEDB(CT)150	4986	MOK, Charles Peter	55	(2) Telecommunications
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)001

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2773

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In recent years, the number of applications received and processed by the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) stands at single-digit figure. Can the Government tell this Committee how it will review FGF's application method, procedures, and assessment process and criteria? In addition, how is the Government going to provide more film workers with support through simplifying FGF's application procedures?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) Scheme is set up with the purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme) under the Film Development Fund (FDF), the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the FGF has dropped significantly. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the FDF for financing the film production, and bears no direct relationship with the application method, procedures as well as assessment process and criteria of the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we reviewed the operation and effectiveness of the FGF in September 2010. A questionnaire survey was conducted on 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. The results of the survey showed that the trade generally found the FGF effective in assisting local film production companies in obtaining loan financing for film production. A majority of the trade agreed to or did not object to the view of keeping the operation of the FGF in its existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we submitted a review report to the Film Development Council (FDC) in September 2011. The FDC agreed that the FGF should maintain its status quo to provide the film industry with an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme.

We will review the FDF in the second half of this year, and will take that opportunity to also review the effectiveness of the FGF.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)002

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3052

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government is going to inject an additional $300 million into the CreateSmart Initiative. Can the Administration tell this Committee in doing this, who the main support targets and what the project categories are, and whether consideration will be given to extending the eligibility for application to accept applications for funding support from independent creative workers as individuals? If yes, what is the expenditure to be set aside and what are the assessment criteria? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply: The Government has proposed to inject an additional $300 million into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to step up efforts to facilitate the development of creative industries. We will continue to provide funding support for the industry to organise more projects that seek to nurture creative talents, expand the Mainland and overseas markets, build brands, and organise large scale events to reinforce Hong Kong's position as Asia's creative capital.

The CSI supports initiatives which are conducive to the development of creative industries. The projects should be non-profit making in nature, and benefit the creative industries as a whole or individual creative sectors rather than individuals or companies. In addition, when injecting further funding into the CSI, the Government will bring the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme under the ambit of the CSI so as to provide small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and their partner design companies with direct funding support to encourage SMEs to engage design services and improve their products and services.

Normally, applicants to the CSI shall be locally registered bodies. Independent creative workers with suitable project ideas may either establish registered bodies themselves or partner with locally registered bodies to submit applications. If the projects meet the CSI eligibility criteria, Create Hong Kong will consider the applications in accordance with established procedures. We consider that the current eligibility criteria and modes of funding of the CSI are flexible enough to benefit the industry as a whole in an effective manner.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)003

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1309

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Financial Secretary mentions nurturing emerging industries in his Budget Speech. Can the Administration tell this Committee in detail how much expenditure will be devoted to emerging industries in 2013-14 and what are the detailed plans and results expected?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply: Of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) and the departments under its purview are responsible for promoting the development of three of them, namely the creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification.

Creative Industries

Estimate of expenditure for 2013-14	Details	Results Expected
In the financial year 2013-14, the estimate for the expenditure of the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) is $249m, being $63.5m for personal emoluments and forecast departmental expenses, and $185.5m in general non-recurrent expenditure (including commitments of CreateHK's various funding schemes and funding for Hong Kong Design Centre, Business Design Week and Hong Kong Design Centre Awards).	CreateHK, which is under CTB, will continue to provide financial support through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and Film Development Fund (FDF) to projects conducive to the development of creative industries. To step up efforts to facilitate the development of creative industries, we will make a funding application to the LegCo Finance Committee (FC) to inject an additional $300m into the CSI. Also, we continue to promote the development of the local design sector. With a funding of $133.75m approved by the FC last year, we support financially HKDC's operation and events, and fund a new phase of the Design Incubation Programme (DIP).	We expect that the financial support CreateHK provides through the CSI and FDF will, as before, help the industries in nurturing talents and start-up companies, explore business opportunities for small-to-medium enterprises, finance small-to-medium budget film productions, and promote local creative industries and Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital. The FFFI aims to identify new filmmakers from students or film industry employees with no prior experience in directing commercial films through competitions on screenplay and

	Under an agreement between the Government and the HKDC, DIP will admit at least 60 incubatees in three years from 2012. The HKDC has now admitted 21 incubatees and will continue to nurture design start-ups having regard to the actual circumstances. CreateHK launched the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) in March 2013 as Government's latest support measure for the film industry. Moreover, CreateHK will help promote the Comix Home Base (CHB) and the PMQ to be opened within this year to forge the development of Hong Kong's animation-comics and design sectors.	creative proposals so as to nurture talents for the film industry. On the promotion of the CHB and PMQ, we anticipate that the two new landmarks in the long run will build up local creative clusters, foster a creative atmosphere within the community and provide a platform to facilitate collaboration and exchange among Hong Kong's animation-comics and design sectors.

Innovation and Technology

Estimate of expenditure for 2013-14	**Details**	**Results Expected**
The estimated total expenditure of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) for 2013-14 is $452.7 m (inclusive of the recurrent subvention of $318.2 m provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited), of which some $101.5 m is for salaries and departmental expenses, and $33 m is for general non-recurrent expenditure (i.e. the cashflow requirement for the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme). In addition, an estimated funding of $785.1 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) is earmarked for promoting applied technological research/activities.	On the promotion of local development of innovation and technology, the Government has been fostering collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. The initiatives include: - development of the $4.9 b Science Park Phase 3, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016;[Note 1] - promoting applied technological research/activities through ITF. As at end-January 2013, a total of 3 177 projects have been approved under ITF with total commitment of $7.3 b. We will suitably enhance the ITF to better support the development of innovation and technology. For example, we have extended the scope of the ITF to cover, in addition to R&D work, the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. So far, over 40 public sector trial projects have commenced;	- Upon full completion in 2016, the Science Park Phase 3 is expected to accommodate an additional 150 companies and some 4 000 R&D-related posts; - The enhancement measures to the ITF are expected to foster collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors, thereby promoting commercialisation of R&D results;

	- increasing the level of cash rebate to enterprises for eligible R&D projects under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30%. Although the Scheme has only been launched for some 3 years, the increasingly positive response from the private sector shows that the Scheme has successfully encouraged more private sector companies to engage in R&D in collaboration with designated local research institutions;	- The Scheme is expected to further encourage enterprises to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions;
	- continuing to support the activities of the R&D Centres such as commercialisation of R&D results; Note 2	- The R&D Centres are expected to continue to actively engage in such activities as commercialisation of R&D results. We will submit a detailed report on the work of the R&D Centres to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry in June 2013;
	- organising a wide range of activities such as science competitions and scholarship scheme to promote innovation and technology in the community; and	- The activities are expected to help enhance public interest in innovation and technology, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and technology in the community;
	- continuing to work with the Mainland to actively promote R&D co-operation in science and technology between the two places.	- The initiative is expected to help capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the National 12th Five-Year Plan in enhancing Hong Kong's competiveness in technological research.

Note 1: The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), which is responsible for developing and managing the Hong Kong Science Park, is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. In this connection, the expenses for conducting various activities in the Park are not included in the Government's expenditure. The estimated cost for developing the Science Park Phase 3 is $4.9 b. The Government has injected $1.5 b and provided a loan of $1.2 b as well as a guarantee for a commercial loan amounting to $1.7 b and the interest arising therefrom to HKSTPC.

Note 2: The funds involved have been counted as part of ITF funding.

Testing and Certification

Estimate of expenditure for 2013-14	Details	Results Expected
The estimated expenditure of ITC on quality support for 2013-14 is about $106.5 m, which is mainly for providing accreditation and calibration services and information on international standards for the testing and certification industry, as well as secretariat support for the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC). The ITF will also provide funding of some $1.39 m to support 5 approved R&D projects related to testing and certification.	The Government has been working closely with HKCTC in implementing a 3-year industry development plan. It is worthwhile to note that HKCTC has just completed a review on the implementation progress of the industry development plan. The review report will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry for discussion soon.	The measures will further enhance the overall competitiveness and professional standard of the industry, and maintain the international recognition of Hong Kong's testing and certification results. Through co-operation with selected trades, the testing and certification industry will introduce new services such as certification scheme for Chinese Materia Medica and new standard testing methods for two types of Fei Cui.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)004

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3295

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Will the Government still promote the six priority industries? If yes, how much expenditure will be devoted to them and what is the specific work plan? Please tabulate separately.

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply: Of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) and the departments under its purview are responsible for promoting the development of three of them, namely the creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification.

Creative Industries

The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address that the Government will continue to support the cultural and creative industries and explore suitable mechanisms to facilitate their development. The Create Hong Kong office (CreateHK) under the CTB will continue its one-stop support services to the industries.

The Government has set up funding schemes or provided purpose-specific funding to support projects conducive to the development of creative industries. They include -

(a) the Film Development Fund to support the film industry (the commitment of which is $320 million, and the balance is $57.95 million as at end of February 2013);

(b) the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to support the creative industries other than the film industry (the commitment of which is $300 million, and the balance is $46.24 million as at end of February 2013);

(c) funding for supporting the operation of the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) (the commitment of which is $170 million, and the balance is $52.32 million as at end of February 2013);

(d) funding for supporting the HKDC to organise Business of Design Week and HKDC Awards (the commitment of which is $37.5 million, and the balance is $25.49 million as at end of February 2013); and

(e) funding for supporting the HKDC to run the Design Incubation Programme (DIP) (the commitment of which is $26.25 million, and the balance is $22.82 million as at end of February 2013).

The DesignSmart Initiative previously set up to support the design sector has migrated to the CSI in phases since June 2011. Its residual funding ($24.4 million as at end of February 2013) will remain available for supporting projects under the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme and the DIP and other ongoing projects until exhaustion.

The Government will apply to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in May this year to inject an additional $300 million into the CSI to strengthen support for the creative industries.

Innovation & Technology and Testing & Certification

On the promotion of local development of innovation and technology, the Government has been fostering collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. The initiatives include:

(a) development of the $4.9 billion Science Park Phase 3, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016;

(b) promoting applied technological research/activities through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). We will suitably enhance the ITF to better support the development of innovation and technology. For example, we have extended the scope of the ITF to cover, in addition to R&D work, the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector;

(c) encouraging greater collaboration between enterprises and local research institutions by raising the level of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30% for eligible R&D projects from the enterprises. Although the Scheme has only been launched for some three years, the increasingly positive response from the private sector shows that the Scheme has successfully encouraged more private sector companies to engage in R&D in collaboration with designated local public research institutions;

(d) continuing to support the activities of the R&D Centres such as commercialisation of R&D results;

(e) organising a wide range of activities such as science competitions and scholarship scheme to enhance public interest in innovation and technology, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and technology in the community; and

(f) continuing to work with the Mainland to actively promote R&D co-operation in science and technology between the two places so as to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

On the promotion of the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong, the Government has been working closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification in implementing a three-year industry development plan. It is worthwhile to note that the Council has just completed a review on the implementation progress of the industry development plan. The review report will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry for discussion soon.

The majority of staff in the Innovation and Technology Commission are involved in the above work. We will continue to make efforts to implement the above initiatives to reinforce Hong Kong's advantages in promoting the development of innovation & technology and testing & certification.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)005

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1266

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (up to 2012),

(a) please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform solely such work, and if there is no officer designated solely for such work, please provide information on the number of officers involved in records management duties and the number of hours worked in this area, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

(b) please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not

(c) please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years in which the records were transferred to GRS	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not

(d) please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS;

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years in which the records were transferred to the GRS	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) In accordance with the Government's records management policy, this Branch has designated staff of different ranks to perform records management duties and they report to a directorate officer overseeing these matters:

(i) 1 Chief Executive Officer is designated to serve as Departmental Records Manager (DRM) to devise, carry out and document departmental records management practices and procedures according to the guidelines and advice of Government Records Service (GRS);

(ii) 1 Executive Officer (EO) II is appointed to serve as Assistant Departmental Records Manager to assist the DRM in the execution of the duties concerned; and

(iii) 9 EOs I/II or officers of equivalent rank are responsible for supervising records management in different divisions/sections.

Moreover, clerical grade staff of general registries of different divisions/sections (including 3 Clerical Officers, 11 Assistant Clerical Officers and 8 Clerical Assistants) and Confidential Assistants will assist the above-mentioned officers in the execution of certain records management duties.

In the course of performing daily duties, officers of different ranks in this Branch are involved in related records management work.

(b) information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not
Nil				

(c) information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years in which the records were transferred to GRS	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not
administrative records	1989–1990	2 records 0.08 linear metres	2012	5 years	Yes
administrative records	1962–2002	16 records 0.53 linear metres	2012	1 year	No

(d) information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years in which the records were transferred to GRS	Number of years for which the records should be retained as appraised by GRS	Confidential documents or not
administrative records	1950–2010	364 records 12.347 linear metres	N.A. (GRS approved in 2011-2012 the destruction of these records and they need not be transferred to GRS.)	1–7 years	Yes
administrative records	1962–2011	1 296 records 51.875 linear metres	N.A. (GRS approved in 2010-2012 the destruction of these records and they need not be transferred to GRS.)	1–7 years	No

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)006

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1500

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau manages the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) through "Create Hong Kong". Will the Administration advise this Committee as to the following:

(a) After the FDF started operation in July 2007 and up to July 2012, the FGF had not received any application. Does the Administration have any plan to review the need for the FGF? If so, what are the details?

(b) The Government has announced that the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) will be launched this year to support new directors and their teams financially through the FDF. What are the details and estimated expenditure of the Initiative? How much of the expenditure of the FDF this year is expected to be accounted for by FFFI?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply: (a) The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) Scheme is set up with the purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme) under the Film Development Fund (FDF), the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the FGF has dropped significantly. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the FDF for financing the film production, and bears no direct relationship with the application method, procedures, as well as assessment process and criteria of the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we reviewed the operation and effectiveness of the FGF in September 2010. A questionnaire survey was conducted on 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. The results of the survey showed that the trade generally found the FGF effective in assisting local film production companies in obtaining loan financing for film production. A majority of the trade agreed to or did not object to the view of keeping the operation of the FGF in its existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we submitted a review report to the Film Development Council (FDC) in September 2011. The FDC agreed that the FGF should maintain its status quo to provide the film industry with an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme.

We will review the FDF in the second half of this year, and will take that opportunity to also review the effectiveness of the FGF.

(b) The Chief Executive announced in the 2013 Policy Address that Create Hong Kong will launch a First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) to identify new talents through a competition on screenplay and production proposals. The winning film directors and their film production teams will receive funding from the FDF to make their first feature films.

FFFI is launched in March 2013 as a pilot scheme. The aim is to, within two years, support three new directors and their film production teams to make their first feature films on a commercial basis in order to nurture talents for the film industry. Create Hong Kong will conduct a review on completion of the FFFI.

FFFI is conducted in the format of a competition, which is divided into the Higher Education Institutions Group (HEIG) and the Professionals Group (PG). The HEIG will offer two prizes, the winning teams of which will receive a maximum of $2 million each from the FDF for making its first feature film. The PG will offer one prize, the winning team of which will receive a maximum of $5 million from the FDF for making its first feature film.

The winning teams are required to complete the whole film production and sales process involving planning, shooting and distribution, thus acquiring in the process practical knowledge in planning and making a feature film.

FDF will provide funding to cover the total budget of $9.95 million for FFFI. The estimated expenditure of FFFI in 2013-14 is $900,000 for meeting the preliminary production costs of the film projects of the winning teams.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)007

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3099

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) For the Film Development Fund (FDF), why did the number of applications for funding other film-related projects received and processed fall from 39 in 2011 to 35 in 2012 and why is the estimate for 2013 a mere 35 applications?

(b) For the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF), why did it receive no application in both 2011 and 2012? Did this have anything to do with over-stringent application requirements or inadequate publicity?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply: (a) The number quoted in the question is not "the number of applications for funding other film-related projects received and processed" but "the number of other film-related projects funded and being monitored". The number fell from 39 in 2011 to 35 in 2012 because four of the projects have been completed and are no longer monitored. The estimated number of other film-related projects funded and monitored each year is an estimate made on the basis of the actual number for the year before. Our estimate for 2013 is 35 projects, same as that in 2012.

(b) The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) Scheme is set up with the purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme) under the Film Development Fund (FDF), the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the FGF has dropped significantly. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the FDF for financing the film production, and bears no direct relationship with the application method, procedures, as well as assessment process and criteria of the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we reviewed the operation and effectiveness of the FGF in September 2010. A questionnaire survey was conducted on 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. The results of the survey showed that the trade generally found the FGF effective in assisting local film production companies in obtaining

loan financing for film production. A majority of the trade agreed to or did not object to the view of keeping the operation of the FGF in its existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we submitted a review report to the Film Development Council (FDC) in September 2011. The FDC agreed that the FGF should maintain its status quo to provide the film industry with an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme.

We will review the FDF in the second half of this year, and will take that opportunity to also review the effectiveness of the FGF.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)008

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1058

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, has the Government earmarked funds for the purpose of studying options for opening up the airwaves and if so, how much? Please list the estimated expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The formulation of policy on radio spectrum used for broadcasting purposes is part of our regular duties. The relevant expenditure is covered by Head 55 without an itemised breakdown.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)009

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1059

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration indicates that it assisted in the processing of the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences in 2012-13. How much time in total has the processing taken? What is the expenditure involved? Is it intended to make public the processing so as to increase its transparency?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: In July 2011, the former Broadcasting Authority submitted its recommendations on the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences (free TV licence applications) in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562). The Chief Executive (CE) in Council, as the licensing authority, is now considering the applications. If the CE in Council needs any relevant information in considering the licence applications, this Bureau will provide assistance as appropriate. The workload involved was absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

Due to the confidentiality rule of the Executive Council, the deliberations of the free TV licence applications will not be disclosed. The "Guidance Note for Those Interested in Applying for Domestic Free Television Programme Service Licences in Hong Kong" issued by the Communications Authority sets out clearly the assessment criteria. The CE in Council will take into account all relevant factors when processing the three licence applications. The Government will announce the outcome as soon as possible after a decision is made by the CE in Council.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)010

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1060

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration indicates that it will continue to assist in the processing of the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences in 2013-14. What is the expenditure involved? Does it mean the licences will not be issued within the year? How will the funds that remain be used if the licences are issued this year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: Under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562), the Chief Executive (CE) in Council is the licensing authority for the domestic free television programme service licence (free TV licence). The Administration has been processing the recommendations submitted by the former Broadcasting Authority on the three free TV licence applications expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The CE in Council is now considering these free TV licence applications. If the CE in Council needs any relevant information in considering the applications, this Bureau will provide assistance as appropriate. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)011

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1069

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Bureau indicated that it continued to consolidate Hong Kong's position in creativity in the region and promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital in 2012-13. What are the details and expenditure involved? How much resources will be allocated in 2013-14 for promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: To promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) supports the staging of signature creative events in Hong Kong mainly through financial sponsorship. Signature events held in 2012-13 are listed below. The amount of funding for these events was around $68.5 million:

Hong Kong Design Year 2012
The 31st Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony
Alliance Graphique Internationale (Hong Kong) Open & Congress
Business of Design Week 2012
Hong Kong Design Centre Awards 2012
The World's Greatest Catwalk 2012 Hong Kong
MaD 2013
Cross-Strait Architectural Design Symposium & Awards 2013
The 11th Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum
The 7th Asian Film Awards
Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2013
The 37th Hong Kong International Film Festival
Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival 2013

In 2013-14, CreateHK will continue to support the industry in organising signature creative events to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI), the Film Development Fund (FDF) and other resources. Signature events that have been confirmed for 2013-14 are listed below. The amount of funding for these events will be around $23.72 million:

The 32nd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony
Cross-Media and Cross-Cultural Comics Concert & Creative Workshop
Ani-Com Summer 2013 (tentative title)
International Comics Artist Conference 2013
Business of Design Week 2013
Hong Kong Design Centre Awards 2013

Other applications are being considered under CSI and FDF. We anticipate that funding applications from annual signature events that have been held over the years will come in gradually. It is expected that in addition to the events listed above, there will be other signature creative events to be held in Hong Kong in 2013-14 to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)012

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1089

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government has announced that the Mega Events Fund will run for another three years. This matches the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil. To avoid monopolisation of the broadcasting right for the World Cup by any individual media organisation, will the Administration allocate funds to acquire the TV broadcasting right for the World Cup Finals and let the public enjoy free viewing? If yes, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply: Since the bidding and the subsequent distribution of the broadcasting rights of the World Cup are commercial matters, it is inappropriate for the Government to interfere.

The objective of the Mega Events Fund is to support organisations interested in hosting attractive mega arts, cultural, sports and entertainment events in Hong Kong, so as to strengthen Hong Kong's position as the events capital of Asia and attract more visitors to Hong Kong. The Fund is therefore not suitable to be used for the acquisition of TV broadcasting rights.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)013

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2257

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Why does the Bureau add two non-directorate posts and one directorate post in 2013-14? What are the ranks of these posts and the emoluments involved?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) plans to add one directorate post and two non-directorate posts in 2013-14. The directorate post, which is designated as Assistant Head (2) of Create Hong Kong (AH(2)) and pitched at the rank of Secretary-General of the Film Development Council (SG(FDC)), will be created to replace the time-limited non-civil service position of SG(FDC) upon the lapse of the latter position on 16 November 2013. The holder of this new directorate post will formulate policies and strategies in support of the local film industry, steer the work of the Film Services Office of CreateHK in implementing related initiatives and support services, and assist Hong Kong's film industry to tap the Mainland and overseas markets. The non-directorate posts are one Senior Administrative Officer and one Senior Executive Officer for providing support to the CTB in promoting the development of digital terrestrial television.

The emoluments of these posts will carry an annual total cost of about $2.317 million. The CTB consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB Panel) on the proposal to create a permanent civil service post of SG(FDC) on 12 November 2012. The proposal was supported by Members of the ITB Panel and later approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee on 8 February 2013.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)014

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2258

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The revised estimate for 2012-13 is in excess of $318 million, representing an increase of 12.9% over the original estimate for the same year. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The revised estimate of expenditure for 2012-13 is 12.9% ($36.5 million) higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to payments that have to be made for general non-recurrent items, namely "Business of Design Week and Hong Kong Design Centre Awards" ($13.02 million) and "Hong Kong Design Centre" ($27.08 million), totalling $40.1 million.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)015

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2259

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Why did the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) receive not even a single application in 2011 and 2012? For 2013, only one application is expected. Why are there so few applications? Is the threshold for application too high? Does FGF sort of exist in name only? Will the Bureau introduce improvement measures to encourage the industry to make applications to FGF?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) Scheme is set up with the purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme) under the Film Development Fund (FDF), the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the FGF has dropped significantly. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the FDF for financing the film production, and bears no direct relationship with the application method, procedures, as well as assessment process and criteria of the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we reviewed the operation and effectiveness of the FGF in September 2010. A questionnaire survey was conducted on 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. The results of the survey showed that the trade generally found the FGF effective in assisting local film production companies in obtaining loan financing for film production. A majority of the trade agreed to or did not object to the view of keeping the operation of the FGF in its existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we submitted a review report to the Film Development Council (FDC) in September 2011. The FDC agreed that the FGF should maintain its status quo to provide the film industry with an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme.

We will review the FDF in the second half of this year, and will take that opportunity to also review the effectiveness of the FGF.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)016

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2260

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Bureau states that the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI) has migrated to the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) since June 2011 while the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme continues to run with residual DSI funding, and thus there is a substantial decrease of some 30 cases in both the actual and estimated numbers of applications received under the DSI for 2012 and 2013. However, why is there no substantial increase in the actual and estimated numbers of applications received under the CSI for 2012 and 2013, with a mere increase of about 10 cases? Does the Bureau have any improvement measures to support financially more projects related to the creative industries?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The number of "applications received and processed" under the DSI and CSI refer to the number of applications received by the respective funding schemes in the year. As the wording of this indicator is unclear, discrepancies occurred when Create Hong Kong compiled the 2011 figures for this indicator. After checking, the actual numbers of "applications received and processed" under CSI and DSI in 2011 should be 71 and 65 respectively.

Given the revised figures above, the number of "applications received and processed" under the CSI has increased by 16 in 2012 over 2011 while that under the DSI has decreased by 13 in 2012 over 2011. The respective increase and decrease are broadly comparable to each other.

We will continue to promote the CSI and encourage the creative industries and stakeholders to apply for funding support by introducing the funding scheme at talks held by trade associations, publishing booklets on the scheme for distribution to the trade, placing advertisements for publicity, and closely communicating with the stakeholders to help them develop appropriate projects for seeking funding support.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)017

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2261

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is an increase of 13.6% over the original estimate for 2012-13. The Bureau explained that this is mainly due to the provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board. Is the number of appeal cases to be handled by the Appeal Board in 2013-14 going to increase? What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: Under Programme (2) Telecommunications, the provision for 2013-14 is 13.6% higher than the original estimate for 2012-13. This is due to salary adjustments, increased general departmental expenses and funds set aside for new initiatives to be planned. It is not related to the provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board.

Provision for 2013-14 is 7% higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is mainly due to the increased provision for the Telecommunications (Competition Provisions) Appeal Board.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)018

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1436

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Hong Kong must make efforts to develop advanced telecommunications infrastructure to continuously enhance its position as a regional telecommunications hub. In 2012-13, the Communications and Technology Branch completed the consultancy study on the implications of the development of next generation networks on the telecommunications regulatory framework. Please inform us as to whether, regarding the major recommendations proposed in the consultancy study report, the Administration has any substantive follow-up measures such as drawing up a concrete timetable, studying the feasibility of the recommendations or formulating the implementation arrangement and if yes, please give details and if not, please state the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: In 2011-12, the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (now known as the Office of Communications Authority (OFCA)) commissioned a consultancy study on the implications of the next generation networks ("NGN") on the telecommunications regulatory framework in Hong Kong. The study was completed in January 2012. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and OFCA then briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting in March 2012 on the major recommendations put forward by the consultant and the implementation timetable.

The study has reviewed a number of issues in relation to the telecommunications regulatory framework, including interconnection (e.g. charge, architecture and technical standards of interconnection), next generation access, network security and emergency call service. For these areas, the consultant has put forward various recommendations. Some of the recommendations could be taken forward shortly while some are to be considered in the longer term.

For recommendations that could be taken forward in the short term, such as the charging principles of fixed-fixed interconnection charge, the Communications Authority (CA) issued a consultation paper on reviewing the relevant regulatory guidance in November 2012 after considering the consultant's recommendations. The consultation ended in January 2013. The CA is now considering the submissions received and will announce in due course the result of the review and new arrangements for interconnection between fixed carriers.

For other recommendations including the development of next generation access, architecture and technical standards of interconnection, network security standards, standards for effective sharing of in-building telecommunications system and emergency call service, the OFCA has invited the relevant advisory committee and its working group to follow up on them and discuss with the telecommunications industry on the feasibility and/or implementation of the recommendations.

Regarding other recommendations, some of which, including the review of the basis for determining interconnection charges under Section 36A of the Telecommunications Ordinance, could only be further pursued having regard to the development of NGN in Hong Kong, the Government and OFCA will closely monitor such development in Hong Kong and follow up the issues in due course.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)019

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2483

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 include 'monitoring the implementation of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services". Please tell this Committee:

(a) the number of DAB listeners in the past three years (i.e. financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13);

(b) specific measures that the Government has in the 2013-14 Financial Year to promote the use of DAB services by the public and enhance public awareness of the advantages of DAB, and the budget for these measures;

(c) regarding the DAB Steering Committee which, according to the Government website to promote DAB services, is set up by the Government for promoting DAB services, please tell us the operation and composition of the Committee, how many meetings it has held since establishment, and what specific plans it has for promoting DAB services;

(d) whether the Administration has plans to issue DAB licences again so as to promote the development of the industry.

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply: (a) We do not have the statistics on the number of DAB listeners.

(b) and (c)

Since granting sound broadcasting licences in March 2011 to introduce DAB services, the Government has taken a series of measures to support the development of DAB services and, in particular, the promotion of the brand new service to the public.

We have set up the DAB Steering Committee, with members from the licensed broadcasters, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and relevant Government departments including the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), and monitor the implementation and development of DAB services through the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee exchange views through various channels, such as circulation of

papers and holding meetings as necessary. The Steering Committee has met nine times since its establishment.

Through the Steering Committee, we have taken the following measures to promote DAB services –

(i) cooperation with DAB operators to promote DAB services to the public. The promotional measures taken include the creation of a dedicated website for DAB services, participation in relevant exhibitions, holding of industry forum, production of promotion leaflets / booklets for public distribution, production of announcement of public interest for release on TV and radio, holding a transmission network launch ceremony, and advertising in newspapers, on the internet and in public transport;

(ii) closely monitor the progress of the construction of the transmission network by operators, and the coverage of the network. To improve signal coverage and reception, the Steering Committee has urged the operators to optimise the transmission network by, among other things, planning for new gap-filler stations. Furthermore, after our proactive discussion with the Mainland authorities on spectrum coordination, the Mainland authorities have agreed that Hong Kong may conduct on-site tests on further increasing the transmission power to explore the feasibility of further improving the reception of signals. In this regard, the Steering Committee has invited the operators to propose feasible plans for increasing transmission power;

(iii) cooperation with the operators to keep in view the sale of DAB receivers and maintain contact with the industry; and

(iv) provision of technical advice and support by OFCA and RTHK to the licensed broadcasters.

In the 2013-14 financial year, we will employ existing resources to take appropriate measures to support the development of DAB services. We will continue to discuss with the operators on cooperation in promoting DAB services.

(d) We have no plans to issue new DAB licences.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)020

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1754

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details of the bureau's expenditure and work on processing the three applications for free television licences in each of the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13). What will the relevant work be in 2013? Will the Government consider inviting independent persons to form an ad hoc committee to handle the licensing issue and look into the causes of the very slow processing?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply: In July 2011, the former Broadcasting Authority (now known as the Communications Authority) (the Authority) submitted its recommendations on the three applications for domestic free television programme service licence (free TV licence) in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562) (BO). The Administration subsequently took over the processing of the applications concerned. Under the BO, the Chief Executive (CE) in Council is the licensing authority for free TV licence. If the CE in Council needs any relevant information in considering the licence applications, this Bureau will provide assistance as appropriate. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure. The Bureau will continue to support the processing of the licence applications.

Under the BO, the CE in Council may grant a free TV licence after considering the recommendation made by the Authority on a free TV licence application. The Administration has been processing the three free TV licence applications expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures without delay.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)021

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2648

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) Regarding the study on the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading, will the Administration inform this Committee of the work done in 2012-13 and the specific work plan, timetable, staff and expenditure envisaged for 2013-14?

Will the Administration inform this Committee whether it will make public the consultancy report prepared by a consultant commissioned by the Government with public funds in January 2006 to assist the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau in the radio spectrum policy review? If yes, what is the specific timetable? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

: (a) According to the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework, the policy inclination is to introduce spectrum trading in Hong Kong in the long term, subject to a feasibility study and resolution of various implementation issues. Pursuant to the said Policy Framework, we have commissioned a consultancy study on the feasibility of introducing spectrum trading in Hong Kong. We are now examining in details the consultant's recommendations as well as the latest international trend and market situation in Hong Kong to map out the way forward. We aim to brief the LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting later this year. The manpower and expenditure involved in the work will be met by existing resources.

(b) The consultancy report on spectrum policy review was uploaded to the website of the then Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau in 2006. It can now be downloaded from http://www.cedb.gov.hk/ctb/eng/paper/pdf/SPR-Final_report.pdf.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)022

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2649

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Communications Authority, long after its establishment, has not yet come up with a road map and timetable for reviewing the current regulatory regime and rationalising the Broadcasting Ordinance and Telecommunications Ordinance. Can the Administration tell us what the current progress is, when the review will be completed and the result announced at the earliest, what the cost required is, how it will follow up after the review is completed and what the necessary manpower arrangement will be?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Administration is making preparations for the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance, including formulating plans in relation to the matters that need to be reviewed. We expect the review to be considerably complicated because the two ordinances are vastly different in terms of both technical background and the regulatory regimes provided for. We are making preliminary preparations covering, inter alia, consideration of the methodology and timetable for the review.

At this stage, the planning is carried out with existing staff and resources.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)023

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2679

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Over the past five years (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13), how much resources in total, covering manpower and other costs, have been involved in the enforcement of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance by the Office of the Communications Authority (and the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority), and how many complaints have been received, how many cases have been processed, and how many cases are substantiated with prosecution brought in the end? In view of the recent surge in the number of unsolicited electronic messages sent through the Internet and mobile phone applications (e.g. Whatsapp), does the Administration have any plans to allocate more resources to deal with the matter? If so, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) has established a task force to conduct investigation and take enforcement action under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO). The expenditure involved is met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Since the UEMO came into full operation in late 2007 and up to 28 February 2013, the OFCA has received 23,513 reports, of which 22,932 (i.e. 97.5%) have been dealt with. 2,641 advisory letters, 525 warning letters and 17 enforcement notices have been issued to the message senders concerned. The year-on-year figures are as follows:

Year	No. of reports received	No. of reports dealt with	No. of advisory letters issued	No. of warning letters issued	No. of enforcement notices issued
2008*	8,792	6,173	568	67	0
2009	6,082	6,766	977	93	1
2010	3,105	3,308	416	174	1
2011	2,598	3,019	291	109	7
2012	2,629	3,363	374	66	6
2013 (Jan-Feb)	307	303	15	16	2
Total	23,513	22,932	2,641	525	17

* From 22 December 2007 to 31 December 2008.

A technology-neutral stance has been adopted for the UEMO in regulating the sending of commercial electronic messages. That means the sending of all electronic messages of a commercial nature are regulated by the UEMO, regardless of the type of telecommunications devices, electronic technologies or methods (including some mobile messaging applications such as WhatsApp) applied in sending such messages. All senders of such messages must comply with the provisions of the UEMO. The OFCA received the first report of the sending of commercial short messages through WhatsApp in July 2011. As of 28 February 2013, it has received a total of 246 silimar reports and taken follow-up actions in accordance with the provisions of the UEMO. The OFCA will review the workload regularly and arrange adequate manpower to handle investigations and enforcement. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)024

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3092

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, does the Government have any plan to speed up the processing of the three applications for free TV licences? If yes, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Administration has been processing the recommendations submitted by the former Broadcasting Authority on the three applications for domestic free television programme service licence expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The Administration will continue to follow this established mechanism and handle the three applications in accordance with the procedures and the law. The Government will announce the outcome as soon as possible after a decision is made by the Chief Executive in Council.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)025

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3216

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Members of the public have reflected that they are not clear about the details and the complaint mechanisms of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) and the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. In 2013-14, does the Office of the Communications Authority have any plans to enhance promotional and educational programmes relating to the UEMO in collaboration with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong so as to help the public to better understand the relation between the two ordinances and differentiate their complaint mechanisms? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: Since the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) came into full operation at the end of 2007, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) has launched a series of publicity and educational programmes to introduce to the public the UEMO and let them understand the protection they will get and the reporting mechanism put in place after the UEMO came into full force. The publicity mounted includes announcements of public interest on TV and radio, press advertisements, newspaper columns on consumer tips and consumer alerts on OFCA's website. Moreover, OFCA organises or attends seminars on the UEMO from time to time.

The number of reports received by OFCA on contravention of the UEMO has dropped substantially from 8 000-odd in 2008 to 2 000-odd in recent years. The downward trend indicates the operation of the UEMO is effective, and it is believed such a trend is also the result of senders of electronic commercial messages and members of the public having better understanding of the provisions of the UEMO and the protection it offers.

Over the past five years, OFCA has only received a few complaints that confuse the UEMO with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. OFCA will continue the publicity efforts through various channels to increase public understanding of the UEMO. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)026

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2101

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau's revised estimate for 2012-13 for the Programme of "Broadcasting and Creative Industries" is $318.5 million, representing an increase of 12.9% over the original estimate of $282 million. However, the estimate for 2013-14 is that the financial provision for this Programme is $307.6 million, representing a substantial decrease of $10.9 million (3.4%) against the revised estimate for 2012-13. In this connection, will it be possible to

(a) explain in detail why the revised estimate is 12.9% more than the original estimate in 2012-13 and provide a breakdown showing the distribution of the initiatives, staff resources and actual expenditure and if not, why not; and

(b) provide, despite reasons having been given for the reduced financial provision in 2013-14, a breakdown showing the distribution of the initiatives, staff resources and funding and if not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: (a) The revised estimate of expenditure for 2012-13 is 12.9% ($36.5 million) higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to payments that have to be made for general non-recurrent items, namely "Business of Design Week and Hong Kong Design Centre Awards (BoD Week and HKDC Awards)" ($13.02 million) and "Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC)" ($27.08 million), totalling $40.1 million.

(b) The estimate of expenditure for 2013-14 is 3.4% ($10.9 million) lower than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is due to reduced cash flow requirement of $2.6 million for "Film Development Fund (FDF)", $500,000 for" BoD Week and HKDC Awards", $3.4 million for "HKDC", and $5.9 million for "Design Incubation Programme" (totalling $12.4 million), partly offset by emolument costs arising from the increase of three posts.

The lower estimate of expenditure for the abovementioned items in 2013-14 is due to FDF's higher cash flow requirement than the original estimate in 2012-13, whereas the estimates of expenditure for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are similar. The year 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the organiser of two events, namely BoD Week and HKDC

Awards, and the programme of activities was thus richer with expenditure somewhat higher. Besides, the HKDC incurred extra expenditure in 2012-13 in organising the "2012 Hong Kong Design Year" and other one-off programmes.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)027

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2120

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government is invited to provide information on manpower training projects, training institutions, number of beneficiaries, expenditure and staff involved in 2012-13 and 2013-14 in relation to each of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages. How is current market situation of manpower supply and demand in each of these six industries? If there is a shortage, how is the situation? Are existing training courses adequate to meet market demand for manpower?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: Of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) and the departments under its purview are responsible for promoting the development of three of them, namely the creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification.

Creative Industries

According to the latest statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, the cultural and creative industries employed over 190 000 people in 2011, representing a 1.8% increase over 2010. To nurture talents for these industries, most of the local tertiary institutions offer creative industries-related degree and associate degree programmes and some of them even offer related postgraduate courses. Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) also provides financial support to relevant industry associations to provide pre-employment or on-the-job training and graduates support schemes to encourage more young people to join the creative industries (details are set out in paragraph 2). Up to now, there are no signs that the programmes and training provided are inadequate to meet the manpower needs in the market.

CreateHK under the CTB administers the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and the Film Development Fund (FDF) to provide financial support to initiatives, including manpower training, that are conducive to the development of creative industries. Examples of projects approved in 2012-13, some of which straddle 2012-13 and 2013-14, are listed below:

Project Title	Duration	Training Institution	Number of beneficiaries (individuals, companies or teams)
INNO-Action! - HKBU Academy of Film Seeds Project (to provide secondary school students with knowledge in digital video production)	2012-2013	HKBU Academy of Film	Around 230 persons
Hong Kong Digital Advertising Industry Fresh Graduate Support Scheme (to provide a platform to match digital advertising companies which are willing to offer one-year full-time employment and on-the-job training for graduates)	2012-2014	Digital advertising companies in Hong Kong	60 graduates (estimate)
2012 Hong Kong Berlin Designers Exchange and 2012 Hong Kong Denmark Designers Exchange (to support two groups of Hong Kong young designers to join the creative activities and exchange programmes in Berlin and Denmark)	June & July 2012	Hong Kong Ambassadors of Design	20 persons
LIVETUBE (to provide a live performance platform for new and unsigned singers or bands)	Jan - Dec 2013	IFPI (Hong Kong Group) Limited	96 performing units (including singers and bands)
"Hong Kong Film New Action - Idea · Action · Your NEXT" Workshop and Forum (to provide a chance to those aspiring to be directors and producers to learn the techniques and skills in promotion, packaging and publicity of film projects)	Mar 2013	CreateHK, the Hong Kong Federation of Filmmakers and Hong Kong Movie Production Executives Association	24 persons (limited to workshop participants)
The EcoChic Design Award 2012 (a fashion design competition that emphasizes up-cycling, reconstruction and zero-waste design techniques)	Mar 2013 - Mar 2014	ReDress Limited	Around 1,160 persons (estimate)
First Feature Film Initiative (to provide funding for three new directors and their production teams to implement their winning film proposals and make their first commercial feature films through a competition focusing on screenplays and production proposals)	Mar 2013 - Oct 2014	CreateHK	3 new directors and their production teams
Hong Kong Young Design Talent (HKYDT) Incubation Programme (to sponsor winners of the CreateSmart Young Design Talent Awards and CreateSmart Young Design Talent Special Awards to attend overseas work placement)	Mar 2013 - Dec 2014	Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC)	4 persons
Showcasing Creative Works to Inspire Cross Industry Matching 2013 (to provide a platform for business matching between local creators, designers, licensors and SMEs)	May 2013	Innovative Entrepreneur Association	80 companies(estimate)
Knowledge of Design Week 2013 (organising workshops and forums to stimulate corporate executives to apply design discipline in business operation, and to enable local designers to grasp the latest international design trends and enhance their design techniques)	July 2013	HKDC	Around 1,050 persons (estimate)

Apart from the above-mentioned projects, CreateHK provides funding support for the industries to organise competitions to identify new talents or for local creative talents to participate in renowned international competitions to gain recognition overseas. Besides, CreateHK provides financial support to projects that offer chances for local SMEs in creative sectors to attend international forums to learn advanced techniques overseas and grasp the market situation. In 2012-13, funding for projects on manpower training approved by CreateHK amounted to $33.5 million.

Moreover, HKDC receives funding from the Government as from May 2012 to run the Design Incubation Programme (DIP). It is anticipated that at least 60 design start-ups will be admitted as incubatees within three years to nurture talents with business acumen for the design sector. Funding for the DIP is estimated to be $42.1 million.

In 2013-14, there will be 70 posts in CreateHK (including civil service posts and non-civil service contract posts) to facilitate the development of the creative industries by, inter alia, organising and funding manpower training programmes.

Innovation & Technology and Testing & Certification

In recent years, about one-third (i.e. some 6 000 each year) of the undergraduates of University Grants Committee funded programmes have graduated in innovation & technology and testing & certification related programmes, including science, applied science and engineering, etc. The Vocational Training Council (VTC) also offers full-time and part-time courses relevant to these two industries. With the above programmes training up suitable talents for the innovation & technology and testing & certification industries, the overall manpower supply should be sufficient.

The Innovation and Technology Commission has introduced various talent training programmes, which include:

(a) Internship Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)

The Programme aims to enable graduates from local tertiary institutions to acquire research and industrial experience. It provides financial support for local research institutions and companies undertaking research projects funded by the ITF to recruit for each project two graduates as interns. In 2012-13 (as at end-January 2013), 230 interns were funded under the Programme with total funding of over $48 m. We expect that the figures for 2013-14 will be similar to those in 2012-13.

(b) Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award Scheme

The Scheme is organised by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and supported by the General Support Programme under the ITF and a charity fund. It aims to provide scholarships to outstanding students in the science and technology disciplines of local universities and offer them opportunities to have greater exposure to innovation and technology and to study overseas. The Scheme provided scholarships of up to $150 000 each for not more than 25 outstanding students in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The ITF provides annual funding of about $2.7 m for the Scheme in 2012 and 2013.

(c) Incu-Tech Programme

Organised by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) (Note), the Programme provides a spawning ground for young technopreneurs by offering affordable accommodation, shared-use facilities and equipment as well as

business-related assistance to support their innovation activities. So far, about 400 companies have benefited from the Programme.

In addition, regarding testing and certification, each year the Secretariat for the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) will invite testing and certification organisations to offer summer internship opportunities and pass the offers received to universities and the VTC for follow-up to enable students to gain hands-on work experience. In 2012, the Secretariat for HKCTC co-ordinated 78 summer internship positions. The expenditure involved for these internship positions was borne by the respective testing and certification organisations.

Note

HKSTPC is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. In this connection, the related expenses of the Incu-Tech Programme are not included in the Government's expenditure.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)028

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1567

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Has the government set aside any expenditure in 2013-14 to study setting up a centralised reporting system through which lost mobile phones can be traced using their International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers so as to protect the interest of the users? If yes, what is the amount set aside and what are the estimated expenditure items? If not, why not?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: The use of International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers to verify and identify stolen mobile phones to deter the theft and snatching of them comes with various technical problems. These include: IMEI numbers can be changed, some mobile phones are not embedded with valid IMEI numbers (e.g. all mobile phones manufactured in the same lot share the same IMEI number or are embedded with non-unique IMEI number), and the lost mobile phones may be shipped out of Hong Kong for use.

The Government does not have plans to set up the said centralised reporting system and this Bureau has not earmarked funds for the purpose of providing technical support for such a reporting system.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)029

Question Serial No

1583

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Financial Secretary says in his Budget Speech that "over the past couple of years, the Government has promoted six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages". In 2013-14, how will the Administration allocate resources to promote each of these six industries? What are the number and ranks of the officers responsible for this job? What initiatives do the specific work plans cover? What is the schedule or timetable for 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: Of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) and the departments under its purview are responsible for promoting the development of three of them, namely the creative industries, innovation and technology, and testing and certification.

Creative Industries

Expenditure for 2013-14	Number and Rank of Officers	Specific Work Plan and Progress
The estimate for the expenditure of the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) under the Communications and Technology Branch in 2013-14 is $249m, being $63.5m for personal emoluments and forecast departmental expenses, and $185.5m for general non-recurrent expenditure (including commitments of CreateHK's various	There are 70 posts in CreateHK, including 51 civil service posts and 19 non-civil service contract posts. The civil service posts include Head of CreateHK, 8 members of the Executive Officer grade, 9 members of the Entertainment Standards Control Officer grade, 9 members of the Trade Officer grade, 5 members of the Explosives Officer grade, 1 member of the Geotechnical Engineer grade, 2 members of the	CreateHK will continue to provide financial support through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and Film Development Fund (FDF) to projects conducive to the development of creative industries. To step up efforts to facilitate the development of creative industries, we will make a funding application to the LegCo Finance Committee to inject an additional $300m into the CSI. CreateHK will launch the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) in March 2013 as Government's latest support measure for the film industry. FFFI will identify new filmmakers through a competition on screenplay and production proposals. Financial support from the FDF, in the form of a grant, will be made available to the winning film production teams to implement their winning film projects

funding schemes and funding for Hong Kong Design Centre, Business Design Week and Hong Kong Design Centre Awards).	Analyst/Programmer grade and 16 members of the clerical and secretarial grades.	CreateHK will present an "Ani-Com Summer" (tentative English title) in the summer of 2013 to tie in with the opening of the Comix Home Base (CHB), fund a series of animation and comics-related activities, and launch a promotional campaign in the Wan Chai District to heighten public awareness of the CHB. Our long-term goals are to establish the CHB as a new landmark for Hong Kong's animation and comics sector and provide a platform to facilitate collaboration and exchange among the practitioners and lovers of the animation and comics sectors. CreateHK will also help promote PMQ, for which revitalisation will be completed in late 2013, to build up local creative clusters and foster a creative atmosphere within the community

Innovation and Technology

Estimate of Expenditure for 2013-14	**Number and Rank of Officers**	**Specific Work Plan and Progress**
The estimated total expenditure of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) for 2013-14 is $452.7 m (inclusive of the recurrent subvention of $318.2 m provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited), of which some $101.5 m is for salaries and departmental expenses, and $33 m is for general non-recurrent expenditure (i.e. the cashflow requirement for the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme). In addition, an estimated funding of $785.1 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) is earmarked for promoting applied technological research/activities.	There are 132 posts in the ITC responsible for assisting in the promotion of innovation and technology development in Hong Kong, including 90 civil service posts, of which 5 are directorate officers and 85 are non-directorate officers, as well as 42 non-civil service posts.	On the promotion of local development of innovation and technology, the Government has been fostering collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. The initiatives include: - development of the $4.9 b Science Park Phase 3, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016; [Note 1] - promoting applied technological research/activities through the ITF. As at end-January 2013, a total of 3 177 projects have been approved under the ITF with a total commitment of $7.3 b. We will suitably enhance the ITF to better support the development of innovation and technology. For example, we have extended the scope of the ITF to cover, in addition to R&D work, the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. So far, over 40 public sector trial projects have commenced; - encouraging greater collaboration between enterprises and local research institutions by increasing the level of cash rebate to enterprises for eligible R&D projects under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30%. Although the Scheme has only been launched for some 3 years, the increasingly positive response from the private sector shows that the Scheme has succesfully encouraged more private sector companies to engage in R&D in collaboration with designated local research institutions;

		- continuing to support the activities of the R&D Centres such as commercialisation of R&D results. We will submit a detailed report on the work of the R&D Centres to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry in June 2013; [Note 2] - organising a wide range of activities such as science competitions and scholarship scheme to enhance public interest in innovation and technology, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and technology in the community; and - continuing to work with the Mainland to actively promote R&D co-operation in science and technology between the two places so as to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

Note 1: The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), which is responsible for developing and managing the Hong Kong Science Park, is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. In this connection, the expenses for conducting various activities in the Park are not included in the Government's expenditure. The estimated cost for developing the Science Park Phase 3 is $4.9 b. The Government has injected $1.5 b and provided a loan of $1.2 b as well as a guarantee for a commercial loan amounting to $1.7 b and the interest arising therefrom to HKSTPC.

Note 2: The funds involved have been counted as part of ITF funding.

Testing and Certification

Expenditure for 2013-14	Number and Rank of Officers	Specific Work Plan and Progress
The estimated expenditure of ITC on quality support for 2013-14 is about $106.5 m, which is mainly for providing accreditation and calibration services and information on international standards for the testing and certification industry, as well as secretariat support for the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC). The ITF will also provide funding of some $1.39 m to support 5 approved R&D projects related to testing and certification.	There are 101 posts in the ITC responsible for assisting in the promotion of testing and certification development in Hong Kong, including 100 civil service posts and 1 non-civil service contract post, of which 3 are directorate posts.	The Government has been working closely with HKCTC in implementing a 3-year industry development plan. It is worthwhile to note that HKCTC has just completed a review on the implementation progress of the industry development plan. The review report will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry for discussion soon.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)030

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3199

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide information referred to below on schemes administered by the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK):

(a) For CreateSmart Initiative, for the period since its establishment, the respective numbers of applications received, approved and refused; the categories of funded projects, and the amount of funding as well as economic benefits generated for each category; and

(b) For DesignSmart Initiative, for the period 2008-2012, the respective numbers of applications received, approved and refused, and the economic benefits generated.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply: (a) The application and funding details in respect of the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) for the period from its establishment in June 2009 to end of 2012 are as follows:

	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of funding granted (HK$ million)	Number of applications rejected	Other cases*
CSI	269	121	238.6	82	66

* Other cases include applications withdrawn by applicants and applications being processed by CreateHK.

The 121 funded projects are categorised into three groups by project aims:

(i) nurturing creative talents and facilitating start-ups - the CSI has provided some $73.4 million supporting 54 projects that aim to nurture talents and start-ups. Some 290 companies have been supported through these projects, while over 15 000 talent and start-up nurturing opportunities were offered;

(ii) promoting development of creative industries through exploring local and outside markets - the CSI has provided some $83.4 million supporting 41 projects for exploring markets. Such projects range from trade fairs held in or

outside Hong Kong to development of online platforms for matching potential clients with creative service providers. Over 1 780 creative companies (including some 230 small and medium sized enterprises) and nearly 1 500 practitioners of creative industries have benefitted from programmes on exploring markets; and

(iii) promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital, fostering a creative atmosphere and developing creative clusters - the CSI has sponsored 26 projects, involving a total funding of around $81.8 million. Some of these events help raise Hong Kong's international profile as a creative hub.

(b) The application and funding details in respect of the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI) for the period from early 2008 to end 2012 are as follows:

	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of funding granted (HK$ million)	Number of applications rejected	Other cases*
DSI	460	324	109.6	108	49

* Other cases include applications withdrawn by applicants and applications being processed by CreateHK at the end of 2012. The numbers of applications received, approved, rejected and withdrawn as shown in the table above arose during the period from early 2008 to end of 2012, covering those approved/rejected/withdrawn applications which were received before 2008 but their processing were not completed by end 2007. Therefore, the sum of applications approved, applications rejected and other cases is not equal to the number of applications received during the same period.

Regarding economic benefits, the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme (DBCS) under the DSI has granted a total funding of $15.3 million between 2008 and end 2012. Since the DBCS provides only half of the approved project cost and up to $100,000 in each case, the value of the design projects thus generated for the design companies amounts to at least $30.6 million.

Moreover, for projects that receive funding under the CSI and DSI (other than those under DBCS), which include conferences, workshops, exhibitions, competitions, training courses, researches, etc., it is difficult to measure the direct economic benefits they generated. However, they can foster an environment conducive to the development of creative industries through nurturing creative talents; demonstrating the strength of our creative talents; assisting the industry in holding promotional activities in the Mainland, Taiwan and overseas; establishing business network; expanding markets; and staging creative signature events to raise Hong Kong's profile as a creative capital.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)031

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0630

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

(a) The Administration has already taken one and a half year to process the three free television licence applications with no result as yet. Please inform the Committee of the criteria by which the Administration grants new free television licences?

(b) The Administration has already taken one and a half year to process the three free television licence applications with no result as yet. Why is it? What difficulties has the Administration encountered? Are political factors involved delaying the whole approval process?

(c) Will the Administration undertake to complete the process and announce the result of the three free television licence applications within this year so as to respond to the aspiration of the community for additional free television licences to be granted?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

(a) In considering each application for a domestic free television programme service licence, the Communications Authority (formerly the Broadcasting Authority) (the Authority) assesses the application in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562) (BO) and established procedures, taking into account a number of relevant factors. Such factors include the statutory requirements, assessment criteria set out in the Guidance Note for Those Interested in Applying for Domestic Free Television Programme Service Licences in Hong Kong (Guidance Note) and public opinions. The assessment criteria set out in the Guidance Note include the applicant's financial soundness and commitment to investment; the applicant's managerial and technical expertise; the variety, quantity and quality of programmes to be provided; the technical soundness and quality of the proposed service; the speed of service roll-out; the impact on members of the public by any construction works associated with the proposed service; the benefit to the local broadcasting industry and the economy as a whole; and the applicant's internal quality monitoring mechanism.

As for the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences, the Authority completed the assessment in accordance with the BO and established procedures, and submitted its recommendations to the CE in Council. The CE in

Council will take into account the above-mentioned and all other relevant factors in deciding whether to grant the domestic free television programme service licence.

(b) The Administration has been processing the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The process involves complicated issues including those relating to the statutory requirements and procedural fairness. There has been neither delay nor political consideration during the process.

(c) The Administration has been processing the recommendations submitted by the Authority expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The Government will announce the outcome as soon as possible after a decision is made by the CE in Council.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)032

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0631

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government launched the Film Development Fund (FDF) Scheme for Financing Film Production ("the Finance Scheme") in 2007. However, the Audit Report released earlier has revealed a number of problems with the Finance Scheme. Among these problems, concerning the 10 films that have been released commercially and financed by the FDF, the overall recovery rate of the financial contribution was 44.2%, with as low as zero recovery for some of the films. From 2005 to this year, only some 28% of the total government funding for supporting the film industry was spent on film-production projects while the remaining 72% went to film-related projects such as large scale film events and award presentation ceremonies. From January 2008 to June 2012, FDF sponsored under film-related projects, inter alia, four mega film events (i.e. Asian Film Awards, Entertainment Expo Hong Kong, Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum and Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony) and the approved sponsorship amounted to $88.8 million, which was around 50% of total funding of $180 million made available under FDF during the period. Please advise:

(a) What are the criteria by which financing for film production projects are provided under the Finance Scheme?

(b) What is the annual expenditure of the FDF? What is its current balance? When will it be exhausted as expected by the Administration?

(c) Concerning the recovery rate, does the Administration regard the existing situation as satisfactory? Please explain. Will the Administration review the current financing mode and assess the effectiveness of the safeguards for ensuring the commercial viability of the applicants? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

(d) Will the Administration review the ratio between funding for film-production projects and film-related projects so as to ensure public money is used to finance film production? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

(e) As funding for the four mega film events is tremendous, there will be less funding available for other film events accordingly. Will the government review the ratio between funding for the four mega film events and other film events? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: (a) The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved the injection of $300 million into the Film Development Fund (FDF) and expansion of its scope to launch the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Financing Scheme) in 2007. With FC's approval vide FCR(2007-08)30, the Government shall decide whether applications for film financing are to be approved and funding disbursed having regard to the recommendations of the Fund Vetting Committee (FVC) set up under the Film Development Council. The FVC will examine and vet the film financing applications with the assistance of a panel of examiners. The examiners are professionals with rich experience in film production, financing, etc. Based on the information submitted by the applicant, the examiners will evaluate comprehensively the commercial viability of each film project (for example, at least 50% of the budget has been undertaken by third-party financier(s), whether the film is for mass appeal rather than only niche market, reasonableness of the budget and revenue estimates, etc.). The FVC will consider the examiners' assessment before putting forward their recommendation to the Government as to whether a film project should receive financing from the FDF.

(b) Since 2005 and up till now, funding support of an average of about $30 million is granted from the FDF each year. As at end February 2013, the outstanding balance of the FDF's commitment is around $58 million. We anticipate that the uncommitted balance of the FDF will be exhausted by mid-2015.

(c) Generally speaking, filmmaking is a commercial activity with extremely high risk, particularly for those films of a small to medium scale which are the targets of the Financing Scheme. Hence, the Government has stated in FCR(2007-08)30 that "there is a chance of the Government not recouping all or part of the contribution if the proceeds from all revenues for the Government's share of contribution cannot cover the contribution." Given the highly unpredictable market response to a film before its release, it is not possible for the Government to specify an expected return from its contribution to the film production projects. In the absence of objective assessment criteria, it is difficult for the Government to assess whether the return rate is satisfactory.

In fact, the aim of the Government in providing financing for film-making is to assist the film industry in revitalising itself and developing further, rather than deriving financial gains from the funding support given to the industry. The Government has listed in FCR(2007-08)30 the purposes of setting up the FDF, which include limited funding support for small-to-medium budget film productions; enhanced efforts to promote Hong Kong films in the Mainland and overseas; enhanced initiatives to train talents in the various aspects of film production and distribution; and enhancing the interest and appreciation of Hong Kong films by the local audience.

In October 2012, the FVC reviewed and introduced changes to further improve the system of vetting applications for financing film production. In assessing the commercial viability of a film project via its production budget and revenue estimates, the creativity and local production elements are also assessed. Coupled with a new scoring system, applications for film financing are assessed more fully. The Government will embark on a comprehensive strategic review of the FDF in the second half of this year. It will consult the FDC and stakeholders so that the FDF can better meet the needs of the industry.

(d) The Government has no pre-set ratio between the financing amount for film production projects and the funding amount for film-related projects. The ultimate amount and ratio are driven by demand and subject to merits of individual applications. In processing financing/funding applications, we will mainly examine

what benefits the application concerned will bring to the local film industry and whether its budget is reasonable relative to the scale of the project. As stated in (c) above, the Government will conduct a comprehensive strategic review on the FDF in the second half of this year.

(e) In vetting all applications for funding under the FDF, we mainly consider what benefits the application concerned will bring to the local film industry and whether the budget is reasonable relative to the scale of the project. The Government has not set a cap on the number of projects for which funding can be sought. Hence, the funding made available to the four mega film events has no impact on the funding which other projects may obtain from the FDF. Moreover, apart from FDF funding, the applicant organisations for the four mega film events also need to seek sponsorship and donations in staging the activities. In reviewing the FDF in the second half of this year, the Government will also review the support for these activities.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)033

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3287

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: For the undertakings listed hereinafter, please list their respective numbers of applications received, approved, details of projects approved and amount of funding granted; as well as their respective numbers of applications refused, details of projects refused and reasons for refusal for the past 10 years ending 2012:

(a) DesignSmart Initiative;

(b) Film Development Fund; and

(c) CreateSmart Initiative.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) administers the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI), the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI). The table below sets out their application and funding details from 2003 or year of launch to 2012.

Funding scheme	**Number of applications received**	**Number of applications approved**	**Amount of funding granted (HK$ million)**	**Number of applications rejected**	**Applications withdrawn by applicants and cases under processing**
DSI (2004-2012) (Note)	647	445	187.64	142	60
FDF (Scheme for Financing Film Production) (2007-2012)	65	28	77.85	14	23
FDF (Scheme for Funding Other Film-Related Projects) (2003-2012)	174	128	181.68	31	15
CSI (2009-2012)	269	121	238.65	82	66

Note: To rationalise funding support for the creative industries and achieve better co-ordination in the use of resources, the DSI and the CSI began phased consolidation on 1 June 2011.

(a) DSI provides funding support to projects only and the types of funded projects include:

(i) small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)/design companies collaboration projects that encourage SMEs to engage design services in improving their products and services thereby helping them move up the value chain and increase their competitiveness;

(ii) programmes that support and foster design culture, promote appreciation and adoption of design, and honour design excellence in Hong Kong, e.g. conferences, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, design competitions, etc.;

(iii) research-based programmes on design and branding, which provide a platform for the trade to attain deeper understanding in effective utilisation and deployment of design in mainstream industrial and business processes ; and

(iv) professional continuing training programmes for nurturing talents.

As far as the applications in respect of SMEs/design companies collaboration projects are concerned, the main reason for rejecting the applications is that the projects concerned cannot meet the DSI's criteria. Such criteria include whether the project can help integrate design into business process; whether the project can exploit and deploy intellectual property to help transform design activity into tradable deliverables, be it product or service, , and the extent to which the project can add value to or help commercialise the products or services concerned; whether the overall planning for project implementation, as well as the expertise, experience, qualifications, resources and track record of the project team are commensurate with the scale of the project; whether the proposed budget is reasonable and realistic, etc. Moreover, since the DSI aims at providing funding for promoting design rather than starting an enterprise or marketing, non-design projects with the sole purpose of establishing an enterprise or promoting sale and marketing, as well as system maintenance or technical projects, etc. are rejected.

For applications in respect of other types of projects, the reasons for rejecting the applications include: the projects are not in line with the aim of the DSI; the manner of project implementation is not cost-effective; the deliverables of the projects serve only the interests of individual private companies or consortia rather than the local design sector; the projects have no obvious market demand; or the projects have duplicated or may duplicate the work of other institutions, etc.

(b) Projects which are funded by the FDF include: film production financing, award presentations, financing forums, seminars, grooming of talents, data compilation, research and study, film promotion, as well as participation in film festivals outside Hong Kong, etc.

Regarding film production, the main reasons for rejecting the applications include: production budget is unreasonably high and the market forecast is too optimistic; the chance of breaking even is very slim; the financing risk is quite high, etc. For applications concerning other film-related projects, the main reasons for rejection include: the applications fall outside the funding scope and eligibility; the projects carry recurrent expenditure which do not meet the funding criteria of the FDF; the projects cannot serve the interests of the entire film industry or serve only the interests of individual private companies; and the projects have duplicated the work of other institutions, etc.

(c) Projects which are funded by the CSI include: supporting the participation of local creative talents in international competitions; financially supporting the industry to organise training courses, workshops, seminars and exchange camps, and develop teaching kits; providing paid internship and training opportunities; organising promotion programmes and competitions to recruit and identify new blood for the industry; sponsoring overseas internship and exchange programmes for new talents; assisting the industry (including SMEs in the creative sectors) in organising and participating in business promotion activities held locally or outside Hong Kong ; supporting animation start-ups to create their original works; and providing sponsorship to signature creative events, etc.

The main reasons for rejecting the applications include: the projects are not in line with the aim of the CSI; the deliverables of the projects serve only the interests of individual private companies or consortia rather than the entire creative industries or individual creative sectors in Hong Kong; the project have duplicated or may duplicate the work of other institutions; and the applicants are too optimistic about the expected impact of the projects, etc.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)034

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1224

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The film "Life of Pi", shot with the assistance of Taiwan, has won a number of Oscar awards and its shooting location will become a major tourist attraction in Taiwan. It is stated in the Budget that the development of creative industries is to be pursued. However, no mention has been made of any measures to support the film industry. Why is that? What policies for supporting the development of the film industry does the SAR Government have?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: The Government is committed to providing a favourable environment for the long-term and healthy development of the film industry in Hong Kong. We established the Film Development Council (FDC) in April 2007 to advise the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on the policy, strategy and institutional arrangement for the promotion and development of the film industry. Besides, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (FC) has approved an injection of $300 million into the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the expansion of its scope of application in order to support the sustained development of the local film industry. Moreover, the Film Services Office (FSO) under the Create Hong Kong of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) was set up in 1998 (it was under the former Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority before June 2009) and has since its establishment dedicated itself to providing support services to the local film industry, including promoting Hong Kong as an ideal place for location shooting, encouraging film crews to make use of the FSO's one-stop services aimed at facilitating location filming, and coordinating various application procedures associated with location shooting to maintain the status of Hong Kong as a major production base in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Since 2007 (up to the end of February 2013), the FDF has granted a total funding of $247 million, of which some $78 million helps finance 28 film production projects and some $169 million provides funding support for 92 film-related projects. The latters range from the organisation of mega film events like the Entertainment Expo Hong Kong, the Asian Film Awards, the Hong Kong-Asian Film Financing Forums and the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, to the running of film professionals training programme and production of film and animation art teaching kits, etc.

Various films financed by the FDF have won a total of 11 awards in local film festivals and 24 awards in overseas festivals. Among them, the film "Echoes of the Rainbow" (歲月神偷) won the Crystal Bear Award in Generation at the 60th Berlinale 2010.

Besides, with a view to expanding the Mainland market, reviving the market for Hong Kong films in Southeast Asia and promoting the new generation film directors of Hong Kong, the FDC has launched a project entitled "Hong Kong Film New Action" since December 2008. Over the past few years, a series of symposiums, seminars, talks, exhibitions and workshops on different topics were held under this project during the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market. These publicity and promotional activities have attracted over 24 000 participants.

Apart from promoting the utilisation of the FDF for part-financing the production of small-to-medium budget films and financially supporting projects beneficial to the long-term and healthy development of the film industry in Hong Kong, the Government also attaches importance to nurturing talents in film production.

Under the FDF Scheme for Financing Film Productions, to encourage the nurturing of local new directors to start film projects, a film project directed by a new director (one who directs a commercial film for the first or second time) with the assistance of a veteran producer (one who has produced two or more feature films for commercial theatrical release in Hong Kong) will, if approved, enjoy a maximum financing ratio of 40% of the production budget of the film project (compared with the maximum financing ratio of 35% of the production budget under normal circumstances); the production budget being capped at $10 million.

Moreover, it has been announced in this year's Policy Address that the CreateHK will launch the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) early this year to identify talents from among new directors and film industry employees with no prior experience in directing commercial films through a competition on screenplay and production proposals. The FDF will make available $9.95 million for the winning teams to make their first commercial films. The aim of the FFFI is to, within two years, support three new directors and their production teams to make their first feature films on a commercial basis. This enables the nurturing and identification of talents for the film industry and encourages more talents with zest for films to join the ranks of filmmakers in Hong Kong.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)035

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1257

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under CEPA, the Mainland has further opened its film market to the Hong Kong film industry. How will the Administration make better use of such an opportunity, such as implementing more policies or providing more resources to support the film industry, so that local films may share the benefits thereof?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: Under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the Mainland has given preferential treatment to Hong Kong service providers in such areas as distribution of films (including both Hong Kong productions and Hong Kong-Mainland co-productions) and video products, cinema operation and post-production.

In late June 2012, the Central People's Government (CPG) announced a number of policies to support Hong Kong's development. Those pertaining to film include the following:

(a) encouraging the Cantonese version of Hong Kong films to more expeditiously and conveniently enter the Guangdong market, and to be released in synchrony in Hong Kong and Guangdong; and

(b) giving the Cantonese version of Hong Kong films distributed and released in Guangdong a revenue-sharing basis on par with that of the United States films distributed and released in the Mainland, thus raising the maximum share of revenue which the Hong Kong side may enjoy to 25%.

To assist the Hong Kong film industry in expanding the Mainland market, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government has made available funds under the Film Development Fund to Cantonese version of Hong Kong films imported to Guangdong for release. The funding support for each approved film is capped at HK$250,000 for meeting the distribution and publicity costs incurred in releasing the film in Guangdong. The funding scheme concerned took effect on 1 July 2012 and will be reviewed after a one-year trial period. The scheme complements the aforementioned new measures promulgated by the CPG and will further help the importation of Cantonese version of Hong Kong films into the Guangdong market.

To help the industry understand the provisions under CEPA, the SAR Government has joined hands with the Guangdong Administration of Radio, Film and Television to publish a "Practical Guide on Entry into the Guangdong Market under CEPA Preferential Measures" for reference by the industry of Hong Kong.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)036

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2403

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: At present, only three companies (i.e. Digital Broadcasting Corporation Hong Kong Limited (DBC), Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited (Metro) and Phoenix U Radio Limited (Phoenix U) hold digital sound broadcasting licences in Hong Kong. Does the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau have any work plan this year to attract more organisations to apply for such licences so as to foster the development of the digital audio broadcasting market?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: At present, there are four multiplexes available in Band III (216 - 223 MHz) for the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) in Hong Kong. The Government has released one 1.5MHz multiplex in Band III for the provision of DAB services with territory-wide coverage, and allocated in 2011 the transmission capacity of this multiplex in full for three commercial radio stations and Radio Television Hong Kong to provide a total of 18 DAB channels to offer more programme choices to the public. We have no plan to release the remaining three Band III multiplexes.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)037

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2405

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Executive Council's deliberation over free TV licences has lasted for almost a year. What specific work plan does the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau have to assist the Executive Council in its deliberation so that there will be a result as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: Under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562), the Chief Executive (CE) in Council is the licensing authority for the domestic free television programme service licence (free TV licence). The Administration has been processing the recommendations submitted by the former Broadcasting Authority on the three free TV licence applications expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. The CE in Council is now considering these free TV licence applications. If the CE in Council needs any relevant information in considering the applications, this Bureau will provide assistance as appropriate. Due to the confidentiality rule of the Executive Council, we are not in a position to disclose the specific work in connection with the consideration of the said applications.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)038

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2406

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Every year, the Film Guarantee Fund (FDF) processes few applications. How will the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau oversee the revision of the FDF application requirements and approval process so that more filmmakers lacking funds will benefit?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: The Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) Scheme is set up with the purpose of assisting local film production companies in obtaining loans from local participating lending institutions for producing films.

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production (the Finance Scheme) under the Film Development Fund (FDF), the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the FGF has dropped significantly. We believe this is due to the fact that the trade has generally turned to the FDF for financing the film production, and bears no direct relationship with the application method, procedures, as well as assessment process and criteria of the FGF.

In view of the low utilisation of the FGF in recent years, we reviewed the operation and effectiveness of the FGF in September 2010. A questionnaire survey was conducted on 72 participating institutions/individuals and local film companies/organisations. The results of the survey showed that the trade generally found the FGF effective in assisting local film production companies in obtaining loan financing for film production. A majority of the trade agreed to or did not object to the view of keeping the operation of the FGF in its existing mode.

In the light of the feedback from the trade, we submitted a review report to the Film Development Council (FDC) in September 2011. The FDC agreed that the FGF should maintain its status quo to provide the film industry with an alternative financing option to the Finance Scheme.

We will review the FDF in the second half of this year, and will take that opportunity to also review the effectiveness of the FGF.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)039

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2407

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In the current year, i.e. 2013-14, what publicity will the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) mount to explain to the public the range of complaints dealt with by it in relation to telecommunications services so that consumers may find an alternative to the "Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme" (CCSS) to resolve such complaints and know better their rights?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: In mid-2012, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) produced a new series of announcements of public interest (APIs) to publicise the establishment of the Communications Authority (CA) and introduce to the public on ways to lodge complaints concerning broadcasting and telecommunications services with the CA. Broadcast of the APIs on TV and radio will continue this year. OFCA has also produced publicity posters on the subject for public housing estates, estate management offices and owners' corporation to display in the common areas of their buildings. Moreover, the CA and OFCA provide the public with detailed guidelines on lodging complaints and the complaint forms through websites and enquiry hotlines so that the public knows the role of the CA in dealing with complaints from consumers, the power conferred upon the CA by the legislations and the complaint handling procedures.

Besides, OFCA has launched a series of TV and radio APIs on smart use of communications services. The topics include how to prevent mobile bill shock and the need for consumers to have a clear understanding of the contents of telecommunications service contracts, etc. The APIs will continue to be broadcast on TV and radio this year. OFCA will issue and update consumer alerts as necessary so the public will know their rights better. OFCA's consumer education activities will continue this year to disseminate knowledge and alerts on smart use of communications services. The activities will include holding talks and roving exhibitions, showing videos online and on MTR and buses, and staging online games and comic drawing competitions.

To sum up, OFCA will continue in the year to educate the public on the use of communications services and consumer rights through APIs and consumer education activities. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA trading fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)040

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2772

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Financial Secretary proposes that the 6 universities which have set up "technology transfer offices" be provided with a subvention through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for a period of 3 years to support their work. The transfer of scientific research results into industrial production involves a long research and development (R&D) process and considerable funding support. During the 3-year funding period, what targets does the Government expect the universities' "technology transfer offices" to achieve? Apart from this, how will the Government allocate more resources for the R&D work in Hong Kong in the future?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply: In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of R&D results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

In addition, the Government will continue to foster collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors in promoting local R&D activities through the provision of hardware and software support. The initiatives include:

(a) development of the $4.9 b Science Park Phase 3, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016;

(b) promoting applied technological research/activities through the ITF. We will suitably enhance the ITF to better support the development of innovation and technology. For example, we have extended the scope of the ITF to cover, in addition to R&D work, the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector;

(c) encouraging greater collaboration between enterprises and local research institutions by raising the level of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30% for eligible R&D projects from the enterprises. Although the Scheme has only

been launched for some 3 years, the increasingly positive response from the private sector shows that the Scheme has succesfully encouraged more private sector companies to engage in R&D in collaboration with designated local research institutions;

(d) continuing to support the activities of the R&D Centres such as commercialisation of R&D results;

(e) organising a wide range of activities such as science competitions and scholarship scheme to enhance public interest in innovation and technology, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and technology in the community; and

(f) continuing to work with the Mainland to actively promote R&D co-operation in science and technology between the two places so as to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)041

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0795

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Government's proposal to provide a subvention of up to $12 m for a period of 3 years to each of the 6 universities to support their technology transfer projects, what targets does the Government expect to achieve and how can the outcomes of the projects be quantified?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply: In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, the Innovation and Technology Commission will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)042

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2377

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) received a total of 30 applications requesting $46.9 m in 2012. Please provide a breakdown of the funding expenditure by scheme. The estimated number of applications received and processed in 2013 is 20, representing a 33% decrease over last year. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply: In 2012, the UICP received a total of 30 applications, of which 3 were under the Teaching Company Scheme and 27 were under the Matching Grant for Joint Research involving funding of $46.9 m. The details are as follows:

	No. of applications received	Amount of funding applied
Teaching Company Scheme	3	$0.7 m
Matching Grant for Joint Research	27	$46.2 m

In 2012, we did not receive any applications under the Industrial Research Chair Scheme of the UICP.

Since the resources available/inclination/workload of the universities and industry may be different each year, the number of applications would also vary. A total of 18, 14 and 30 applications were received under the UICP in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The estimated number of applications to be received in 2013 is projected based on the average figure for the past 3 years, and therefore is forecast at 20.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)043

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1315

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Chief Executive (CE) indicated in his Policy Address that importance should be attached to the development of the innovation and technology industries. Please inform this Committee of the new initiatives and plans to be implemented by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in 2013-14 to support the CE's policy objective, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply: The Government has been attaching great importance to the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. The CE indicated in his 2013 Policy Address that the Government will focus on the development of the highly competitive sectors of the innovation and technology industries in light of Hong Kong's strengths. We will provide software and hardware support; foster co-operation among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors; forge closer collaboration with the Mainland; and inject additional resources when necessary. All these will be conducive to the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results, which will in turn give impetus to the development of the industries.

To further promote innovation and technology, we propose to introduce the following initiatives/plans in the coming year:

(a) The ITC will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in technology R&D and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community. We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

(b) Starting from the next financial year, we will increase the funding support for the Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs) in Hong Kong from the existing ceiling of $2 m each year for every PSKL to $5 m each year until 2015-16 to further enhance our support for the continued development of the PSKLs.

(c) We will also provide funding support of up to $15 m for three years to the Hong Kong Branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres starting from the next financial year to enhance its capabilities in conducting applied research projects and co-operation with their Mainland partners.

We will provide details to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry in due course.

ITC will plan and implement the above initiatives with its existing manpower and resources. No additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)044

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3111

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the departmental records management work over the past 3 years (as at 2012):

(a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

(b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

(c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

(d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) In accordance with the Government's internal guidelines and manual, the Commission has appointed the following officers of different ranks to undertake different responsibilities on departmental records management on top of their own duties and to report to a responsible directorate officer responsible for overseeing such work:

(i) 1 Chief Executive Officer serving as the Departmental Records Manager to assist in establishing and implementing the departmental records management programme;

(ii) 2 Executive Officers I serving as the Assistant Departmental Records Managers to assist the Departmental Records Manager in implementing such work; and

(iii) 8 officers not below the rank of Executive Officer II serving as the Records Managers to monitor the records management of various divisions.

In addition, each division has its own general registry with clerical grade staff responsible for filing and records management routines. They include 1 Senior Clerical Officer, 9 Clerical Officers, 22 Assistant Clerical Officers and 11 Clerical Assistants.

Other officers of different ranks in the Commission also have varied involvement in records management in their daily work.

(b)

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-

(c)

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-

(d)

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	1982-2008	381/17.77 linear metres	2010-2011	2-4 years	No
Programme records	1986-2007	977/63.14 linear metres	2010-2012	4-7 years	No

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)045

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0761

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under Programme (2), the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) received a total of 30 applications requesting $46.9 m in 2012. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the project details and amount of funding contributed by various parties in respect of the approved applications. As for the number of applications to be processed in 2013, it is estimated at 20, representing a drop of 10 cases over 2012. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply: The UICP received a total of 30 applications in 2012, of which 27 were under the Matching Grant for Joint Research and 3 were under the Teaching Company Scheme. Of these applications, 17 have been approved, 11 are still under consideration and the remaining 2 have been withdrawn by the applicant and rejected respectively. The technology areas of the 17 approved projects include biotechnology, electrical and electronics, information technology, manufacturing technology and materials science, involving funding of $23.42 m.

Since the resources available/inclination/workload of the universities and industry may be different each year, the number of applications would also vary. A total of 18, 14 and 30 applications were received under the UICP in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The estimated number of applications to be received in 2013 is projected based on the average figure for the past 3 years, and therefore is forecast at 20.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)046

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0762

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The financial provision for 2013-14 under Programme (3) is 5.1% lower than that for 2012-13, but there is an increase in the estimated number of applications received and processed as well as projects funded and being monitored under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) in 2013. What are the reasons for the decline, rather than an increase, in the financial provision?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply: The provision under Programme (3) involves recurrent items, including mainly staff costs and other administrative expenses. The estimate for 2013-14 is $0.4 m (-5.1%) lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the decreased expenditure on contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff in 2013-14.

Generally speaking, the slight adjustment to the above expenditure will not have any impact on our continued efforts to actively promote technology-based entrepreneurial activities. To further assist small and medium enterprises in their research and development work, we have introduced the following enhancements to SERAP in April 2012:

(a) increasing the funding ceiling for each project from $4 m to $6 m;

(b) relaxing the eligibility criteria to cover enterprises with venture capital investment; and

(c) expanding the funding scope to support more commercialisation-related activities, including testing and certification of prototype and pre-clinical trials, etc.

The above enhancements have started to bear fruits. We will review our supporting measures from time to time so as to better promote the development of the industry.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)047

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1035

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration stated that in 2012-13, it administered an Internship Programme to provide financial support for organisations undertaking research and development (R&D) projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) to recruit interns to assist in the projects. Would the Administration provide the details on the number of interns participating under the Programme and the expenditure involved in 2012-13? What is the expenditure to be involved in 2013-14? Will there be any increase in the expenditure to attract university graduates to participate in the Programme?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Internship Programme under the ITF provides financial support for local research institutions and private companies to recruit, for each R&D project funded by ITF, 2 additional interns who are local university graduates for a maximum internship period of 24 months. To encourage more local university graduates to participate in the Programme, we have since 1 February 2012 increased the monthly allowance for interns who possess a Bachelor degree from $10,000 to $12,000, and for those with a Master or higher degree, from $12,000 to $14,000.

In 2012-13 (as at end-January 2013), funding support for 230 interns were approved under the Programme with a total ITF funding of over $48 m. We expect that the number of applications and amount of funding for 2013-14 will be similar to those of this year. We will continue to monitor the number of applications and promote the Programme to encourage more university graduates to engage in R&D.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)048

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1036

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Administration organised the InnoTech Month (ITM) 2012. What are the expenditure involved and the public participation rate? Has the Administration evaluated the effectiveness of the event? If not, what are the reasons? Will there be any ITM in 2013-14? What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: In 2012-13, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) organised the ITM 2012 in collaboration with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, youth groups, social service agencies, the academia and business sectors, and relevant government departments, etc. The total departmental expenditure involved is about $10 m and the event attracted some 210 000 visits. Apart from the departmental expenditure, the collaborating organisations were also funded by the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund to co-organise the event.

The ITM 2012 has helped promote the innovation and technology culture in the community and create a stronger atmosphere of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. In particular, the 9-day flagship event InnoCarnival 2012 has been well received, attracting a record high of visits.

In 2013-14, ITC will once again partner with various organisations in organising the ITM 2013, which will feature a wide range of activities including roadshows, exhibitions, innovation workshops, guided tours, forums, competitions, industry conferences and seminars. We plan to expand the scale of the event and the departmental expenditure involved is estimated at about $12 m.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)049

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1037

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated that the Administration supported the development of Chinese medicines (CM), and set up a new government-led committee to co-ordinate various parties in promoting the development of research and development (R&D) and testing of CM. What was the specific work of the Committee and the expenditure involved in 2012-13? What will be the work plan and the expenditure involved in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Administration set up the Committee on Research and Development of Chinese Medicines (the Committee) in December 2011 to act as a platform to gauge views from various stakeholders on the matters related to R&D of CM in Hong Kong; to formulate the direction and identify key areas of work in promoting R&D of CM in Hong Kong; and to facilitate sharing of R&D outcome and other collaboration among various stakeholders to promote collaboration with organisations outside Hong Kong. In the financial year 2012-13, the Committee adopted the following directions to promote R&D and testing of CM in Hong Kong:

(a) Strengthen support for R&D of CM – for example, to encourage local universities and research institutions to do their best in developing R&D of CM, a special theme on R&D of CM was included in the invitation of proposals under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme in 2012.

(b) Promote testing and certification of CM – the Committee invited the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification to introduce its work in this area last year which included coordinating training courses for laboratories and promoting CM testing and certification services to CM traders and the public through various activities. The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) has also supported Hong Kong Productivity Council to conduct a project on developing a certification scheme for Chinese Materia Medica.

(c) Facilitate collaboration among stakeholders – to facilitate the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors, the Committee organised a seminar on CM last year for different stakeholders in the CM sector to exchange ideas and update their knowledge on R&D of CM in Hong Kong.

(d) Understand and support industry needs – on behalf of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) conducted a proposal invitation exercise last year. Research teams formed by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in collaboration with The University of Hong Kong, as well as Hong Kong Baptist University, were awarded funding support from HKJCCT to conduct a project on CM R&D and provision of CM chemical markers, and a project focusing on CM testing and related support services for the CM industry, respectively. In addition, in response to the concern of the CM industry on proprietary CM GMP, the Committee has formed the "Working Group on Chinese Medicines Manufacturing" to discuss the subject as well as other important R&D and technical aspects of CM manufacturing which would facilitate industry upgrading in the long run.

(e) Promote the work of the Committee to the industry and the community - in order to give the public a better understanding of the latest development of R&D of CM in Hong Kong, the Committee published advertorials in major local newspapers and collaborated with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a radio programme series on CM to introduce various topics relating to CM development.

In 2013-14, the Committee and ITC will continue to follow the above 5 major directions to promote the development of R&D and testing of CM in Hong Kong, and communicate closely with the industry and related research institutions to support projects on GMP training which would suit the industry needs so as to help enhance the industry's technological capability.

ITC also supports CM R&D in Hong Kong through the ITF. There are different funding programmes under the ITF for supporting universities, research institutions and companies to conduct applied research projects relating to R&D and testing of CM. In addition, the General Support Programme under the ITF can support projects such as technical training, exhibitions, seminars, workshops and surveys, which help enhance and promote the development of the CM industry.

As the operation of the Committee is supported by ITC staff, no additional provision is involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)050

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0126

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimate for 2013-14 under Programme (3) is slightly lower than that for 2012-13. Would the Commission give details of the amount of resources to be allocated for –

(a) administering the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) with a view to better supporting small and medium-sized enterprises to conduct research and development (R&D);

(b) monitoring progress of funded projects under SERAP; and

(c) monitoring the residual work relating to the Applied Research Fund (ARF)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: The major activities related to the promotion of technological entrepreneurship under Programme (3) include SERAP and the ARF. The provision involves recurrent items, including mainly staff costs and other administrative expenses. The estimate for 2013-14 is $0.4 m (-5.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is mainly due to the decreased expenditure on contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff in 2013-14.

The latest situation of SERAP and the ARF is as follows:

SERAP

SERAP is one of the funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund. The Government has been, through SERAP, providing funding support to technology entrepreneurs and small technology-based companies to undertake projects that have innovative, technological content, and business potential. As at end-February 2013, SERAP has supported over 360 projects with total funding of $400 m.

All SERAP projects are required to submit progress reports to the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) on a half-yearly basis. The reports should cover the project's technical progress as well as the position of financial expenditure. ITC will also pay visits to the enterprises to verify the progress of their projects. To ensure the proper use of public money, the next instalment of funding will be released only when the progress made is found matching with the respective milestones.

ARF

The ARF is a government owned venture capital fund set up to provide funding support to technology ventures and R&D projects that have commercial potential.

In 2005, the Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the outcome of the ARF review, and as agreed with the Panel, decided to wind down the ARF and cease making new investments. At present, the Applied Research Council (ARC) continues to work closely with fund managers in monitoring and managing the remaining investment projects with a view to making appropriate exit arrangements. During the process of winding down the ARF, the ARC will take into account various factors, including the overall market condition, the development of individual projects and effective use of public money.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)051

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0197

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In paragraph 68 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary "proposed that these 6 universities be each provided with a subvention of up to $12 m through the Innovation and Technology Fund for a period of 3 years from 2013-14 onwards to support the work of their technology transfer offices". Please explain in detail how the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will use the provision for promoting such work, and provide the estimated annual expenditure to be involved and the work indicators for this year (2013-14) and the next 2 years (2013-14 and 2014-15).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, ITC will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)052

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0199

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: How will the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) use the provision to assist the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) in strengthening its research and development (R&D) capabilities and lead research programmes in the focus areas of communications technologies, enterprise and consumer electronics, integrated circuit design, material and packaging technologies and biomedical electronics in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: ASTRI promotes Hong Kong's technological development to enhance the competitiveness of the industry. Its missions include performing high quality R&D and transferring technologies to industry.

In 2013-14, ITC will continue to support ASTRI's operating expenditure with an estimated subvention of $134.5 m. The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) will also continue to fund ASTRI's R&D projects. In 2012-13 (as at 31 January 2013), $190 m ITF funding has been approved for ASTRI projects. ITC is also actively encouraging the use of the cluster project approach to help R&D projects obtaining more significant results within a shorter period of time.

To enhance the support for application and commercialisation of R&D results, ITC extended ITF's funding scope to cover production of prototypes/samples and conduct of trial schemes in the public sector in March 2011. Under this initiative, ASTRI has successfully conducted several trial schemes, including the trial use of LED lamps in the Highways Department and the Housing Authority. ASTRI has also conducted R&D on intelligent home systems and equipment in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to enhance the living quality of the elderly.

ITC will continue to provide funding to support the operation of ASTRI, and encourage ASTRI to transfer its R&D results to the industry to promote technology development.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)053

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0200

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Quality Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: How will the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) use the provision in 2013-14 to –

(a) support the testing and certification industry in implementing the new Mainland initiative to expand, on a pilot basis in Guangdong Province, the scope of certification services that can be undertaken by Hong Kong testing organisations to cover food;

(b) develop plans to extend accreditation services to other areas to support industry and continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) to promote existing accreditation services to industry; and

(c) participate in more projects on inter-laboratory comparison of measurement standards?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: (a) Starting from January 2013, the Mainland allows Hong Kong testing laboratories to co-operate with Mainland certification bodies to provide testing services for Mainland food-related certification of food products processed in Hong Kong and Guangdong. These testing laboratories have to be accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) under the ITC to be competent in performing the relevant testing activities. To support the implementation of this initiative, HKAS will provide the necessary accreditation service to Hong Kong testing laboratories wishing to explore the Mainland market through the new initiative, and accord priority to handle such accreditation applications.

To help Hong Kong testing laboratories to understand the implementation details of the new initiative and the technical requirements for testing food products in the Mainland, HKAS and the Secretariat for HKCTC will organise seminars in response to the needs of the industry, and disseminate the relevant information to the testing and certification industry through various channels such as their websites and HKAS newsletters.

(b) The accreditation service provided by HKAS is the cornerstone for the development of the testing and certification industry. Accredited testing laboratories and

certification bodies have to meet the management and technical requirements of the relevant international standards, hence enhancing users' confidence in Hong Kong's testing and certification services. To support the development of the industry, HKAS will expand its accreditation service to new areas in 2013-14 in response to the needs of the industry and in support of HKCTC's initiative to explore new services for the industry. Examples include -

(i) introduction of accreditation service for product certification of Chinese Materia Medica;

(ii) introduction of accreditation service for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)-based food hygiene management system certification; and

(iii) expansion of its existing accreditation service for Fei Cui (jade) testing to cover more types of Fei Cui.

In 2013-14, HKAS and the Secretariat for HKCTC plan to work closely with other stakeholders to promote accreditation service to the industry through various channels such as seminars, workshops, HKAS newsletters, websites and trade fairs.

HKAS will also provide training to practitioners in the testing and certification industry to enhance their professional knowledge and understanding of accreditation criteria, thereby raising the standard of the industry.

(c) The Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) under the ITC participates in international inter-metrology laboratory comparisons to maintain international recognition of its metrological traceability and harmonisation with international standards, thereby ensuring that Hong Kong's metrology results on the quality and quantity of freight are generally accepted in international trade. The number of such comparisons varies from year to year, depending on the actual needs of international metrology organisations. In 2013-14, SCL will closely keep in view the time schedule and details of such comparisons, and actively allocate internal resources for participation in such projects as far as possible (e.g. it will participate in comparisons of radiation thermometers and luminous intensity organised by the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme).

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)054

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2284

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Commission estimates that the number of projects funded and being monitored by the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI) will increase by about 37% while the estimates for the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) are rather conservative, with the number of applications received and processed even being estimated to decrease by about 5%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: As nano technology and new materials have a wider scope of application, NAMI is one of the Research and Development (R&D) Centres that undertakes the largest number of projects. NAMI estimates that the number of projects funded and being monitored will increase from 54 in 2012 to 74 in 2013 based on factors including past experience, progress of R&D, and newly approved and completed projects.

The applications for ITSP under the Innovation and Technology Fund include projects undertaken by universities and designated local research institutions, as well as collaborative projects jointly undertaken by private companies and the above institutions. Since the resources available/inclination/workload of various research institutions may be different each year, the number of applications would also vary. A total of 335, 344 and 366 applications were received under the ITSP in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The estimated number of applications to be received and processed in 2013 is projected based on the average figure for the past 3 years, and therefore is forecasted at 348.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)055

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2285

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Commission estimates that the number of applications received and processed under the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) will decrease by about 33%, which is not consistent with the service focus of the Commission in 2013-14. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: Since the resources available/inclination/workload of the universities and industry may be different each year, the number of applications would also vary. A total of 18, 14 and 30 applications were received under the UICP in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The estimated number of applications to be received in 2013 is projected based on the average figure for the past 3 years, and therefore is forecast at 20.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)056

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2286

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated financial provision for the promotion of technological entrepreneurship for 2013-14 is about 5% lower than the revised financial provision for 2012-13. Does it mean that the Commission considers that much has already been done to promote technological entrepreneurship targeting small and medium enterprises (SME)?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The financial provision for the promotion of technological entrepreneurship involves recurrent items, including mainly staff costs and other administrative expenses. The estimate for 2013 -14 is $0.4 m (-5.1%) lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the decreased expenditure on contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff in 2013-14.

Generally speaking, the slight adjustment to the above expenditure will not have any impact on our continued efforts to actively promote SME technology-based entrepreneurial activities. We will also review our supporting measures from time to time so as to better promote the development of the industry.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)057

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2287

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please inform us of the reasons for there being only a slight increase of about 4.8% in the estimated financial provision for planning for innovation and technology development in 2013-14 over the revised financial provision in 2012-13; the provision for enhancing public awareness of innovation and technology and organising local promotional events as a percentage of the total financial provision; the relevant growth rates over the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13); and the provision for promoting the development of Chinese medicines (CM) as a percentage of the total financial provision.

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: Programme (4) mainly covers the work related to the organisation of activities for promoting innovation and technology. There is an increase of $1.7m (+4.8%) in the estimated provision for this Programme in 2013-14 over the revised estimate in 2012-13. This is mainly due to the increased expenses for personal emoluments and salaries for non-civil service contract staff arising from 2012 civil service pay rise.

In 2013-14, the financial provision for the Programme accounts for about 7% of the total financial provision for the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC). In the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), the year-on-year changes of the relevant expenditure are as follows:

Financial year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Year-on-year change	+14%	+7%	+5%

The above figures only cover ITC's salaries and departmental expenses. Youth groups, social service agencies, as well as the academia and business sectors may also apply for funding support from the General Support Programme (GSP) under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) to organise activities for promoting a culture of innovation and technology.

On the promotion of development of CM, the Biotechnology Director Team set up under the ITC is responsible for, among other things, promoting the development of CM. In 2013-14, the financial provision for the Team is $6.7 m, of which $6.5 m is for salaries and $0.2 m for departmental expenses. There are 7 staff members in the Team, most of whom undertake biotechnology-related work (e.g. Western medicines trade, medical devices, etc.) in addition to the promotion of CM development. Moreover, ITC has been supporting the research and

development (R&D) of CM in Hong Kong through the ITF. There are different funding schemes under the ITF for supporting universities, research institutions and enterprises to conduct applied research projects relating to R&D and testing of CM. In addition, the GSP under the ITF can provide funding support for projects which help enhance and promote the development of the CM industry, such as exhibitions, seminars and workshops.

Name in block letters:	Miss Janet WONG
Post Title:	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)058

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2288

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated number of people who attended the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) exhibitions for 2013-14 decreases by about 35% over the revised estimate for 2012-13, making it comparable to the actual number of people who attended the HKPC exhibitions for 2011-12. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: Every year, HKPC strives to promote productivity excellence of the industry through the provision of various supporting services and activities, to enable them to achieve more effective utilisation of resources and enhance the value-added content of their products and services. These include training courses, exhibitions, study missions/conferences, seminars, and networking activities for trade associations. The annual number of participants in various activities varies with market conditions and the focus of HKPC's business development in the year concerned.

As for exhibitions organised by HKPC, the target visitors are mainly industry participants. The number of visitors varies each year, depending on the themes of the exhibitions. For the past 3 years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12), the numbers of visitors were 400, 1 700 and 1 020 respectively. The estimated number of visitors for 2013-14 is projected based on the average figure for the past 3 years, and therefore is forecast at 1 040.

In addition, in July 2012, HKPC launched the integrated support centre "SME One" and set up an exhibition area at the HKPC Building to provide companies with the latest information on various industry support funding programmes of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Mainland authorities, financing schemes available in the market and information technology solutions, including cloud-based applications. The centre is open all year round and industry participants and small and medium enterprises may visit the centre at any time according to their needs.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)059

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2289

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The actual number of technology transfers in 2012 increased by about 21% over 2011 but the estimated number of technology transfers in 2013 only increases by about 3%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) transfers its product technologies, service technologies or enabling technologies to the industry through licensing agreements, service contracts or other legal means to enhance the competitiveness of the industry.

The number of technology transfers by ASTRI each year is affected by various factors such as the market and economic environment. In the past 3 years, the number of technology transfers by ASTRI has in general increased year by year. The significant increase in 2012 was partly due to the enhanced industry interest in technology transfers following the initiative of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) to raise the level of cash rebate under the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30% in February 2012. In addition, ITC has enhanced the Innovation and Technology Fund by strengthening its support for realisation and commercialisation of R&D results through extending its scope to fund production of prototypes/samples for trials in the public sector. These measures have also facilitated technology transfers.

In 2013, ASTRI will continue its efforts in technology transfers with a view to achieving better results.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)060

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2290

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimated personal salaries and allowances for 2013-14 increase by about 14% and 40% respectively over the revised estimates for 2012-13. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply: The estimated salary expenses for 2013-14 is $14 m (14%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is due to the increased estimated expenses for personal emoluments arising from 2012 civil service pay rise and the full-year effect of the 20 civil service posts created in 2012-13. For allowances, the estimated expenses for 2013-14 is $0.96 m (40%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is mainly due to the increased estimate of the full-year expenses arising from the monthly acting allowances drawn by 10 additional acting officers in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)061

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1321

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In April 2010, the Administration launched the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme, under which companies conducting applied R&D projects with the support of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) or in partnership with designated local public research institutions enjoy a cash rebate on their investments. The level of cash rebate has been increased from 10% to 30% with effect from 1 February 2012. In this regard, would the Administration inform us:

(a) of the highest and lowest amounts of cash rebate disbursed since the introduction of the Scheme, and the main reasons for rejecting the other applications;

(b) whether there is any specific indicator and timetable for evaluating the effectiveness of the Scheme; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(c) given that the technology sector has repeatedly reflected to the Government that there are many application restrictions under the Scheme, whether the Administration has considered enhancing the Scheme by extending its scope as appropriate to cover and benefit more small and medium enterprises; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: In April 2010, the Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) to reinforce the research culture among companies and to encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme provides private companies with 30% cash rebate for their investments in projects funded under the ITF (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions (Partnership projects).

(a) Since the introduction of the Scheme up to end-December 2012, a total of 537 applications and $36.8 m of cash rebate were approved. The highest and lowest amounts of cash rebate disbursed in an approved application were $3.656 m and $500 respectively. Among the 576 applications received, 11 were rejected, of which 10 involved ITF projects approved before 1 April 2009. When the Scheme was launched, its scope covered only those ITF projects approved on or after 1 April 2009. As a result, these 10 applications did not meet the eligibility criteria under the Scheme. For the remaining 1 rejected application, since the company subsequently failed to provide

any contribution to the ITF project in which it participated, it was not entitled to any cash rebate.

(b)&(c)

Having conducted a review on the initial 3-year operation of the Scheme, we reported the outcome to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry (LegCo C&I Panel) in February 2013 and consulted it on the proposed improvement measures. Overall speaking, since the increase in the cash rebate level from 10% to 30% from 1 February 2012, the Scheme has received positive response from various sectors. During the first 11 months after the new cash rebate level took effect (i.e. from 1 February 2012 to 31 December 2012), there was significant improvement in both the number of cash rebate applications and the amount of cash rebate approved, which increased by 13% and 376% respectively compared with the same period in 2011. With the support of the LegCo C&I Panel, we will introduce improvement measures to further enhance the Scheme on 1 April 2013.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)062

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1323

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated in paragraph 68 of the Budget Speech that "if we can transform technology research outcomes into products with market potential, coupled with industrial production, our technological development can make an even greater contribution to Hong Kong's economy". Currently, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is committed to administering the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). There are 3 schemes under the UICP, namely the Teaching Company Scheme, Matching Grant for Joint Research, and Industrial Research Chair Scheme. Would the Administration inform us:

(a) of the financial provision for the above 3 schemes, the number of projects funded and the highest and lowest amounts of grants given under each scheme in 2012-13;

(b) given that the Industrial Research Chair Scheme aims to "assist universities and industry to develop research efforts in the natural science or engineering fields that respond to industrial needs and are not yet developed in Hong Kong but for which there is good development potential in the longer term", what specific projects were funded in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), and whether there were any successful cases involving the transformation of technologies into products; if so, the percentage of such cases under the Scheme in that year; if not, the reasons for that; and

(c) whether it has conducted any overall review of the above 3 schemes; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: (a) The UICP under the ITF aims to foster collaboration between local universities and industry in undertaking research and development (R&D) projects. In 2012-13, the total ITF funding for the UICP is estimated at $30.02 m. The details are as follows:

	No. of projects funded	Total ITF funding	Highest amount of grant for a funded project	Lowest amount of grant for a funded project
Teaching Company Scheme	4	$0.86 m	$0.36 m	$0.17 m
Matching Grant for Joint Research	17	$29.16 m	$4.25 m	$0.28 m

The Teaching Company Scheme provides financial support for local companies to employ local university graduates to take part in R&D work.

The Matching Grant for Joint Research provides matching grant to support universities and companies to conduct applied collaborative R&D projects.

The Industrial Research Chair Scheme provides funding support for companies to invite local university professors to lead designated R&D projects. In 2012-13, we did not receive any applications under the Industrial Research Chair Scheme.

(b) In the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), ITC did not receive any funding applications under the Industrial Research Chair Scheme.

(c) We have been reviewing the ITF, including its funding scope and mode of operation, and have introduced a series of enhancement measures in the past 2 years. The key measures included extending the scope of ITF funding to cover, in addition to R&D work, production of prototypes/samples and conducting of trial schemes in the public sector, with a view to promoting and facilitating realisation/commercialisation of R&D results of ITF projects. As for the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme, the level of cash rebate received by companies investing in R&D projects has been increased from 10% to 30% to further encourage enterprises to engage in R&D activities.

Looking forward, we will continue to promote innovation and technology on various fronts to support the industry to conduct R&D, and the UICP will be an important part of our work. Moreover, providing funding support for realisation/commercialisation of local R&D results will also be our focus in promoting the development of innovation and technology. As such, we have proposed in the 2013 Budget to provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 tertiary institutions engaged in technology research and development and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)063

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1324

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) enhanced technology co-operation with the Mainland at the central, regional, provincial and municipal levels through various co-operation mechanisms, including the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee, the Pan-PRD Joint Conference on Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology, the Guangdong/Hong Kong Expert Group on Co-operation in Innovation and Technology, and the Steering Group on Shenzhen/Hong Kong Co-operation in Innovation and Technology. Would the Administration inform us:

(a) of the major co-operation matters discussed by Hong Kong and the Mainland through each of the above 4 mechanisms over the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); and whether the Administration has taken any specific follow-up action; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(b) of the major obstacles involved in realising Mainland/Hong Kong technology co-operation; and whether the Administration has discussed with the Mainland authorities the ways to overcome such obstacles; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: (a) ITC is committed to enhancing technology co-operation with the Mainland and the co-operation initiatives introduced over the past 3 years include:

At the central level, we have been working closely with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) to promote technology co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland through the Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee. Since 2010, MOST has allowed research institutions set up in the Mainland by Hong Kong and Macao institutions to directly submit applications under the 973 Programme with a view to encouraging more Hong Kong research institutions and personnel to participate in national science and technology programmes. In 2011 and 2012, approval has been given for Hong Kong research institutions to undertake 4 projects under the 973 Programme. The 12 Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs) in Hong Kong have been receiving annual financial support of up to $2 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) since 2011-12 to further enhance their research capabilities and we are currently conducting a new round of application for PSKLs. With the approval of Hong Kong Science Park as a National High-tech Industrialisation (Partner) Base for Green Technology by MOST

in November 2011, it is hoped that more technology enterprises and talents from the Mainland and overseas will be attracted to Hong Kong. In February 2012, MOST approved 56 Hong Kong experts to be listed in the National Science and Technology Programmes Expert Database. In June 2012, MOST also endorsed the establishment of the "Hong Kong Branch of the National Engineering Research Centre for Application Specific Integrated Circuit System" under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute in collaboration with the Southeast University in Nanjing.

With regard to Hong Kong/Guangdong technology co-operation, ITC will continue to work with relevant authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen to implement the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS). In the past 3 years, a total of 38 TCFS projects were approved with ITF funding of about $115 m.

As for our co-operation with Shenzhen, Shenzhen and Hong Kong have been actively promoting the development of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation Circle. The 3-Year Action Plan which comprises 24 co-operation projects and involving government departments, universities, research institutions and non-governmental institutions of both places, has been basically completed. Four Hong Kong universities have established their Industry, Academic and Research (IAR) Bases in High-Tech Zone, Nanshan District, Shenzhen to carry out IAR collaboration work between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, including developing applied research and nurturing industrial projects.

(b) The innovation and technology co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland has been smooth. We will continue to actively promote the science and technology co-operation with the Mainland.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)064

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1442

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under the Programme "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship", the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) aims to provide essential support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities. Regarding this, would the Administration inform us:

(a) of the reasons for the drop of 5.1%, rather than an increase, in the estimated financial provision for 2013-14 over the revised estimate for 2012-13; and

(b) given that the ITC works with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), which operates an incubation programme, of the number of incubation projects funded under the programme in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful applications; the main reasons for the unsuccessful applications; and whether the Administration has introduced enhancements to the incubation programme accordingly to strengthen the support to technology entrepreneurial activities; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: (a) The provision under the Programme "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" involves recurrent items, including mainly staff costs and other administrative expenses. The estimate for 2013-14 is $0.4 m (5.1%) lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the decreased expenditure on contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff in 2013-14.

Generally speaking, the slight adjustment to the above expenditure will not affect our continued efforts to actively promote technology-based entrepreneurial activities. We will review our supporting measures from time to time so as to better promote the development of the industry.

(b) HKSTPC operates an incubation programme which provides technology start-ups with subsidised rent and supporting services in marketing, finance, technology and management in their critical initial years of operation.

As at end-February 2013, more than 490 companies have been admitted to the incubation programme, of which 115 are being nurtured and 285 have graduated.

In the past 3 years, the numbers of companies approved and rejected for admission to the incubation programme are as follows:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (as at end-February)	Total
Total no. of applications	45	62	85	192
No. of approved applications	22 (49%)	38 (61%)	61 (72%)	121 (63%)
No. of rejected applications	23 (51%)	24 (39%)	24 (28%)	71 (37%)

The main reasons for failure to join the incubation programme include insufficient technology and research contents, low operational viability and inadequate technical capability of the project.

The HKSTPC will continue to review the effectiveness of the incubation programme based on its operation experience and introduce enhancements, such as the launch of the Incu-App Programme in February 2012 to help technology start-ups engage in developing web-based applications, mobile apps or games.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)065

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2597

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As mentioned in paragraph 68 of the 2013-14 Budget Speech, the Government plans to provide a subvention of up to $12 m through the Innovation and Technology Fund to each of the 6 universities which have their own technology transfer offices for a period of 3 years. Please inform us:

(a) of the arrangements of the funding scheme;

(b) whether there will be a mechanism to monitor the use of the funding by the universities; and

(c) how the effectiveness of the funding scheme will be assessed.

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply: In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, the Innovation and Technology Commission will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)066

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2661

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Chief Executive (CE), Mr C.Y. Leung, has proposed in his election manifesto that "we will double our investment in research and development (R&D) in 5 years to 0.8% of our gross domestic product (GDP)", but efforts have yet to be made on this front. The respective R&D expenditures in the developed countries/regions worldwide exceed 2% or even 3% of their GDP. Has the Administration conducted any assessment or consultation on the local R&D expenditure as a ratio to GDP? Is there any plan to consult the industry, the academia and the public on the matter in 2013-14? If yes, what are the details and the timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: Our gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a ratio to GDP remains low by international standard. This is due to the unique economic structure of Hong Kong, which lacks defence and large-scale manufacturing industries and is dominated by the service industry - the service sector contributed to 93% of GDP while the manufacturing sector only about 2%.

On the promotion of local development of innovation and technology, the Government has been fostering collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. In formulating the relevant initiatives, the Administration has always conducted detailed assessments and studies as well as consulted various stakeholders on the issues concerned. Take enhancements to the operation of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) as an example, we listened and collected the views from various parties, including the industry and academia, before implementing ITF enhancement measures. We will take the same approach when formulating or launching other initiatives in future.

Moreover, a dedicated Working Group on Manufacturing Industries, Innovative Technology, and Cultural and Creative Industries has been set up under the Economic Development Commission led by the CE. One of its tasks is to explore ways to provide appropriate government support for promoting R&D activities. We will also consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on our policy initiatives and report the work progress to the Panel on a regular basis.

Name in block letters:	Miss Janet WONG
Post Title:	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)067

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2664

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government proposes in the Budget to provide each of the 6 universities with a subvention of up to $12 m through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for a period of 3 years from 2013-14 onwards to support the work of their technology transfer offices.

(a) What is the Administration's rationale behind the provision of funding to the universities' technology transfer offices for addressing the issue of the commercialisation of technological research results?

(b) What are the indicators in respect of the Government's funding for the universities? How will the Administration decide whether to grant the maximum or part of the funding to the universities?

(c) Would the Government allocate another funding for conducting a policy study on the challenges of the research and development (R&D) and transfer of results in Hong Kong so as to formulate an appropriate policy?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of R&D results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, the Innovation and Technology Commission will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

(b) The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

(c) In formulating policies, the Administration has always conducted detailed assessments and studies as well as consulted various stakeholders on the issues concerned. It will also consider to commission consultancy studies on individual

issues when necessary. In addition, the General Support Programme under the ITF which is specially set up for non-R&D projects. It provides support for projects that can help foster an innovation and technology culture and promote technology transfer activities, which include seminars, surveys, workshops and exhibitions. All eligible organisations are welcome to apply.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)068

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2680

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Is there any plan to relax the eligibility criteria under the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) in 2013-14 to cover more research and development (R&D) projects not funded under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) and allow the trials of R&D results to be conducted in more organisations (e.g. private organisations)? If yes, what are the action plan, provision involved, staffing establishment and intended outcomes? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Government strives to foster collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors with a view to creating an environment conducive to the commercialisation of R&D results. With the support from the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry, we enhanced the means and details of ITF's funding support in early 2011 for realisation and commercialisation of R&D results and launched the PSTS in March 2011. The PSTS provides additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The public sector includes government departments, public bodies and trade associations, etc. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost, but the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community).

When the PSTS was first introduced, it was confined to R&D projects undertaken by the 5 R&D Centres. In the light of the good response, the Government extended the PSTS in July 2012 to all R&D projects funded under the ITF, including projects completed under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme, University-Industry Collaboration Programme and Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme. Meanwhile, the trial schemes are allowed to be applied in the public sector outside Hong Kong and in the Mainland. This must be within reasonable limits and in general should not exceed half of the funding provision allowed for trials in a particular project (as up to 30% of the original R&D project cost can be used to conduct such trials, this would mean not exceeding 15%).

The Government will continue to promote the PSTS and review its effectiveness with a view to further enhancing the PSTS so that the community can quickly benefit from home-grown R&D results.

As the above work is carried out with the Innovation and Technology Commission's existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters:	Miss Janet WONG
Post Title:	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)069

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3276

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Is there any plan to review the eligibility criteria under the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) in 2013-14 to encourage applications from projects under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) and allow the trials of research and development (R&D) results to be conducted in more organisations (e.g. private organisations)? If yes, what are the action plan, provision involved, staffing establishment and intended outcomes? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Government strives to foster collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors with a view to creating an environment conducive to the commercialisation of R&D results. With the support from the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry, we enhanced the means and details of the funding support under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) in early 2011 for realisation and commercialisation of R&D results and launched the PSTS in March 2011. The PSTS provides additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The public sector includes government departments, public bodies and trade associations, etc. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost, but the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community).

When the PSTS was first introduced, it was confined to R&D projects undertaken by the 5 R&D Centres set up under the ITF. In the light of the good response, the Government extended the PSTS in July 2012 to all R&D projects funded under the ITF, including projects completed under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme, University-Industry Collaboration Programme and SERAP. Meanwhile, the trial schemes are allowed to be applied in the public sector outside Hong Kong and in the Mainland. This must be within reasonable limits and in general should not exceed half of the funding provision allowed for trials in a particular project (as up to 30% of the original R&D project cost can be used to conduct such trials, this would mean not exceeding 15%).

In addition, starting from 2012-13, the scope of funding of SERAP under the ITF has been extended to cover industrial designs, testing and certification of prototypes, and pre-clinical trials to facilitate and promote the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results.

The Government will continue to promote the PSTS and review its effectiveness with a view to further enhancing the PSTS so that the community can quickly benefit from home-grown R&D results.

As the above work is carried out with the Innovation and Technology Commission's existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)070

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0681

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimate for 2013-14 under the Programme "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" is 5.1% lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. The drop in provision deviates from the Government's policy on providing support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities. What is the reason for that?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply: The provision under the Programme "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" involves recurrent items, including mainly staff costs and other administrative expenses. The estimate for 2013-14 is $0.4 m (-5.1%) lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the decreased expenditure on contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff in 2013-14.

Generally speaking, the slight adjustment to the above expenditure will not have any impact on our continued efforts to actively promote technology-based entrepreneurial activities. We will review our supporting measures from time to time so as to better promote the development of the industry.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)071

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1625

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the respective amounts of research and development (R&D) investment by Hong Kong and the Government as a ratio to the gross domestic product (GDP) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? When will such investment by the Government be expected to reach 0.8% of our GDP as pledged by the Chief Executive (CE) in his election manifesto?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: According to the latest figures, the gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) for 2011 reached HK$13.9 b, about 5% higher than that of HK$13.3 b for 2010. The GERD as a ratio to GDP in 2011 and 2010 were 0.72% and 0.75% respectively. [Note: relevant figures for 2012 are expected to be released at the end of this year.]

We recognise that our GERD as a ratio to GDP remains low by international standard. This is due to the unique economic structure of Hong Kong, which lacks defence and large-scale manufacturing industries and is dominated by the service industry - the service sector contributes to 93% of GDP while the manufacturing sector only about 2%.

The Government is committed to promoting the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors for the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong through the provision of hardware and software support.

On hardware, we are actively implementing the Phase 3 development of the Science Park, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016. The number of companies operating in the Science Park has also been on the rise over the years from about 160 in 2007 to over 410 at the current moment, employing over 6 600 R&D personnel.

On software, the Government promotes and encourages applied technological research/activities through the Innovation and Technology Fund and the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme. We will suitably enhance these initiatives to provide better support for the local development of innovation and technology.

R&D activity is a key driver for industry upgrading and diversification. As such, the Government attaches importance on promoting the work on this front. The Working Group on Manufacturing Industries, Innovative Technology, and Cultural and Creative Industries has been specially set up under the Economic Development Commission led by the CE to

recommend possible ways to provide appropriate government support on promoting R&D activities.

Looking ahead, the Government is keen to collaborate with various stakeholders and harness the efforts of the Government, industry, academia and research sectors to boost the economy and maintain Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)072

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1626

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: For the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), please inform us of the administrative cost and manpower involved in the operation of the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP), the average administrative cost and processing time per application approved as well as the administrative cost as a percentage of the funding granted.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The ITSP is part of the work of the Innovation and Technology Commission under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" (other work includes administering the Patent Application Grant and the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme, supporting the R&D work of the R&D Centres and the Partner State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong, etc).

The overall expenditure and manpower for Programme (1) in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (Estimate)
Manpower	60	58	58
Financial expenditure	$34.4 m	$43.8 m	$61.3 m
(salary expenses)	($26 m)	($29.1 m)	($31.9 m)
(departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenses)	($8.4 m)	($14.7 m)	($29.4 m)

As we do not have the breakdown on the administrative cost for ITSP only, figures on the administrative cost for individual projects or such cost as a percentage of the funding granted are not available. Regarding the processing time, every year we accept applications for ITSP at the beginning and in the middle of the year and the vetting process will be conducted in between the 2 rounds of application, i.e. 6 months on average.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)073

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1627

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: For the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), please inform us of the administrative cost and manpower involved in the operation of the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme, the average administrative cost and processing time per application approved as well as the administrative cost as a percentage of the funding granted.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In April 2010, the Administration introduced the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) to reinforce the research culture among companies and to encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme provides private companies with 30% cash rebate for their investments in projects funded under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions (Partnership projects).

The Scheme is part of the work under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" of the Innovation and Technology Commission. Some of the staff involved in this Programme are also responsible for several schemes/projects under this Programme or the work of other programmes. The overall expenditure and manpower for Programme (1) in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (Estimate)
Manpower	60	58	58
Financial expenditure	$34.4 m	$43.8 m	$61.3 m
(salary expenses)	($26.0 m)	($29.1 m)	($31.9 m)
(departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenses)	($8.4 m)	($14.7 m)	($29.4 m)

As we do not have the breakdown on the administrative cost for the Scheme only, figures on the administrative cost per application approved or such cost as a percentage of the cash rebate disbursed are not available. Regarding the processing time, we will complete the vetting process within an average of 14 working days upon receipt of the applications and necessary documents and information from the companies.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)074

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1628

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What measures does the Government have in place to provide funding support to technology enterprises for commercialisation of their research and development (R&D) results? What are the financial resources and manpower involved, as well as the economic benefits achieved so far?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: There are many stages in the "commercialisation" of R&D results: first, identifying R&D projects with prospect for commercialisation, proving the R&D results theoretically or experimentally, transforming them into products that meet the market needs, and producing the products and introducing them into the market, thus enabling the community to benefit from the R&D results.

The Government understands that it is a long and arduous process in bringing innovative technologies from the laboratory to the market. Technology developers face many challenges and obstacles, such as lack of capital and active industry participation, and new R&D products not readily adopted due to lack of good track record on usage, etc.

To promote commercialisation/realisation of R&D results, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) has been making efforts to enhance the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). In 2011, we refined the vetting criteria for ITF applications so that in assessing a project proposal, besides putting emphasis on its scientific/technical component, consideration is also given to the holistic plan for realisation/commercialisation so as to encourage and support projects with greater prospect of realisation/commercialisation. At the same time, we have launched the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) under the ITF to provide additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost, but the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community).

In recent years, our R&D Centres have also focused on promoting commercialisation of R&D results and some achievements have been made. An example is the Nu-Torque cotton yarn production technology which was jointly developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The technology can give a soft hand feel to fabrics, enable better application of cotton to shirts, trousers and knitted

sweaters etc. and better compete with wool and other types of fibre. Non-exclusive licences of the technology have been granted to a number of companies. Nevertheless, we need to make continuous efforts in promoting commercialisation of R&D results.

As the above work is carried out with ITC's existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters:	Miss Janet WONG
Post Title:	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)075

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1629

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please inform us of the total numbers of enterprises and practitioners in the technology industry, the number of local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) among all the enterprises in the industry, the number of persons engaged in these SMEs, Government's support programmes for these SMEs, as well as the breakdown of financial resources and manpower involved by programme/scheme.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In 2011, the volume of labour input (in full-time equivalent terms) from local establishments to innovation and technology activities stood at around 29 300, over half of whom came from business establishments. In the same year, the number of business establishments engaged in innovation and technology activities was about 9 300, of which some 7 400 were SMEs.

In response to the needs of SMEs from the technology industry in the process of research and development (R&D) and commercialisation, the Innovation and Technology Commission has provided support on various fronts, including:

(a) Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP)

SERAP, one of the funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), mainly provides funding support for technology entrepreneurs and technology companies (with less than 100 employees) to undertake applied R&D that can be introduced into the commercial market within a short time. To better support SMEs to conduct R&D, the Government introduced the following enhancement measures to SERAP with effect from 2012-13:

(i) increasing the funding ceiling for each project from $4 m to $6 m;

(ii) expanding SERAP to cover enterprises with venture capital investment; and

(iii) expanding the funding scope to facilitate commercialisation, including industrial designs, testing and certification of prototypes and pre-clinical trials, etc.

As at end-February 2013, over 360 SERAP projects were funded, involving total funding of $400 m.

(b) R&D Cash Rebate Scheme

In April 2010, the Administration introduced the $200 m R&D Cash Rebate Scheme to reinforce the research culture among companies and to encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. The Scheme applies to projects funded under ITF (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects undertaken by companies in partnership with designated local public research institutions (partnership projects). Since 1 February 2012, we have raised the level of cash rebate from 10% to 30% to encourage more companies to participate in the Scheme. As at end-December 2012, a total of 537 applications involving $36.8 m of cash rebate were approved under the Scheme.

(c) Internship Programme

The Internship Programme aims to provide opportunities for graduates from tertiary institutions to acquire research and industrial experience, stimulate the interest of graduates in applied R&D activities and help create a larger pool of research talents. It provides financial support for local research institutions and private companies to recruit, for each R&D project funded under ITF, 2 additional interns who are local university graduates for a maximum internship period of 24 months. Interns who possess a Bachelor degree and those with a Master or higher degree are each entitled to a monthly allowance of up to $12,000 and $14,000 respectively. In 2012-13 (as at end-December 2012), more than 200 interns were funded under the Programme with total ITF funding of over $46 m.

(d) Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS)

PSTS provides additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost. PSTS actively encourages and promotes real world application of R&D results funded by ITF. By observing their performance through actual practice, companies can fine-tune the R&D results so that their products can better meet market needs. They can also obtain references for their products through PSTS for future marketing purpose. Since the introduction of PSTS in March 2011, more than 20 projects have been approved with ITF funding of over $30 m.

The above programmes/schemes fall under either Programme (1) or Programme (3). Regarding the revised estimate for 2012-13, the total financial provision for Programme (1) and Programme (3) is $69.2 m, of which $39.4 m is for salaries, $2.8 m for departmental expenses and the remaining $27 m for non-recurrent expenses. There are 66 staff members under these Programmes. Some of them are also responsible for the work of other Programmes.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)076

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1630

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: For the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), please inform us of the administrative cost and manpower involved in the operation of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP), the average administrative cost and processing time per application approved as well as the administrative cost as a percentage of the funding granted.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The provision for SERAP falls under Programme (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship, which mainly covers the administration of SERAP and publicity through talks and seminars, monitoring of the progress of funded projects under SERAP and monitoring of the residual work relating to the Applied Research Fund (ARF).

The operating expenses under this Programme in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	**Operating expenses ($ m)**
2010-11	6.6
2011-12	6.0
2012-13 (Revised estimate)	7.9

In general, the applicants of SERAP will be notified of the application results within 50 working days. Given that the staff responsible for processing the applications also have to undertake other related duties (such as monitoring progress of approved projects, promoting SERAP and monitoring the work relating to the ARF), there is practical difficulty to provide the breakdown of administrative cost for individual approvals granted and express the cost as a percentage of the funding amount granted.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)077

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1634

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration, (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Apart from a large pool of internationally renowned scholars working in local universities to conduct research, what are the specific strengths of Hong Kong in technological research and development (R&D) from the view of the Government? What are the specific strengths in the R&D of Chinese medicine (CM) in Hong Kong in particular? What are the plans of the Administration to reinforce such strengths, as well as the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: Hong Kong's strengths in technological R&D lie in our sound legal system and intellectual property regime, close proximity to the huge Mainland market, world class tertiary institutions and outstanding R&D talents, excellent technological infrastructure and communication network, etc. The Dedicated Chapter of the National 12th Five-Year Plan also affirms the Central Government's support for Hong Kong's development in innovation and technology, bringing about greater development opportunities for the local R&D sector.

The Government fosters collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors to promote local R&D activities and consolidates our strengths in technological R&D through the provision of hardware and software support. The initiatives include:

(a) development of the $4.9 b Science Park Phase 3, which is expected to be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016;

(b) promoting applied technological research/activities through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). We will suitably enhance the ITF to better support the development of innovation and technology. For example, we have extended the scope of the ITF to cover, in addition to R&D work, the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector;

(c) encouraging greater collaboration between enterprises and local research institutions by raising the level of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme from 10% to 30% for eligible R&D projects from the enterprises. Although the Scheme has only been launched for some three years, the increasingly positive response from the private sector shows that the Scheme has succesfully encouraged more private sector

companies to engage in R&D in collaboration with designated local research institutions;

(d) continuing to support the activities of the R&D Centres such as commercialisation of R&D results;

(e) organising a wide range of activities such as science competitions and scholarship scheme to enhance public interest in innovation and technology, thereby nurturing a culture of innovation and technology in the community; and

(f) continuing to work with the Mainland to actively promote R&D co-operation in science and technology between the two places so as to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

On the R&D of CM, by virtue of its culture, geographic location and public acceptance of CM, Hong Kong has developed a well-established CM market. After years of development, local universities have also enhanced their CM R&D capabilities and facilities. Hong Kong has processed certain advantages in Chinese medicine R&D and product testing. Besides, with close interaction among CM professionals, Hong Kong has the potential to further promote R&D of integrative Chinese and Western medicines. To reinforce our strengths on this front, we have actively implemented the following initiatives:

(a) In December 2011, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) set up the Committee on Research and Development of Chinese Medicines (the Committee). It is chaired by the Commissioner of Innovation and Technology and comprises representatives from the Government, industry, academia and research sectors. The Committee is primarily tasked to guage views from stakeholders and better coordinate effort in promoting R&D and testing of CM to meet the future needs of Hong Kong.

(b) To encourage local universities and research institutions to do their best in developing R&D of CM, a special theme on R&D of CM was included in the invitation of proposals under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme in 2012, and good response has been received. The Administration will continue to include the theme on CM R&D into the Programme, and encourage them to actively submit R&D proposals.

ITC will plan and implement the above initiatives with its existing manpower and resources. No additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)078

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1635

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Besides the "Interactive Intention-Driven Upper-Limb Training Robotic System", are there any other technology projects funded by the Government which have won important international or Mainland awards over the past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2012-13)? What is the percentage of government funding in the research and development (R&D) cost of these projects? How long did it take for these projects to go through the process from application to approval of funding? What is the progress of commercialisation of these international-award-winning projects? What support has been provided by the Government in the process? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: A number of projects funded under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) have received local, Mainland and international awards in recent years. Apart from the "Interactive Intention-Driven Upper-Limb Training Robotic System" which was awarded the "Grand Prix Du Salon International Des Inventions De Genève" in the 40th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, Switzerland in 2012, other examples include:

(a) Development of Hygienic Socks for Patients with Tinea Pedis through Microencapsulation Technology: awarded the Gold Medal in the 40th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, Switzerland and the Gold Medal from Association "Russian House for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation" in 2012. The project, undertaken by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), has developed socks with the antifungal agent-loaded microcapsules embedded inside to reduce microbial overgrowth for treating Tinea Pedis (commonly known as Athlete's Foot).

(b) Wireless Battery Charging Systems: granted the Innovations Award in the 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show. The project has conducted research on a wireless charging technology for small electronic devices such as smartphones. The private company conducting the research has developed a standard for wireless charging and several famous appliance brands have adopted the standard.

(c) Cycling collection and running wear collection of High-Performance Sportswear and Devices: won the Gold Award at the 5th China Sports Wear Design Contest in 2010 and the Successful Design Award of China's Most Successful Design Awards in 2011 respectively. The project has developed high-performance sportswear and devices that help reduce muscle fatigue of athletes, enhance their recovery and improve

training and competition performance. The project was undertaken by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel. Two non-exclusive licences have been granted to local companies.

In general, we accept applications for the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) every year at the beginning and in the middle of the year. The vetting process will be conducted in between the 2 rounds of application, i.e. 6 months on average.

The funding provided by different funding programmes under the ITF varies from 50% to 90% of the R&D project cost. For example, a platform project under ITSP may be granted ITF funding of 90% of the project cost, while under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme, the ITF provides funding support on a matching grant basis with the participating company contributing 50% of the project cost.

Apart from R&D expenses, the ITF also supports the expenses on the realisation and commercialisation of the R&D projects, including the production of tools/prototypes/samples, industrial designs, pre-clinical trials, etc. To further create an environment conducive to the commercialisation of R&D results, and with the support from the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry, we launched the Public Sector Trial Scheme (PSTS) in early 2011. The PSTS provides additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The public sector includes government departments, public bodies and trade associations, etc. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost, but the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community).

Furthermore, to strengthen the networks and create synergy between various sectors including Government, industry, academia and research sectors, the Government has been organising theme-based or industry-based events with chambers of commerce, trade associations, universities and public bodies.

As the above work is planned and implemented with ITC's existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)079

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1636

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development, (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Which 6 universities will the Government provide with a subvention of up to $12 m through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for a period of 3 years from 2013-14? How much administrative cost and manpower will be involved? In addition, to the knowledge of the Government, what are the current major obstacles in the process of the commercialisation of research results in Hong Kong? What measures will the Government take to overcome these obstacles? What will be the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 tertiary institutions engaged in technological research and development (R&D) and designated as local public research institutions, namely City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as well as The University of Hong Kong. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

There are many stages in the "commercialisation" of R&D results. First, we need to identify potential R&D projects for commercialisation, and we need to prove the R&D results generated theoretically or empirically before they are transformed into products that meet the market needs. They then enter the production phase and put on the market for the benefit of the community.

The Government understands that it is a long and arduous process of bringing innovative technologies from laboratory to the market. Technology developers are facing many challenges and obstacles, such as lack of capital and active industry participation, and a lower chance of new R&D products being adopted due to lack of good usage track record, etc.

To promote commercialisation/realisation of R&D results, ITC has been making continuous efforts to enhance the ITF. In 2011, we refined the vetting criteria for ITF applications so that, in assessing a project proposal, consideration is given to the existence of a holistic plan for realisation/commercialisation apart from putting emphasis on its scientific/technical component so as to encourage and support projects with greater prospect of

realisation/commercialisation. At the same time, we have launched the Public Sector Trial Scheme under the ITF to provide additional funding support to completed R&D projects funded by ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conduct of trial schemes in the public sector. The funding ceiling for this additional work is capped at 30% of the original R&D project cost, but the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community).

In recent years, our R&D Centres have also focused particularly on promoting commercialisation of R&D results and have started to achieve some success. For example, finer Nu-Torque cotton yarn production, a technology jointly developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, can give a soft hand feel to fabrics, enable better application of cotton to shirts, trousers and knitted sweaters etc. and gain a competitive edge over wool and other types of fibre. Non-exclusive licences of the technology have been granted to a number of companies. Nevertheless, we still have to make continuous efforts in promoting commercialisation of R&D results.

As the above work is carried out with ITC's existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)080

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1638

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please inform us of the economic value created by the green technology industry in the past decade (i.e. 2003-04 to 2012-13), and such value expressed as a ratio to the gross domestic product; the numbers of enterprises and practitioners in the industry; the percentage of small and medium enterprises among all the enterprises in the industry; what the Government considers to be Hong Kong's strengths and weaknesses in developing green technology; and the Government's specific measures to support the development of green technology, as well as the financial resources and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: Green technology is an important technology area. The Government has been actively promoting its development through the provision of software and hardware support.

On hardware, green technology is a technology cluster of the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park). The Science Park was formally designated as the National High-tech Industrialisation (Partner) Base for Green Technology by the Ministry of Science and Technology in November 2011. Green technology has also been selected as a focus area for the Science Park Phase 3 development which will be completed in stages from 2014 to 2016.

On software, we will continue to support the research and development and application of green technology through the Innovation and Technology Fund and encourage universities and the industry to apply for it.

In mid-2012, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification set up a panel to promote testing and certification services relating to the environmental protection and green technology. The Hong Kong Accreditation Service has also introduced relevant supporting accreditation service.

Hong Kong's strengths in promoting technological research include our sound legal system, strong capital raising and management capability, simple and transparent tax regime, cosmopolitan lifestyle, clean Government, robust intellectual property protection regime, high calibre workforce, world-class tertiary institutions as well as its location at the heart of Asia and the doorstep of Mainland China. On the other hand, our very limited land supply and small-size manufacturing industry might hinder the promotion of technological research development.

On manpower, staff in different divisions of the Innovation and Technology Commission are involved in the support of green technology development. As they all have other duties, the number of staff dedicated to the promotion of green technology service cannot be clearly delineated. On the other hand, as the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance, their financial resources and manpower for developing green technology are not included in the Government's expenditure.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)081

Question Serial No

2548

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding continuing to implement the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme, would the Administration inform the Committee of the reason(s) of selecting those 40 new government premises for service extension? How many government premises are there without Wi-Fi service by estimation? Will the Administration consider the full provision of free Wi-Fi service at all public estates and their surrounding areas in the long run to facilitate the grass-roots to enjoy wireless Internet access service?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply: To ensure cost-effectiveness, the Government Wi-Fi (Gov*WiFi*) Programme provides service at government premises with high public patronage and strong public demand, and premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services or promote Hong Kong's image. The Gov*WiFi* Programme currently provides service at some 400 government premises across 18 districts in Hong Kong, and will extend its service to about 40 additional government premises in 2013-14. We will continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of the Gov*WiFi* service to suitable premises, with a view to facilitating citizens' and visitors' access to the service.

As for the provision of free Wi-Fi service in public rental housing (PRH) estates and their surrounding areas, according to the information on the "Free Wi-Fi" service of the Housing Authority (HA), free Wi-Fi service is currently provided at the ground floor lift lobbies of PRH blocks and outdoor recreational areas of some 160 estates. PRH tenants can use the "Free Wi-Fi" service after registration with the network providers. In addition, the "Free Wi-Fi" service is also available in 26 HA shopping centres across the territory.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)082

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3113

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the departmental records management work over the past 3 years (as at 2012):

(a) Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

(b) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

(c) Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

(d) Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) In accordance with the internal guidelines and code of practice of the Government, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has designated officers of different ranks as shown below to undertake various records management duties. These officers are required to report their work to a directorate officer responsible for overseeing records management:

(i) 1 Chief Executive Officer is designated as the Departmental Records Manager (DRM) to oversee the implementation of records management programme in OGCIO and to coordinate with the Government Records Service (GRS) and other bureaux / departments over records management matters. 1 Senior Executive Officer is designated as the Assistant Departmental Records Manager to assist DRM in performing his/her duties.

(ii) 10 officers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are designated as Records Managers to look after the 12 filing registries in OGCIO; 14 officers not below the rank of Assistant Clerical Officer/Clerical Officer or equivalent are responsible for daily record keeping work in their respective registries.

(b) The table below contains information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to GRS for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	2007 - 2010	18 records/ 0.9 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No
	2010 - 2011	44 records/ 2.2 linear metres	5 - 13 years	Yes (3) No (41)
	2006 - 2012	23 records/ 1.15 linear metres	3 - 13 years	Yes (2) No (21)
Programme records (Note 1)	2008 - 2010	39 records/ 1.95 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No
	2004 - 2011	28 records/ 1.4 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No
	1999 - 2012	43 records/ 2.15 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No

Note 1: Programme records were created or received by OGCIO while carrying out its major functions, e.g. acquisition of computer equipment, computer contract administration, computer technical support.

(c) The table below contains information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	1974 – 2002	44 records/ 2.2 linear metres	2010	2 - 7 years	No
	Nil	Nil	2011	Nil	No
		(Note 2)	2012		

Note 2: 111 records (5.55 linear metres) have been transferred to GRS for appraisal in 2012 pending GRS's confirmation on retention.

(d) The table below contains information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records (Note 3)	Number and linear meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	1974 - 2008	708 records/ 35.4 linear metres	2010	1 - 3 years	No
Administrative records	1992 - 2003	7 records/ 0.35 linear metres	2011	3 years	No
Administrative records	1969 - 2010	876 records/ 39.15 linear metres	2012	1 - 7 years	No
Programme records (Note 1)	1975 - 1998	733 records/ 36.65 linear metres	2012	14 years	No

Note 3: Although some records had been closed in an earlier period, they were still in frequent use until they had become time-expired and were then destroyed.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)083

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1041

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration mentioned that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched a scheme to support the development of mobile applications for under-privileged groups in 2012-13. What is the expenditure involved? What are the specific details and contents? It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention that the OGCIO will continue to support the development of mobile applications for under-privileged groups in 2013-14. What is the expenditure involved? What are the specific details and contents?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the "Sponsorship Scheme on Development of Digital Inclusion Mobile Application" in October 2012, aiming at encouraging the local industry to develop mobile applications that cater for the needs of under-privileged groups, with a view to helping the under-privileged groups enhance their quality of life through the adoption of information and communications technology. We invited proposals from 31 October to 31 December 2012 and a total of 45 proposals were received. After assessment, the following 7 proposals were selected for funding support :

Project description	Applicant organisation	Funding amount ($'000)
Provide training kits and a publishing platform of educational resources for students with cognitive disabilities	The Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service	178
Provide social learning educational kits for children with autism spectrum disorder	The Spastics Association of Hong Kong	210
Provide Cantonese speech recognition training kits for children with hearing impairment	The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	216
Provide a barrier-free travel guide for persons with disabilities, detailing the accessibility facilities in tourists spots of Hong Kong	The Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	285
Provide Chinese vocabularies and Cantonese pronunciation service for ethnic minorities	The Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	338
Provide a platform for the elderly to search activities in over 190 local elderly centres	The Hong Kong Society for the Aged	377

Project description	Applicant organisation	Funding amount ($'000)
Provide speech augmented map information and indoor venue facility information to visually impaired persons	The Hong Kong Blind Union	393
	Total:	**1,997**

The development work will be completed within 2013 and the applications will be available for free download and use.

The expenditure of this scheme in 2012-13 is $340,000, including manpower cost, promotional expenses and cost of testing devices. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is $2.46 million, mainly for funding individual projects.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)084

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1042

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to facilitate collaboration in driving ICT development in Hong Kong and the Mainland. What is the expenditure involved? What are the specific details and collaboration contents?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) will continue to work with the Mainland authorities in the areas of cross-boundary facilitation, technology collaboration and technology exchange to promote collaboration in information and communications technology (ICT) development in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

On cross-boundary facilitation, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will continue to cooperate with the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province (GDEI) and certification authorities to promote mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong and strengthen secure cross-boundary e-commerce between the two places.

On technology collaboration, the governments of Hong Kong and Guangdong are, together with the ICT industry, working together to develop standards and guidelines of cloud computing services. In July 2012, we set up the "Hong Kong / Guangdong Expert Committee on Cloud Computing Services and Standards". In January 2013, Hong Kong and Guangdong launched their respective portals on cloud computing to provide best practices, guidelines and references to facilitate the adoption of cloud services among small and medium enterprises in both places.

On technology exchange, the HKSAR Government will continue to join hands with the Mainland authorities to organise events that facilitate technology exchanges between the two places. In April 2013, we will co-organise with GDEI the "Hong Kong / Guangdong Cloud Industry Collaboration Forum" in Hong Kong to strengthen cooperation between the two places, and let more enterprises learn further about cloud computing development in the two places as well as the opportunities. In June 2013, we will lead an ICT industry delegation to participate in the "China International Software and Information Services Fair" in Dalian. During the Fair, we will organise the "Hong Kong and Mainland ICT Development and Exchange Forum" and set up a Hong Kong Pavilion to showcase Hong Kong's innovative ICT products and services, exchange with the industry in the Mainland, and explore cooperation opportunities. We do not have a breakdown of the resources involved.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)085

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1043

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration mentioned that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer supported non-governmental organisations to embark on programmes to encourage wider ICT adoption among the elderly in 2012-13. Please provide information on the project operation, expenditures involved and number of elderly beneficiaries. Will the Administration provide such support in 2013-14? If so, what are the estimates of expenditure and the specific contents?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: In early 2012, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) funded three social service organisations, namely the Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong and the CPMS Social Centre for the Elderly of Grace, to embark on a range of activities to encourage the adoption of information and communications technology (ICT) among the elderly, with a view to enhancing their quality of life and broadening their social circles. These activities, covering computer training for the elderly, inter-generation ICT activities, roving shows, appreciation scheme, setting up of elderly websites and Facebook pages and provision of computer on-loan services within centres, commenced in January 2012 and were completed in August 2012. Funding support from the Government totalled around HK$840,000. Although the projects have already concluded, the funded organisations continue to organise computer training courses and various information technology activities with the newly acquired computer equipment to further promote the use of ICT by the elderly. So far, more than 250 computer training courses have been conducted and over 38 000 elderly have participated in different activities.

In addition, OGCIO sponsored the Hong Kong Society for the Aged to organise the "Smart Elderly Awards" in 2012-13 to incentivise wider ICT adoption among the elderly by showing appreciation and recognition to elderly who use ICT actively in their daily life. The amount of funding support is HK$800,000. The scheme commenced in December 2012 with the participation of 123 elderly centres. Over 1 000 elderly were nominated for the awards. The awards presentation ceremony will be held on 12 April 2013.

In 2013-14, we will continue to identify a social service agency to organise the second "Smart Elderly Awards" with funding support of around HK$3 million.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)086

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1044

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details on the Government's efforts to encourage the development and application of ICT-related assistive technology for persons with disabilities in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), including expenditure, progress, effectiveness and ways to encourage development, etc. Does the Government assess whether the budget in this regard is sufficient? What are the budget and work direction for 2013-14? Does the Government provide the persons with disabilities with financial support for using these research deliverables?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: To promote wider adoption of information and communications technology (ICT) by persons with disabilities and encourage the development of ICT-based assistive tools and applications for them, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) implemented the following measures in the past 3 years:

In 2010-11, we provided funding support of $0.4 million for a social service organisation to organise a forum on ICT adoption for persons with disabilities to share experience and exchange ideas on how to support ICT adoption among persons with disabilities and develop assistive technologies and applications to address their needs. Over 200 participants from local and overseas organisations attended the forum.

In 2011-12, we implemented the "Development of Assistive Technology for Persons with Disabilities Fund" to support the development of ICT assistive tools and applications for persons with disabilities. The 9 funded projects were completed in April 2012 and the products are available for free download, distribution to needy groups or further development. We organised an exhibition in May 2012 to showcase and promote these 9 products with a view to driving their adoption by potential users. The products were well-received by users and achieved industry recognition. One of the products won an international ICT award. The total expenditure of this funding scheme was $3.43 million.

In 2012-13 and 2013-14, we launched the "Sponsorship Scheme on Development of Digital Inclusion Mobile Applications" to encourage the local industry to develop mobile applications and websites with appropriate contents and services that cater for the needs of under-privileged groups, and to help persons with disabilities and other under-privileged groups enhance their quality of life through the adoption of ICT. From the 45 proposals received, we selected 7 proposals for funding support. Development work will complete by

the end of 2013 and the applications will be available for free use. The expenditure of this scheme in 2012-13 and 2013-14 are $0.34 million and $2.46 million respectively.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)087

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1052

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration mentioned that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer would organise the first International IT Fest to project Hong Kong's image as a leading ICT hub in 2013-14. Please provide information on the specific contents of this event and the expenditure involved. Will the Administration conduct a review on this event?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The inaugural International IT Fest ("IT Fest") 2013, which will be held in conjunction with the ICT industry from 8 to 21 April, will showcase Hong Kong's accomplishments in information and communications technology (ICT) and project Hong Kong's image as a regional ICT hub, thus fostering a favourable environment for ICT innovations and businesses to flourish. The IT Fest will feature over 20 events including the Hong Kong ICT Awards, the International ICT Expo and a number of conferences, symposiums, competitions, recognition schemes, etc. in areas where Hong Kong is developing fast, notably mobile technology, information security, cloud computing, Internet of Things, digital entertainment, digital inclusion, etc.

The estimated expenditure of IT Fest 2013 is around HK$2 million, mainly for event promotion and publicity. We will conduct a review after its completion.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)088

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0198

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The provision for 2013-14 is $96.3 million, which is 25.4% higher than the original estimate for 2012-13. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

(a) How will the Administration make use of the provision to encourage the owners of industrial buildings and industrial lots to develop data centres?

(b) Please give details of the one-stop support provided to enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. How many enterprises have received such support and what is the expected number of enterprises that will be attracted to develop data centres in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply: (a) The provision of $96.3 million is used for promoting and facilitating the wider use of information technology in the business sector and the community as well as developing Hong Kong into a digital inclusive society. This includes the expenditure of the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) under the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. The increase in provision over the original estimate for 2012-13 is mainly due to the increased provision for the Internet Learning Support Programme. The resources required for promoting data centre development are similar to those in 2012-13, and we do not have separate breakdown for this initiative.

In the 2012-13 Budget, the Government launched 2 measures to encourage changing eligible industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre use. DCFU promotes these measures via various channels, including organising the "Hong Kong – Prime location for Data Centres" seminar in July 2012 and promoting the incentive measures through the data centre thematic portal.

(b) DCFU provides information and one-stop cross-departmental coordination support services. Its specific work includes promulgating information on setting up data centres in Hong Kong through the data centre thematic portal, liaising with relevant government departments to implement and promote the incentive measures of encouraging the better use of industrial buildings, working with the Invest Hong Kong to provide support to those enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, and working with government departments on measures to facilitate the setting up of data centres taking into account the unique mode of operation of data centres. Since its inception, DCFU has handled enquiries from about 200 enterprises, and has

successfully brought in 3 overseas data centre operators to set up 2 high-tier data centres in Hong Kong. Furthermore, as of mid-March 2013, the Government has received 4 applications for converting industrial buildings into data centres, of which 2 have already been approved while the remaining 2 are being processed. Whether overseas enterprises will set up data centres in Hong Kong is affected by many factors. Hence, we have not set any specific target in this regard.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)089

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1437

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The development of high-tier data centres is essential for entrenching Hong Kong's position as a trade and financial hub. According to the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, it has taken measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots, and will make available land for open bidding for data centre development. Moreover, it has provided one-stop support to prospective enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong. Apart from the above measures, does the Administration formulate a forward-looking and comprehensive strategy on data centre development in Hong Kong, so as to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong in this aspect? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: The Government is committed to facilitating the development of data centres to entrench Hong Kong's position as a trade, financial and logistics hub, and has implemented the following strategies to achieve this objective:

(a) Provision of land: Since 2010, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation has provided over 12 hectares of land in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate for the development of high-tier data centres. Last year, the Government has reserved about 2 hectares of land in Tseung Kwan O for data centre development. The first site of about 1 hectare will be available for open bidding in mid-2013.

(b) Better use of industrial buildings: The Government introduced 2 measures in the 2012-13 Budget to encourage the conversion of eligible industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre use.

(c) Provision of one-stop support service: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) in July 2011 to provide information and one-stop cross-departmental coordination services. The specific work of DCFU includes promulgating information on the setting up of data centres in Hong Kong through the data centre thematic portal, promoting the measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development, working with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) to support enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, and working with government departments on measures to facilitate the setting up of data centres taking into account the unique mode of operation of data centres.

(d) Stepping up promotion: DCFU promotes government measures on data centres via various channels (including seminars and thematic portal), and works with InvestHK to promote Hong Kong as the prime location in the Asia Pacific region for setting up data centres overseas and in the Mainland.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)090

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1438

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The development of cloud computing is conducive to facilitating digital economy in Hong Kong. In this connection, does the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer have other supporting measures to facilitate the wider adoption of cloud computing services among small and medium enterprises apart from launching the information portal on cloud computing resources? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: In order to facilitate and drive the adoption and development of cloud computing services in Hong Kong, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established an Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and Standards (the Expert Group) in April 2012, drawing expertise views and advice from the industry, academia and professional bodies. Based on the initial suggestions of the Expert Group, our work at this stage is to promote awareness of Cloud services among the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to provide related best practices and guidelines to them, including a set of "Security Checklists for Cloud Service Consumers" that have been published through the information portal on Cloud resources (InfoCloud Portal). The aim is to strengthen the confidence of SMEs in using Cloud services and to raise their awareness in choosing appropriate services that can meet their business development needs.

At the same time, we encourage and support the industry to organise various exchange and training programmes for nurturing cloud computing professionals. To strengthen the cooperation between Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province, we will hold a "HK-GD Cloud Industry Collaboration Forum" in Hong Kong in April this year, with a view to enhancing the understanding of enterprises (including SMEs) on the development of Cloud and the associated business opportunities, and promoting the development and adoption of Cloud standards and services in both places. We also support the development of Cloud services among local SMEs through the "Sector-Specific Programme" of the OGCIO. We will continue to enhance the content of our InfoCloud Portal by providing more guidelines, expert sharing and success stories, etc. to further promote the use of information and communications technology by SMEs through Cloud adoption.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)091

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1439

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The duties of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) include supporting bureaux and departments (B/Ds) to implement IT-enabled change projects. In this connection, does OGCIO assist B/Ds in formulating supporting strategic measures to enhance interaction with the public for collecting their voices and aspirations through the use of IT on an on-going basis? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) provides advice and technical support to bureaux and departments (B/Ds) for e-engagement, including setting up a thematic webpage to share tips of using social media, and developing Facebook applications for live video-streaming, conducting questionnaire surveys and disseminating promotion leaflets. OGCIO will continue to provide support to assist B/Ds to enhance interaction with the public.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)092

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2637

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: How does the Government assess its continued efforts in promoting the further development of GovWiFi in Hong Kong? Does the Government have any plan to extend the coverage and usage time of free public Wi-Fi service in 2013-14? Please provide the details including the specific measures, manpower arrangement and expenditure required. Moreover, does the Government assess whether the service should be upgraded in terms of Internet connection speed and data encryption specifications? Will the Government consider adopting other mode of operation to further roll out a territory-wide Wi-Fi service, making Hong Kong a genuine Wi-Fi city?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: Since the full roll-out of Gov*WiFi* service in June 2009, the daily average number of Internet connections through the service has increased by more than 3 times. The current daily average number of users and number of Internet connections are around 20 500 and 29 400 respectively. In response to the continual public demand for Gov*WiFi* service, the Next Generation Gov*WiFi* Programme was launched in December 2012. In addition to continuing the service in some 400 existing government premises, the service will further be extended to about 40 additional government premises in 2013-14. Gov*WiFi* is providing non-stop service. Members of the public can enjoy the service anytime in government premises that are provided with the service. The estimated total 5-year investment for the Next Generation Gov*WiFi* Programme is $152 million, which includes the cost of installation, service operation and programme coordination involved in the provision of Gov*WiFi* service at some 440 premises.

To ensure that users can enjoy a reasonable level of service on equal basis, the bandwidth allocated to each user is pre-set at about 1 - 2 Mbps. The actual performance will depend on various factors such as the number of concurrent users, the signal strength of the location where the user is situated and the impacts caused by environmental factors, etc. The current connection speed of the service can support general Internet usage including video streaming. We will periodically review the Internet connection speed of Gov*WiFi* service and the overall bandwidth for the premises, and will suitably adjust the bandwidth according to service usage and demand. For data encryption specifications, we have already implemented in the Gov*WiFi* service the WPA2-Enterprise and AES encryption standard, which are widely adopted by the industry.

We will examine the development roadmap of the Gov*WiFi* service at an appropriate time in light of the public demand for the service as well as technological and market developments of wireless Internet service.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)093

Question Serial No

2638

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the implementation and development of the Government Cloud Platform to support common e-government services for shared use by bureaux and departments, how does the Administration supervise the use of these services, review their effectiveness and assess the service needs beyond 2017-18? Apart from electronic information management and e-procurement services, will the scope of common e-government services be expanded? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: In June 2012, the Finance Committee allocated funding of $242 million for implementing the Government Cloud Platform (GovCloud) to support the development and provision of common e-government services. Regarding the implementation and development of the GovCloud, the Government Chief Information Officer has established a steering committee to oversee its development progress and service usage. The steering committee will draw up relevant performance indicators, including demand for common e-government services, service utilisation, service quality, etc. for reviewing the effectiveness of GovCloud and assessing the service needs and arrangements beyond 2017-18.

We will actively explore, within the project funding ambit, the possibility to support some more common e-government services (e.g. human resource management system) on the GovCloud.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)094

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2639

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration will provide "one-stop support to prospective enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong". In 2013-14, will the Administration allocate additional manpower and resources to offer assistance in matters related to the setting up of data centres, such as forming an inter-departmental working group to deal with the regulations that data centre enterprises have to comply with as required by the relevant departments? If so, what are the work objectives, details of plan, manpower and resources required as well as the time-table?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) in July 2011 to provide information and one-stop cross-departmental coordination services to enterprises and organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. The specific work of DCFU includes promulgating information on setting up data centres in Hong Kong through the data centre thematic portal, liaising with relevant government departments to implement and promote the incentive measures of encouraging the better use of industrial buildings, working with Invest Hong Kong to provide support to enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, promoting Hong Kong as the prime location in the Asia Pacific region to set up data centres to overseas and the Mainland, and working with government departments on measures to facilitate the setting up of data centres taking into account the unique mode of operation of data centres. Since its inception, DCFU has handled enquiries from about 200 enterprises, and has successfully brought in 3 overseas data centre operators to set up 2 high-tier data centres in Hong Kong. Furthermore, as of mid-March 2013, the Government has received 4 applications for converting industrial buildings into data centres, of which 2 have already been approved while the remaining 2 are being processed. In 2013-14, the related work will continue to be handled by DCFU with existing resources. No additional manpower and resources are required.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)095

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2640

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) Regarding enhancing information and communications technology (ICT) adoption among small and medium enterprises (SMEs), please provide information on the work of the Administration and the performance indicators over the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), and the specific work objectives, plans, time-table as well as the manpower and resources required in 2013-14.

(b) In 2013-14, does the Administration have any plan to allocate manpower and resources for encouraging the adoption of locally developed technologies by local SMEs, such as providing matching grants for SMEs to procure ICT products and services from local service providers? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) In the past 3 years, the Government supported 8 projects under the "Sector-specific Programme" and the "IT Training Programme for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)" in 7 business sectors, with funding support totalling over $7.8 million. As at March 2013, 7 of these projects have been completed, namely "Mobile application and digital marketing for wholesale/retail sector" (viz "Consumer Connect"), "IT training programme for travel agencies", "eHealth training for Chinese medicine practitioners", "IT training programme for social enterprises", "IT training programme for SMEs", "Ubiquitous learning and Web 2.0 forum for SME manufacturers" and "IT training on eBranding development for SME manufacturers". The remaining project, namely "Tele-protection & mobile patrol application" (viz "Security Cloud"), is expected to complete in early 2014.

(b) We have earmarked $3 million in 2013-14 for a new round of "Sector-specific Programme" to sponsor local non-profit organisations to develop software applications or websites for individual sectors to drive the adoption of information and communications technology (ICT) among SMEs. The development of software applications and websites under these projects will mainly be carried out by local ICT service providers. In addition, we will explore ways to assist SMEs in the adoption of cloud computing services to enhance their operational efficiency, productivity and customer services.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)096

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2641

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the facilitation of manpower development in information and communications technology in Hong Kong, the Government has positioned Hong Kong as a source of experts in areas related to cloud computing. Please provide information on the following:

(a) How many people were engaged in work related to cloud computing and what was the growth rate in each of the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)?

(b) What were the respective numbers of cloud computing training courses and places in Hong Kong over the same period? What are their respective numbers in 2013-14 by estimation?

(c) In promoting and facilitating the adoption and development of cloud computing in Hong Kong, how does the Administration assess whether the existing training resources can meet the long-term manpower needs for cloud computing development and enhance the professional standard of the serving personnel?

(d) Does the Administration have any plan to promote cloud computing professional certification? In this regard, what are the specific work plans, time-table and estimates of expenditure of the bureau in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) & (b)

The technical know-how for cloud computing is similar to other areas of information and communications technology (ICT). Cloud computing personnel are required to have in-depth knowledge in mobile communications and related technologies, information security management, data centre operation, information technology (IT) service management and user support, etc. Many IT training institutions, IT vendors, professional organisations and industry bodies have been providing suitable and practical training opportunities such as cloud computing training courses, workshops, seminars and conferences in response to market demand. Nonetheless, there is no separate analysis on cloud computing in the current surveys on IT manpower and training.

(c) We liaise closely with the industry, academia and professional organisations via different channels (e.g. the Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and

Standards set up last year) on cloud computing development, including assessment of manpower demand. Moreover, we will continue to encourage and support the industry in conducting exchanges and training to nurture local talents, thereby facilitating the development of cloud computing.

(d) The Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification under the Innovation and Technology Commission has set up the Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Trade in mid-2012. The Panel provides a platform for enhancing cooperation between the testing and certification industry and the ICT industry for the development and promotion of testing and certification services. The Panel is examining the testing and certification services for cloud computing currently available in the market or under development, and will decide if it is necessary to develop testing and certification services tailored to the needs of Hong Kong.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)097

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2642

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding facilitating manpower development in respect of information and communications technology in Hong Kong, the Government has positioned Hong Kong as a prime location for setting up data centres in the Asia Pacific region. Please provide information on the following:

(a) How many people were engaged in work related to data centres and what is the growth rate in each of the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)?

(b) What are the respective numbers of data centre training courses and places in Hong Kong over the same period as well as in 2013-14?

(c) In facilitating the development of high-tier data centres, how does the Administration assess whether the existing training resources can meet the long-term manpower needs for data centre development and enhance the professional standard of the serving personnel?

(d) Does the Administration have any plan to facilitate data centre enterprises from overseas and the Mainland to carry out scientific research in Hong Kong, so as to create more employment opportunities with high quality technologies? In this regard, what are the specific work plans, time-table and estimates of expenditure of the bureau in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) According to the "2010 Manpower Survey of the Information Technology Sector" conducted by the Vocational Training Council, the number of employees engaged in data centre operations (including management, supervision and operation) is 4 806. This survey is conducted only in even years and the report of the manpower survey in 2012 has not been published yet. Thus, we do not have the figures for 2011 and 2012.

(b) Training for data centre personnel can be provided in many ways, including on-the-job training, training courses, conferences, thematic talks and seminars, etc. Many training opportunities are designed and provided by data centres themselves according to their own requirements. We do not have the consolidated figures in this regard.

(c) The Government maintains communication and liaison with the industry via various channels to closely monitor the needs of data centres, including their manpower and training needs.

(d) The operation of data centres does not directly involve research activities. The focus of our data centre promotion measures is not on data centre research.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)098

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2643

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government is reviewing the Digital 21 Strategy and has started consultation with the industry. However, the industry is concerned about whether the Government will introduce performance indicators for the next generation strategy. Please provide information on the following:

(a) What are the manpower and resources required as well as the specific time-table of conducting the review in 2013-14? When will the Administration complete the review and publish the new strategy?

(b) Please provide information in a table showing all meeting/activities held in relation to Digital 21 Strategy review as at 28 February 2013 (including the date, venue, purpose of meeting, content of discussion, background of participants and number of participants).

(c) Please provide information in a table showing the meeting/activities to be held in relation to Digital 21 Strategy review (including the date, venue, purpose of meeting, content of discussion, background of participants to be invited and expected number of participants).

(d) Does the Administration have any plan to introduce specific objectives and key performance indicators for the new strategy so as to better follow up on the implementation progress? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) We plan to conduct public consultation on the new Digital 21 Strategy in the third quarter of 2013 and to promulgate the finalised Strategy by the end of the year. We have engaged a consultant to conduct the review at a cost of $1.2 million.

(b) We completed on 8 March 2013 the first stage consultation, which covered information technology industry bodies and organisations, academia and relevant government departments. Details are set out at Annex A.

(c) We plan to conduct public consultation in the third quarter of 2013 and the arrangements are still under preparation. We will consult various stakeholders, including the Legislative Council and the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee.

(d) The Government formulated in 2009 a number of key performance indicators to measure and monitor the progress of desired outcomes under the Digital 21 Strategy.

We are considering concrete initiatives for inclusion in the new document and appropriate means to follow up the progress of their implementation.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Annex A

	Date	Participants/ Organisations	Venue	Purpose of meeting	Content of discussion	Number of participants
1.	20 February 2013	Industry bodies	Efficiency Unit, Revenue Tower	Explore how to formulate a new blueprint to promote the development of ICT in Hong Kong	• Future ICT development trends • How to nurture ICT talents • Facilitating ICT adoption among small and medium enterprises (SMEs), e.g. cloud technology	10
2.	21 February 2013	Industry bodies	Central Government Offices	- Ditto -	• Future ICT development trends • How to nurture ICT talents • Facilitating ICT adoption among SMEs, e.g. cloud technology	8
3.	22 February 2013	Chief information officers of large organisations and public utilities	Central Government Offices	- Ditto -	• How to nurture ICT talents • Providing support to SMEs and ICT startups • Personal e-account and broader e-government services • Opening up more types of public sector information for re-use to create business opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship and promote innovation	7
4.	27 February 2013	ICT service providers	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, Wanchai Tower	- Ditto -	• How to nurture ICT talents • Providing platforms and support to SMEs and ICT startups • Encouraging research and development (R&D) of innovative technology • Building up ICT industry	11

	Date	Participants/ Organisations	Venue	Purpose of meeting	Content of discussion	Number of participants
5.	1 March 2013	ICT related quasi-government organisations (e.g. the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Ltd., the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the Hong Kong Productivity Council), recognised certification authorities, the Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and Standards and its Working Groups	Central Government Offices	- Ditto -	• How to nurture ICT talents • Providing platforms and support to SMEs and ICT startups • Encouraging R&D of innovative technology • Building up ICT industry	19
6.	4 March 2013	Representatives of Information Technology Management Units of various government departments	Central Government Offices	- Ditto -	• Personal e-account and broader e-government services	52
7.	5 March 2013	Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee and its Task Forces	Efficiency Unit, Revenue Tower	- Ditto -	• Future ICT development trends • How to nurture ICT talents • Providing platforms and support to SMEs and ICT startups • Personal e-account and broader e-government services • Opening up more types of public	25

	Date	Participants/ Organisations	Venue	Purpose of meeting	Content of discussion	Number of participants
					sector information for re-use to create business opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship and promote innovation • Building up ICT Industry	
8.	5 March 2013	Chief Information Officer Board of Hong Kong Computer Society	HSBC Main Building, Central	- Ditto -	• How to nurture ICT talents • Providing platforms and support to SMEs and ICT startups • Encouraging R&D of innovative technology • Building up ICT Industry	15
9.	6 March 2013	Academia	Central Government Offices	- Ditto -	• How to nurture ICT talents • Providing platforms and support to SMEs and ICT startups • Encouraging R&D of innovative technology • Building up ICT Industry	7

Note 1: The consultant firm also met with relevant government departments to understand that development of ICT in individual policy areas and the way forward.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)099

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2645

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding facilitating the development of data centres in Hong Kong, given the unique and stringent technical and site requirements for data centres, would the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

(a) In 2013-14, does the Administration have any specific plan to increase the supply of land suitable for data centre development? If so, what are the details?

(b) The Administration plans to allocate a site of 1 hectare next to the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate dedicated for the development of data centres. When will the other adjacent site of about 1 hectare be made available?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) The Government launched incentive measures in June 2012 to encourage the industry to use industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. As of mid-March 2013, the Government has received 4 applications for converting parts of industrial buildings into data centres, of which 2 have already been approved while the remaining 2 are being processed. The industry can also identify sites for setting up data centres via other channels. To our understanding, in 2012 an operator has successfully identified a site in the private market for setting up data centre. Furthermore, in the industrial estates managed by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, there are still no less than 4 hectares of land available for bidding by various sectors (including data centre sector). The Government will also provide land for the industry through the Land Sales Programme, including putting up a piece of land for data centre use in Tseung Kwan O for open bidding in mid-2013.

(b) With respect to the reserved land in Tseung Kwan O, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is liaising with relevant government departments on preliminary planning, including land use modification. We have not yet decided on the timing of making available the reserved land to the market.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)100

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2646

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) In 2013-14, does the Government have any plan to allocate resources and manpower to review and update the indicators for measuring digital divide, such as information and communications technology (ICT) adoption among various groups including the elderly, persons with disabilities, new arrivals and women?

(b) In 2011-12, the Government provided funding support for projects to promote wider ICT adoption among the elderly. Does the Government have any plan to expand the scope of funding support to cover those groups with lower education qualifications and less economic activities in 2013-14? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) is conducting a Thematic Household Survey which will gauge, among others, the latest information and communications technology (ICT) usage among the elderly, new arrivals, women as well as the mainstream community. The results will be released in mid-2013. In addition, C&SD will conduct a separate survey on persons with disabilities later this year, which would also cover ICT usage among them.

(b) In 2013-14, we will support the local industry to develop mobile applications and websites with appropriate contents and services that cater for the needs of under-privileged groups, such as a mobile platform to facilitate searching of information and resources required by under-privileged groups and applications to facilitate their learning and social networking, so as to help different community groups enhance their quality of life and integrate into the society through the adoption of ICT. We received 45 proposals in the open application period and after assessment, 7 of them were selected for funding support. The development work will be completed within 2013 and the applications will be available for free download and use.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)101

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2647

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer's sponsorship proposals initiated by the community, please inform the Committee of the following:

(a) Please provide the details of sponsorship projects for 2012-13 in the table below:

Projects under sponsorship themes

Project	Organisation	Actual amount of sponsorship granted to the organisation (HK$)	Total amount of sponsorship (HK$)

Projects not under sponsorship themes

Project	Organisation	Actual amount of sponsorship granted to the organisation (HK$)	Total amount of sponsorship (HK$)

(b) Please provide information on the manpower and resources involved in the assessment of "projects under sponsorship themes" and "projects not under sponsorship themes".

(c) Please provide information on the methods (e.g. indicators) for assessing the effectiveness of the sponsorship projects in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

(d) Please provide information on the number of sponsorship projects and the total amount of sponsorship received by all sponsored organisations in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

(e) In 2013-14, does the Government have any plan to review the arrangement of open invitation for proposals under specific themes which has been implemented since 2011-12? If so, what are the manpower and resources involved? If not, why?

(f) Will the approach for inviting proposals be revised during the review of the Digital 21 Strategy? If so, what are the manpower and resources involved? If not, why?

(g) What specific work will be commenced by the Administration in 2013-14 to encourage non-profit-making organisations to implement various projects for promoting the Digital 21 Strategy? How much resources are expected to be allocated in this regard as compared with 2012-13? Please provide information on the specific objectives, details and time-table of the promotion work.

(h) In the past, did the Administration request the sponsored organisations to open separate bank accounts and submit audit reports for the funding granted to "projects under sponsorship themes" (e.g. Sector-specific Programme) and "projects not under sponsorship themes"? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) Details of the projects sponsored by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) for 2012-13 are at Annex 1.

(b) Evaluating project proposals for funding support is one of OGCIO's many activities. Breakdown of manpower and resources involved in this task is not available.

(c) According to the prevailing "Guide to Application for OGCIO Sponsorship", project proponents are required to state the budget, schedule, targets and expected outcome (e.g. number of participants, media coverage, etc.) to facilitate the assessment of the implementation arrangements and effectiveness of proposals. The selected implementation agents are also required to evaluate the achievement of project targets, including the feedback and comments of the beneficiaries.

(d) A list of sponsored organisations, the number of sponsorship projects and the total amount of sponsorship received in the past 3 years is at Annex 2.

(e) With the theme-based sponsorship approach, we have been able to tap community wisdom, leverage industry network and reinforce tripartite collaboration among the Government, non-government organisations and the private sector. OGCIO reviews the arrangement of theme-based sponsorship every year and proposes new themes for the next year. The results of the review will be submitted to the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee for consideration. The work involved is absorbed within existing resources and breakdown of the manpower and resources involved in these tasks is not available.

(f) Each year, OGCIO proposes new sponsorship themes according to the Digital 21 Strategy for consideration by the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee. We would then openly invite proposals from organisations at a suitable juncture. We will continue with this practice during the review of the Digital 21 Strategy.

(g) In 2012-13, we earmarked $8 million for projects under 4 sponsorship themes and some of these projects are still underway.

In 2013-14, we plan to earmark $6 million for new projects under 2 themes, namely "Smart Elderly Recognition Scheme" and "Enhancing the operational efficiency and business opportunities of SMEs through ICT adoption". We shall invite proposals under these themes in due course. Project details and timetable will be subject to the outcome of invitation and selection.

(h) Starting from 2011-12, all funded organisations are required to arrange for an audit of the project accounts by an independent auditor and to submit the audited account to

OGCIO. Prior to 2011-12, this requirement was applicable to sponsorships over $500,000 only.

To enhance effective monitoring, the funded organisations are required to open separate bank accounts for transactions involving public funds for each project.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Annex 1

Details of sponsorship projects for 2012-13

Projects under sponsorship themes

Project	Organisation	Actual amount of sponsorship granted to the organisation (HK$) *	Total amount of sponsorship (HK$)
1. ICT manpower development – Promoting ICT among Secondary Students (the "iCity" Project)	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong	–	1,000,000.00
2. Recognition Scheme for ICT Usage among the Elderly	Hong Kong Society for the Aged	700,000.00	800,000.00

Other sponsored projects

Project	Organisation	Actual amount of sponsorship granted to the organisation (HK$) *	Total amount of sponsorship (HK$)
1. Hong Kong ICT Awards 2013			
Best Business Award	Hong Kong Computer Society	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Collaboration Award	Hong Kong Software Industry Association	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Digital Entertainment Award	Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Digital Inclusion Award	Hong Kong Council of Social Service	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Green ICT Award	Green ICT Consortium	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Innovation & Research Award	Internet Professional Association	259,290.00	288,100.00
Best Lifestyle Award	Hong Kong Information Technology Federation	267,750.00	297,500.00
Best Mobile Apps Award	Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association	261,000.00	290,000.00
Best Public Service Application Award	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers - IT Division	247,860.00	275,400.00
Best SME ICT Award	Information and Software Industry Association	242,550.00	269,500.00
2. 2012 Guangdong-Hong Kong IoT Technology Application Summit	Hong Kong Research and Development Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies	100,000.00	100,000.00
3. Organisation of the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards 2012 Delegation	Hong Kong Computer Society	81,914.40	91,016.00

* as of 12 March 2013

Annex 2

A list of sponsored organisations, the number of sponsorship projects and the total amount of sponsorship received for the past 3 years

Organisation	No. of projects / Actual amount of sponsorship granted to the organisation (HK$) *					
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
British Computer Society (Hong Kong Section)	1	292,320.00	1	248,156.10		
Chamber of Security Industry			1	406,000.00		
Chinese University of Hong Kong	1	188,509.65				
Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong					1	—
CPMS Social Center for the Elderly of Grace			1	237,346.00		
District Cyber Centres Alliance	1	3,799,500.00				
DotAsia Organisation Ltd	1	480,000.00				
Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong			1	229,233.00		
Freedom Communications Limited	1	212,502.00				
Green ICT Consortium	2	445,834.00	1	400,100.00	1	267,750.00
GS1 Hong Kong	1	180,000.00	1	852,300.00		
Hong Kong Blind Union	1	203,076.83				
Hong Kong Computer Society	3	776,127.50	3	498,968.40	2	349,664.40
Hong Kong Council of Social Service	3	2,699,080.66	2	1,216,957.90	1	267,750.00
Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association	1	336,550.00	1	293,996.90	1	267,750.00
Hong Kong Information Technology Federation	2	328,800.00	1	395,000.00	1	267,750.00
Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council	1	125,000.00				
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin)	1	262,648.00				
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi)	1	259,203.98				
Hong Kong PHAB Association	1	814,716.90				
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	1	269,164.00				
Hong Kong Research and Development Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies	1	80,000.00	1	100,000.00	1	100,000.00
Hong Kong Society for the Aged	1	2,655,000.00			1	700,000.00
Hong Kong Society for the Blind	1	448,170.00				
Hong Kong Software Industry Association	3	1,165,630.00	2	1,107,591.00	1	267,750.00
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	1	2,770.00				
Hong Kong United Youth Science and Technology Association	1	252,000.00				
Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association	1	348,184.80	1	381,550.00	1	261,000.00
Information and Software Industry Association					1	242,550.00
Internet Professional Association	3	1,388,333.90	2	1,462,708.13	1	259,290.00
Internet Society Hong Kong			1	995,000.00		
Keysquare Communication Limited	1	493,000.00				
Po Leung Kuk			1	258,600.00		
Senior Citizen Home Safety Association	1	94,320.82				
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers - IT Division	1	270,810.00	1	240,750.00	1	247,860.00

* as of 12 March 2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)102

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2651

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under the Development of Assistive Technology for Persons with Disabilities Fund (Fund), the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer allocated a one-off funding of HK$3.6 million in 2010-11 to support the development of ICT-based assistive tools and applications for persons with disabilities. Please inform the Committee of the following:

(a) Please provide the details of the 9 funded projects in the table below:

Project title	Applicant organisation	Funding amount	Status of funding disbursement (fully disbursed / not yet fully disbursed)	Completion date of funding disbursement (if fully disbursed)	Outstanding amount (if not yet fully disbursed)

(b) Does the Administration evaluate the effectiveness and management efficiency of the Fund? If so, what are the details?

(c) According to media reports, some organisations have yet to receive the funding in full upon completion of their projects. Has the Administration monitored and looked into the financial management issue? If so, what are the results? Should any organisations or individuals be held accountable for that? Will the Government investigate any cases involving possible misuse of public fund? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

(d) Does the Administration have any plan to re-inject funding into the Fund? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) Details of the 9 sponsorship projects are as follows:

Project title	Applicant organisation	Funding amount ($)	Status of funding disbursement (fully disbursed / not yet fully disbursed)	Completion date of funding disbursement (if fully disbursed)	Outstanding amount (if not yet fully disbursed)
On-line Navigation System for disabled persons on web-based and smartphone platforms	Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin)	262,648	Funding was fully disbursed	25 September 2012	Not applicable
KineLabs for Elderly and Stroke Rehabilitation	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	269,164		1 November 2012	
Easy-Dots 2.0	Hong Kong Blind Union	203,077		2 November 2012	
A Novel Chinese Text Input Brain-Computer Interface for persons with neuromuscular disability	Chinese University of Hong Kong	188,510		6 November 2012	
Intelligent Home for people with physical disabilities	Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi)	259,204		20 November 2012	
QuicKey "Barrier-free input device"	Keysquare Communication Limited	493,000		12 December 2012	
Touchscreen text input application for visually impaired	Freedom Communications Limited	212,502		17 December 2012	
Transense - Text4U	Hong Kong Society for the Blind	448,170		20 December 2012	
A Mobile, Multi-Modal Human Interface Device for People with Disabilities and Its Application on Home Automation System	Hong Kong PHAB Association	814,717		24 December 2012	

(b) The development work of the 9 funded projects was completed in April 2012 as scheduled. The products, ranging from computer software, input and control assistance device, web-based service to rehabilitation tools, cater for the needs of persons with different kinds of disabilities such as physically disabled and visually impaired persons. The products are available for free download, distribution to needy groups or further development, and most of them have already reached the expected usage targets. These products are well-received by users and achieved industry recognition. One of the projects won an international ICT award.

The Government commissioned the Internet Professional Association (iProA) to assist in the implementation of the scheme, including coordination of publicity activities, recruitment and technical assessment of proposals, progress monitoring of funded projects, and provision of timely technical support and advice on project implementation. The advisory committee of the scheme was satisfied with the outcome of the funding scheme as well as the performance of iProA.

(c) According to the funding agreement, the Government will only release the final payments to individual organisations after receiving and endorsing the audited project financial statements from them. The Government received all audited project financial statements in December 2012 and after reviewing the financial statements, the remaining funding allocations were released to the organisations.

Government imposes stringent requirements on the use of sponsorship funding. If there are indications of improper use, we would follow up in accordance with the law.

(d) The "Development of Assistive Technology for Persons with Disabilities Fund" is a one-off funding scheme. In 2012-13, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has set aside $2 million to support non-profit organisations in the development of mobile applications that cater for the needs of under-privileged groups.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)103

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2652

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards, (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In recent years, Hong Kong had made tremendous achievements in international information technology awards (e.g. Asia Pacific ICT Awards). Nevertheless, many participants (local enterprises) expressed that the Hong Kong Government had not provided support for the participants to take part in these competitions similar with other countries and regions. These enterprises had to bear no small amount of additional burden even though they brought honours for Hong Kong.

(a) How much resources and manpower were provided by the Hong Kong Government for supporting local information and communications technology (ICT) industry (organisations and individuals) to participate in overseas international awards in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? How much support was given to the participants for helping them meet the competition expenses, such as passage expenses for overseas competitions?

(b) Does the Administration have any plan to provide support and assistance for local ICT industry (organisations and individuals) to participate in overseas international awards in 2013-14? If so, what are the details? If not, why? Does the Administration have any plan to provide other assistance?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) The Government encourages the local information and communications technology industry to participate in international award contests overseas, and provides financial assistance to students and non-profit service organisations. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has provided funding support of about $210,000 (covering air ticket and accommodation) for participants to attend a total of 4 contests and award presentation ceremonies in the past 3 years.

(b) The Government will continue to encourage the local industry to pursue excellence in the international arena, and will consider providing support for students and non-profit service organisations to participate in international award contests on a case by case basis.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)104

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2672

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: For years, the Government had ceased employing information technology (IT) staff on civil service establishment. However, in the meantime, the Government continued its efforts to operate through electronic means and its demand for IT was still on the rise. Therefore, the Government has employed a substantial number of contract IT staff through employment agencies, resulting in serious issues of unequal pay for the same work and unfair conditions of appointment (e.g. no paid sick leave, no medical insurance, no payment for duties undertaken during typhoon signal or black rainstorm signal is hoisted). Moreover, the employment agencies charge a high percentage of service fees from the tender price offered by the Government. It is extremely unfair to the contract staff, and a serious succession gap in government IT-related grade has emerged, bringing additional risk to the operation of the government IT systems.

(a) How many such temporary and short-term contract IT staff has been employed in various government departments at present? What is the percentage of such staff against the number of other government IT staff (including civil service staff and non-civil service contract staff) in various government departments? What is the change in number of such staff in the past 5 years? What is the duration of service of these T-contract staff?

(b) Does the Government have any plan to convert these temporary and short-term contract staff who have been providing service for long time to non-civil service contract staff or civil service staff? If so, what are the details? If not, will the Administration consult the affected staff on this matter? If there is no plan for consultation, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) In the past 5 years, the changes in the number of contract staff engaged through employment agencies (hereafter generally referred to as "T-contract staff") and information technology (IT) staff directly employed by the Government in all bureaux/departments (B/Ds) are shown below:

	Number of IT staff directly employed by the Government (See Note)	Number of T-contract staff	Total
As at 31 December 2008	1929	1276	3205
As at 31 December 2009	1988	1482	3470
As at 31 December 2010	2022	1626	3648
As at 31 December 2011	1999	1815	3814
As at 31 December 2012	2005	2074	4079

Note: Including civil servants of Analyst/Programmer Grade, Computer Operator Grade and Data Processor Grade as well as non-civil service contract staff

With the continuing development of e-government services and implementation of various infrastructure and initiatives under the Digital 21 Strategy, the number of IT staff required by the Government has kept growing over the past few years. The T-contract staff engaged through T-contract arrangement can complement the service provided by the IT staff directly employed by the Government. This arrangement allows B/Ds to tap the latest expertise in the market for developing and supporting IT systems and applications, and to better meet their fluctuating IT manpower demand. Moreover, the arrangement can foster technology exchange between IT personnel in the civil service and IT professionals in the private sector. It is generally welcomed and supported by the IT industry.

As regards the duration of service of T-contract staff, the T-contracts between the Government and the contractors normally last for 3 years, whereas the length of contract for individual staff is not uniform. The duration of service of these staff may vary from a few months to 3 years, depending mainly on the actual manpower need of the B/D concerned as well as the financial and administrative considerations.

(b) T-contract staff are not government employees. At present, there is neither a mechanism nor a plan to directly convert these staff who are employed by employment agencies to civil service staff or non-civil service contract staff. Individual T-contract staff may apply for any related civil service posts or non-civil service contract staff positions they are interested in. For example, the Government has resumed open recruitment of Analyst/Programmer II since 2009. Every year there are cases of successful application for civil service post by T-contract staff through open recruitment exercise.

In order to ensure the T-contract staff will be given due employment protection and fair treatment by their employers, it is stipulated in the T-contracts that the contractors shall comply with the employment laws in Hong Kong, shall act as responsible employers and shall not include unreasonable terms in the employment contracts. Although there is no employer-employee relationship between the Government and the contract staff, any non-compliance by a contractor, if substantiated, can be treated as breach of contract which may lead to termination of the service contract by the Government.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)105

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3091

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the mobile websites and mobile applications developed by government departments and relevant organisations, please provide the relevant information using the format below.

(a) Please provide the relevant information from 2010-11 to 2012-13 in the table below:

Mobile websites

Government department	Title	Content and purpose	Mode of development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure (including development and routine maintenance)	Project commencement and formal roll-out date	Usage as at 31.1.2013 (monthly average number of visitors and total downloads)

Mobile applications

Government department	Title	Content and purpose	Applicable platforms (e.g. Apple/ Android/ Windows)	Mode of development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure (including development and routine maintenance)	Project commencement and formal roll-out date	Usage as at 31.1.2013 (monthly average number of visitors and total downloads)

(b) Does the Government have any established mechanism to assess whether the development of mobile applications is effective? What are the budget and work direction for 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) Information about the mobile apps and mobile websites developed by government departments and relevant organisations is at Annex A and B respectively.

(b) The Government is committed to improving public services by leveraging on information technology, so that the public can enjoy services that better fit their needs. Hong Kong's mobile penetration rate currently stands at 229%. In view of the rising popularity of smart phones, the Government is striving to capitalise on this channel to provide more convenient public services that cater for public needs.

In the past 2 years, the Government has launched 49 mobile apps that provide a variety of brand new e-government services, with MyObservatory, HKeTransport and GovHK Notifications being particularly popular. As at January 2013, the total numbers of downloads of these 3 mobile apps have exceeded 3 000 000, 900 000 and 450 000 respectively. When exploring the development of mobile apps and assessing their effectiveness, we take into account a host of factors, including the expectation and needs of the public for mobile apps, whether the mobile apps can enhance the efficiency of e-government services, and the convenience they bring to the public.

The Government will continue to develop mobile apps to meet public needs. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) set up the Mobile App Development Facilitation Unit in May 2012 to provide support and advice to bureaux / departments in mobile app development. OGCIO has earmarked $9.5 million for the Unit to develop mobile apps for suitable e-government services from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Annex A

Mobile Apps							
Government department	**Title**	**Content and Purpose**	**Applicable platforms (e.g. Apple iOS / Android / Windows)**	**Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)**	**Expenditure (including development and routine maintenance)**	**Project commencement and formal roll-out date**	**Usage as at 31.1. 2013 (monthly average number of visitors and total downloads)**
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Forester	To enhance citizens' knowledge on trees and their interest in planting through a mobile application with a simple planting game. Forester also introduces 16 common and interesting tree species. Citizens can select seeds and use different planting tools in the game. They can also collect more special tools and tree seeds at designated Tree Walks by using the Augmented Reality (AR) function of the "Country Park Tree Walks" mobile application. When planting is finished, the tree will be added into "Collection" with details provided.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$304,000 Routine maintenance HK$49,500 per annum	Project commencement date September 2011 Formal roll-out date December 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads About 1 300
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Country Parks Tree Walks	The application features 96 species of trees planted along the 16 Tree Walks in country parks with photos and text descriptions. A transportation guide to the Tree Walks is also provided. Besides, the application has the online Google map function for displaying the location of the users in real time, and users can tour	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$995,000 Routine maintenance HK$49,500 per annum (Development and maintenance together with related mobile website)	Project commencement date March 2011 Formal roll-out date April 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads About 21 000

		a tree walk using the offline maps. The AR mode incorporated in the application enables users to locate trees. Simply by inputting a tree name or selecting a month, users can easily find those tree species that are currently in the flowering period with their locations in the Tree Walks.					
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Reef Check Hong Kong	Citizens may use this app to browse the coral coverage rate of the 33 survey sites in the eastern waters of Hong Kong as well as the distribution and photos of 48 indicator species including reef-building corals, fish and invertebrates.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$94,950	Project commencement date 23 August 2011 (iOS) 12 April 2012 (Android) Formal roll-out date 1 December 2011 (iOS) 19 November 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 3 551
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Wetland Park	Content: Latest news of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, navigation through the Park, ticketing and traffic information, multimedia information at points of interests, information about the wildlife and interactive games. Purpose: To facilitate visits to the Wetland Park, enhance public awareness of wetland animals and promote wetland conservation.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$237,300	Project commencement date 1 August 2009 (iOS) 10 November 2011 (Android) Formal roll-out date 26 May 2010 (iOS) 25 May 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads (Not available) (iOS) 3 492 (Android)
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong Geopark	To showcase the unique geological features and landforms of the Geopark in Hong Kong by means of audio, video and text. The application also	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$1,050,000 Routine maintenance HK$49,500 per annum (Development	Project commencement date August 2010 Formal roll-out date April 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads

		introduces geotour routes and provides real-time function for users to select their routes according to their interest and physical fitness as well as the weather conditions at the time of visit, to enjoy the breathtaking views of the geological features and landforms of the Geopark.			and maintenance together with related mobile website)		About 50 000
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Enjoy Hiking	To showcase various hiking trails and routes in Hong Kong. Users can select suitable routes with reference to their interest, physical fitness and experience to enjoy hiking in the countryside of Hong Kong.	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$49,600 Routine maintenance HK$49,500 per annum	Project commencement date September 2010 Formal roll-out date December 2010	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads About 157 000
Architectural Services Department	Architour	Through demonstrating some successful examples, this app aims to enhance citizen's understanding and interest in public buildings, and encourage them to participate in the guided tours as well as exchange and share related information. The content includes general information, concept of design, photos, videos, location and other relevant information of some ASD projects.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and first year routine maintenance HK$447,000	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date Between March and April 2013	(Not available)
The Consumer Council Hong Kong	The Oil Price Calculator	"The Oil Price Calculator" is an interactive kit developed by the Consumer Council based on the "Auto Fuel Price	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$106,800 Routine maintenance HK$43,400	Project commencement date 13 October 2011 Formal roll-out	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available)

		Calculator" on its website. It provides the latest price information on auto-fuel in the market according to the personalised data input by consumers, thus facilitating them to make informed purchase decision.				date 20 July 2012 (iOS) 26 November 2012 (Android)	Total downloads 6 539
Development Bureau	Build Up Hero	The Development Bureau, in collaboration with the Construction Industry Council, introduced the Build Up Programme to attract new blood to join the construction industry. In this "Build Up Hero" iPhone apps, which is an initiative under the Programme, the work processes in the construction industry are turned into interesting animation games to allow users to try out activities like surveying, bar fixing, formwork and concreting.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$250,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 15 December 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 1 183
Development Bureau	Tree & Landscape Map	The Tree & Landscape Map prepared by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau aims to highlight the greening and landscape assets in different parts of Hong Kong, so as to promote the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of open spaces and trees by the general public. Users can use the different search functions in the	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$207,000 Routine maintenance (maintained internally and no additional resource is involved)	Project commencement date 22 March 2012 Formal roll-out date 14 October 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 619

		application to preview and plan their tree and landscape visits, as well as save and share their favourite parks and green assets to the social network.					
Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health	Quit Smoking App	For Quitters This app provides a wealth of information on quitting smoking, and introduces quitting methods as well as offers users tips to cope with withdrawal symptoms through video clips featuring local celebrities. The app also offers appropriate quitting advice, keeps track of their quitting progress and issues regular reminders according to their smoking habit. For Non-smokers Non-smokers can learn more about quitting smoking and recommend the app to their family and friends.	iOS and Android	Contract out	Development HK$294,700 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance HK$84,000 per annum	Project commencement date March 2011 (iOS) March 2012 (Android) Roll out date August 2011 (iOS) August 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 20 314
Central Health Education Unit, Department of Health	Snack Nutritional Classification Wizard	Users simply need to input the product information in response to the questions prompted by the system. The Wizard will then classify the snacks based on its nutritional quality, and will indicate whether the individual package size of the snack is appropriate or not.	iOS	Contract out	Development HK$41,600 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance HK$3,600 per annum (Recurrent expenditure)	Project commencement date 29 July 2011 Roll out date 21 March 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 3 151
Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 試戴樂	To promote HIV Antibody Test and safe sex.	iOS and Android	Contract out	Development HK$148,230 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance	Project commencement date 11 November 2011 Formal roll-out	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available)

					HK$60,000 per annum (Recurrent expenditure)	date 22 April 2012	Total downloads 27 300
Department of Health (Chinese Medicine Division)	Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards	Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 1) (The Monographs of 8 medicines)	iOS	Contract out	Development HK$100,000 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance HK$100,000 per annum (Recurrent expenditure)	Project commencement date 23 June 2011 Formal roll-out date 11 November 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 7 800
Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT	IMPACT is a mobile app to provide "Reducing bacterial resistance with IMPACT guidelines". This apps has search function. Users can use this app to browse the guidelines uploaded by the Clusters of Hospital Authority and follow the medical formulae to calculate the body mass index required. This app aims to enhance the awareness of medical staff on using antibiotics and is a very important reference.	iOS and Android	Contract out	Development HK$146,250 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance HK$15,000 per annum (Recurrent expenditure)	Project commencement date October 2012 Formal roll-out date February 2013 (iOS) April 2013 (Android)	(Not available)
Drainage Services Department	DSD Connect	DSD Connect provides a fast and convenient way to access information about the department.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$130,000	Project commencement date 21 November 2012 Formal roll-out date 9 January 2013	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 111
Drainage Services Department	R & D Forum	To provide latest information on the DSD Research & Development Forum 2012	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$130,000	Project commencement date 18 September 2012 Formal roll-out date 28 November 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 96
Applied	ApL app	Purpose: Let	iOS and	Developed by	Development	Project	Monthly

Learning Section, Education Bureau		student, parents, teachers and schools understand the curriculum of Applied Learning and help students choose suitable courses. Content: Information on courses of Applied Learning, the prospect of further studies and career pathway, class arrangement and Frequently Asked Questions.	Android	contractors through tendering	HK$216,500 Routine maintenance (Not available)	commencement date May 2011 Formal roll-out date 5 September 2011	average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 2 153
Life-wide Learning and Library Section, Curriculum Development Institute and Information Technology in Education Section, Education Infrastructure Division, Education Bureau	e-Navigator	This career exploration tool helps students search for course information across different local institutions and levels (e.g. degrees, higher diplomas and associate degrees, Yi Jin Diploma and Qualifications Framework) under the new academic system to assist them in planning for their future studies according to their interest.	iOS, Android and mobile web	Developed by contractors through tendering	Total expenditure HK$1,384,800 - HK$916,800 (Life-wide Learning and Library Section) - HK$468,000 (Information Technology in Education Section) (Note: e-Navigator contract covers both mobile app and mobile website, therefore this expenditure includes the cost for e-Navigator mobile website)	Project commencement date October 2011 Formal roll-out date 18 May 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 50 079
Education Bureau (ETV Unit)	ETV APP	To provide a convenient and fast platform for students, teachers and parents to browse over 800 ETV programmes for the current curriculum at any place and any time. It also provides the time table, latest news and information on ETV.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$45,000	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 1 December 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 200 Total downloads 1 355

Efficiency Unit and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Tell me@1823 mobile app and mobile website	Tell me@1823 mobile app enables citizens to submit enquiries, complaints and suggestion via 1823 to bureaux / departments conveniently.	iOS and Android	Developed by internal contract staff	Development About HK$600,000 (Include contract staff wages) Routine maintenance HK$150,000 per annum	Project commencement date October 2010 Formal roll-out date 11 April 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 45 500
Efficiency Unit	Where is Dr Sun	The "Where is Dr Sun" app connects modern history of China with contemporary Hong Kong by using positioning technology and AR function. Users can use this app for virtual journey and field study.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$200,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date June 2011 Formal roll-out date April 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 1 390 Total downloads 2 036
Efficiency Unit	Youth.gov.hk	Youth.gov.hk collects films produced by over 500 local youngsters, and provides a series of healthy and interesting contents including arts and cultures, environmental protection, idols, community leaders, media experts and tips on application for government jobs, etc.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$700,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date December 2010 (iOS) May 2012 (Android) Formal roll-out date July 2011 (iOS) September 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors 4 250 Total downloads 6 914
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit, Financial Secretary's Office	Business Consultation e-Platform iPhone application	This iPhone app provides the business community with an additional means to access the Business Consultation e-Platform, browse Government's regulatory proposals and related consultation information with business impact and to offer their views.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	HK$131,100	Project commencement date 20 April 2012 Formal roll-out date 15 November 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 692
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety Charter	FSCharter is a mobile application tool developed by the Centre for Food Safety to facilitate public searching of	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$130,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date June 2011 Formal roll-out	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available)

		the food premises signing up to the Food Safety Charter anytime, anywhere.				date 26 March 2012	Total downloads 762
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Nutrition Calculator	Nutrition Calculator is a mobile application tool. It is an updated version of an Internet tool called Nutrition Label Widget developed by the Centre for Food Safety in 2010 for making better food choices by using nutrition labels.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$150,000 (iOS) (Not available)(Android) Routine maintenance HK$50,000 (iOS) (Not available)(Android)	Project commencement date June 2011 (iOS) June 2012 (Android) Formal roll-out date 7 October 2011 (iOS) 18 December 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) (iOS) 2 505 (Android) Total downloads 57 451
Home Affairs Bureau	"M" Mark Events App	The Major Sports Events Committee awards "M" Mark status to international major sports events held in Hong Kong. "M" stands for "Major", and so it follows that all sports events with "M" Mark are intense, spectacular and exciting. This app offers everything you need to know about "M" Mark events, from general information and past results to photos and a lot more.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	HK$76,000	Project commencement date April 2011 Formal roll-out date January 2013	(Not available)
Home Affairs Bureau	18 Handy Tips for Family Education	To promote family education, the Family Council introduces a series of family educational programme, including parent-child education, with a view to promoting the core values of family and strengthening family values.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	2011-2012 Development and routine maintenance HK$21,200 2012-2013 Routine maintenance HK$2,600	Project commencement date May 2011 Formal roll-out date November 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 1 969
The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment	HKDSE	To provide useful information to candidates and members of the public regarding	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	Development HK$125,000 (2011, Version 1.0)	Project commencement date December 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not

Authority		the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. Users can get the latest news and announcements about the examination.			Update HK$78,000 (2012, Version 2.0) Routine maintenance HK$ 102,000 per annum (Rental cost for dedicated server and bandwidth)	Formal roll-out date March 2012 (Version 1.0) and December 2012 (Version 2.0)	available) Total downloads 51 928
Hong Kong Observatory	MyObservatory	To provide weather information to mobile users.	iOS and Android	In-house development	(HKO uses existing resources to develop and maintain the mobile app. The expenditure had been subsumed into the estimates of the HKO. It is difficult to quantify such expenditure separately)	Project commencement date The second half of 2009 Formal roll-out date Q1 2010	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 3 094 000
Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorld Weather	To provide official city weather forecast worldwide.	iOS and Android	In-house development	(HKO uses existing resources to develop and maintain the mobile app. The expenditure had been subsumed into the estimates of the HKO. It is difficult to quantify such expenditure separately)	Project commencement date The first half of 2011 Formal roll-out date Q4 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 59 000
Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	The Hong Kong Police Force launched its first 'Hong Kong Police Mobile Application' on 18 July 2012 with a view to engaging the community and strengthening the communication with different sectors of the society. By using this mobile application on smart phones,	iOS and Android	In-house development	HK$750,000	Project commencement date September 2011 Formal roll-out date 18 July 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 57 152

		people can access to the latest police information at anytime and anywhere.					
Hongkong Post	Hongkong Post	This mobile application gives you an instant, on-the-go access to the information on postal services in Hong Kong. It provides the following functions: -Allow instant checking and tracking of the delivery status of your mailing items by scanning barcode or inputting the number of mail items -Inform clients of the delivery status of their mail items by SMS or email -Calculate postage and compare different postal services to facilitate the selection of the most appropriate delivery mode -Search for the nearest post offices, posting boxes and mobile post offices, and provide details on these post offices, posting boxes and mobile post offices such as address, opening hours, postal services, closing time for mail collection, etc. -Check the latest notices or press releases of the Hongkong Post -Provide alerts for unread notices and news -Keep users abreast of the latest promotion offers at	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development HK$328,000 Routine maintenance (Included in the operating expense of the department)	Project commencement date November 2010 Formal roll-out date June 2011 (iOS) December 2011 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 105 000

		the Hongkong Post					
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Island Walks	It allows tourists to check the information about four outlying islands, including information on over 70 sightseeing spots and transportation.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	Development HK$660,000 (HK$300,000 from Tourism Commission) Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 13 December 2012 (iPhone) 28 December 2012 (iPad) 1 March 2013 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 10 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • AR	Discover Hong Kong. AR provides the cutting edge augmented reality function. Once the function is turned on, the mobile phones can scan the surrounding with their camera and then provide the required image, data and direction of the surrounding sightseeing spots, allowing tourists to discover Hong Kong in a more comprehensive manner.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors (Co-op with Cathay Pacific)	(Expense shared equally with Cathay Pacific Ltd) Development HK$290,000 Routine maintenance HK$61,200 per annum	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 17 May 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 21 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Heritage Walks	Introduce 4 self-guided themed walks on Hong Kong's heritage, equipped with Augmented Reality (AR) function to enrich users' travel experience.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	Development HK$200,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 2 May 2012 (iOS) 20 April 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 33 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • City Walks	Introduce 4 self-guided themed walks into the nooks and crannies of Hong Kong, equipped with Augmented Reality (AR) function to enrich users' travel experience.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	Development HK$200,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 11 May 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 130 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • 720°	The app's features include an impressive virtual tour that invites viewers to get a	iOS	Developed by contractors	Development HK$65,000 Routine maintenance	Project commencement date (Not available)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not

		complete experience of several of Hong Kong's best sights. It also allows users to view video, read about attractions, and locate their own position and those of places they want to visit.			HK$13,000 per annum	Formal roll-out date 31 May 2009	available) Total downloads Around 550 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Local Delicacies	This app introduces the four classic local delicacies, rice, congee, noodles and rice noodles dishes in Hong Kong. It also includes information of 40 restaurants recommended by well-known gourmets and celebrities from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South East Asia. This directory also provides the Cantonese pronunciation of the restaurants' names and dishes, and the contact details of the restaurants. It brings convenience to tourists who want to try the local delicacies of Hong Kong.	iOS	Developed by contractors	Development HK$51,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 19 January 2010	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 210 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Food and Wine Pairing	This handy Chinese cuisine and wine-pairing guide is an app for all Chinese food and wine lovers! The app includes wine experts' suggestions on matching the perfect wine with over 20 Chinese cuisines as well as finding delectable and affordable wines.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors	Development HK$90,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 9 July 2009	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads Around 76 000
Hong Kong Independent Commission	(under development)	Provide information and promotion.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through	Development Around HK$480,000	Project commencement date	(Not available)

Against Corruption				tendering	Routine maintenance HK$100,000 per annum	2012 Formal roll-out date End of 2013	
Intellectual Property Department	"No Fakes Pledge" Shop Search	"No Fakes Pledge" Shop Search is a mobile app developed by the Intellectual Property Department to facilitate tourists and consumers searching of shop information of all participating retail merchants of the "No Fakes Pledge" Scheme. You can easily find a "No Fakes Pledge" shop by map, by district, by name and by category.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$389,600 (Include development and maintenance for the first year after launch)	Project commencement date 27 August 2012 Formal roll-out date 4 February 2013	(Information is not provided as the app is launched after 31 January 2013)
Information Services Department	Hong Kong 2011	This is a mobile app which enables members of the public to download and browse the content of "Hong Kong 2011". The book provides an in-depth account of government policy and activities and an overview of Hong Kong life and developments in 2011.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$150,000	Project commencement date 5 July 2012 Formal roll-out date 23 October 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 2 310
Information Services Department Brand HK Management Unit	This is Hong Kong	This app is produced by the Information Services Department, and is available in English, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese. "This is Hong Kong" is themed on the city's core attributes, showing what makes Hong Kong a diverse, dynamic and cosmopolitan city closely connected to the rest of Asia and the world while also offering	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$94,000	Project commencement date 13 July 2012 Formal roll-out date 6 December 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Monthly average number of downloads About 910

		a secure environment to live and work.					
Information Services Department	News.gov.hk	To facilitate citizen to browse the content of news.gov.hk with mobile phones or devices.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$676,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll out date October 2010 (iPhone) March 2011 (iPad) January 2011 (Android)	(Not available)
Innovation and Technology Commission	Mcmug X ITC	Cartoon character McMug is the innovation and technology ambassador of the InnoCarnival 2012. To coincide with the theme of ICT, we have launched the mobile app "Mcmug X ITC" which includes a made-in-Hong-Kong mini game, funny photo frames, news and information on the InnoCarnival, etc. Citizen can use this mobile app to participate interactive games and get souvenirs during the InnoCarnival.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and routine maintenance HK$600,000	Project commencement date July 2012 Formal roll-out date 22 October 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads About 20 000
Labour Department	iES	To facilitate job seekers to search suitable vacancies instantly by mobile devices from the huge job vacancy database of the Labour Department.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and routine maintenance HK$334,653	Project commencement date 28 July 2011 Formal roll-out date 31 January 2012 (iOS) 22 March 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 187 424
Labour Department – Occupational Safety and Health Branch	Work Safety Alert	The purpose of this Work Safety Alert is to alert employers / proprietors / contractors about the occurrences of serious or fatal	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development(including first year Routine maintenance) HK$75,000 Routine maintenance	Project commencement date 22 December 2011 Formal roll-out date	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total

		work injuries and the need to take relevant measures to prevent recurrence.			HK$15,000 per annum	9 March 2012 (iOS) 27 April 2012 (Android)	downloads 3 785
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Enchanting Arts of Asia	This app covers all programmes and activities of the Arts Festival and provides concise information in a convenient way.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$40,770 (Include development and platform registration fee)	Project commencement date April 2011 Formal roll-out date August 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 969 (Arts Festival has ended in November 2011)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Chinese Opera Festival 2012	This app aims to provide information for the Chinese Opera Festival 2012 for the promotion of Chinese Opera programme.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and maintenance during promotion period (from January to August 2012) HK$80,000	Project commencement date January 2012 Formal roll-out date April 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 608 (from April to August 2012)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	HKMA Outdoor Sculpture	This app provides mobile guided tour services for the 11 large outdoor sculptures near the Hong Kong Museum of Art. Audiences can start the tour of sculptures and listen to the contents of the guided tour anytime and anywhere with their mobile phones.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	First Year development and Routine maintenance HK$52,800 (September 2011 to August 2012) Second year routine maintenance HK$47,940 (September 2012 to August 2013)	Project commencement date September 2011 Formal roll-out date May 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 334 Total downloads 2 031 (as at 31 December 2012)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	New Vision Arts Festival 2012	This app covers all programmes and activities of the Arts Festival and provides concise information in a convenient way.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$65,964 (Include development and platform registration fee)	Project commencement date April 2012 Formal roll-out date August 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 948

Leisure and Cultural Services Department	The Majesty of All Under Heaven : The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor	This app, which is a mobile phone app designed for the exhibition, provides the latest news of the exhibition, featured exhibits, tickets information, and other education and promotion information so as to enhance visitors' interest in Qin Dynasty and let the city feel the charm of the culture of QinDynasty.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$120,000	Project commencement date March 2012 Formal roll-out date July 2012	(Not available)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Culture	The app covers cultural presentations organised solely or jointly by LCSD and sponsored programmes under the Venue Partnership Scheme. It also covers film programmes and museum special exhibitions organised by LCSD. The app aims mainly to disseminate brief programme information to users in a user-friendly manner.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$2,300,000 Routine maintenance HK$404,000 per annum	Project commencement date October 2011 Formal roll-out date September 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 17 800
Office of the Communications Authority	OFCA Broadband Performance Test	This website enables members of the public to measure the performance of a broadband service. For details, please refer to the following website http://speedtest.ofca.gov.hk/index.html	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Paid by Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority)	Project commencement date 2010 Formal roll-out date 23 December 2010	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total no. of tests 24 542 047 (iOS and Android)
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	GovHK Apps is a one-stop inter-departmental platform for citizens to search and download a series of government mobile apps.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$600,000 Routine maintenance HK$65,000 per annum	Project commencement date December 2011 Formal roll-out date 17 August 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads

							86 177
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	GovHK Notifications is an inter-departmental mobile app which provides a convenient channel for citizens to receive government information and alerts with mobile phones.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development Around HK$1,300,000 (Include contract staff wages) Routine maintenance Around HK$300,000 per annum	Project commencement date June 2011 Formal roll-out date 17 August 2012	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 455 447
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Prime	RTHK Prime is the first RTHK application which is designed for tablet (iOS and Android). It displays RTHK video program on tablet in a magazine layout. Users can create his / her layout by selecting individual channel from the default content list. The current default content list in RTHK Prime includes real-time news, video news, photo news, blogs, RTHK Facebook page, video Podcast, HK.300, RTHK+, etc.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$610,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 12 December 2011 (iOS) 20 November 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 44 694
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK On The Go	RTHK On The Go is developed for the smartphones. Its functions include listening to Live Radio (Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio 5, Putonghua channel, DAB 31, DAB 33 and DAB 35), watch Instant News (including local, greater China, international, finance, sports and traffic news), Photo News, Video News, Weather Forecast. Furthermore, the app also provides	iOS, Android, Windows, Symbian and Meego	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$200,000 (iOS and Android) (Other platforms not available) Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 30 May 2010 (iOS) 13 March 2011 (Android) 24 December 2011 (Windows) 8 January 2012 (Symbian) (Meego not available)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 996 943

		around 30 programme of Podcast Highlights, and user can listen to or watch the latest 10 episodes of each programme.					
Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History - the Flourishing Age	Chinese History - the Flourishing Age is a smartphone mobile app developed by RTHK. Flourishing ages including the Han and Tang Dynasty are selected in the long Chinese history. Heroes and stories in these two dynasties are turned into audio, cartoon and text for easy understand of the Chinese history. World events at the same period will also be shown. The app has functions of download and share. Users can either read the contents online or download individual events for offline reading, and share them through Google+、Facebook and Twitter.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$450,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 21 November 2012 (iOS) 31 January 2013 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 4 123
Radio Television Hong Kong	I want to be a LegCo Member	I want to be a LegCo Member is a mobile app by RTHK. It uses quiz to increase user understanding of the function of Legislative Council and the work of LegCo members, and encourage registered voters to vote so as to enhance their civic awareness. In the quiz, there are a total of 4	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$91,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 10 August 2012 (iOS) 8 August 2012 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 9 090

		levels, each with 3 checkpoints, and for each checkpoint there are 10 questions. Players with 6 or more correct answers will be promoted. There will be different questions for each game, and players can select 2 tools in each checkpoint. Registered players can share their results through Facebook. Those players who achieve the level of "Senior Member" may even get a prize.					
Radio Television Hong Kong	Cat's World	Cat's World is a mobile app for creating animation by RTHK. Users can select funny frames and ANiCONs, added with photos, audio recording and freehand drawings to create animation easily in a few steps. Users can also share their animation on Facebook , and watch the winning animations of the Cat's World International Animation Festival and Animated Shorts Competition, the award ceremony and the workshop.	iOS	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$56,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date May 2010 Formal roll-out date 22 November 2010	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 5 888
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Thumb	RTHK Thumb is the first mobile app in RTHK which is based on TV programme and provides the function of Instant Response. Users can give instant response with the	iOS	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$100,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 19 September 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 11 803

		"Thumb Up"、"Thumb down" buttons on the screen while watching the live broadcast, and also express their views in the message board. Users can also review the period with the most "Thumb Up" or "Thumb Down", and share with friends or express their views via Facebook、Twitter and email.					
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Node	RTHK Node enables users to watch the Live Webcast and Video Archive of 《鏗鏘集》及《Hong Kong Connection》via Wi-Fi or 3G network.《鏗鏘集》centres around Hong Kong's political, economic, educational, social, the underprivileged, environmental protection, contemporary China and the international vision. It is the oldest documentary TV program in Hong Kong.	iOS	In-house development and developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$100,000 Routine maintenance (Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 21 November 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 15 763
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK LENS	To promote the LENS photo competition of the RTHK eTVonline, this mobile app enables applicants to submit photos and review other applicants' photos.	iOS	In-house development	60 working days	Project commencement date Q1 2011 Formal roll-out date 13 September 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total downloads 2 589
Social Welfare Department	Senior Citizen Card Scheme	This App is to facilitate both the elders and their family members to search and select the concessions and services under the "Senior Citizen	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$147,000 Routine maintenance HK$24,772 per annum	Project commencement date March 2011 Formal roll-out date September 2011	Monthly average number of visitors (Not available) Total

		Card Scheme" of Social Welfare Department.					downloads 4 837
Transport Department	HKeRouting	This application provides driving route searching service.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development About HK$2,000,000 Routine maintenance About HK$200,000 per annum	Project commencement date July 2012 Formal roll-out date March 2013 (iOS) January 2013 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors 200 Total downloads 8 000
Transport Department	HKeTransport	This application provides service of public transport route enquiry.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development About HK$3,000,000 Routine maintenance About HK$200,000 per annum	Project commencement date November 2010 Formal roll-out date August 2011 (iOS) November 2011 (Android)	Monthly average number of visitors 3 500 Total downloads 900 000
Water Supplies Department	Mobile phone app	To enable citizens to browse the Temporary Water Suspension Notices and the summary of water bill by mobile phones.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development Around HK$1,000,000 Routine maintenance Around HK$200,000 per annum	Project commencement date April 2013 Tentative formal roll-out date December 2013	(Not available)
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	HKTDC Mobile	HKTDC Mobile – the world's first B2B information and sourcing mobile application Features include: 1.HKTDC Research – view over 50,000 articles, ranging from market trends and industry outlook to business news and trade regulations 2.Marketplace – source from 120,000 quality suppliers around the world 3.Exhibitions & Conferences – browse the HKTDC trade fairs and events list 4.Product Magazines – see introduction on	iOS and Android	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)

		HKTDC Product Magazines covering 15 product industries 5.Video – view professionally produced video for industry and market updates 6.HKTDC Services – see highlights of major HKTDC services 7.About HKTDC – understand HKTDC and its global network This app is available in English, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese.					
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	HKTDC Product Magazines	HKTDC Product Magazines – The Only App You Will Need for Mobile Sourcing Acknowledged as the best buyers' sourcing bible for 45 years, HKTDC's magazine titles across 15 industries reach some 5 million global buyers in more than 200 countries and regions each year. And, now the magazines are available at all times in app version. What's more, as the official magazines of the world-renowned HKTDC trade fairs, this app version offers a suite of services that seamlessly integrate with trade fairs. Key features include: Smart features for	iOS and Android	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)

		buyers at HKTDC trade fairs including Exhibitor Scanner and Floor Plan Product trends and multi-media contents from specialised magazines Instant contact with over 120,000 suppliers online at hktdc.com Easy-to-manage bookmark and history for supplier connection					
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Asian Financial Forum	AFF mobile – most updated information of Asian Financial Forum Features include: 1. About AFF 2013 – general information of the AFF 2013 2. Programme – discussion topics and speakers of each sessions 3. Speakers – background information of speakers 4. Forum Participants – background information of participants 5. Sponsors – list of sponsors 6. Webcast – series of pre-event interviews with the most influential members of the global financial and business community and the speakers' speech during AFF 7. Contact us – for more information or enquiries about AFF This app is available in English, Traditional Chinese and Simplified	iOS, Android and Blackberry	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)

		Chinese					

Annex B

Mobile Websites						
Government department	**Title**	**Content and purpose**	**Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)**	**Expenditure (including development and routine maintenance)**	**Project commencement date and formal roll-out date**	**Usage as at 31.1.2013 (monthly average number of visitors and total downloads)**
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Wetland Park mobile website	Content: Latest news of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, ticketing and traffic information, information at points of interests, information about the wildlife, etc. Purpose: To facilitate visits to the Wetland Park, enhance public awareness of wetland animals and promote wetland conservation.	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$127,500	Project commencement date 1 August 2009 Formal roll-out date 26 May 2010	(Not available)
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong Geopark	To showcase the unique geological features and landforms of the Geopark in Hong Kong.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Development and maintenance together with related mobile app)	Project commencement date August 2010 Formal roll-out date April 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 500 Total downloads (Not applicable)
The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Country Parks Tree Walks	The website features 96 species of trees planted along the 16 Tree Walks in country parks with information on transportation to the Tree Walks.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Development and maintenance together with related mobile app)	Project commencement date March 2011 Formal roll-out date April 2012	Monthly average number of visitors About 1 900 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Architectural Services Department	Tender Notices (Mobile Version)	To facilitate mobile users to view tender notices.	In-house development	(Included in the operating expense)	Project commencement date August 2010 Formal roll-out date 1 April 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 198 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department	Department website	To introduce the services of the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department	Developed by contractors (by invitation for quotation)	HK$240,000 (Routine maintenance include mobile and desktop version)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 15 June 2010	Monthly average number of visitors 834 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Census and Statistics Department	Census and Statistics Department (Mobile Version)	The mobile version provides the latest statistics, press release, statistics publications and charts, etc. for users	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$305,500 Routine maintenance	Project commencement date 9 March 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 4 900

		to browse on mobile devices.		(Routine maintenance of the mobile website is included in the expenditure of C&SD website and cannot be separated)	Formal roll-out date 29 June 2012	Total downloads (Not applicable)
CreateHK	CreateHK Website (Mobile Version)	To introduce the work of CreateHK to the public.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and routine maintenance services for two years HK$181,700	Project commencement date 19 October 2011 Formal roll-out date 5 March 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 3 327 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau and related websites	This website contains general information on the policy, organisational structure, latest news and related documents of this bureau.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$46,000 Routine maintenance HK$9,000 per annum	Project commencement date January 2012 Formal roll-out date December 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 23 231 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Companies Registry	Company Search Mobile Service	The public can, at any time and any place and via their smartphones or mobile devices, use the Company Search Mobile Service of the Companies Registry to search for company information, including company name, document Index and company particulars report.	Developed by contractors	Development about HK$440,000 Routine maintenance (Maintenance by existing system contractor of C&SD. No additional charge)	Project commencement date December 2011 Formal roll-out date 11 June 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 20 000 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Department of Health (Oral Health Education Unit)	Oral Health Education Unit	To promote public awareness of oral health, oral hygiene practices and the proper use of oral health care services.	Contract out	Development HK$141,100 (Departmental expenditure) Routine maintenance HK$32,160 per annum (Recurrent expenditure)	Project commencement date 2 January 2013 Formal roll-out date 28 January 2013	(Not available)
Department of Justice	Bilingual Laws Information System	To provide mobile version of the website.	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$151,260 (Mobile website expense cannot be separated)	Project commencement date 17 October 2010 Formal roll-out date 16 May 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 96 700 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Department of Justice	Department of Justice Website	To revamp the website using web accessibility design and HTML 4.01 standard	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$330,045 (Expense for mobile website cannot be	Project commencement date 27 June 2012	(Not available)

				separated)	Formal roll-out date 5 March 2013	
Department of Justice	Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training Website	To use web accessibility design and HTML 4.01 standard	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$63,000 (Expense for mobile website cannot be separated)	Project commencement date 10 October 2012 Formal roll-out date 22 January 2013	(Not available)
Department of Justice	The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong Website	To use web accessibility design and HTML 4.01 standard	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$151,400 (Expense for mobile website cannot be separated)	Project commencement date 22 August 2012 Formal roll-out date 29 January 2013	(Not available)
Education Bureau	Education Bureau www.edb.gov.hk	To provide information on education policy and services to various stakeholders, students, parents, teachers, schools and citizens through the Education Bureau website.	Developed by contractors through tendering	HK$4,270,000 (Including desktop and mobile version [expense for mobile website cannot be separated])	Project commencement date May 2011 Formal roll-out date 25 February 2013	(Not available)
Life-wide Learning and Library Section, Curriculum Development Institute and Information Technology in Education Section, Education Infrastructure Division, Education Bureau	e-Navigator	This career exploration tool helps students search for course information across different local institutions and levels (e.g. degrees, higher diplomas, associate degrees, Yi Jin diploma and Qualifications Framework) under the new academic system to assist them in planning for their future studies according to their interest.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Total expenditure HK$1,384,800 - HK$916,800 (Life-wide Learning and Library Section) - HK$468,000 (Information Technology in Education Section) (Note: e-Navigator contract covers both mobile app and mobile website, therefore this expenditure includes the cost for e-Navigator app)	Project commencement date October 2011 Formal roll-out date 18 May 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 8 603 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Environmental Protection Department	PDA Version	To provide important information of the Environmental Protection Department via mobile devices.	In-house development	(Together with desktop version. No additional resources involved)	Project commencement date and formal roll-out date 2006	Monthly average number of hits 1 154 Total downloads

						(Not applicable)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	- Latest news - Common telephone numbers - District Environmental Hygiene Offices	In-house development	(Not available)	Project commencement date December 2010 Formal roll-out date March 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 7 879 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Centre for Food Safety	- Food alerts - Activities - New information and Risk in Brief	In-house development	(Not available)	Project commencement date July 2010 Formal roll-out date October 2010	Monthly average number of visitors 5 929 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Memorial.gov.hk	- To facilitate the public to pay tribute and show condolence to their beloved ones.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$75,000 Routine maintenance HK$14,700	Project commencement date 1 June 2011 Formal roll-out date 25 September 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 350 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Hong Kong Housing Authority / Housing Department	Hong Kong Housing Authority / Housing Department Website (Mobile Version)	The Hong Kong Housing Authority / Housing Department website provides comprehensive information on Hong Kong's public housing policies and programmes. This mobile version is developed to enable users to access such information more quickly and easily via mobile devices.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$6,200,000 (Including the development of desktop and mobile version, and content management system) Routine maintenance HK$450,000 per annum (Including the development of desktop and mobile version, and content management system)	Project commencement date August 2010 Formal roll-out date March 2012	(Not available)
Hong Kong Observatory	Hong Kong Observatory Website (Mobile Version)	To provide weather information for mobile users.	In-house development	(HKO uses existing resources to develop and maintain the mobile website. The expenditure had been subsumed into the estimates of the HKO. It is difficult to quantify such expenditure separately)	Project commencement date The second half of 2010 Formal roll-out date Q1 2011	(Not available)

Hong Kong Observatory	Hong Kong Observatory Website (WAP Version)	To provide weather information for WAP mobile users.	In-house development	(HKO uses existing resources to develop and maintain the mobile website. The expenditure had been subsumed into the estimates of the HKO. It is difficult to quantify such expenditure separately)	Project commencement date The first half of 2001 Formal roll-out date End of 2001	(Not available)
Independent Commission Against Corruption	Independent Commission Against Corruption Website (Mobile Version)	To provide information and promote its activities.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$ 25,000 Routine maintenance HK$ 20,000 per annum	Project commencement date End of 2010 Formal roll-out date Mid 2011	Monthly average number of visitors About 3 730 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Information Services Department	news.gov.hk (Mobile Version)	To facilitate citizen to browse the content of the news.gov.hk with smartphones or mobile devices.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Development and routine maintenance is included in the expense of ISD website)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date October 2010	(Not available)
Information Services Department Brand HK Management Unit	Brand Hong Kong website mobile version	The mobile website contains the text version of the website which introduces the logo, slogan and related information of the Brand to facilitate surfing by mobile phone.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Development and routine maintenance cost for mobile website are not separated in the tender.)	Project commencement date December 2009 Formal roll-out date 31 March 2010	(Not available)
Lands Department	Hong Kong Geodetic Survey	To provide users with mobile platform for browsing geodetic survey information.	In-house development	(Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 1 January 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 8 131 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Lands Department	Map Products and Map Sales Outlets	To facilitate public access to information on Map Products and Map Sales Outlets via mobile devices.	In-house development	Development Around HK$130,000 Routine maintenance Around HK$50,000	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 28 December 2011	Monthly average number of hits 20 806 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Lands Department	GeoMobile Map HK	To enable public access to the government digitised maps and geospatial information	In-house development	Development HK$850,000 Routine	Project commencement date End of June	Monthly average number of visitors Over 81 000

		via mobile devices conveniently.		maintenance HK$180,000	2010 Formal roll-out date 22 June 2011	Total downloads (Not applicable)
Legal Aid Department	Mobile Version of Means Test Calculator	The Means Test Calculator provides a means to self-assess your financial eligibility for legal aid before application.	In-house development	(Included in the operating expense)	Project commencement date 31 May 2011 Formal roll-out date 20 July 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 179 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Architectural Information System	Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Architectural Information System provides information on the history and features of some traditional Chinese buildings and villages in Hong Kong. Citizen can search these information using personal computer, Internet-enabled mobile phone and tablet via the Internet.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$4,400,000 Routine maintenance HK$580,000 per annum	Project commencement date October 2003 Formal roll-out date March 2008	Monthly average number of visitors 29 585 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Virtual Heritage Explorer	The "Virtual Heritage Explorer" project provides 360-degree cubical panorama for 63 historic buildings and sites. Citizen can access the system using personal computer, Internet-enabled mobile phone and tablet via the Internet.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$2,400,000 Routine maintenance HK$260,000 per annum	Project commencement date September 2004 Formal roll-out date July 2007	Monthly average number of visitors 20 912 Total downloads (not applicable)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Library Catalogue - Mobile Version	Provide 24-hour searching, renew and reservation services.	Developed by contractors through tendering	System software HK$2,200,000 (Installation and project management not included [this mobile website is not an independent project].)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date December 2011	(Not available)
Marine Department	Marine Department Website (Mobile Version)	The Website provides: - Arrivals and Departures information for Ocean-going Vessels and Non-Convention Vessels - Ocean-going Vessels Movement Reports - Port Formality - Permit Verification for	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$43,000 Maintenance HK$60,000 per annum	Project commencement date March 2010 Formal roll-out date October 2010	Monthly average number of visitors 1 700 Total downloads (Not applicable)

		Port Clearance and Multiple Entry and Clearance Permit - Seafares' Examination Schedule - Seafarer's Certification Information Verification Services - Hong Kong to Macau and Hong Kong to Mainland Ferry Services and Marine Department Terminal Enquires - Maritime Security - Enquiry phone numbers for the Department and different divisions Purpose: The mobile website enables the public to obtain some information of the Marine Department more quickly and conveniently via mobile device.				
Office of the Communications Authority	Office of the Communications Authority Website	The website aims at providing information of the Office to the public. For details, please refer to the following URL: http://www.ofca.gov.hk	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority)	Project commencement date March 2011 Formal roll-out date April 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 2 607 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Office of the Communications Authority	Smooth Net Surfing	The website aims at providing Guide to Mobile Internet Services, Consumer Tips and Security Issues to the public. Please refer to the following URL for details. http://www.mobilenet.gov.hk/tc/home/index.html	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority)	Project commencement date January 2010 Formal roll-out date April 2010	Monthly average number of visitors 4 362 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK (Mobile Version)	GovHK is the one-stop portal of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and its mobile version is optimized and simplified so as to make it more suitable for citizen to browse with mobile network and device.	In-house development	(Developed in-house together with the desktop version of GovHK by OGCIO. No Additional resource is involved.)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date 23 March 2010	Monthly average number of visitors 542 624 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Office of the	Office of the	The mobile version is	Developed by	(Development	Project	Monthly

Government Chief Information Officer	Government Chief Information Officer Mobile Version	designed for viewing on mobile devices. Contents of the mobile version are the same as the desktop version.	contractors through tendering	and routine maintenance cost included in the expense for OGCIO's website)	commencement date 1 June 2011 Formal roll-out date 18 December 2011	average number of visitors 41 300 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Planning Department	Planning Department website	To facilitate citizen to access the activities of the Planning Department and the information on the land use planning in Hong Kong.	In-house development	(Included in the operating expense)	Project commencement date February 2011 Formal roll-out date August 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 2 539 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Planning Department	City Gallery Website	The City Gallery is the first planning and infrastructure gallery in Hong Kong. This website introduces the venue of the City Gallery and exhibitions and other activities held there.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and routine maintenance HK$58,000	Project commencement date September 2012 Formal roll-out date January 2013	Monthly average number of visitors 1 866 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Planning Department	Town Planning Board	Town Planning in Hong Kong aims to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the community through the process of guiding and controlling the development and use of land, and to bring about a better organized, efficient and desirable place to live and work.	In-house development	Development HK$200,000 Routine maintenance HK$20,000 per annum	Project commencement date January 2011 Formal roll-out date 31 August 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 7 091 Total downloads (Not applicable)
RTHK	m.rthk.hk	Contents includes: Live broadcast of 6 channels, browsing of the real time Chinese and English news and listening to the news.	In-house development	(Not available)	Project commencement date (Not available) Formal roll-out date June 2010	(Not available)
Rating and Valuation Department	Rating and Valuation Department Website – Mobile / Accessible Version	Content: About information of various services of this Department. Purpose: Enable citizens to browse the website of this Department by mobile device at any time and any place	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development HK$192,000 (The cost for revamping the whole website including English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, and mobile versions. Operating cost not included)	Project commencement date 13 December 2011 Formal roll-out date 17 December 2012	Monthly average number of visitors 30 880 Total downloads (Not applicable)

				Routine maintenance (Not available)		
Transport Department	HKeTransport	This website provides enquiry services on public transport route.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Developed together with desktop version. No additional resource is involved)	Project commencement date November 2010 Formal roll-out date August 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 300 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Transport Department	Hong Kong eRouting	This website provides enquiry services on driving route.	Developed by contractors through tendering	(Developed together with desktop version. No additional resource is involved)	Project commencement date January 2011 Formal roll-out date August 2011	Monthly average number of visitors 100 Total downloads (Not applicable)
The Treasury	Payment of Government Bills Mobile Version	To facilitate citizen to understand and provide links for payment of various Government Bills with this mobile version.	In-house development	(Included in the operating expense)	Project commencement date 8 November 2012 Formal roll-out date 2 January 2013	Monthly average number of visitors 1 118 Total downloads (Not applicable)
Water Supplies Department	Water Supplies Department (Mobile Version)	Purpose: Citizen can browse the common and latest information of this Department via the mobile phone. The Mobile Version includes: - What's New - Temporary Water Suspension Notices and Enquiries - Tender Notices - Press Release - Events - Customer Services - Contact Us	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development (As contract includes the revamp of the whole website of Water Supplies Department and other items, the cost for the mobile website cannot be separated. The total cost of the contract is HK$820,000) Routine maintenance (Its maintenance cost is included in the maintenance cost of the whole website and cannot be separated)	Project commencement date 10 October 2008 Formal roll-out date 18 May 2009	(Not available)
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	HKTDC Mobile App	Market News – obtain insightful market intelligence categorised by region/industry/topic in text and view videos	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)

		that can be bookmarked or shared with friends via Facebook, Twitter or email Marketplace – source from 120,000 quality suppliers around the world Exhibitions & Conferences – browse the HKTDC trade fairs and events list Product Magazines – see introduction on HKTDC Product Magazines covering 15 product industries Video – view professionally produced video for industry and market updates HKTDC Services – see highlights of major HKTDC services About HKTDC – understand HKTDC and its global network				
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	HKTDC Product Magazines App	Browse HKTDC official fair catalogues Search products and locate exhibitors with customised floor plans Multimedia product presentation Bookmark, make notes and voice recordings to selected suppliers Email magazine pages Direct links to supplier profiles on hktdc.com Make instant sourcing enquiries Get new releases of 15 HKTDC product magazines	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)106

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3214

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the review of government information security related regulations, policies and guidelines, would the Administration inform the Committee of the following:

(a) time-table for follow-up actions;

(b) specific details of expenditure reserved for the relevant arrangements; and

(c) whether it has any plan to promote and implement the guidelines with other bureaux/departments? If so, what are the manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) promulgated the revised information security policies and guidelines to all bureaux and departments (B/Ds) in September 2012, and conducted a briefing session to explain and promote the revised information security requirements to officers responsible for information security in B/Ds in November 2012. Apart from internal promulgation, the revised policies and guidelines are also published on the thematic information security portal (www.infosec.gov.hk) for public reference.

(a) The revisions mainly require B/Ds to strengthen protection of government systems and information. B/Ds are required to implement measures to ensure that their information systems are in compliance with the revised information security policies and guidelines. They are also required to conduct periodic security risk assessment and audit on their information systems to ensure that the security requirements are met.

(b)&(c)

OGCIO and the Security Bureau will arrange refresher training for Departmental Information Technology (IT) Security Officers of all B/Ds in mid-2013, and will assist B/Ds in implementing information security programmes with appropriate control measures. The IT security team of OGCIO will undertake the promotion work and will assist B/Ds in implementing the guidelines. The team, comprising 9 staff members, is responsible for the central coordination on information security matters and carrying out promotion and education activities. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is about $5.8 million. The manpower and expenditure involved will be absorbed by the budget provision of OGCIO in 2013-14. No additional resources and

manpower are required. Moreover, the annual project expenditure of conducting random audit check for 15 B/Ds by OGCIO is about $1.8 million, which is met under Head 710 Computerisation of the Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)107

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3215

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In the face of increasingly serious information security threats, what specific work will be commenced by the Government in 2013-14 to promote public awareness and education on information security? How much resources are expected to be allocated in this regard as compared with 2012-13? What are the specific work objectives, details of plan and time-table of the promotion and education activities conducted for government departments, public organisations, educational institutions, small and medium enterprises and business corporations?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: Today we are living in an environment where citizens and businesses are heavily reliant on information technology (IT) and the Internet. Ensuring cyber security is vital for citizens, organisations and the Government. In this respect, the major work of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is to continuously promote information security to the public, raise their awareness on the appropriate use of IT facilities, and assist them in adopting proper ways to protect their computer resources and information.

OGCIO disseminates references and information on information security to the public (including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)) through various promotion channels, including the InfoSec portal, seminars, radio, information leaflets and pamphlets. Through collaboration with the Hong Kong Police Force and the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre, OGCIO holds an annual campaign of promotion events staged throughout the year to address concerned issues on information security. In addition, OGCIO has all along been supporting the industry and professional bodies to organise information security activities. In 8 public seminars on information security held by local industry and professional bodies in 2012-13, OGCIO had either acted as a supporting organisation or sent designated representatives to speak at the seminars, conveying messages on information security and providing relevant advice to the public.

In 2013-14, we will continue to organise various events including 4 public seminars and 1 video contest under the theme "Build a Secure Cyberspace". Through these activities, we aim to raise the awareness of information security among organisations and citizens, and strengthen the protection of personal computers and IT facilities against cyber attacks. Moreover, we will, in collaboration with professional bodies, visit about 10 schools to promote the knowledge of Internet safety to teachers and students. We will also continue to cooperate with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce audio clips with different topics every month, providing practical tips and security best practices on information security to

citizens. To facilitate the public and enterprises (particularly SMEs) in accessing information and resources on cloud technologies effectively, the Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and Standards (comprising representatives from OGCIO, the industry, the academia and professional bodies) has set up a one-stop portal (InfoCloud) to provide sample use cases, relevant guidelines and best practices for reference by the public and enterprises to enable them to achieve the intended benefits in adopting the cloud model. Internally, we will hold 4 seminars for bureaux and departments (B/Ds) and will arrange refresher training for Departmental IT Security Officers of all B/Ds to enhance their awareness and knowledge on information security.

The IT security team of OGCIO, comprising 9 staff members, is responsible for the central coordination on information security matters and carrying out the above promotion and education activities. The total expenditure incurred by the IT security team in 2012-13 was around $5.34 million and the estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is about $5.8 million. The manpower and expenditure involved have included the resources required for carrying out the above promotion activities by OGCIO.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)108

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1639

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the respective numbers and values of government procurement items under technology category in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? How many of these items were undertaken by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and what is the value of these items? What measures does the Government have to enhance internal adoption of SMEs' technology deliverables? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the values of government procurement items under information technology (IT) category are HK$1.120 billion, HK$1.183 billion and HK$1.389 billion respectively. Given the large number of procurement items which were undertaken by individual government departments, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) does not have the information on the number of items undertaken by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the value involved.

For standing offer agreements administered by OGCIO, in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), the numbers of government procurement items under IT category are 6 183, 6 963 and 5 373, with values of HK$731 million, HK$878 million and HK$725 million respectively. Of these items, the numbers of items undertaken by SMEs are 312, 513 and 578, with total values of HK$23 million, HK$29 million and HK$44 million respectively.

It is the Government's established procurement policy to obtain the best value for money through open and fair competition, and we do not act in favour of or discriminate against any suppliers. Nevertheless, depending on the actual circumstances, we adopt a flexible approach below to encourage SMEs to bid for government IT projects:

(a) Where practicable and without affecting the overall project, we may break down a large-scale project into smaller ones for bidding by SMEs, so as to create more opportunities for SMEs to adopt their technology deliverables;

(b) By enhancing the transparency of market information on our IT projects, we encourage SMEs to participate in government tenders by making use of their technology deliverables;

(c) Lowering or removing the tender and contract deposit requirement, and only requiring a performance bond. If, during financial vetting, the tenderer is unable to provide adequate supporting proof of its financial capability to perform its contractual

obligations, for contracts of a high-value or complex projects, we will only require a bank guarantee from the successful tenderer so that SMEs without the financial capability but with technology deliverable can still participate in government projects;

(d) For some standing offer agreements, we divide the category of projects into major and minor service groups, so that SMEs can have a greater opportunity to bid for smaller projects; and

(e) We organise information and communications technology awards and hold various briefings to widely promote the technology deliverables of SMEs.

The manpower resources involved in the above work are absorbed by the existing establishment of OGCIO. We do not have the resources breakdown on activities related to SMEs.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)109

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2507

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the total expenditure involved in the implementation of government Wi-Fi programme? What are the administrative cost, facilities and installation expenses as well as the annual maintenance cost? Will the Government extend the coverage of free Wi-Fi services to the whole territory? If so, what are the financial resources and manpower involved? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The estimated total 5-year investment for the Next Generation Government Wi-Fi (Gov*WiFi*) Programme is $152 million, of which $110 million is for the provision of Gov*WiFi* service, including the cost of equipment, installation and maintenance; $28.5 million is for programme coordination, management and support; and $13.5 million is for contingency.

To ensure cost-effectiveness, the Gov*WiFi* service is provided at government premises with high public patronage and strong public demand, and premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services or promote Hong Kong's image. The Gov*WiFi* service currently covers around 400 government premises across 18 districts in Hong Kong, and will be further extended to about 40 additional government premises in 2013-14. We will continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of Gov*WiFi* service to suitable premises, with a view to facilitating citizens' and visitors' access to the service. The extension of the service will not incur additional financial and manpower resources.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)110

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2943

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The approved estimate for "Provision of Wi-Fi wireless internet facilities at Government premises" is over $285.6 million and as at 31 March 2012, the actual expenditure is only over $133 million. With the remaining amount of the approved estimate (i.e. over $152 million), the revised estimate for 2012-13 is just $67 million while the estimate for 2013-14 is $22 million.

What is the time-table for spending the remaining amount of the approved estimate? How can the progress of works be expedited so as to provide the services to the public as soon as possible? Could the Administration provide a detailed breakdown on the distribution of resources involved in this item? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The Next Generation Government Wi-Fi (Gov*WiFi*) Programme was rolled out with the service upgrade in some 400 existing premises completed in December 2012 as planned. The service will be extended to the remaining some 40 additional government premises in 2013-14. We will also continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of the Gov*WiFi* service to suitable premises, with a view to facilitating citizens' and visitors' access to the service.

The estimated total investment for the 5-year Gov*WiFi* Programme is $152 million, of which $110 million is for the provision of Gov*WiFi* service, including the costs of equipment, installation and maintenance; $28.5 million is for programme coordination, management and support; and $13.5 million is for contingency. The estimated expenditure and time-table for spending the allocated resources are as follows:

Financial Year	**2011-12 ($m)**	**2012-13 ($m)**	**2013-14 ($m)**	**2014-15 ($m)**	**2015-16 ($m)**	**2016-17 ($m)**	**2017-18 ($m)**	**Total ($m)**
(a) Provision of Gov*WiFi* service	-	61.5	15.5	9.0	9.0	9.0	6.0	110.0
(b) Programme coordination, management and support	0.7	5.5	6.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	28.5
Sub-total	0.7	67.0	22.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	9.8	138.5
(c) Contingency (about 10%)								13.5
Total								**152.0**

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)111

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1565

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that the Administration will continue to implement the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme and extend the service to about 40 new government premises. What is the current percentage of government premises with Wi-Fi service? What is the expenditure involved? What are the locations of the 40 new government premises? What is the expected time for extending Wi-Fi service to all government premises? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: The Next Generation Government Wi-Fi (Gov*WiFi*) Programme was launched in December 2012 as planned. In addition to continuing the service in some 400 existing government premises, the Programme will also extend the service to about 40 additional government premises. The Gov*WiFi* service covers government premises across 18 districts in Hong Kong. Information on 30 confirmed additional premises is as follows:

Type of premises	**Number of premises**
Community hall / centre	6
Cultural and recreational centre	7
Government office	9
Park	3
Sports venue	4
Cruise terminal	1
Total :	**30**

For the other 10 additional premises, we are now working with departments to identify suitable premises, including court buildings, police report rooms, etc. The Gov*WiFi* service will be rolled out to these additional premises progressively in 2013-14.

The estimated total 5-year investment for the Next Generation Gov*WiFi* Programme is $152 million, which includes the total cost of installation, service operation and programme coordination for the provision of Gov*WiFi* service at about 440 premises.

To ensure cost-effectiveness, the Gov*WiFi* Programme provides service at government premises with high public patronage and strong public demand, and premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services or promote Hong Kong's image. We will continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of the Gov*WiFi* service to suitable premises, with a view to facilitating citizens' and visitors' access to the service.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)112

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1566

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration mentioned that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched two common mobile applications, namely "GovHK Notifications" and "GovHK Apps" in 2012-13. What is the expenditure involved? Will more mobile applications be launched in 2013-14? If so, please provide information on the amount of provision set aside, expenditure items and common mobile applications that will be launched. If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply: The development costs of GovHK Notifications and GovHK Apps are $1.3 million and $0.6 million respectively.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will continue to launch new mobile apps in 2013-14, including an app which provides information on events organised by the Government or held at Government venues, including cultural and sports activities, festival celebrations, etc. The development cost of this mobile app is $1.1 million.

Furthermore, OGCIO, in collaboration with the Department of Health, will launch the mobile app version of the Primary Care Directory, which provides the personal and practice-based information about different primary care providers to enable the public to search for their own primary care providers. The development cost of this mobile app is $0.7 million.

To facilitate the development of mobile apps in the Government, OGCIO set up the Mobile App Development Facilitation Unit in May 2012 to provide support and advice to bureaux / departments in mobile app development. OGCIO has earmarked $9.5 million for the Unit to develop mobile apps for suitable e-government services from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)113

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2180

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 5 under "Brief Description" on page 480 of the Estimates (2013-14) that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) worked with the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch (CITB) and relevant stakeholders for the smooth service delivery of the Government Electronic Trading Services and provided information technology (IT) advice and support to relevant bureaux and departments. What are the major functions of CITB? Under the financial provision, what is the estimated expenditure allocated by OGCIO for supporting the tourism-related work of CITB? Does the expenditure cover the study on tourism-related (including travel agencies) IT service items? If so, what are the details? If not, will the Administration proceed with such study as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply: The Government Electronic Trading Services (GETS) have been launched since 1997 to facilitate traders in submitting various types of commonly used trade documents through electronic means. The Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch (CITB) provides policy steer and overall coordination on GETS, while OGCIO is responsible for project management, provision of information technology (IT) advice and support as well as operation of relevant backend systems. This area of work does not concern tourism.

Regarding the promotion of IT adoption in the travel industry, since 2004 OGCIO has provided about $19 million in sponsorship funding for 12 business sectors to implement projects under the Sector-specific Programme (SSP) and for 5 sectors to implement projects under the IT Training Programme for SMEs (ITTP). Of these, 2 SSP projects and 1 ITTP project are for the travel industry. In 2013-14, OGCIO will launch a new round of SSP to support local non-profit organisations to develop application software or websites for individual sectors. Non-profit organisations of the travel industry can also apply.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)114

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2181

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 7 on page 480 of the Estimates (2013-14) that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will continue to implement the next generation of government Wi-Fi programme and extend the service to about 40 new government premises. Do the above-mentioned new premises include any tourist attractions and tourist spots? If so, how many tourist attractions and tourist spots will be included and what are the details? If not, will the Administration examine the case as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply: At present, the Government Wi-Fi (Gov*WiFi*) Programme provides service in some 400 government premises across 18 districts in Hong Kong. These premises include public libraries, public enquiry service centres, job centres, community halls and centres, major parks, museums, sports venues, cooked food centres and markets, government offices and buildings, as well as a number of tourist attractions such as Peak Road Garden, Repulse Bay Beach and Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade. Among the additional government premises under the Next Generation Gov*WiFi* Programme, tourist attractions and tourist spots include the Golden Bauhinia Square cum Wan Chai Temporary Promenade (with Gov*WiFi* already launched), Yau Ma Tei Theatre (Gov*WiFi* will be rolled out in 2013-14), and the under construction Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and Runway Park at Kai Tak. We will continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of Gov*WiFi* service to suitable premises, with a view to facilitating citizens' and visitors' access to the service.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)115

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2182

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Hong Kong is a tourist destination, and the development of tourism industry can surely be boosted with the provision of public services through information technology. The Government states in this year's Budget that it will continue to promote tourism industry. In paragraph 7 on page 480 of the Estimates, it is mentioned that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will continue to develop common mobile applications and, in collaboration with bureaux and departments, mobile applications on particular services, with a view to facilitating bureaux' and departments' further delivery of mobile public services. Will the Administration explore with other tourism-related departments the launching of mobile applications to facilitate visitors' access to tourist information in Hong Kong? If so, what are the details? If not, will the Administration examine the case as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply: Currently, there are a number of mobile apps providing tourists with travel-related information. The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has developed a series of mobile apps specifically for tourists, giving them a wealth of information on local delicacies, scenic spots and heritage sites in Hong Kong, etc.

Meanwhile, the Government one-stop portal, GovHK, also has a mobile version. It contains thematic pages dedicated for non-residents, including tourists, providing useful information such as digital Hong Kong maps, details of licensed hotels and guesthouses, etc.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will launch in the second quarter of 2013 a mobile app which collates information of events organised by the Government or held at Government venues. Such information will be provided by different bureaux / departments and related organisations, including the HKTB. The events include cultural and sports activities, festival celebrations etc, many of which are suitable for tourists. This mobile app is a one-stop platform providing citizens and tourists with ready access to event information.

In addition to mobile apps developed by the Government and public organisations, there are also mobile apps in the market providing information which tourists will find useful, such as restaurants and traffic routes. Besides, the Government also provides public sector information through OGCIO's Data.One portal for value-added re-use, many datasets on the portal are suitable for developing mobile apps for tourists, such as the geo-referenced public facility data, public transport and real-time traffic data. We hope to leverage on community wisdom to develop more mobile apps for tourists' convenience.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)116

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2183

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) IT Infrastructure and Standards

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 11 on page 481 of the Estimates (2013-14) that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will continue to work with the industry to facilitate manpower development in information and communications technology in Hong Kong. After the burst of the dot.com bubble in 2000, the number of students studying information technology (IT) in Hong Kong is insufficient to meet the demand of the current job market. The IT manpower shortage problem is getting worse. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have to recruit experienced personnel from the Mainland for business development. In this connection, how will the Government formulate the strategy to facilitate the development of IT industry (particularly SMEs) in Hong Kong? How much financial resources are expected to be allocated to support IT manpower development? And how does the Administration work with the industry to facilitate development in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply: According to the "2010 Manpower Survey Report – Information Technology Sector" published by the Vocational Training Council (the 2012 Report has yet been released as at mid-March 2013), the overall information technology (IT) manpower supply in Hong Kong largely meets market demand. However, we notice that manpower supply for some IT job categories (e.g. design and development of mobile applications) is relatively tight.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) works closely with the industry to facilitate IT manpower development. To examine the current situation and the demand for IT manpower, OGCIO organised the "IT Man Workshop" in December 2012, with the participation of the academia, professional organisations and industry bodies as well as some private-sector organisations. OGCIO is now drawing up measures to promote IT manpower development in light of the suggestions garnered in the Workshop.

Furthermore, in November 2012, OGCIO set up a task force under the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee to examine the feasibility of establishing a certification system for information and communications technology (ICT) professionals in Hong Kong, and to promote the adoption of the Specification of Competency Standards under the Qualifications Framework among the academia and the industry, in order to enhance the professional standard of local ICT practitioners.

OGCIO will continue to deploy existing manpower for the work mentioned above. No additional manpower and resources is required.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)117

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3219

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure for RTHK's Public Affairs and General Television Programmes has increased by 32.2% as compared with last year. Please advise the major spendings of the additional estimated expenditure.

What is the progress of digitisation undertaken by RTHK Television Division?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply: The estimated additional expenditure for Public Affairs and General Television Programme in 2013-14 is to support the development of Digital Terrestrial Television services. The major spendings cover programmes production, acquisition and commission, preparatory work of channels management and programme planning, as well as procurement of plant and equipment.

Currently, RTHK is conducting technical trials for one high definition (DTT Channel #31) and two standard definition (DTT Channels #32 and #33) television channels through four transmission stations located in Temple Hill, Golden Hill, Castle Peak and Kowloon Peak. Test signals via the said transmission stations have transmitted to TV households in Kowloon Peninsula, H.K. Island North, Shartin, New Territories West and New Territories East, etc. At present, the signal coverage is over 50% of the Hong Kong population. Works of other transmission stations are still in progress to enhance signal coverage of RTHK DTT channels. Eventually the coverage will be territory-wide in Hong Kong.

Upon completion of the signal tests, trials on programme transmission are expected to commence in phases starting from end of 2013.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)118

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1109

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-2014, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to expand its services, including the increase in high definition production and introduction of new programme contents to the digital audio broadcasting channels. In this regard, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) How many additional civil service staff will the Administration recruit in 2013-14? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2012-13? How much expenditure will be incurred?

(b) How many additional non-civil service contract staff will the Administration recruit in 2013-14? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2012-13? How much expenditure will be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply: (a) In 2013-14, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will create 105 additional non-directorate civil service (CS) posts. Among them, 85 are additional posts while the remaining 20 are newly created posts to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. The 85 additional posts represents an increase by 83 posts over the rise (2 posts) in 2012-13. The cost of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about $46.49 million. The breakdown of the 85 posts by grade and rank is as follows:

Grades and ranks		Number of additional posts
Programme Officer Grade:	Chief Programme Officer	3
	Principal Programme Officer	4
	Senior Programme Officer	11
	Programme Officer	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	31
Other grades (including Telecommunications Engineer, Executive Officer, Clerical Officer, Supplies Supervisor and Motor Driver)		14
Total		**85**

The remaining 20 NCSC positions will be converted to CS posts. The number of conversion of NCSC positions to CS posts is the same as that in 2012-13. The cost

of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about $11.43 million. The breakdown of the 20 posts by grade and rank is as follows:

Grades and ranks		Number of additional posts
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	1
	Senior Programme Officer	1
	Programme Officer	4
	Assistant Programme Officer	8
Other grades (including Telecommunications Engineer, Technical Officer and Supplies Officer)		6
Total		**20**

(b) In 2013-14, RTHK will have 7 additional NCSC positions. This represents an increase by 7 NCSC positions over that in 2012-13. The cost of these positions, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value of the comparable CS ranks, is about $4.17 million. The breakdown of the 7 NCSC positions by grade and rank is as follows:

Comparable CS ranks		Number of additional NCSC positions
Programme Officer Grade:	Senior Programme Officer	1
	Assistant Programme Officer	2
Other grades (including grades comparable to Telecommunications Engineer and Analyst/Programmer)		4
Total		**7**

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)119

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1061

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Among the staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), what are the respective numbers, percentages and emoluments of civil servants (CS) and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff? Please advise the numbers of NCSC staff by post. Among the staff recruited this year, what are the respective numbers of CS and NCSC staff? What are the numbers of staff employed by internal recruitment and open recruitment respectively? What is the distribution of such posts by rank and what are the remuneration packages?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: As at 31 December 2012, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has a total strength of 792 staff, including 521 civil servants (CS) (65.8% of the total staff) and 264 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (33.3% of the total staff). The remaining 7 are staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The salaries of CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		**Salaries of the Ranks**	**Staff Numbers**
Programme Officer Grade:	Director of Broadcasting	$186,650 - $192,250	1
	Deputy Director of Broadcasting	$154,900 - 169,050	1
	Assistant Director of Broadcasting	$133,150 - $145,650	1
	Controller (Broadcasting Services)	$112,200 - $122,650	4
	Chief Programme Officer	$87,340 - $100,625	9
	Principal Programme Officer	$71,695 - $84,290	23
	Senior Programme Officer	$55,850 - $68,735	45
	Programme Officer	$43,450 - $54,665	118
	Assistant Programme Officer	$22,405 - $41,495	148
	Programme Assistant	$11,520 - $21,330	21
Ranks in other grades		$10,155 - $169,050	150
Total			**521**

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Grade: Officer	Principal Programme Officer	$74,785 - $78,010	4
	Senior Programme Officer	$41,070 - $62,810	10
	Programme Officer	$26,000 - $45,505	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	$13,215 - $27,245	117
	Programme Assistant	$9,080 - $15,805	31
Ranks in other grades		$8,760 - $59,970	80
Total			**264**

In 2012-13, as at 31 December 2012, a total of 96 CS were recruited. Among them, 70 were former NCSC staff of RTHK. The ranks and salaries of the 96 CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		Salaries of the Ranks	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Senior Programme Officer	$55,850 - $68,735	4
	Programme Officer	$43,450 - $54,665	5
	Assistant Programme Officer	$22,405 - $41,495	81
	Programme Assistant	$11,520 - $21,330	4
Ranks in other grades		$15,805 - $17,835	2
Total			**96**

Meanwhile, a total of 54 persons were recruited as NCSC staff. Their comparable civil service ranks and salaries are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Grade: Officer	Senior Programme Officer	$41,070	1
	Programme Officer	$26,000 - $33,020	3
	Assistant Programme Officer	$14,010 - $17,895	11
	Programme Assistant	$9,080 - $9,565	12
Ranks in other grades		$9,245 - $56,975	27
Total			**54**

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)120

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1062

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Service with 5 channels was launched since November 2011. One of the channels relays programmes tailored for Hong Kong audience from the China National Radio (CNR). What will be the expenditure involved for the relay? Please provide a breakdown regarding the expenditure. Since soft launch of the DAB Service, what are the numbers of weekly listeners of CNR as compared with that of other programme(s)?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: The expenditure for relay of CNR's "Hong Kong Edition" is similar to that for relay of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) "World Service", which is at approximately $0.35 million per year.

Given the DAB has only been launched very recently, it will take time for the number of audience to accumulate. At present, there are only 14 % of the population in Hong Kong who have owned the digital radio set according to the latest report. So far, no survey has been conducted on audience listening habits for individual channels.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)121

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1063

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please advise the estimates for the RTHK Board of Advisors in 2013-14. What are the work plans of the Board in 2013-14? What were the expenditures and work completed in the past year (i.e. 2012-13)? Is there any plan of opening the meetings to the public so as to enhance transparency?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: Since the establishment of RTHK Board of Advisors in 2011, the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has all along provided the Board with secretariat support through internal deployment of staff. No budget has been set aside in the 2013-14 estimates for the Board.

In the past year, the Board of Advisors received briefings and provided their views on various development projects of RTHK including the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), an online archive RTHK Memory and the development of RTHK New Media. The Board also received quarterly updates on programmes and complaints as well as the annual plan from RTHK. Board members also attended functions and events staged by RTHK to enhance their understanding of RTHK's operation. In addition, the Board initiated an "Opinion Survey on RTHK 2012" to gauge public opinion towards various public purposes and mission fulfilled by RTHK. Conducted under the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong, the survey also served as a general evaluation on RTHK's services. The related report had already been uploaded on RTHK's website (rthk.hk). In 2013-14, the Board will continue to advise on various RTHK development projects and to perform its functions as stipulated in the Charter of RTHK.

The Board of Advisors attaches great importance to enhancing the transparency of their work. The agendas, discussion papers, minutes of meetings and annual reports of the Board are all uploaded to the RTHK website for the public to learn of their work. The Board has no plan of opening its meetings.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)122

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1068

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration stated that RTHK would launch the Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Service in 2012-13. Please provide information on the expenses involved and the progress in this regard? In 2013-14, how much expenditure will be allocated to the DAB Service run by RTHK? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply: In 2012-13, the manpower and production cost deployed on the DAB services were approximately $4.3 million. Starting from September 2012, after DAB signal tests and the soft launch, new programmes have been introduced in phases. They included relay of local football matches, docent-style music tours, oral presentation of movies, sound of the nature and presentation of audio books. In 2013-14, the expenses allocated by the Administration to RTHK DAB services are similar to that in the previous year. As regards the programmes, relay of the Legislative Council meetings and introduction of CIBS programmes will start from April and July 2013 respectively.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)123

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0911

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, it is stated that RTHK will be launching the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) on a pilot basis, please explain in detail about the service implementation, content, manpower and expenses involved.

(b) Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, it is stated that RTHK will be introducing new programme content for the digital audio broadcasting (DAB) channels gradually, please list the details of new programmes to be launched in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply: (a) The Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) invites open applications on 11 programme themes, namely education, art and culture, social services, ethnic minorities, politics and current affairs, economy and finance, district affairs, health, environment, religion and philosophy, science and technology. These themes are to be spread across a three-year period, of 12 quarters in total. Since it is a pilot project, the manpower will be mainly from internal deployment involving a production cost of approximately $0.95 million. In 2012, a Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) of $45 million was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for supporting participants from the community to apply as programme production subsidies.

(b) The new programmes on RTHK DAB channels in 2013 will include relay of local football matches, docent-style music tours, oral presentation of movies, sound of the nature and presentation of audio books. Relay of the Legislative Council meetings and introduction of CIBS programmes will start from April and July 2013 respectively.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)124

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0912

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, it is stated that RTHK will continue to promote civic awareness amongst the public and support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR's) official events, what will be the specific work undertaken by RTHK to support the Government's official events in the coming year (i.e. 2013-14)?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply: Each year, RTHK Television Division produces a wide range of programmes covering the social-political, economic development and livelihood of Hong Kong in view of the public interest, which serves to promote civic awareness amongst the public. These programmes include City Forum, Pentaprism, Hong Kong Connection, LegCo Review, Face to Face, Police Magazine, All About Money, Headliner, News Review, Equal Opportunities Special, SFC in Action and The Moment, etc.

Annually, RTHK provides technical support, pool signal and/or coverage for the Government of the HKSAR events, including the flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR; the flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the Reception to celebrate the National Day; the Chief Executive's Policy Address and related programmes; the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech and related programmes as well as the Annual Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)125

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0913

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, it is estimated that the number of staff in Radio Television Hong Kong will be increased from 560 to 665. Please advise in detail the reason(s) for the increase and their respective duties, in particular the 92 posts created under the Programme "Public Affairs and General Television Programme".

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply: Among the 105 additional non-directorate civil service (CS) posts for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2013-14, 85 posts are created to provide support to the development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. The main duties of these posts include programme production, acquisition and commissioning, media management, production support, engineering and technical support, and the provision of administration, procurement and supplies services. As DTT is a new service and setting up a new television station will involve substantial additional work, it is necessary for RTHK to create these posts to cope with the additional duties.

The remaining 20 CS posts are created to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and rendering support to the work of telecommunication engineering, information technology, procurement and supplies.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)126

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1755

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please list the respective numbers, average salaries, allowances and benefits of civil servants (CS) and contract staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) by rank and length of employment. What will be the estimated changes in the ratio of CS to contract staff in the coming 3 years (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16) and what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply: Details on the numbers, ranks, length of employment, allowances and benefits of civil servants (CS) and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), as at 31 December 2012, are as follows:

	CS	NCSC Staff
Staff numbers	521	264
Distribution of ranks		
• Programme Officer Grade:		
Director of Broadcasting	1	0
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	1	0
Assistant Director of Broadcasting	1	0
Controller (Broadcasting Services)	4	0
Chief Programme Officer	9	0
Principal Programme Officer	23	4
Senior Programme Officer	45	10
Programme Officer	118	22
Assistant Programme Officer	148	117
Programme Assistant	21	31
• Other grades	150	80
Length of employment		
		106
• 5 years or above	390	49
• From 3 years to 5 years	11	57
• From 1 year to 3 years	27	52
• Less than 1 year	93	

	CS	NCSC Staff
Allowances and benefits	In accordance with Civil Service Regulations	Conditions of service (including paid annual leave, sickness allowance, maternity protection, severance payment and long service payment) will be no less favourable than the provisions of the Employment Ordinance and Employees' Compensation Ordinance. Paternity leave will also be provided to eligible male employees.

As at 31 December 2012, the distribution of monthly salary of CS and NCSC staff is as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		**Salaries of the Ranks**	**Staff Numbers**
Programme Officer Grade:	Director of Broadcasting	$186,650 - $192,250	1
	Deputy Director of Broadcasting	$154,900 - 169,050	1
	Assistant Director of Broadcasting	$133,150 - $145,650	1
	Controller (Broadcasting Services)	$112,200 - $122,650	4
	Chief Programme Officer	$87,340 - $100,625	9
	Principal Programme Officer	$71,695 - $84,290	23
	Senior Programme Officer	$55,850 - $68,735	45
	Programme Officer	$43,450 - $54,665	118
	Assistant Programme Officer	$22,405 - $41,495	148
	Programme Assistant	$11,520 - $21,330	21
Ranks in other grades		$10,155 - $169,050	150
Total			**521**

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		**Salaries**	**Staff Numbers**
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	$74,785 - $78,010	4
	Senior Programme Officer	$41,070 - $62,810	10
	Programme Officer	$26,000 - $45,505	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	$13,215 - $27,245	117
	Programme Assistant	$9,080 - $15,805	31
Ranks in other grades		$8,760 - $59,970	80
Total			**264**

In 2013-14, the ratio of CS to NCSC staff is 5:2. For 2014-15 and 2015-16, there is no relevant estimation for the time being.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)127

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0670

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The estimate of Radio Television Hong Kong for 2013-14 stands at $754.3 million, representing an increase of 21.6% over the revised estimate of last financial year which is higher than the increase in the total expenditure (15.4%). What are the reasons and the expected outcome?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply: The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 involves an increase of $133.9 million (21.6%) over the revised estimate for 2012-13. The increase is mainly due to the launch of a range of new services, including planning and launching the new digital terrestrial television (DTT) services and planning for the provision of television news on DTT channels, launching the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service and purchasing the required plant and equipment.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)128

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0671

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, the non-directorate posts of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will be increased by 105 to 656, representing a rise by 19%, which is the largest increase among the government departments. Can RTHK partly offset the increase through internal redeployment and efficiency enhancement?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply: Among the 105 additional non-directorate posts for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2013-14, 85 posts are created to provide support to the development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. The main duties of these posts include programme production, acquisition and commissioning, media management, production support, engineering and technical support, and the provision of administration, procurement and supplies services. As DTT is a new service and setting up a new television station would involve substantial additional work, it is necessary for RTHK to create these posts to cope with the additional duties.

The remaining 20 civil service (CS) posts are created to replace corresponding non-civil service contract positions which have a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and rendering support to the work of telecommunication engineering, information technology, procurement and supplies. After the creation of the CS posts, the corresponding NCSC positions will be deleted to offset the increase. Thus, RTHK will not have any actual increase in its manpower in respect of these posts.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)129

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

0682

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, RTHK plans to cover a total of 786 hours of TV output, representing a 24.4% increase over the previous year. It is understood that currently there are institutions applying for the TV Licence, while the Government is processing the approval. In view of this, is it necessary for RTHK to largely increase the total hours of TV output? What are the purpose(s) and the expected effect?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply: In 2009, the Chief Executive in Council announced the plan to expand the scope of services of the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and that RTHK was to fulfill its mission of developing and providing public service broadcasting in Hong Kong. Among RTHK's development initiatives are planning and implementation of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting service. According to the plan, RTHK has already started to conduct technical trials for one high definition (DTT Channel #31) and two standard definition (DTT Channels #32 and #33) television channels. Furthermore, RTHK's public broadcasting service is different from that of commercial broadcasting.

The total hours of TV output would be significantly increased with a view to preparing for launching of the TV channels in future. In 2013-14, it is expected to increase 154 hours of TV output, and the new programme content will be focused on current affairs, educational and informative programmes.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)130

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2511

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) Would the Administration please provide details on the distribution, numbers and emoluments of civil service and non-civil service posts in the financial year 2012-13?

(b) What are estimated numbers of civil service and non-civil service staff to be recruited in the financial year 2013-14?

(c) Will there be any outsourced staff posts among the newly recruited? If yes, please provide the titles, numbers and duties of the posts.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply: (a) As at 31 December 2012, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has a total strength of 792 staff, including 521 civil servants (CS) (65.8% of the total staff) and 264 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (33.3% of the total staff). The remaining 7 are staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The salaries of CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		**Salaries of the Ranks**	**Staff Numbers**
Programme Officer Grade:	Director of Broadcasting	$186,650 - $192,250	1
	Deputy Director of Broadcasting	$154,900 - 169,050	1
	Assistant Director of Broadcasting	$133,150 - $145,650	1
	Controller (Broadcasting Services)	$112,200 - $122,650	4
	Chief Programme Officer	$87,340 - $100,625	9
	Principal Programme Officer	$71,695 - $84,290	23
	Senior Programme Officer	$55,850 - $68,735	45
	Programme Officer	$43,450 - $54,665	118
	Assistant Programme Officer	$22,405 - $41,495	148
	Programme Assistant	$11,520 - $21,330	21
Ranks in other grades		$10,155 - $169,050	150
Total			**521**

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	$74,785 - $78,010	4
	Senior Programme Officer	$41,070 - $62,810	10
	Programme Officer	$26,000 - $45,505	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	$13,215 - $27,245	117
	Programme Assistant	$9,080 - $15,805	31
Ranks in other grades		$8,760 - $59,970	80
Total			**264**

(b) In 2013-14, RTHK will create 85 additional civil service posts, convert 20 NCSC positions to civil service posts and have 7 additional NCSC positions.

(c) None of the additional civil service posts and NCSC positions of RTHK in 2013-14 will be filled by outsourcing.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)131

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

2512

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) What are the details regarding "launching of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service on a pilot basis"? Please list the related expenditure, item(s) and the implementation model to be applied in the financial year of 2013-14.

(b) As regards the "plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to radio services", please advise the current construction progress and the actual expenditure as at to date.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply: (a) The Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) invites open applications on 11 programme themes, namely education, art and culture, social services, ethnic minorities, politics and current affairs, economy and finance, district affairs, health, environment, religion and philosophy, science and technology. These themes are to be spread across a three-year period, in 12 quarters in total. Since it is a pilot project, the manpower will be mainly from internal deployment involving a production cost of approximately $0.95 million. In 2012, a Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) of $45 million was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for supporting participants from the community to apply as programme production subsidies.

(b) The new Broadcasting House will be located at a site in Area 85, Tseung Kwan O. With the completion of the Technical Feasibility Study in mid-2011, the application for change of land use of the site for the construction of the new Broadcasting House was approved by the Town Planning Board in April 2012. In October 2012, four contractors were prequalified through tendering procedure to participate in the design and build contract for the new Broadcasting House. The tender of the contract was invited on 5 February 2013 with a closing date on 3 May 2013. Upon completion of the tendering procedure, RTHK will seek funding for the project via established mechanism, which is expected to be around the last quarter of 2013. Subject to approval of the necessary funding, construction of the new Broadcasting House is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2014 with a view to commissioning in the last quarter of 2018. As regards the expenditure, no actual figures can be provided regarding the construction cost of the new Broadcasting House until the tendering procedure is completed.

Name in block letters:	Roy TANG
Post Title:	Director of Broadcasting
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)132

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3145

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide information regarding the hiring of "agency staff" as follows:

	2012-13 (the latest situation)
The number of contracts on agencies	( )
Total contract value with each agency	( )
Total commission to each agency	( )
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	( )
Number of employees from the agencies	( )
Distribution of agency staff's positions	
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees ● $30,001 or above ● Between $16,001 and $30,000 ● Between $8,001 and $16,000 ● Between $6,501 and $8,000 ● Between $6,240 and $6,500 ● $6,240 or below	 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
The agency staff's length of employment ● 15 years or above ● From 10 to 15 years ● From 5 to 10 years ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year	 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
The number of agency staff out of the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	( )
The total sum paid to agencies out of the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	( )
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	( ) ( )
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	( ) ( )

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: Please note the following information:

	2012-13 (the latest situation)
The number of contracts on agencies	$0 (0%)
Total contract value with each agency	N.A.
Total commission to each agency	N.A.
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	N.A.
Number of employees from the agencies	N.A.
Distribution of agency staff's positions	N.A.
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees ● $30,001 or above ● Between $16,001 and $30,000 ● Between $8,001 and $16,000 ● Between $6,501 and $8,000 ● Between $6,240 and $6,500 ● $6,240 or below	N.A.
The agency staff's length of employment ● 15 years or above ● From 10 to 15 years ● From 5 to 10 years ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year	N.A.
The number of agency staff out of the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
The total sum paid to agencies out of the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	N.A.
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	N.A.

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

The above figures do not include the fixed-term contracts under the centralized management of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (T-contracts).

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)133

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3146

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide the following information on the hiring of "outsourced staff":

	2012-13 (the latest situation)
Total number of outsourcing contracts	( )
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	( )
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	( )
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	( )
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services and telecommunication technology, etc.)	
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees ● $30,001 or above ● Between $16,001 and $30,000 ● Between $8,001 and $16,000 ● Between $6,501 and $8,000 ● Between $6,240 and $6,500 ● $6,240 or below	 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
The outsourced staff's length of employment ● 15 years or above ● From 10 to 15 years ● From 5 to 10 years ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year	 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the department	( )
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	( )
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	( ) ( )
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	( ) ( )

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: The major outsourcing service contracts of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are related to broadcasting technical support, property security, maintenance and repair of mechanical and electrical system in the property as well as cleansing service. Information required is as follows:

	2012-13 (the latest situation)
Total number of outsourcing contracts	4 (same as last year)
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	Around $69.48 million (+34.9%)
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	2 x 1 year 1 x 3 years 1 x 5 years (N.A.)
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	Around 190 (same as last year)
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services and telecommunication technology, etc.)	Staff engaged in cleansing and security services, engineers and technicians.
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees ● $30,001 or above ● Between $16,001 and $30,000 ● Between $8,001 and $16,000 ● Between $6,501 and $8,000 ● Between $6,240 and $6,500 ● $6,240 or below	Two of the contracts do not have the information required. In the other two contracts related to cleansing and security services, the monthly salaries of 14 full-time posts are between $8,001 and $16,000; the monthly salaries of 10 full-time posts are between $6,501 and $8,000.
The outsourced staff's length of employment ● 15 years or above ● From 10 to 15 years ● From 5 to 10 years ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year	No information.
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the department	Around 24% (same as last year)
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	Around 21% (+4%)
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	No information.
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	The contracts require 6-day or 7-day service a week. Information on the work arrangement of individual employees is unavailable.

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

Name in block letters:	Roy TANG
Post Title:	Director of Broadcasting
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)134

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3256

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide the following information on the employment of "non-civil service contract" (NCSC) staff:

	2012-13 (the latest situation)
Total number of NCSC staff	( )
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	
Distribution of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	( )
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	
● $30,001 or above	( )
● Between $16,001 and $30,000	( )
● Between $8,001 and $16,000	( )
● Between $6,501 and $8,000	( )
● Between $6,240 and $6,500	( )
● $6,240 or below	( )
The NCSC staff's length of employment	
● 15 years or above	( )
● From 10 to 15 years	( )
● From 5 to 10 years	( )
● From 3 to 5 years	( )
● From 1 to 3 years	( )
● Less than 1 year	( )
The number of NCSC staff successfully converted to civil servants	( )
The number of NCSC staff failed to be converted to civil servants	( )
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	( )
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	( )
The number of employees with paid meal break	( )
The number of employees without paid meal break	( )
The number of employees working five days a week	( )
The number of employees working six days a week	( )
The number of employees applied for paternity leave	( )
The number of employees granted paternity leave	( )

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply: Details on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in 2012-13 are as follows:

	2012-13 (As at 31.12.2012)
Total number of NCSC staff	264 (-19%)
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	Various posts
Distribution of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	Around $75m (-3%)
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	
● $30,001 or above	50 (-25%)
● Between $16,001 and $30,000	118 (-20%)
● Between $8,001 and $16,000	96 (-14%)
● Between $6,501 and $8,000	0 (0%)
● Between $6,240 and $6,500	0 (0%)
● $6,240 or below	0 (0%)
The NCSC staff's length of employment	
● 15 years or above	0 (0%)
● From 10 to 15 years	43 (-32%)
● From 5 to 10 years	63 (-13%)
● From 3 to 5 years	49 (-34%)
● From 1 to 3 years	57 (-19%)
● Less than 1 year	52 (+11%)
The number of NCSC staff successfully converted to civil servants	70 [Note] (+900%)
The number of NCSC staff failed to be converted to civil servants	No relevant record
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	33% (-9%)
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	29% (-3%)
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	248 (-20%) 16 (-6%)
The number of employees working five days a week The number of employees working six days a week	Around 194 (-31%) Around 70 (+40%)
The number of employees applied for paternity leave The number of employees granted paternity leave	3 (Not applicable) 3 (Not applicable)

( ) increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2011-12

Note : These former RTHK's NCSC staff have been appointed as RTHK's civil servants through open recruitment.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)135

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1247

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-2014, Radio Television Hong Kong has increased the estimate by $94.2 million due to the rise in operating expenses and 92 additional posts. What are the details of the 92 posts, including the emoluments and recruitment procedures?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will create 105 additional non-directorate civil service (CS) posts in 2013-14. Among them, 92 posts are included under Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme.

Among the 105 posts to be created, 85 are additional posts for providing support to the development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. The main duties of these posts include programme production, acquisition and commissioning, media management, production support, engineering and technical support, and the provision of administration, procurement and supplies services. The ranks and salaries of the 85 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks
Chief Programme Officer	3	$87,340 - $100,625
Principal Programme Officer	4	$71,695 - $84,290
Senior Programme Officer	11	$55,850 - $68,735
Programme Officer	22	$43,450 - $54,665
Assistant Programme Officer	31	$22,405 - $41,495
Telecommunications Engineer	2	$52,220 - $84,290
Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	$27,245 - $41,495
Senior Executive Officer	1	$55,850 - $84,290
Executive Officer I	2	$43,450 - $54,665
Senior Clerical Officer	1	$33,020 - $41,495
Clerical Officer	2	$24,715 - $31,525
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	$11,520 - $23,530
Supplies Supervisor II	1	$11,520 - $23,530
Motor Driver	3	$13,085 - $15,805
Total	**85**	

The remaining 20 CS posts are created to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and rendering support to the work of telecommunication engineering, information technology, procurement and supplies. The ranks and salaries of the 20 posts are as follows:

Grades and ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks
Principal Programme Officer	1	$71,695 - $84,290
Senior Programme Officer	1	$55,850 - $68,735
Programme Officer	4	$43,450 - $54,665
Assistant Programme Officer	8	$22,405 - $41,495
Telecommunications Engineer	3	$52,220 - $84,290
Chief Technical Officer	1	$65,695 - $74,785
Principal Technical Officer	1	$47,630 - $62,810
Assistant Supplies Officer	1	$15,805 - $39,640
Total	**20**	

RTHK will fill these posts through internal promotion and open recruitment.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)136

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1248

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: With reference to RTHK's distribution of output by programming nature, current affairs programmes are estimated at 27.3%, which is comparatively lower than the estimates of the previous two years (29.7% in 2011 and 33.4% in 2012). In addition to cover more current affairs programmes to cater for various political elections, would the Administration consider increasing the hours of output of programmes with similar nature in order to enhance public's knowledge and interests in current affairs. Besides, it is stated that RTHK will continue to promote civic awareness amongst the public and support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR's) official events. How much resource will be allocated by RTHK to this area?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply: Each year, RTHK Television Division produces a wide and balanced range of programmes covering the socio-political, economic development and livelihood of Hong Kong which serves to promote civic awareness amongst the public. In 2013-14, there will be a slight drop in percentage terms as compared with the previous two years; but the actual hours of output, estimated at 328 hours, will be more than those of the last two years. These programmes include City Forum, Pentaprism, Hong Kong Connection, LegCo Review, Face to Face, Police Magazine, All About Money, Headliner and News Review, etc. In 2013-14, the total cost for production of Public and Current Affairs programmes in the Television Division is $134 million.

RTHK will also provide technical support, pool signal and/or coverage for the Government of the HKSAR's events, including the flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR; the flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the Reception to celebrate the National Day; the Chief Executive's Policy Address and related programmes; the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech and related programmes as well as the Annual Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year. RTHK does not separately account for the resources on producing the above events.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)137

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1490

Head: 111– Innovation and Technology Fund : Innovation and Technology

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) The Fund has been in deficit since the financial year 2008-09, with its balance down from $4.147 b to the estimate of $1.654 b in 2013-14. Would the Administration account for the continuous decrease in the revenue of the Fund? Does the Government have any plan to inject funding into the Fund? How will the Fund maintain a balance between revenue and expenditure to ensure its sustainability in the long run?

(b) What criteria does the Fund use to assess the merits of the research and whether the funding support is used judiciously? Does the Administration review the progress of projects on a regular basis?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply: (a) With the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for a funding commitment of $5 b, the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) was established in 1999 to finance projects to help promote innovation and technology upgrading in manufacturing and service industries. Since 2005-06, FC has approved commitments under the ITF to meet the operating costs of the following Research and Development (R&D) Centres:

(i) The Nano and Advanced Materials Institute;

(ii) The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel;

(iii) The Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre; and

(iv) The R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies.

The annual expenditure of ITF includes funding for projects and operating costs of the R&D Centres, while the annual revenue of ITF mainly comes from investment return from the ITF balance held with the Exchange Fund. With the ITF balance decreasing from year to year with disbursement of funding, the investment income from the Exchange Fund would also decline accordingly (i.e. from $398 m in 2008-09 to $156 m (estimate) in 2012-13). As its expenditure (i.e. funding approved) generally stayed between $500 m and $750 m over the past few years, ITF was therefore in deficit in the past 5 years.

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will closely monitor the funding position of the ITF and review its effectiveness and mode of operation, as well as consider its way forward.

(b) The ITF mainly aims to promote and support applied R&D projects that contribute to innovation and technology upgrading in industry. In assessing a project proposal, we would not only focus on its scientific component (e.g. whether it has novelty; enhance capacity, reliability and speed; and increase cost competitiveness, etc.), but would also consider its relevance with government policies or the overall interest of the community. At the same time, we encourage and finance projects with better prospect of realisation/commercialisation. In this connection, we have refined the assessment criteria for ITF projects accordingly in 2011 to enable more in-depth and comprehensive assessment of applications.

We also regularly monitor the progress of projects according to the milestones set out in the project applications. Applicants are required to submit progress reports and audited accounts on a regular basis to ensure proper use of funding and that all expenditure items dovetail with the approved project budget. We also conduct on-site inspections or hold review meetings to assess project progress as and when necessary.

In addition, upon project completion, applicants are required to provide information to ITC for our systematic and comprehensive assessment on the outcome of funded projects.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)138

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

1501

Head: 111 – Innovation and Technology Fund: Innovation and Technology

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) Would the Administration provide a breakdown, by year, of the number of patents granted to the technology transfer offices of the 6 universities for their research results over the past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? How many of these patents have been successfully commercialised into products? Have the research offices of the 6 universities benefited from the profits brought about by these products?

(b) As the Innovation and Technology Fund will provide each of the 6 universities with a subvention of up to $12 m, are there any guidelines or rules governing the use of the subvention for such purposes as recruiting additional staff, subsidising the universities' application for patents or client-matching? How will the Administration evaluate the effectiveness of the subvention?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply: (a) According to the figures provided by the University Grants Committee Secretariat in respect of the 6 tertiary institutions engaged in technological research and development (R&D) and designated as local public research institutions (namely the University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Baptist University), the number of patents granted for their research results, the number of patents commercialised and the profit generated from commercialisation from 2008-09 to 2011-12 are set out below:

Financial year (1)	No. of patents granted (2)	No. of patents commercialised (3)	Profit generated from commercialisation ($ m)
2008-09	145	125	55.79
2009-10	152	143	20.68
2010-11	175	110	40.86
2011-12	193	121	34.49

Notes:

(1) Since the financial year 2012-13 has just ended, relevant figures are not available at the moment.

(2) This refers to the number of patents granted by the relevant patent office within the relevant financial year (financial year ending June).

(3) This only covers patents successfully commercialised which generated profit for the first time in the relevant financial year.

(b) In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of R&D results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, ITC will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the above 6 institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)139

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4783

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Audit Commission has earlier conducted a review of the operation of the Film Development Fund (FDF) and made some comments and recommendations. In 2013-14, will the Bureau take the opportunity of following up the relevant report to conduct a comprehensive review on the operation of the FDF and the policy as a whole? If so, what are the work plan and estimates of expenditure of the review? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Legislative Council wrote to the Head of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) on 29 November 2012 to express its views on the use of the Film Development Fund (FDF) as mentioned in Chapter 5 of the Director of Audit's Report No.59. We replied to PAC on 18 January 2013 explaining that the FDF aims to assist the film industry in revitalising itself and developing further, rather than deriving financial gains from the funding support given to the industry.

We have been dedicated to improving the operation of the FDF. In response to the views of the Director of Audit on the use of the FDF, the Fund Vetting Committee of the Film Development Council reviewed and introduced changes to the system of vetting applications for financing film production in October 2012. In assessing the commercial viability of a film project, the creativity and local production elements are also assessed in addition to production budget and revenue estimates. Coupled with a new scoring system, applications for film financing are assessed more comprehensively. The aforementioned criteria have been made known to the film industry and incorporated into the relevant guidelines and documents. Besides, the Government will embark on a review of the FDF in the second half of this year and consult the FDC and stakeholders, with a view to enabling the FDF to better meet the needs of the industry. The Film Services Office of CreateHK will conduct this review as part of its regular duties and no extra expenditure is involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)140

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4811

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: As creative industries involve various media and modes of manifestation, can the Administration, after 2013-14, provide details of the investment of resources in various creative sectors? If not, why not? What are the criteria by which the Administration decides on the investment of resources in various creative sectors?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: To provide funding support to projects conducive to the development of various creative sectors including design, comics and animation, digital entertainment, advertising, architecture, music, television, and printing and publication, a $300 million CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) is set up under Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Communications and Technology Branch. This is in addition to the $320-million Film Development Fund (FDF), which funds projects beneficial to the development of the film industry. As at end February 2013, the uncommitted balance of the CSI stands at $46.24 million while that of FDF is $57.95 million. Last year, the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved a funding of $133.75 million for supporting the operation and activities of the Hong Kong Design Centre in the next few years and providing financial support to a new phase of the Design Incubation Programme, with a view to promoting the design sector and nurturing design start-ups. In 2013-14 and beyond, the said funding schemes and financial support will continue. Various creative sectors may apply to CreateHK for funding support from the CSI or the FDF according to their needs. The Government will not pre-set a ratio for resources to be allocated to various creative sectors.

To step up efforts to support the creative industries, we will apply to the FC this May to inject an additional $300 million into the CSI.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)141

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4812

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Quite some consumers said they have encountered unfair trade practice in using telecommunications services or paid TV services. They want regulation by the Administration through legislation. In 2013-14, will the Administration consider deploying resources to look at amending the laws and conduct public consultation? If yes, what are the relevant work plan and estimates of expenditure? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Legislative Council enacted the Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 17 July 2012 to prohibit unfair trade practices deployed by traders against consumers. The application of the Amendment Ordinance covers false trade descriptions in respect of goods and services, misleading omissions, aggressive commercial practices, bait advertising, bait-and-switch and wrongly accepting payment. Apart from criminal sanctions, the Amendment Ordinance introduces a compliance-based mechanism under which the law enforcement agency may resort to civil action to deal with infringements so as to encourage compliance by traders and stop known unfair trade practices expeditiously. The Administration plans to implement the Amendment Ordinance in 2013.

Unfair trade practices related to telecommunications service or broadcasting service will be subject to the Amendment Ordinance. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) is the principal agency responsible for enforcing the Amendment Ordinance. Concurrent jurisdiction will be conferred on the Communications Authority to deal with unfair trade practices in connection with broadcasting and telecommunications services provided by licensees licensed under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) and the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106). At present, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) is working closely with the C&ED and the Department of Justice to prepare for the implementation of the new ordinance.

Upon the Amendment Ordinance taking effect, the OFCA will be responsible for the law enforcement and investigation of unfair trade practices related to telecommunications and broadcasting services. It is anticipated that the workload will increase as the investigations will involve scopes, modes and procedure different from those of the current law enforcement work of the OFCA. Moreover, the OFCA will have to work in collaboration with other

government departments and organisations in coordinating the investigation and referral of cases and to embark on education of the industry and the public. To cope with the additional workload, the OFCA will increase its manpower and resources as appropriate. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)142

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3683

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Licensed free-to-air TV stations are required to provide subtitling for all news, current affairs, weather programmes and emergency announcements. On the Chinese language service, Chinese subtitles must be provided for programmes shown between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and all drama programmes. On the English language service, programmes shown between 8:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. as well as two hours per week of English programmes with educational value targeting teenagers shall carry English subtitles. For the period 2010-2012, i.e. the past three years, please 1) list by programme type, the number of programme hours with subtitles on all channels of each of the two free-to-air TV stations; 2) list by programme type, the number of programme hours with sign language and audio description services for people with special needs on all channels of each of the two free-to-air TV stations; and 3) tell us whether the Government has looked at requiring the free-to-air TV stations to increase the number of programme hours with subtitling, sign language and audio description services for people with special needs.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(a) In accordance with the conditions of the domestic free television programme service licence (free TV licence), the Communications Authority (CA) requires the two licensees concerned, i.e. Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited , to provide subtitling for programmes according to the following programme types:

(i) all news, weather, current affairs and emergency announcement shown on their analogue/simulcast digital services (i.e. the two Chinese channels and the two English channels); and

(ii) as from the end of 2010, all drama programmes shown on the Chinese channels.

According to the records of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), both licensees comply with the abovementioned requirement. Since it is not a licence condition for the licensees to furnish the OFCA with the number of programme hours with subtitles for each programme type, we are unable to provide such information.

In addition to the provision of subtitling by programme types, the two licensees are required to follow the directives issued by the CA to provide Chinese subtitles for all programmes shown on their Chinese channels between 7 pm and 11 pm. As per this requirement, the two licensees offered in the past three years (2010-2012) no less than 8 760 hours of programmes shown with Chinese subtitles during the time slot in question.

As regards the English language service, the two licensees are required to provide English subtitles for two hours per week of English programmes with educational value targeting teenagers. As per this requirement, the two licensees offered in the past three years (2010-2012) no less than 624 hours of such programmes shown with English subtitles. The CA also requires the two licensees to step up English subtitling service gradually. Starting from end 2012, the licensees have to provide English subtitles for all programmes shown on their English channels between 8:00 pm and 11:30 pm. According to the records of the OFCA, both licensees comply with this requirement.

(b) Since it is currently not a licence condition for the licensees to provide sign language and audio description services, we are unable to provide relevant information.

(c) To meet the needs of people with hearing impairment, the two free TV licensees have enhanced their subtitling services gradually as per the conditions of their licences. As there are certain difficulties for the TV stations to provide sign language and audio description services, the CA hopes to let them provide such services on a voluntary basis first having regard to the mode of operation of individual programmes.

The licences of the two licensees will expire in 2015. The CA will begin a review in 2013-14 in connection with licence renewal and will extensively consult the public on their views about the performance of the two licensees. In considering the two licensees' applications for licence renewal in due course, the CA will carefully consider the public views collected and examine how the licensees can further enhance their services to facilitate the viewing of TV programmes by people with special needs.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)143

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3687

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Communications and Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

(a) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past 2 financial years (2011-12 and 2012-13):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee($)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

(b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year (2013-14)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee($)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

(c) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) Please find below information regarding the funded studies on public policy and strategic public policy for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee($)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Price-waterhouse Coopers	Tender	Title: Study on the framework for mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong The objective is to draw up recommendations for formulating a framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong, so as to facilitate secure cross-boundary e-commerce.	1,429,000	June 2011	Completed in March 2012	The Government and the Mainland authorities has made reference to the study results in formulating standing arrangements for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong.	The Executive Summary of the Study has been published in OGCIO's website
AECOM	Tender	Title: Study on the number of goods vehicle parking spaces and loading / unloading spaces required by data centres The objective is to examine the goods vehicle parking and loading / unloading requirements of data centres.	996,000	December 2011	Completed in March 2012	The Transport Department has made reference to the study results in formulating relevant internal guidelines.	The Executive Summary of the Study has been published in the data centre thematic website.
Policy 21	Quotation	Consultancy Study on the Provision of Cinemas in Hong Kong - Household Interviews on Movie-going Behaviour of Audience and Focus Group Discussions	390,000	June 2012	Completed	The findings of the Consultancy Report have been provided to the Government and the Film Development Council for reference. The Government	The outcome of the Study will be made public in due course.

						will make reference to the information gained in this Consultancy Study and conduct the Consultancy Study on Overseas Strategies in Promoting Cinema Development and their Applicability to Hong Kong.	
F Media & Olsberg● SPI	Quotation	Consultancy Study on Overseas Strategies in Promoting Cinema Development and their Applicability to Hong Kong	784,195	November 2012	In progress	The findings of the Consultancy Report will be provided to the Government and the Film Development Council for reference.	The outcome of the Study will be made public in due course.
Centre for the Advance-ment of Social Sciences Research (CASR), Hong Kong Baptist University	Quotation	Survey on the Needs of the Pyrotechnic Industry in Using Pyrotechnic Special Effects Materials (PSEM) for Entertainment Purposes in Hong Kong The objective is to assess the needs of the industry in the storage, transportation and use of dangerous pyrotechnic materials	99,800	September 2012	In progress	The Executive Summary of the Survey Report will be made available to the pyrotechnic industry for reference.	The Executive Summary of the Survey Report will be made available to the pyrotechnic industry for reference. The Survey Report will aid the Government in considering how to support the pyrotechnic industry given its needs.
The Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong	Quotation	Opinion survey on telecommunications service	Absorbed by the ex-Office of the Telecommu-nications Authority (OFTA) Trading Fund and the Office of the Communica-tions Authority (OFCA) Trading Fund.	February 2011	The focus group study and two telephone surveys have been completed.	Ex-OFTA and OFCA have made reference to the survey findings to ascertain the development and operation of the telecommuni-cations market.	The survey report is for the internal reference of the ex-OFTA and OFCA only.

Plum Consulting Ltd.	Tender	Project title: Implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services Content and objective: to study the implications of the development of the next generation networks on the regulation of telecommunications services and to make recommendations to the Government for formulating a relevant telecommunications regulatory framework.	Absorbed by the ex-OFTA Trading Fund	May 2011	Completed	OFCA has arranged the relevant advisory committee and working group to carry out detailed discussions in respect of the recommenda-tions and technical issues raised by the consultant.	The Study Report has been uploaded to ex-OFTA's website.

(b) Projects for which provision will be allocated for conducting consultancy studies in 2013-14 are as follows:

Name of consultant	**Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))**	**Title, content and objective of project**	**Consultancy fee($)**	**Start date**	**Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)**	**Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)**	**For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?**
IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	Tender	Project title: The Digital 21 Strategy Review The objective is to formulate a development blueprint for information and communications technology (ICT) in Hong Kong for the next few years.	1,200,000	February 2013	In progress	Not applicable	The CEDB will prepare a consultation draft based on the Study Report and conduct online public consultation to formulate a new development blueprint.
The Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong	Quotation	Opinion survey on telecommunications service	Absorbed by the OFCA Trading Fund	February 2011	To continue to implement the contract signed in February 2011	Consideration is being given to conducting a new round of opinion survey on communications service to	The Survey Report is for the internal reference of the ex-OFTA and OFCA only.

						ascertain the current development and operation of the telecommuni-cations market.	
(To be confirmed)	Quotation	Project title: Consultancy Study on the implications of the adoption of a hybrid between administratively-assigned and market-based approach in assigning frequency spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz on the service quality and customers. Content and objective: to study the implications of adopting a hybrid between administratively-assigned and market-based approach in assigning the said frequency spectrum on the service quality and customers upon expiry of the 3G frequency assignments in Oct 2016.	Absorbed by the OFCA Trading Fund	(To be confirmed)	Under planning		The Study Report will be made public.

(c) In awarding a consultancy project to a research institute or a consultant, we will consider the research methods, work plans and schedules proposed by them, as well as their understanding, expertise and experience in the subject matter and the quotations for the project.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)144

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3703

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) has been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information over the past 2 years (for 2011-12 and 2012-13) as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement), and the expenditure involved	Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

(b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes of this year (2013-14), please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement, and the expenditure involved	Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

(c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary cooperation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 3 years (from 2010-11 to 2012-13)? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in this year's Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes carried out in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as follows:

Project / Programme	**Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement), and the expenditure involved**	**Mainland department/ organisation involved**	**Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)**	**Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?**	**Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme**
2011 "Creativity in Business" Seminar Series	Funding support was given to the organiser (Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC)) to stage 2011 "Creativity in Business" Seminar Series to allow Hong Kong SMEs to have first-hand knowledge of the Mainland market and enterprises as well as establish business network through study tours/briefing sessions, exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The project augments the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement) Expenditure involved was around $2,000,000.	The Municipal People's Governments of Dongguan, Fuzhou and Wenzhou	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
SmartHK (Guangzhou)	Funding support was given to the organiser (HKTDC) to set up a large exhibition at SmartHK to showcase the excellence of Hong Kong's creative sectors including advertising &	-	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public.	N.A.

	marketing, architectural & interior design, design & brand building. The project augments the Framework Agreement Expenditure involved was around $1,925,000.			Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	
Activities involving the Hong Kong Design Centre	With funding support for HKDC's operation, links were maintained with design bodies in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Dongguan, with exchanges and promotional activities such as exhibitions and forums held. HKDC receives funding from CTB for its operation. It bores the expenditure of the activities and no extra government spending was involved.	Shenzhen Graphic Design Association, Shanghai Industry Design Association, Dongguan Bureau for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association	Completed	HKDC was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public.	N.A.
The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2011	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Institute of Architects) to, at the Hong Kong exhibition of the project held in 2012, exhibit in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen a wide range of architectural projects and urban designs with the aim of enriching cultural life in Hong Kong and fostering wider public interests in art, design, architecture and city development of Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement Expenditure involved was around $5,493,000.	Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture Organiser Committee	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.

Hong Kong Comic Camp – providing training of local comics talents and promote cultural exchanges of talents in Greater China (Guangdong, HK, Macau and Taiwan)	Funding support was given to the organiser (Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association) to stage the event to encourage creative cartooning and promote cultural exchanges between young cartoonists in HK, Guangdong, Macau and Taiwan. Expenditure involved was around $497,820.	Guangzhou Animation and Cartoon Association	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
Second Greater China Illustration Awards	Funding support was given to the organiser (Hong Kong Illustration Association) to stage the event to develop a platform for fostering creativity and exploring business opportunities for the illustration industries in the Greater China region as well as promoting Hong Kong as a creative capital within the region. The event targeted illustrators and design students from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao. The organiser held roving exhibitions of the winning entries in the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively. The project augments the Framework Agreement. Expenditure involved was around $1,595,760.	Organising Committee's Office of China Hangzhou Cultural & Creative Industry Expo Shenzhen Illustration Association	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
2012-2013 "Creativity in Business" Seminar Series	Funding support was given to the organiser (HKTDC) to stage the event to allow Hong Kong SMEs to have first-hand knowledge of the Mainland market and enterprises as well as establish business network through study tours/briefing sessions,		Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was	N.A.

	exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The event was held in Quanzhou, Dalang in Dongguan and Chengdu. Expenditure involved was around $1,767,150.			absorbed by existing staff and resources.	
To develop a data service trial area in Nansha	To implement the National 12th Five-Year Plan, the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta and the Framework Agreement, to promote Nansha New District as an important infrastructure platform for strengthening co-operation between Guangzhou and Hong Kong, to develop a demonstration zone for implementation of CEPA and its early and pilot implementation measures as well as to realise the complementary development between Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement. No additional resources are involved.	The Municipal People's Government of Guangzhou	The Municipal People's Government of Guangzhou and the HKSAR Government held the "Second Meeting of the Hong Kong/ Guangzhou Expert Group on Co-operation" in Hong Kong in January 2013. Both sides will continue to explore and exchange views on the development of the project.	N.A.	N.A.
Co-operative arrangement on establishing a contingency notification mechanism on major faults of the Guangdong-Hong Kong cross-border telecommunications networks	To strengthen co-operation in areas relating to contingency handling of major faults of the cross-border telecommunications networks (i.e. the major public telecommunications land cable transmission channels connecting Guangdong and Hong Kong as well as the telecommunications business carried by them) by establishing a mutual notification mechanism for speedy and effective message exchanges to	The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Guangdong Communications Authority	Completed. (OFTA of Hong Kong and the Guangdong Communications Authority signed the co-operative arrangement at the 14th Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held on 23 August 2011.)	The contents of the document have been made public by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. No additional expenditure was involved.	N.A.

	enhance the contingency capabilities of dealing with emergencies so as to ensure the reliability and safety of the telecommunications networks between Guangdong and Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement. No additional expenditure was involved.				
The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS)	It aims at providing research and development (R&D) funding for technological projects conducted jointly between Hong Kong and Guangdong and also Hong Kong and Shenzhen, enhancing collaboration among universities, research institutions and industries in both places, and upgrading the technology level of industries in the Greater Pearl River Delta region.	Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, and the Science and Technology Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality	A total of 27 TCFS projects were approved during 2011-12 to 2012-13 with funding of about $73 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF).	The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) announces the Scheme's application arrangements every year. Funding amounts approved by the ITC for projects are uploaded to the ITC website.	N.A.
Information portal on cloud computing (InfoCloud)	The InfoCloud portal puts together a shared pool of information and resources including sample use cases, guidelines and best practices. It provides useful references for both cloud consumers and service providers, especially small and medium enterprises, to facilitate their selection, management and provision of cloud services. The project augments the Framework Agreement. The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province also rolled out a similar portal at the same time. Existing resources of OGCIO are deployed to	The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province	Completed	Press release issued in January 2013	N.A.

	meet the requirements.				
Pilot Application of Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong	The Pilot Application is a trade facilitation measure for early and pilot implementation in Guangdong under CEPA. The objective is to enhance cross-boundary e-business environment. It is also one of the measures under the Framework Agreement to enhance e-business environment. The expenditure for a press conference was HK$6,000.	The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province	Completed	The standing arrangement for mutual recognition was announced to the public on 10 August 2012 via press release, websites and press conference. Handled by existing staff.	N.A.
Study on the framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (the Study)	The Study summarised the experience of the Pilot Application covered in the Framework Agreement and drew up recommendations for formulating a framework for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong, so as to promote secure cross-boundary e-business. The expenditure was HK$1,429,000.	The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province	Completed in March 2012.	The Advisory Committee on Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (ACCOP) and the industry have been consulted on the result of the Study. Summary of the study has been published on OGCIO website. Handled by existing staff, with no other expenditure involved.	N.A.
The 6th and 7th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summit (Summit)	This annual Summit aims to expedite the co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong. One of the objectives of the Framework Agreement is to encourage the industry to gradually align industry standards on RFID. $100,000 each was provided in 2011-12 and 2012-13.	The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province, The Guangdong RFID Technology Service Center (GDRC)	The two Summits were held in September 2011 and August 2012 respectively.	These Summits were open to the public. Details were announced by GDRC and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) prior to the Summits. No Government manpower or other expenditure was involved.	N.A.

(b) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2013-14 already known are as follows:

Project / Programme	**Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement, and the expenditure involved**	**Mainland department/ organisation involved**	**Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)**	**Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons**	**Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme**
The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2013	CreateHK will give funding support to the organiser (the Hong Kong Institute of Architects) to, at the Hong Kong exhibition of the project to be held in 2013-2014, exhibit in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen a wide range of architectural projects and urban designs with the aim of enriching cultural life in Hong Kong and fostering wider public interests in art, design, architecture and city development of Hong Kong. The project augments the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) Expenditure involved will be around 5,324,600.	Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture Organizer Committee	Preparations being made	The organiser is responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload is absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
The EcoChic Design Award 2013	CreateHK will give funding support to the organiser (ReDress Limited) to stage the event which is a fashion design contest highlighting upgrading, remaking and zero dumping as design skills. In 2013, the organiser's target countries/regions increase to eight including the	About 10 Mainland fashion design institutes	March 2013 to March 2014	The organiser is responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK.	N.A.

	Mainland. The project augments the Framework Agreement Expenditure involved will be around 2,290,200.			The workload is absorbed by existing staff and resources.	
The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS)	It aims at providing R&D funding for technological projects conducted jointly between Hong Kong and Guangdong and also Hong Kong and Shenzhen, enhancing collaboration among universities, research institutions and industries in both places, and upgrading the technology level of industries in the Greater Pearl River Delta region.	Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, and the Science and Technology Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality	It is estimated that 16 TCFS projects will be approved in 2013-14 with ITF funding of about $55 m.	ITC will announce the Scheme's application arrangements for 2013 in the middle of this year.	N.A.
HK-GD Cloud Industry Collaboration Forum	The objective of the Forum is to strengthen the cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong, with a view to enabling more enterprises to deepen their understandings on the development of cloud services in the two places and the associated business opportunities. The Forum covers keynote speeches, sharing of success stories, expert forum and topical discussion. We will also reserve about 8 booths at the International ICT Expo (to be held on 13-16 April) for cloud industry of the two places to showcase their success stories. The project augments the Framework Agreement. The expenditure involved will be about $200,000.	The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province	Under preparation, scheduled for completion in April 2013	Related information has been published through the "International IT Fest" website for promotion	N.A.
Standing Arrangement of Mutual Recognition	The Standing Arrangement is under the Framework Agreement.	The Ministry of Industry and Information	On-going task	The Standing Arrangement was announced to the public on 10 August	N.A.

of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (Standing Arrangement)	The objective is to promote the adoption of mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates and coordinate all related works under the Standing Arrangement. To be handled by existing staff, with no other expenditure involved.	Technology, The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province		2012and the details can be found in Part (a) of the reply.	
The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summit (Summit)	The Summit aims to expedite the co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong. One of the objectives of the Framework Agreement is to encourage the industry to gradually align industry standards on RFID. Estimated expenditure is $100,000.	The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province, The Guangdong RFID Technology Service Center (GDRC)	The Summit is expected to be held in September 2013.	The Summit will be open to the public. Details will be announced by GDRC and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) prior to the Summit. No Government manpower or other expenditure will be involved.	N.A.

(c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, we have engaged in collaboration with Mainland broadcasters over the years. For instance, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has collaborated with Guangdong Radio, Guangdong Television, Radio Foshan, China National Radio, Radio Beijing and Shanghai Media Group in radio and television programme productions to add to the types and substances of the programmes. Such collaboration usually takes the form of simulcast or exchange of programmes with the partner broadcaster but does not involve payments between them. Besides, DAB Channel 32 of RTHK formally launched the relay of the China National Radio (Hong Kong Edition) programmes especially designed for Hong Kong audience on 17 September 2012. RTHK is also discussing with relevant Mainland broadcasters over airing national television programmes in its digital terrestrial television channels being planned.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)145

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3727

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: (a) The Chief Executive states in his Policy Address: "To nurture a new generation of film production talents, Create Hong Kong will launch a First Feature Film Initiative to identify new talents through a competition on screenplay and production proposals. The winning film directors and their teams will receive full funding from the Film Development Fund to take forward their proposals." What is the financial provision for this Initiative? Please list the amounts and ratio for administrative expenses and prize money.

(b) What are the qualifications of the judges at the competition? What mechanism is in place to avoid favouritism and conflict of identity and interest?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (a) The Chief Executive announced in the 2013 Policy Address that Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) would launch a First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) to identify new talents through a competition on screenplay and production proposals. The winning new directors and their film production teams will receive funding from the Film Development Fund (FDF) for making their first feature films.

The FFFI was launched in March 2013. Being pilot in nature, the FFFI aims at supporting three new directors and their film production teams to make their first feature films on a commercial basis within two years, with a view to nurturing talents for the film industry.

The FFFI takes the form of competition. The competition is divided into the Higher Education Institutions Group (HEIG) and the Professionals Group (PG). Two prizes will be offered to the HEIG. Each winning team will receive a maximum of $2 million from the FDF to make its first feature film. One prize will be offered to PG. The winning team will receive a maximum of $5 million from the FDF to make its first feature film.

The winning teams are required to complete the whole film production and sales process involving planning, shooting and distribution, hence acquiring in the process practical knowledge in planning and making a feature film.

The total budget for FFFI is $9.95 million, of which $9 million will meet production costs of the three wining films, $150,000 publicity costs and $800,000 contingency fund (to meet film production cost overruns).

CreateHK will be responsible for FFFI's administrative work. To ensure completion of film production on schedule, within budget and up to standard for meeting the requirements of commercial films, CreateHK will, in addition to its existing staff, engage with its operating funds two temporary contract employees, who are industry members experienced in film production, to serve as project manager and project assistant to assist in monitoring the production of the three sponsored films and provide timely assistance. It is expected that $850,000 in operating funds will be expended on engaging the two temporary contract employees.

(b) To ensure fair assessment, the relevant assessment panel will comprise veteran film directors, veteran screenwriters, veteran film critics, film investors and Film Development Council (FDC) representative. CreateHK will invite relevant film industry bodies (such as the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild, Hong Kong Screenwriters' Guild, Hong Kong Film Critics Society, Hong Kong Film Critics Association, Hong Kong Chamber of Films, etc.) to nominate veteran members to serve on the assessment panel. CreateHK will submit the membership list to the Fund Vetting Committee of the FDC for consideration.

The assessment panel will also draw up assessment criteria and details before the assessment stage begins. All members of the panel shall declare interests prior to assessing entries. Where conflict of interest arises, the members concerned shall not take part in the assessment nor vote. Upon completion of film production, full rights of the film projects and the copyrights of the films will be transferred to the film production companies formed by the winning teams. The production companies shall sell the copyrights of the films for the first five years by way of written bidding. Those who have served as members of the assessment panel may take part in the bidding. The production companies may not take part in the bidding.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)146

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3961

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the total amount of salary for the Director of the Bureau in the coming year? In the Bureau, what is the number of staff responsible for handling the issue of free TV licences and the relevant total expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply: In the Estimates for 2013-14, the financial provision for the emoluments of the Director of the Bureau is $3.38 million.

Under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Chapter 562), the Chief Executive (CE) in Council is the licensing authority for domestic free television programme service licence (free TV licence). The Administration has been processing the recommendations submitted by the former Broadcasting Authority on the three free TV licence applications expeditiously and prudently in accordance with the statutory requirements and established procedures. If the CE in Council needs any relevant information in considering the free TV licence applications, this Bureau will provide assistance as appropriate. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources. No separate breakdown of expenditure is available.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)147

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5482

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 64 of the Budget Speech: "With the huge domestic demand in the Mainland as a result of sustained economic growth, our cultural and creative industries have great development potential. We shall continue to provide strong support for the industries with a view to opening up more business opportunities and markets." In this connection, please set out in table form:

(a) specific measures that the Administration introduced last year (i.e. 2012-13 Financial Year) to support individual sectors of the cultural and creative industries (including but not limited to advertising, architecture, art, antiques and crafts, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, performing arts, publishing, software and computing, television and radio) and the expenditure involved in these measures;

(b) specific measures that the Administration has in the coming year (i.e. 2013-14 Financial Year) to support individual sectors of the cultural and creative industries (including but not limited to advertising, architecture, art, antiques and crafts, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, performing arts, publishing, software and computing, television and radio) and the budget for these measures.

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply: Guided by a seven-pronged strategy, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) supports creative sectors, which include advertising, architecture, design, film, digital entertainment, music (generally refers to the phonographic industry), publishing, and enterprises associated with the television industry (excluding television stations). The seven-pronged strategy covers training of local talent; supporting the development of start-up companies; developing local market; expanding Mainland and overseas markets; fostering a creative atmosphere within the community; developing creative clusters; and supporting the organisation of signature events to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital. CreateHK provides financial support to projects conducive to the development of creative industries through the DesignSmart Initiative (DSI) (Note 1), the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and the Film Development Fund (FDF) as well as other general non-recurrent grant and internal resources, etc.

(a) For projects funded by CreateHK that took place or commenced in 2012-13 (some of

which straddle 2012-13 or previous years and 2013-14), the total funding involved is around $192 million (Note 2). The table below lists the project categories by creative sectors:

Creative Sectors	Project Categories
Advertising	Sponsoring graduate internship and support schemes; developing an online platform to introduce digital advertising companies; supporting the participation of local talents from the advertising sector in international advertising competitions, etc.
Architecture	Sponsoring the organisation of the Hong Kong Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2011-12, the Cross-Strait Architectural Design Symposium & Award, the setting up of the Hong Kong Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale and the development of a teaching kit for secondary school students, etc.
Design	Organising the Hong Kong Design Year 2012; sponsoring competitions and award presentation ceremonies that celebrate design excellence and identify new talents, the World Design Summer Camp and overseas exchange programmes, television programmes, forums and exhibitions aiming to promote design, DETOUR and Business of Design Week (BoDW), and the running of the Design Incubation Programme (DIP) and the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme (DBCS), etc.
Film	Staging the Hong Kong Contemporary Film Showcase in Taipei; sponsoring the industry's promotion of Hong Kong films at the Cannes Film Festival and sponsoring the 37th Hong Kong International Film Festival; launching the First Feature Film Initiative; organising the "Hong Kong Film New Action - Idea · Action · Your NEXT" Workshop and Forum, etc.
Digital Entertainment	Sponsoring graduate support schemes and the development of on-line and smart phone platforms for global promotion and distribution of comics works; sponsoring the organisation of different kinds of training programmes, competitions and summits; sponsoring the promotion of Hong Kong animation-comics and digital entertainment at major exhibitions held in Mainland and Hong Kong; supporting the industry in its bid to host mega events like the SIGGRAPH Asia in Hong Kong; supporting start-up animation companies, etc.
Music	Sponsoring the organisation of the monthly concert "LiveTube" to provide a live performance platform for new and unsigned singers or bands, and the annual signature event "the Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival", etc.
Television	Sponsoring the participation of television-related small and medium sized enterprises in an annual forum held in Hong Kong, and the setting up of the "TV World" Pavilion at the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market, etc.
Publishing	Sponsoring the setting up of Hong Kong Pavilion by the publishing and printing sectors at book fairs held in London, Beijing, Frankfurt and Taipei, etc.
Cross-sector	Sponsoring the organisation of the "Hong Kong Short Film: New Action Express" which aims at supporting the participation of local short films and animations in overseas competitions, the Film Seeds Project that provides secondary school students with knowledge in film and short videos production, seminars and large scale exhibitions held in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong creative products and brands, the MaD which is an annual creative signature event for the youth; and organising a creative industry delegation to attend the Second Hong Kong – Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Forum held in Taipei, etc.

Regarding the promotion of sound broadcasting, the Radio Television Hong Kong and the three licensees have been working together to build sound broadcasting transmission stations while the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), as the regulatory body, provides the licensees with technical advice on the coverage and reception. In 2012-13, the Government introduced a series of publicity and promotional measures (e.g. organising industry forums, producing Announcements in the Public Interest, advertising on televisions and radio, etc.) to enhance public knowledge of the newly introduced digital audio broadcasting service. The

expenditure involved is around $3.2 million.

(b) In 2013-14, CreateHK will continue to provide financial support to projects conducive to the development of the creative industries. At present, around $46 million has been committed for projects that will commence in 2013-14 (Note 3). The table below lists the project categories by creative sectors:

Creative Sectors	Projects or its Category
Architecture	Sponsoring the organisation of the Hong Kong Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2013
Design	Sponsoring the organisation of the Knowledge of Design Week, the EcoChic Design Award and large-scale award presentation activities and the BoDW, and continue the running of the DIP and the DBCS, etc.
Film	Sponsoring the organisation of the 38th Hong Kong International Film Festival
Digital Entertainment	Launching the promotion campaign for the "Ani-Com Summer" (tentative English title) and funding the related activities (e.g. the Ani-Com Summer Carnival and the International Animation Festival), and promoting Hong Kong comics at the Xiamen Hong Kong Week, etc.
Publishing	Sponsoring the setting up of Hong Kong Pavilion by Hong Kong publishers and printers at the Frankfurt Book Fair and the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Note 1: To rationalise funding support for the creative industries and achieve better co-ordination in the use of resources, the DSI and the CSI began phased consolidation on 1 June 2011.

Note 2: The projects listed took place or commenced in 2012-13, including some approved in or before 2011-12. Thus, the amount of funding involved is not limited to the funding approved in 2012-13.

Note 3: The projects listed are only those with funding committed for project commencement in 2013-14. Projects that commenced in 2012-13 or before but with certain parts yet to take place in 2013-14 are not included. The amount of funding is the lump sum CreateHK approves for the projects concerned and the estimated expenditure of the DIP and the DBCS in 2013-14. Projects pending approval or submission of funding applications are not included.

Regarding the promotion of sound broadcasting, the Administration will continue the measures mentioned in Part (a) in 2013-14 as appropriate.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)148

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4984

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: To cope with the increasing demand for mobile data service, will the Administration introduce measures to ensure there is adequate network capacity in the market? Has the Administration deployed resources to assess the impact of the re-assignment of the frequency spectrum for 3G mobile services on the service operators and the quality of 3G and 4G mobile services? If so, what do the specific measures embody and what are the required resources and manpower? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: It is a global problem that existing spectrum are insufficient to cope with rapid growth in mobile data service. The International Telecommunication Union is actively considering ways to provide extra spectrum to meet market demand. We will closely monitor the global development and take part in the relevant discussions at the World Radiocommunication Conference.

To cope with the ever-growing mobile data service, we conducted a number of auctions in recent years to assign radio spectrum to operators for them to introduce and enhance services. We auctioned the radio spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band in January 2009, the radio spectrum in the 1800 MHz band in June 2009, the radio spectrum in the 850 MHz and 900 MHz bands in March 2011 and the radio spectrum in the 2.3 GHz band in February 2012. Besides, we have just successfully auctioned another part of radio spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band in March 2013. These auctions make available 259.6 MHz of radio spectrum to the market for mobile network operators to provide the required network capacity to cope with the ever-growing mobile data service.

In December 2011, the former Telecommunications Authority introduced a regulatory framework for femtocell deployment to promote the use of femtocell in Hong Kong so that operators can make use of radio spectrum more effectively to increase mobile network capacity and improve the indoor coverage of such networks.

On the other hand, we are exploring the assignment of digital dividend from analogue TV switch-off to mobile telecommunications services. We are now coordinating with the Mainland authorities regarding the re-farm of the concerned spectrum with a view to assigning the released radio spectrum to mobile telecommunications services.

As to the impact of the re-assignment of frequency spectrum for 3G mobile services on mobile telecommunications services, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) has made an internal assessment in details and will engage an independent consultancy firm to provide technical advice on the issue. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)149

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4985

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Does the Administration need more resources and staff in order to handle matters concerning the newly-enacted Competition Ordinance? If so, what are the concrete arrangements?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: After the Competition Ordinance comes into operation, the newly-setup Competition Commission (CC) will be responsible for enforcement while the Communications Authority (CA) will be given concurrent jurisdiction to investigate anti-competitive conduct in the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors and exercise the relevant enforcement powers including the referral of cases to the Competition Tribunal (CT). Upon the implementation of the Competition Ordinance, the competition provisions in the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap 106) and the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap 562) will be abolished, with transitional arrangements put in place.

Given CA's additional function arising from the Competition Ordinance, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) will have to monitor closely the legal proceedings in respect of every case of anti-competitive conduct referred to the CT; follow up the implementation of the Competition Ordinance, including assisting the CA in its discussion with the CC over concurrent jurisdiction arrangements and working out the relevant guidelines; and oversee investigations into cases of merger and acquisition involving holders of carrier's licences in the telecommunications sector, etc. in accordance with the Competition Ordinance. To cope with the additional workload, OFCA will add staff and resources as appropriate. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters: Miss Susie HO

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)150

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4986

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the current progress achieved by the Administration in facilitating the installation of radio base stations and Wi-Fi systems by mobile network operators and public wireless service operators at government facilities (e.g. lamp posts, footbridges and flyovers)? How will the Administration facilitate them? Please provide information setting out the work plan, timetable, and the required manpower and resources.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) has issued the "Guidance Note for Submission of Application for Installing Micro-cell Base Station on Highway Facilities or on Unleased and Unallocated Government Land" to facilitate mobile network operators and public wireless service operators in the installation of radio base stations and Wi-Fi equipment on government facilities (e.g. lamp posts, footbridges and flyovers). The Guidance Note sets out in details the procedures, requirements and issues concerning the installation of micro-cell base stations (MCBS) at the said locations to facilitate the submission of applications by operators. The latest version of the Guidance Notes has been uploaded to the website of the Communications Authority (http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/tc/upload/121/MCBS-GN(Issue4)v4.pdf) for the operators' reference. The departments involved in approving the applications include OFCA, the Lands Department and the Highways Department (HyD).

From time to time, mobile network operators submit to the departments concerned applications for installation of radio base stations on lamp posts in accordance with their business decisions and needs. As at end February 2013, five applications have been fowarded to the departments concerned for action after OFCA gave its initial consent.

Regarding the installation of Wi-Fi equipment on footbridges, one fixed network operator has submitted to OFCA and the departments concerned applications to install Wi-Fi equipment on footbridges. The applications have received OFCA's initial consent. The other departments concerned have provided their views on the applications and invited the operator to submit further information to facilitate processing of the applications. Reply is being awaited.

As for installation of Wi-Fi equipment on lamp posts, two fixed network operators have submitted to OFCA and the departments concerned applications to conduct pilot tests. One of them conducted the tests in 2008. The departments concerned have also provided views on the pilot project of the other operator. With the assistance of OFCA, HyD and the operators are now working together to review and rationalise the approval process and installation requirements in order that the operators can further make use of lamp posts to install MCBS. HyD will soon provide the operators with a list for their reference. The list contains information such as location and height of lamp posts available for installation of Wi-Fi equipment and the list was drawn up based on information provided by the operators in recent years as to the weight and wind exposure area of their Wi-Fi equipment. The operators may also apply as necessary to install Wi-Fi equipment on other lamp posts in accordance with the procedures set out in the "Guidance Note for Submission of Application for Installing Micro-cell Base Station on Highway Facilities or on Unleased and Unallocated Government Land". Besides, the operators will coordinate among themselves to give HyD uniform design of MCBS for endorsement. The costs of staff and resources involved in the abovementioned work of OFCA will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)151

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5350

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Communications and Technology Branch completed the consultancy study on the implications of the development of next generation networks on the telecommunications regulatory framework. When will the Administration announce the outcome summing up the consultant's recommendations, operators' opinions and findings of the review? In 2013-14, what will the Government do to follow up the review of existing legislations, and what are the plan and timetable for working out proposals and conducting consultation?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: In 2011-12, the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (now known as the Office of Communications Authority (OFCA)) commissioned a consultancy study on the implications of the next generation networks ("NGN") on the telecommunications regulatory framework in Hong Kong. The study was completed in January 2012. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and OFCA then briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting in March 2012 on the major recommendations put forward by the consultant and the implementation timetable.

The study has reviewed a number of issues in relation to the telecommunications regulatory framework, including interconnection (e.g. charge, architecture and technical standards of interconnection), next generation access, network security and emergency call service. For these areas, the consultant has put forward various recommendations. Some of the recommendations could be taken forward shortly while some are to be considered in the longer term.

For recommendations that could be taken forward in the short term, such as the charging principles of fixed-fixed interconnection charge, the Communications Authority (CA) issued a consultation paper on reviewing the relevant regulatory guidance in November 2012 after considering the consultant's recommendations. The consultation ended in January 2013. The CA is now considering the submissions received and will announce in due course the result of the review and new arrangements for interconnection between fixed carriers.

For other recommendations including the development of next generation access, architecture and technical standards of interconnection, network security standards, standards for effective sharing of in-building telecommunications system and emergency call service, the OFCA has

invited the relevant advisory committee and its working group to follow up on them and discuss with the telecommunications industry on the feasibility and/or implementation of the recommendations.

Regarding other recommendations, some of which, including the review of the basis for determining interconnection charges under Section 36A of the Telecommunications Ordinance, could only be further pursued having regard to the development of NGN in Hong Kong, the Government and OFCA will closely monitor such development in Hong Kong and follow up the issues in due course.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)152

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3578

Head: 55 – Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Mobile phone users are required to pay $12 a month in MTR, tunnel and licence fees. It adds up to $1 billion being collected each year. However, members of the public often experience interruptions to their phone conversation while travelling on the MTR. Will the Communications Authority review the Telecommunications Ordinance to require telecommunications service operators to enhance their network coverage? If yes, what are the details? If no, why?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply: The mobile communications services market in Hong Kong is already fully open upon service introduction in the 1980s, with prices being market-driven and prior approval by the Communications Authority not required. The "MTR, tunnel and licence fees" referred to by the Member are service charges set by the telecommunications service operators in accordance with their business decisions. It has nothing to do with performance pledges or any provisions under the Telecommunications Ordinance.

As to coverage of mobile phone networks, we do not require the operators to provide 100% network coverage given the market-driven principle.

In general, the coverage of 2G and 3G networks in MTR premises now provided by various operators are working well. In individual stations or MTR tunnels, the quality of voice and data services will vary with factors such as coverage of individual mobile networks, data flow and customer number. The introduction of 4G network services in Hong Kong took place in November 2010. Despite the short time of 4G services introduction, operators have been active in enhancing network coverage. According to information provided by the MTRC, rollout of 4G network services in MTR premises began in November 2012 and it is expected that 4G services will cover all MTR stations by mid-2013.

Although the Telecommunications Ordinance and the relevant licensing conditions do not require telecommunications service operators to provide 100% network coverage, the coverage of most 2G and 3G networks in MTR premises now provided by various operators are, as stated above, working well in general. The Administration does not have plans to review the Telecommunications Ordinance to require telecommunications service operators to enhance their network coverage.

Name in block letters:	Miss Susie HO
Post Title:	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Date:	8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)153

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3422

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Budget announced the provision of annual funding of $4 m for 3 years to each of the 6 universities in support of their technology transfer. What are the details and specific estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: In recent years, the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have been actively promoting the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results into products and services. To further enhance the work in this area, the Innovation and Technology Commission will provide annual funding of up to $4 m for about 3 years (i.e. 2013-14 to 2015-16) to each of the 6 institutions engaged in R&D on technology and designated as local public research institutions. The scope of funding includes professional support services such as legal advice and intellectual property rights protection, and promotion of R&D results to the industry, etc. Our aim is to assist universities in transferring outstanding R&D results into real world applications to the benefit of the community.

We propose to provide the funding by reimbursement at the end of each financial year. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the initiative in due course and expect to release the details of the scheme to the institutions in the middle of this year. We will also conduct a review on the effectiveness of the initiative in 2015.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)154

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5000

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide the respective total funding injected into the various funds under the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) since their inception; the respective current balance of such funds available for funding support; the administrative cost of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) over the past 5 years (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); the annual administrative cost as a percentage of ITF investments; and the details of such administrative cost.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The ITC administers two funds, namely (1) the ITF and (2) the Applied Research Fund (ARF).

(1) The ITF was set up in 1999 with funding of $5 b approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. As at end-January 2013, more than 3 100 projects were approved under ITF at a total commitment of $7.3 b. Taking into account the accumulated income over the years (mainly investment income from the ITF balance), the balance of ITF (i.e. available to support new projects) was $1.4 b.

(2) In 2005, the Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the outcome of the ARF review. As agreed with the Panel, we decided to wind down the ARF and cease making new investments. The Government has injected a total of $750 m to the ARF, of which $375 m has been returned to the Government by the Applied Research Council in 2009. As at January 2013, the cash balance and the valuation of the outstanding investments of ARF totalled $257 m.

The administration of the ITF involves the work of ITC under different programmes. Some of the relevant staff are also responsible for different schemes/projects under a particular programme or the work of other programmes. As we do not have the breakdown on the administrative cost of ITF only, figure on the ITF administrative cost as a percentage of ITF investments is not available.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)155

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5002

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Applied Research Fund (ARF) has ceased making new investments since the expiry of its investment period in end-March 2005. Nevertheless, ARF is still incurring expenditure as it is required to report the progress of its remaining investment projects to the Legislative Council on a regular basis. What are the annual staff establishment and total expenditure incurred by ARF over the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? Does the Administration have any plan to reduce such expenditure? Given that there have been views from the technology industry and investment sector requesting the Government to reinstate a fund similar to ARF for providing direct funding for innovation and technology and venture capital, does the Administration have any plan to consult the industry? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: In 2005, the Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry (LegCo C&I Panel) on the review results of the ARF, and as agreed with the Panel, we decided to wind down the ARF and cease making new investments.

The Applied Research Council (ARC) will continue to work closely with venture capital firms in monitoring and managing the ARF's remaining investment projects with a view to making appropriate exit arrangements. During the process of winding down the ARF, the ARC will take into account the overall market condition, the development of individual projects, effective use of public money and other relevant considerations.

The provision for the ARF falls under Programme (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship, which mainly covers the administration of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under the Innovation and Technology Fund and publicity through talks and seminars, monitoring of the progress of funded projects under SERAP and monitoring of the work relating to the ARF. Given that the staff of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) responsible for monitoring the work relating to the ARF also have to undertake other duties (such as implementing the enhanced SERAP and promoting SERAP), it is difficult to provide a breakdown on the staff establishment and expenditure relating to the ARF.

In addition, the ARF involves other administrative costs (e.g. fees for fund managers, legal consultation, accounting and auditing services). In 2010-11 and 2011-12, the relevant expenditure was $720,000 and $750,000 respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is $540,000. We consider the level of expenditure reasonable.

The ITC will review in due course the existing funding schemes and the level of support for the technology industry to enable more effective boost to applied research projects so as to bring greater benefits to the community.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)156

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5003

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Government has been supporting entrepreneurship through initiatives including start-up support services, incubation programmes and Micro Fund funding provided by Cyberport and the Hong Kong Science Park. Has the Government set any performance indicators for these programmes and assessed their performance regularly? If yes, what are the details and results of the assessment? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Cyberport Creative Micro Fund (CCMF) Scheme and Cyberport Incubation Programme administered by the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, as well as the Business Incubation Programme administered by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) are being operated by these two companies on their own and monitored by their boards of directors, which are appointed by the Government.

(a) CCMF Scheme and Cyberport Incubation Programme

The CCMF Scheme and Cyberport Incubation Programme are inter-related: the former provides seed funding for start-ups to translate their innovative ideas into prototypes; the latter provides rent-free offices, information technology facilities, business support, as well as business and technology guidance and training to help companies develop their prototypes into marketable products.

Since the launch of the CCMF Scheme in 2009 and up to end-February 2013, a total of 53 companies have been funded. 24 of these companies have applied for admission to the Cyberport Incubation Programme and 22 have been admitted for further development.

For the Cyberport Incubation Programme, since its introduction in 2005 and up to end-February 2013, a total of 189 companies have been admitted, of which 67 are being nurtured and 96 have graduated. 82 of the graduates are still in operation (the survival rate is 85%). These companies have won a total of 106 industry awards, developed 103 intellectual property items, and attracted funding of over HK$55 m from angel investment funds.

(b) Business Incubation Programme

HKSTPC operates the Business Incubation Programme which provides technology start-ups with subsidised rent and supporting services in marketing, finance, technology and management in their critical initial years of operation. HKSTPC reviews the effectiveness of the Programme and enhances it regularly.

Since the launch of the Programme in 1992(Note) and up to end-February 2013, a total of 493 companies have been admitted, of which 115 are being nurtured and 285 have graduated. Amongst the over 70% graduates still in operation, 3 have been listed in Hong Kong and 1 in the United States. These companies have filed over 600 intellectual property registration.

Based on the operation experience of the Programme, HKSTPC has introduced enhancements, including the launch of the Incu-App Programme in February 2012 to help technology start-ups engage in developing web-based applications, mobile apps or games. This new Programme is well received by the industry and currently some 30 companies engaging in related businesses are being nurtured.

(Note) The former Hong Kong Industrial Technology Centre Corporation introduced the Incubation Programme in 1992. In May 2001, this Corporation merged with the Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation and the Provisional Hong Kong Science Park Company Ltd. to form HKSTPC.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)157

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4623

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Does each of the 5 Research and Development (R&D) Centres set up in April 2006 receive the same amount of funding from the Government? If not, what are the reasons for such arrangement? Does the Government have any plan to set up more R&D Centres to meet future needs?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The Government set up 5 R&D Centres in April 2006 to drive and co-ordinate applied R&D in 5 focus technology areas and promote commercialisation of R&D results. The expenditure of the R&D Centres include R&D expenditure and operating expenditure.

The R&D expenditure is supported by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) on individual R&D project basis. Depending on the number and types of the projects commenced in the year, the amount of R&D expenditure funded by the ITF for different R&D Centres varies. For example, the ITF funding support under different funding schemes ranges from 50% to 90% of the total cost on R&D. As at end-2012, the 5 R&D Centres have conducted over 500 R&D projects with ITF funding of $2.6 b.

The operating expenditure of 4 R&D Centres (i.e. the Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS), Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI), Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) and R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM)) is met by the total commitment of $918.2 m approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council. The operating expenditure of the R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) is met from Government's annual recurrent subvention to ASTRI.

The estimate on annual operating expenditure for each R&D Centre is prepared based on factors including the development of their respective focus technology areas, industry needs, work focus, the scale and mode of operation, manpower, the number of R&D projects to be commenced and the services provided to the industry, and therefore varies among the Centres. The operating expenditure of the 5 R&D Centres for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as follows:

	Operating cost ($ m)		
	Total FC Funding	2012-13 (Revised estimate)	2013-14 (Estimate)
APAS	228.2	17.9	22.7
ICT	Not applicable (Note)	134.5	134.5
HKRITA	153.6	24.4	25.6
LSCM	151.2	22.6	21.6
NAMI	385.2	40.2	50.0
Total:	918.2	239.6	254.4

Note: The operating cost of ICT is funded by the Government's annual recurrent subvention to ASTRI.

Since the establishment of the 5 R&D Centres, we have been closely monitoring their operation. We have reviewed on their mode of operation and performance and reported the outcome and enhancement measures to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, with a view to strengthening our support for the R&D Centres' work on realisation and commercialisation of R&D results and ensuring that their work meets industry needs. In May 2012, with the support of the Panel, we sought FC's approval for additional commitment to extend the operation of APAS and NAMI up to March 2017 and the operation of HKRITA and LSCM up to March 2015. The operating expenditure of ICT under ASTRI will continue to be funded by the Government's annual subvention to ASTRI. At present, the Government does not have any plan to set up more R&D Centres.

As in previous years, we will sumbit a detailed report on the work of the R&D Centres to the Panel in June 2013.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)158

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4624

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP), how many applications were rejected and not processed over the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? What are the main reasons for rejecting and not processing these applications? Please provide a breakdown by reason?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13 (as at end-February 2013)), the ITSP under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) received a total of 1 491 applications, of which 431 were approved, 153 are being processed, and the remaining 907 were either withdrawn by the applicants or rejected after assessment.

The ITF mainly promotes and supports applied research and development projects which can contribute to innovation and technology upgrading in industry. In assessing an application, we will carry out an in-depth and comprehensive assessment in accordance with established vetting criteria, including the project's innovation and technology content, quality of technical submission, competence of the technical team, financial considerations (e.g. industry contribution; whether the budget/expenditure items are reasonable), existence of a holistic plan for realisation/commercialisation, relevance with government policies or overall interest of the community, etc. Applications which fail to meet the above vetting criteria or are generally not up to a certain standard will not receive funding from the ITF.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)159

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4625

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the specific details of the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme launched by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC)? What is the level of cash rebate? How does the Administration encourage public research institutions to join the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In April 2010, the Administration launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. Administered by the ITC, the Scheme provides private companies with 30% cash rebate for their investments in projects funded under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) (ITF projects) and applied R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions (Partnership projects). Details of the Scheme, including application forms and the Application Guide, are available at the website of the Scheme (http://crs.itc.gov.hk).

At present, the designated public research institutions under the Scheme already include major public research institutions conducting applied R&D in Hong Kong, i.e. the 6 local universities engaging in science and technology, the 5 R&D Centres set up under ITC, Hong Kong Productivity Council and Vocational Training Council. In February this year, we reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry the initial 3-year operation of the Scheme and the proposed enhancement measures, including addition of the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology as a designated local public research institution with effect from 1 April this year. We will continue to promote the Scheme through various channels so that more private companies can benefit from the Scheme.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)160

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4626

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the details of the various activities of the InnoTech Month (ITM) 2012 organised by the Government and the number of participants of the event? What are the expenditure and manpower involved? Has a review on this ITM been conducted? If yes, what are the areas for improvement? Besides, will the Government organise a similar event in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: In 2012-13, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) organised the ITM 2012 in collaboration with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, youth groups, social service agencies, the academia and business sectors, and relevant government departments, etc. The event featured activities including roadshows, exhibitions, innovation workshops, guided tours, forums, competitions, a large-scale carnival, a variety show, industry conferences and seminars, attracting some 210 000 visits. The total departmental expenditure involved is about $10 m. Apart from the departmental expenditure, the collaborating organisations were also funded by the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund to co-organise the event.

The above activities were mainly co-ordinated with the joint efforts of about 10 officers from various divisions of ITC, some of whom are also responsible for duties under other areas.

The ITM 2012 has helped promote the innovation and technology culture in the community and create a stronger atmosphere of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. In particular, the 9-day flagship event InnoCarnival 2012 has been well received, attracting a record high of participants.

In 2013-14, ITC will once again partner with various organisations in organising the ITM 2013. We will further enhance our event calendar to facilitate and attract more participation from the public.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)161

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4627

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology Development

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Innovation and Technology Commission indicated in the Budget that the monthly allowance for interns under the Internship Programme will be increased.

(a) What is the current monthly allowance for the interns?

(b) What will be the increase?

(c) How many interns are granted the allowance currently? What are the areas of their research?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: (a)&(b)

To encourage more local university graduates to participate in the Internship Programme (the Programme), the Government announced in the 2012 Budget that starting from 1 February 2012, the monthly allowance for interns would be increased from $10,000 to $12,000 for interns who possess a Bachelor degree, and from $12,000 to $14,000 for those with a Master or higher degree. We will continue to monitor the number of applications and promote the Programme to encourage more university graduates to engage in research and development. Currently we have no plan to further increase the monthly allowance for interns.

(c) A total of 502 interns were funded in 2012 and the estimated number for 2013 is 550. The areas of their research include biotechnology, Chinese medicine, electrical and electronics, environmental technology, information and communications technology, manufacturing technology and nanotechnology, etc.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)162

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4628

Head: 155 – Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Innovation and Technology Commission mentioned in the Budget the revitalisation of the Industrial Estates (IEs). Please inform us of the plan, the locations selected and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply: The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) manages the 3 local IEs located in Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tseng Kwan O.

To ensure effective use of valuable land and to release under-utilised sites to meet short to medium term demand, HKSTPC has been actively monitoring the use of IE land and encouraging grantees that are not fully utilising their sites to start new projects, surrender the sites or assign the sites to other companies meeting the IE admission criteria.

Since 2007, 26 sites have been revitalised through assignment, involving an aggregated area of 26 hectares, or 12% of the total land of the 3 IEs (i.e. 217 hectares). Compared with the 19 assignments approved in the first 29 years of IE operation, i.e. from 1978 to 2006, the number of assignments has risen significantly in recent years. The new grantees were from the high-tech industries, such as biotechnology. HKSTPC will continue to closely liaise with the IE grantees to promote revitalisation.

As HKSTPC is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance, the expenses for revitalisation of IEs are not included in the Government expenditure.

Name in block letters: Miss Janet WONG

Post Title: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)163

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5250

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide information on the number and manpower of district cyber centres, number of activities held by district cyber centres as well as the relevant expenditure involved in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13). Does the Administration review how the above measures can meet the objective of supporting the disadvantaged youth?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply: The District Cyber Centres Scheme (the Scheme) aims at establishing a support network among district cyber centres operated by community services organisations across the territory to facilitate the provision of computer facilities, Internet access services, training and technical support to help various needy groups including the youth, the elderly, women, etc. adopt information and communications technology (ICT), with a view to facilitating their integration into the society.

We commissioned the District Cyber Centres Alliance (DCCA), which comprised the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Internet Professional Association, to implement the Scheme. Since its inception in 2008-09, the Scheme had helped the affiliated centres purchase over 1 000 computers for use by centre members and visitors. Around 6 000 computer training courses were organised, with over 250 000 participants and 600 000 man-hours in using the computer facilities in the centres or attending the computer training courses and ICT-related activities. The number of affiliated centres had increased from 33 at Scheme launch to 57 in various parts of the territory. In the past 5 years, the Government provided funding support totalling HK$26.56 million for the implementation of the Scheme, while DCCA also solicited sponsorship of over HK$28 million, in cash or in kind, to make the Scheme more effective.

The Scheme has successfully achieved its missions of empowering district cyber centres, establishing collaborative network among them, and building up an effective platform for coordinating the sourcing of commercial support and sponsorship. With the satisfactory achievement of these objectives, we have entrusted the Information Technology Resource Centre (ITRC) of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, one of the constituting parties of DCCA, to maintain the operation of the Scheme on a self-financing basis from 2012-13 onwards. A one-off grant of HK$1 million was provided to ITRC to enable it to tide over the transition. With its community and business network, ITRC will continue to support the district cyber centres and address the latest service needs of the centres.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)164

Question Serial No

4979

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer promulgated good practices on green data centre management in 2012. Does the Administration have any plan to require the operators of information technology equipment and data centre facilities outside the Government to provide information on their electricity consumption, and encourage the industry to monitor and enhance energy efficiency? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The operation of data centres does not require government approval, and electricity consumption is the commercial information of data centres. The Government has no plan to require private-sector organisations to submit information on the electricity consumption of their information technology equipment and data centre facilities. Since energy expenditure is a major operating cost of data centres, we have reason to believe that data centres will adopt energy saving measures to reduce their operating costs. To our understanding, many refurbished and newly constructed data centres have already introduced energy saving measures in construction and operation, including optimisation of air flow and chiller systems, virtualisation of computer servers, etc. In addition, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has promulgated best practices on green data centre management and other energy saving information through the data centre thematic portal for reference by the industry.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)165

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4980

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Does the Administration assess whether the data centres within the Government (including the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer) and all those operated by other government departments/departments adhere to the best practices on green data centre management, and monitor and enhance energy efficiency? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: In 2010, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) promulgated the Green Data Centre Practices for reference and adoption by bureaux and departments (B/Ds) in their data centre management. In 2011, OGCIO conducted a survey on the Green Data Centre Practices among relevant B/Ds, the result of which showed that all relevant B/Ds have undertaken to adopt the recommended practices, and would fully implement these recommendations when renewing systems and facilities as well as setting up new data centres. Moreover, B/Ds would enhance existing facilities for better energy efficiency on condition that their operational services would not be affected. For example, for the 3 data centres managed by OGCIO, we have made reference to the Government's green procurement policy and green product standards promulgated by the Environment Bureau in procuring computer equipment. In addition, we are progressively switching to energy-efficient air conditioning systems, uninterruptible power systems and diesel generators. We have installed green fire protection and lighting systems, raised the room temperature, implemented virtualised infrastructure, and adopted the design to separate hot and cold air when enhancing existing computer systems and installing new systems. We will continue to regularly exchange views with relevant B/Ds on the adoption of the Green Data Centre Practices, and arrange training, experience sharing sessions and workshops for B/Ds to promote such practices.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)166

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4981

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding facilitating data centre development in Hong Kong, what specific promotional programmes does the Administration implement to attract large Internet companies from overseas and the Mainland to set up data centres in Hong Kong? Does the Administration consider providing appropriate business facilitation incentives and tax concessions, so as to maintain the advantage of Hong Kong as a prime location for setting up data centres in the Asia Pacific region? If so, what are the specific work objectives, details and time-table?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Government is committed to promoting data centre development and has implemented a host of facilitation measures to attract overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong. These measures include providing land for high-tier data centre development, introducing incentive measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings for data centre development, setting up the Data Centre Facilitation Unit to provide one-stop services, and working with government department on measures to facilitate the setting up of data centres taking into account the unique mode of operation of data centres.

Hong Kong was ranked the safest place in Asia for setting up data centres by the Data Centre Risk Index for 2 consecutive years in 2011 and 2012. In addition, Hong Kong has a pro-business environment, sophisticated and advanced telecommunications infrastructure, free flow of information, and a low and simple taxation regime. All these are major factors in attracting overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up data centres in Hong Kong. Currently a number of international and Mainland enterprises have selected Hong Kong to set up their high-tier data centres. The Government has no plan to provide tax concession.

We will continue to promote Hong Kong's many competitive advantages via different channels to attract more overseas and Mainland enterprises (including large Internet companies) to set up high-tier, mission-critical and highly reliable- data centres in Hong Kong.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)167

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4982

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration had indicated that it would strive to ensure government websites' conformance to Level AA standard of the latest version (i.e. Version 2.0) of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines promulgated by the World Wide Web Consortium by 2013. In this regard, please inform the Committee of the following:

(a) Please list those government websites which have conformed to the standard and those have not.

(b) The percentage of government websites which have conformed to the standard against the total number of government websites.

(c) The financial resources and manpower allocated to facilitate government websites' conformance to the web accessibility standard in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

(d) There is concern from the industry that the promotion of web accessibility might be too hastily, and this might lead to cost increase since there are insufficient talents and organisations that have the experience and capability in assessing the relevant standards. Does the Administration evaluate the impacts brought about by web accessibility promotion on the industry? And does it have any plan to allocate resources to assist in training talents in this field? If so, what is the time-table? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: (a) In 2012, we required Government websites to conform to Level AA standard of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) promulgated by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) within practicable means by 2013. At present, the websites of 69 bureaux and departments (B/Ds) have already achieved conformance to this latest standard. The remaining 14 B/Ds will complete necessary enhancement later in 2013 or 2014 to tie in with the progress of their website upgrade or redevelopment.

(b) About 80% of government websites have already conformed to the latest web accessibility standard.

(c) Since 1999, Government websites have been designed with reference to WCAG 1.0 promulgated by W3C. Upgrading the websites from WCAG 1.0 to 2.0 generally does not require significant changes. Website owners can incorporate the latest accessibility features during regular website update or redevelopment. The manpower and resources involved are absorbed in the overall project budget for website update or redevelopment without separate breakdown on web accessibility.

(d) Given that Government websites have been adopting web accessibility features in accordance with international standards since 1999, most of our website development service providers and practitioners are already equipped with knowledge and experience in web accessibility. Since the update from WCAG 1.0 to WCAG 2.0 generally do not require substantial changes to the websites, there should not be major impacts on the industry.

To further enhance awareness and technical know-how on web accessibility in the industry, we organised 3 workshops last year for information and communications technology (ICT) practitioners. A total of 84 practitioners attended. In addition, we have developed a thematic portal (www.webforall.gov.hk) to share related techniques and resources, various testing methods and best practices on web accessibility. Through the portal, we also provide information on relevant service providers to help B/Ds and other organisations procure the required services.

Furthermore, with a view to nurturing future talents in this area, we have invited all tertiary institutions to incorporate web accessibility in their ICT curriculum to inculcate their students with the relevant professional knowledge and ethics. 11 tertiary institutions have undertaken to implement this initiative.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)168

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4983

Head: 47 – Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding promoting the value-added re-use of public sector information (PSI), please provide information on the types and quantity of PSI (disseminated via Data.One portal) that the Administration plans to add/increase in the future. What are the work progress, plans and time-table? Will the Administration increase manpower and resources to support its work in this regard in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the "Data.One" portal in March 2011 to disseminate public sector information free of charge for value-added re-use. We have been rolling out new datasets since 2012-13. At present, the portal features a total of 12 types of data, encompassing hundreds of datasets.

We proactively discuss the opening up of new datasets with various bureaux and departments. We are planning to make available information on products exempted from nutrition labelling as well as historical pictures. If necessary, we will consider deployment of additional manpower and resources to support this area of work.

Name in block letters: Daniel LAI

Post Title: Government Chief Information Officer

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)169

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4201

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Currently, does RTHK plan to broadcast the more popular Radio 1 and Radio 2 programmes via the digital audio broadcasting (DAB) platform? RTHK stated that "new programme content will be introduced for the DAB channels gradually" in 2013-14, please give details of the new programme(s) to be introduced? What are the main nature(s) of the new programme(s)? What are the additional expenses involved in introduction of new programme(s)?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: At present, the RTHK DAB platform simulcasts mainly the AM channels with the aim of enhancing reception and sound quality. There is currently no plan for the relay of programmes from Radio 1 and Radio 2.

The new programmes on RTHK DAB channels in 2013 include relay of local football matches, docent-style music tours, oral presentation of movies, sound of the nature and presentation of audio books. Relay of the Legislative Council meetings and introduction of CIBS programmes will start from April and July 2013 respectively.

As regards the expenses, the manpower and production cost for DAB is approximately $4.3 million in 2013-14, which is the same as that in 2012-13.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)170

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4203

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) has been officially running for nearly half a year, would RTHK inform the Committee:

(a) The number of audience of each DAB channel – in the past 7 days (expressed in % / million)

(b) The proportion of audience listening to the same programme via traditional AM / FM channels versus the DAB channels;

(c) This year, are there any measures implemented by RTHK to encourage audience switching to DAB programs? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: (a)&(b) Given that the Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) service has been launched only very recently, it will take time for the number of audience to accumulate. At present, there are only 14 % of the population in Hong Kong who have owned the digital radio set according to the latest report. So far, no survey has been conducted in regard to the number of audience of individual channels, and their proportion on listening to AM/FM channels and DAB channels.

(c) Since the soft launch of the RTHK DAB services, exhibitions and road shows have been rolled out on a territory-wide scale. A dedicated website and enquiry hotlines were set up. Advertisements and API(s)/radio announcement(s) have also been used to encourage listening to DAB channels. RTHK will hold a new round of publicity in the second half of 2013.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)171

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4205

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Under this Programme, the estimate for 2013-14 has a growth of $94.2 million (32.2%) over the revised estimate for 2012-2013. This is mainly due to the creation of 92 additional posts. Among these additional posts, what are the respective numbers of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff? What is the distribution of such posts by rank and what are their remunerations?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will create 105 additional non-directorate civil service (CS) posts in 2013-14. Among them, 92 posts are included under Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme.

Among the 105 posts to be created, 85 are new posts for providing support to the development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) services. The main duties of these posts include programme production, acquisition and commissioning, media management, production support, engineering and technical support, and the provision of administration, procurement and supplies services. The ranks and salaries of the 85 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks
Chief Programme Officer	3	$87,340 - $100,625
Principal Programme Officer	4	$71,695 - $84,290
Senior Programme Officer	11	$55,850 - $68,735
Programme Officer	22	$43,450 - $54,665
Assistant Programme Officer	31	$22,405 - $41,495
Telecommunications Engineer	2	$52,220 - $84,290
Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	$27,245 - $41,495
Senior Executive Officer	1	$55,850 - $84,290
Executive Officer I	2	$43,450 - $54,665
Senior Clerical Officer	1	$33,020 - $41,495
Clerical Officer	2	$24,715 - $31,525
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	$11,520 - $23,530
Supplies Supervisor II	1	$11,520 - $23,530
Motor Driver	3	$13,085 - $15,805
Total	**85**	

The remaining 20 CS posts are created to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and rendering

support to the work of telecommunication engineering, information technology, procurement and supplies. The ranks and salaries of the 20 posts are as follows:

Grades and ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks
Principal Programme Officer	1	$71,695 - $84,290
Senior Programme Officer	1	$55,850 - $68,735
Programme Officer	4	$43,450 - $54,665
Assistant Programme Officer	8	$22,405 - $41,495
Telecommunications Engineer	3	$52,220 - $84,290
Chief Technical Officer	1	$65,695 - $74,785
Principal Technical Officer	1	$47,630 - $62,810
Assistant Supplies Officer	1	$15,805 - $39,640
Total	**20**	

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)172

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4700

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Currently, are there any measure(s) or guideline(s) that applied to encourage commissioning of local artists, writers, script writers or composers' works? Please advise whether the measures will involve additional expenditure? If yes, how much will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: As the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong, RTHK has been promoting creativity of local talents (artists, writers, script writers and composers) through the Commissioning Project since 2001. The project provides a platform for independent TV producers to showcase their talent. The project has also helped nurture local talents in the creative industry, especially in the following genres – documentary, drama and animation. Resources required for the Commissioning Project are already included in the recurrent cost of the department and no additional expenditure will be involved.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)173

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4703

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the planning of the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O, would the Administration please inform the Council on:

(a) The estimated total expenditure and manpower involved in the said project in 2012-13.

(b) The estimated total expenditure and manpower involved in the said project in 2013-14, as well as details of the project.

(c) Whether there is a timetable for commissioning the new Broadcasting House. If yes, please give the details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: (a)&(b) In 2011-12, 35 civil service posts and non-civil service contract positions were created for RTHK to cover the manpower required for the planning of the new Broadcasting House and the rest of new developments (including Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Services and the Media Asset Management). These posts have continued / will continue to undertake the aforesaid work in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Besides, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) estimates that the project will incur a total expenditure of around $5 million and $3 million under Head 703 Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 3100GX in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively for pre-contract consultancy services.

(c) In October 2012, four contractors were prequalified through tendering procedure to participate in the design and build contract for the new Broadcasting House. The tender of the contract was invited on 5 February 2013 with a closing date on 3 May 2013. Upon completion of the tendering procedure, RTHK will seek funding for the project through established mechanism, which is expected to be around the last quarter of 2013. Subject to approval of the necessary funding, construction of the new Broadcasting House is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2014 with a view to commissioning in the last quarter of 2018.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)174

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4705

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme, (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2013-14, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will create additional posts under three Programmes, namely 7 posts for Radio, 92 posts for Public Affairs and General Television Programme and 6 posts for New Media. Are these 105 vacancies created in the capacity of civil service contract posts? Will RTHK consider filling the vacancies with non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff serving in RTHK?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The 105 additional posts to be created by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2013-14 are non-directorate civil service (CS) posts. In accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations, RTHK will fill CS vacancies of basic ranks by open recruitment exercises. For vacancies of promotion ranks, RTHK will first consider internal promotion; if there are no or insufficient number of suitable officers to fill the vacancies, RTHK will then consider open recruitment. When RTHK conducts open recruitment exercises, serving NCSC staff who meet the entry requirements can make applications. These NCSC staff, with RTHK experiences and proven track records, will have a natural competitive edge in the recruitment exercises because relevant experience and job knowledge as well as good performance records are important aspects for assessment in the recruitment exercises.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)175

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3662

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Please provide details of the department's records management in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) as follows:

(a) The number and ranks of staff in the department responsible for records management; if there is no designated records management staff, for staff taking up records management duties as part of their responsibilities, please provide information on the manpower, their working hour(s) and scope of work related to records management;

(b) Please list out in the following table the details of closed programme and administrative files which have not yet been transferred to Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal;

Types of files	Years covered	Number and length in linear meters of files	GRS's approved retention period (in year)	Confidential or not

(c) Please list out in the following table the details of programme and administrative files which have been transferred to GRS for retention;

Types of files	Years covered	Number and length in linear meters of files	The year of transfer to GRS	GRS's approved retention period (in year)	Confidential or not

(d) Please list out in the following table the details of files which have obtained GRS's approval for disposal;

Types of files	Years covered	Number and length in linear meters of files	The year of transfer to GRS	GRS's approved retention period (in year)	Confidential or not

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: Details of records management in Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) are as follows:

(a) In accordance with the Government's records management policy, RTHK has designated officers of different ranks to perform records management duties and they report to a directorate officer responsible for overseeing these matters:

(i) 1 Chief Executive Officer is designated to serve as Departmental Records Manager (DRM) to devise, carry out and document departmental records management practices and procedures according to the guidelines and advice of Government Records Service (GRS);

(ii) 1 Senior Executive Officer is appointed to serve as Assistant Departmental Records Manager (ADRM) to assist the DRM in the execution of the duties concerned; and

(iii) 1 Executive Officer II assists the DRM and ADRM in the execution of the duties concerned.

Moreover, clerical grade officers of general registries of different divisions/sections (including 2 Senior Clerical Officers, 3 Clerical Officers, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers and 5 Clerical Assistants) and a Confidential Assistant assist the above-mentioned officers in the execution of certain records management duties.

In the course of performing daily duties, officers of different ranks in RTHK are involved in records management-related work.

(b) In the past three years, no programme file was closed and transferred by RTHK to GRS for appraisal. Details of the closed administrative files which have yet to be transferred to GRS for appraisal are as follows:

Types of Files	**Years covered**	**Number and length in linear meters of files**	**GRS's approved retention period (in year)**	**Confidential or not**
The files below were closed in 2010-11				
Administrative Files	1998 - 2011	1 file, total of 0.03 linear meters	2 to 3 years	Not confidential
	2004 - 2011	10 files, total of 0.3 linear meters		
	2006 - 2011	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2007 - 2011	5 files, total of 0.15 linear meters		
	2008 - 2011	7 files, total of 0.21 linear meters		
	2009 - 2011	7 files, total of 0.21 linear meters		
	2010 - 2011	5 files, total of 0.15 linear meters		
	2007 - 2010	8 files, total of 0.16 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Confidential
	1981 - 2010	92 files, total of 1.84 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Not confidential
The files below were closed in 2011-12				
Administrative Files	2004 - 2012	3 files, total of 0.09 linear meters	2 to 4 years	Not confidential
	2005 - 2012	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2007 - 2012	3 files, total of 0.09 linear meters		
	2008 - 2012	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2009 - 2012	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2010 - 2012	8 files, total of 0.24 linear meters		
	2011 - 2012	4 files, total of 0.12 linear meters		
	1995 - 2012	10 files, total of 0.2 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Confidential
	1974 - 2011	507 files, total of 10.14 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Not confidential

The files below were closed in 2012-13				
Administrative Files	2004 - 2013	15 files, total of 0.45 linear meters	2 to 3 years	Not confidential
	2005 - 2013	1 file, total of 0.03 linear meters		
	2007 - 2013	5 files, total of 0.15 linear meters		
	2008 - 2013	4 files, total of 0.12 linear meters		
	2009 - 2013	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2010 - 2013	3 files, total of 0.09 linear meters		
	2011 - 2013	5 files, total of 0.15 linear meters		
	2012 - 2013	2 files, total of 0.06 linear meters		
	2006 - 2012	11 files, total of 0.22 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Confidential
	1989 - 2013	191 files, total of 3.82 linear meters	1 to 3 years	Not confidential

(c) In the past three years, no programme or administrative file was transferred by RTHK to GRS for retention.

(d) Details of files which have obtained GRS's approval for disposal are as follows:

Types of files	**Years covered**	**Number and length in linear meters of files**	**The year of transfer to GRS**	**GRS's approved retention period (in year)**	**Confidential or not**
Administrative files	2003 - 2007	91 files, total of 1.82 linear meters	2010	3 to 5 years	Not confidential
	2003 - 2009	141 files, total of 14.53 linear meters	2010	1 to 2 years	
	1995 - 2004	57 files, total of 1.14 linear meters	2012	2 years	

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)176

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5005

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What are the estimated establishment and expenses involved in RTHK digitisation projects (including DAB and DTT) in 2013-14 and those for the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) ? The DAB development has been stagnant in Hong Kong, are there any plan(s) from the Administration for giving more to efficiently invest into RTHK in this regard, which covered IT systems and infrastructure, as well as programme content and creativity? If yes, please give the details; if not, reason(s) for that?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: In 2011-12, 35 civil service posts and non-civil service contract positions were created for RTHK to cover the manpower required for the planning of the new Broadcasting House, Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Services and the Media Asset Management project. Furthermore, 2 additional civil service posts were created for RTHK to support DAB and Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) in 2012-13. In 2013-14, 92 additional civil service posts and non-civil service contract positions will be created for RTHK to support the development of DTT Services.

As regards the expenses, there was no actual expenditure on DAB for 2010-11. In 2011-12 and 2012-13 (as at 20 March 2013), the expenditures on DAB were $2.3 million and $4.3 million respectively. The estimated expenditure on DAB will be $4.7 million for 2013-14. In 2010-11, there was no actual expenditure on the DTT Services. Expenditures on DTT in 2011-12 and 2012-13 (as at 20 March 2013) were $2.1 million and $5.2 million respectively, whereas the estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is $84 million.

The DAB transmitter network has been substantially completed, and it is currently on final trial run. RTHK will get ready to set up additional gap-fillers for improving the network coverage in conjunction with other digital audio broadcasters.

In view of the DTT transmitter network, RTHK is currently conducting technical trials for one high definition (DTT Channel #31) and two standard definition (DTT Channels #32 and #33) television channels through four transmission stations located in Temple Hill, Golden Hill, Castle Peak and Kowloon Peak. Test signals via the said transmission stations have transmitted to most TV households in Kowloon Peninsula, H.K. Island North, Shatin, New Territories West and New Territories East. At present, the signal coverage is over 50% of the Hong Kong population. Works of other transmission stations will be carried out in phases in the coming years. It is expected that the signal coverage will be eventually extended to the whole territory. Programme transmissions are also expected to commence in phases starting from end of 2013. In 2013-14, RTHK will produce an addition of 154 hours of TV output, covering current affairs, socio-political, education, culture and arts,

programmes for teenagers and childern, to be delivered on a high definition television (HDTV) channel.

In addition to enhancing the DAB transmitter network and promotion of DAB channels, new programmes would be introduced starting from September 2012, which include relay of local football matches, docent-style music tours, oral presentation of movies, sound of the nature and presentation of audio books. Relay of the Legislative Council meetings and introduction of CIBS programmes will start from April and July 2013 respectively.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)177

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5006

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the progress of the construction of the new Broadcasting House of RTHK? Please advise the resources, including manpower and total expenditure, allocated to the said project in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: The new Broadcasting House will be located at a site in Area 85, Tseung Kwan O. With the completion of the Technical Feasibility Study in mid-2011, the application for change of land use of the site for the construction of the new Broadcasting House was approved by the Town Planning Board in April 2012. In October 2012, four contractors were prequalified through tendering procedure to participate in the design and build contract for the new Broadcasting House. The tender of the contract was invited on 5 February 2013 with a closing date on 3 May 2013. Upon completion of the tendering procedure, RTHK will seek funding for the project through established mechanism, which is expected to be around the last quarter of 2013. Subject to approval of the necessary funding, construction of the new Broadcasting House is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2014 with a view to commissioning in the last quarter of 2018.

In 2011-12, 35 civil service posts and non-civil service contract positions were created for RTHK to cover the manpower required for the planning of the new Broadcasting House and the rest of new developments (including Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Services and the Media Asset Management). These posts will continue to undertake the aforesaid work in 2013-14.

Besides, the Architectural Services Department estimates that the project will incur a total expenditure of around $3 million in 2013-14 under Head 703 Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 3100GX for pre-contract consultancy services.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)178

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

5007

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The Administration stated that it would "further enhance the take-up rate of digital terrestrial television" and "continue to arrange publicity activities for the promotion of digital audio broadcasting service". What is the specific work plan of the Administration in these two aspects? What are the expenditures involved and returns referred?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply: To enhance the take-up rate of digital terrestrial television (DTT), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is committed to the development of the required DTT transmission network. RTHK is conducting signal tests for one high definition (Channel 31) and two standard definition (Channel 32 and Channel 33) television channels. Test signals are transmitted from four transmission stations respectively located at Temple Hill, Golden Hill, Castle Peak and Kowloon Peak to the TV households in most of the regions of the Kowloon Peninsula, Hong Kong Island North, Shatin, New Territories West and New Territories East. At present, RTHK's DTT signal coverage has reached more than 50% of the Hong Kong population. The works of the other transmission stations will be carried out in stages in the coming years. It is expected that signal coverage will finally be extended to the whole territory. The expenditure on works to be conducted in 2013-14 is around $8.96 million.

For digital audio broadcasting (DAB), since the launch of DAB channels last year, RTHK has held a range of publicity activities, including exhibitions and road shows in various districts, the launch of a dedicated website and provision of an enquiry hotline, advertisements, radio trailing and promotion targeted at the audience. RTHK will roll out a new round of publicity activities in the second half of this year and the expenditure involved is about $0.8 million.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)179

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3913

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the number of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff serving in Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)? What is the estimated expenditure on their emoluments? How many NCSC staff were converted to civil servants by change of contracts last year? Has RTHK assessed the impact of NCSCs on staff performance?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: As at 31 December 2012, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has a total of 264 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. The salaries of the NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	$74,785 - $78,010	4
	Senior Programme Officer	$41,070 - $62,810	10
	Programme Officer	$26,000 - $45,505	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	$13,215 - $27,245	117
	Programme Assistant	$9,080 - $15,805	31
Ranks in other grades		$8,760 - $59,970	80
Total			**264**

In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure on NCSC staff emoluments is around $75 million.

RTHK's civil service vacancies are filled by internal promotion and open recruitment. In 2012-13, as at 31 December 2012, a total of 96 civil servants (CS) were recruited through open recruitment. Among them, 70 were former NCSC staff of RTHK. Besides, RTHK has an established mechanism for appraising the performance of all CS and NCSC staff to ensure that their performance meets the requirements.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)180

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

3914

Head: 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the launch of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), what will be the criteria for the selection of participating organisations? How will RTHK ensure plurality of views and diversity of contents in CIBS?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply: In taking forward the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) Project, applications are open to all interested parties. The selection criteria are the social gains arising from the application proposals, namely plurality, diversity and social inclusion; mutual respect, social empathy and civic mindedness; creativity, uniqueness and talent nurturing; and community involvement.

RTHK has set up a Selection Committee comprising non-official members who are scholars in communications or broadcasting, experts from different fields drawn from the RTHK Programme Advisory Panel and a member familiar with ethnic minority issues. The Selection Committee is responsible for vetting applications according to the above-stated criteria. The selection process also includes public voting for public engagement to ensure that CIBS will promote social gains, plurality of views and diversity of contents.

Name in block letters: Roy TANG

Post Title: Director of Broadcasting

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)181

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4859

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: The moral standards of members of the community change over time. How often a public survey on this aspect is conducted? What moral standards are used as an approach in a survey? How is a survey conducted and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) conducts periodic public opinion surveys by way of random household sampling and focus group study to gauge public opinions on the film classification system, so as to keep censors fully abreast of the current community standards on the contents of different film genres when classifying films. The last public opinion survey was completed in 2011 and the expenditure involved was about $780,000. The OFNAA plans to start the next public opinion survey in late 2013. The expenditure involved is estimated to be $860,000.

The OFNAA also assisted the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in completing two rounds of public consultation on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance in 2009 and 2012. During the public consultation, a telephone public opinion survey was conducted in 2009, which involved gauging the public views on the definitions of "obscenity" and "indecency" and the classification system in the legislation. During the second round public consultation in 2012, we also collected public views on whether the definitions of "obscenity" and "indecency" need to be amended. As this only forms part of the public consultation exercise, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)182

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4861

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: What is the total number of complaints about obscene and indecent articles handled in 2012-13? Has the number of complaints been on the rise in recent years? How would the Office follow up the complaints received and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) received a total of 228 public complaints about the publication of obscene and indecent articles in 2012, a decrease of about 60% and 50% when compared with 2010 (585 complaints) and 2011 (489 complaints) respectively. Upon receipt of the complaints, the OFNAA would carry out investigation, and take appropriate follow-up action, including prosecution, on articles that were suspected of breaching the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). In 2012, 41 officers of the OFNAA took part in the enforcement of the COIAO. As the handling of complaints only forms part of the concerned officers' duties, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved in carrying out this particular duty.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)183

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4863

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the inspection of video shops and retail outlets, what are the criteria for deciding which shops and outlets should be inspected? How often is the inspection conducted? What is the staffing establishment? Besides, what is the total number of shops inspected in 2012-13 and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) regularly inspects retail outlets (including bookstores, computer shops, video shops, newspaper stalls, comic book shops and convenience stores, etc.) selling newspapers, magazines, video discs and other kinds of publications in Hong Kong. In 2012, 41 officers of the OFNAA took part in the enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance and conducted 72 600 inspections. As conducting inspections only forms part of the concerned officers' duties, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved in carrying out this particular duty.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)184

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4878

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated that a public opinion survey on the awareness and standards of the three-tier film classification system will be conducted in 2013-14. What are the details and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) conducts periodic public opinion surveys by way of random household sampling and focus group study to gauge public opinions on the film classification system, so as to keep censors fully abreast of the current community standards on the contents of different film genres when classifying films.

The OFNAA plans to start the next public opinion survey in late 2013. The expenditure involved is estimated to be $860,000.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)185

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4879

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance Subsidising Scheme sponsored 10 projects launched by voluntary organisations, youth bodies and schools to provide proper counselling and guidance for children and youth. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The objective of implementing the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) Subsidising Scheme is to sponsor schools or non-profit-making organisations to conduct publicity and public education programmes in relation to the COIAO to enhance the public's understanding (especially the youth) of the ordinance.

In 2012-13, the Scheme provided a subsidy of about $160,000 in total to 10 schools or non-profit-making organisations to hold activities including talks, exhibitions, day camps, training courses, fun fair games, carnivals, dramas and workshops. The total number of persons participating in these activities was about 9 000.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)186

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4881

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: In 2012-13, the Meritorious Website Contest was held to promote safe and smart use of the Internet. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The objective of organising the Meritorious Website Contest is to encourage young people to visits healthy websites more and to encourage website designers to produce more healthy websites.

In 2012-13, a total of 150 schools and non-profit-making organisations nominated 96 websites for the contest. Public voting was held between October and December 2012. About 18 000 persons voted and the Contest results will be announced in April 2013. The expenditure involved in the Contest is estimated to be $420,000.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)187

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4882

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

(a) It is stated that a Healthy Application Nomination Programme was organised in 2012-13 to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet personal computers. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

(b) Will the Office continue to allocate resources in 2013-14 to organise any activities to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet personal computers? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

(a) The objective of organising the Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Nomination Programme is to encourage youngsters to use more healthy and educational applications (Apps) and to encourage Apps developers to produce more healthy Apps. In 2012-13, about 1 800 persons nominated 279 Apps. A panel of adjudicators has selected 10 winning Apps from the nominations and the results will be announced in April 2013. The expenditure involved in the Programme is estimated to be $440,000.

(b) The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration will continue to organise the Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Nomination Programme in 2013-14. The expenditure involved in the programme is estimated to be $440,000.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)188

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4884

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

(a) It is stated that an interschool rap contest was conducted in 2012-13 to educate youngsters to stay away from objectionable materials. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

(b) Will the Office conduct any activities in 2013-14 to educate youngsters to stay away from objectionable materials? What are the details and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

(a) The Interschool Healthy Rap Contest aims to enhance the youth's understanding of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) and to encourage them to stay away from objectionable materials. Primary and secondary school students across the territory could participate in the Contest. Participants can choose to sing the theme song provided by the organiser, or to write new songs or new lyrics for the theme song or other melodies. The finale contest will be held in April 2013. The estimated expenditure for this project is about $330,000.

(b) In 2013-14, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration will organise various activities to educate members of the public (including children and youths) to stay away from objectionable materials. These activities include school talks, the Meritorious Website Contest, a radio drama programme, the COIAO Subsidising Scheme, filtering software workshops, the Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Nomination Programme, a student ambassador training scheme, an Internet video contest, a school drama tour programme, a colouring competition as well as an educational kit on the COIAO, etc. The estimated expenditure involved is about $6.7 million.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)189

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4886

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

(a) An Internet video contest was held in 2012-13 to promote the healthy use of the Internet among youngsters. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

(b) Will the Office allocate resources in 2013-14 to promote the healthy use of the Internet among youngsters? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

(a) The aim of the Healthy Internet Video Contest is to encourage youngsters to develop healthy online habits so as to guard them against objectionable information. The Contest comprised a school competition and an open competition. Participants could produce video clips which may contain text, images and cross-media elements. The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) organised a film production training camp and a workshop to help participants understand the techniques and skills of making video clips. A total of 74 entries (51 for the school competition and 23 for the open competition) have been received, and the results will be announced in April 2013. The estimated expenditure involved in the Contest is $570,000.

(b) In 2013-14, the OFNAA will organise various activities to educate members of the public (including children and teenagers) to develop healthy online habits and to enhance their understanding of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). These activities include a radio drama programme, school talks, the COIAO Subsidising Scheme, filtering software workshops, the Meritorious Website Contest, the Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Nomination Programme, a student ambassador training scheme, an Internet video contest, a school drama tour programme, a colouring competition as well as an educational kit on the COIAO. The estimated expenditure involved is around $6.7 million.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)190

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4887

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: A student ambassador training scheme was held in 2012-13 to recruit students to help promote the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The objective of organising the Healthy Information Student Ambassadors Scheme is to enhance the secondary school students' knowledge of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) and to encourage them to participate in community services. Secondary two to five students could apply to participate in the Scheme. Those selected as ambassadors will attend a training programme to enhance their understanding of the COIAO, leadership skills and knowledge of information technology. Afterwards, they will participate in various activities to promote the healthy use of the Internet and to publicise the COIAO, such as book fair, exhibitions in shopping arcades, workshops on filtering software for parents, the Meritorious Website Contest, the Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Nomination Programme, the Healthy Video Contest and exhibitions in schools.

In 2012-13, the Scheme recruited 86 students and the expenditure involved is about $120,000.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)191

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4888

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated that an educational kit was developed in 2012-13 to promote secondary school students' awareness on the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is developing an educational kit on the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) and plans to launch it in 2013-14 school year. The educational kit is for local secondary school students and aims to promote their awareness on the COIAO so as to guard them against the undesirable influence of indecent and obscene materials. The educational kit contains short films, worksheets, small games, teachers' manuals and other reference materials. The estimated expenditure involved is about $1.4 million.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)192

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4889

Head: 180 – Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: It is stated that a school drama tour programme was conducted in 2012-13 to promote the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance to students of primary and secondary schools. What are the details? What is the total number of dramas that have been performed? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply: The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) has been organising a school drama tour programme on the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) since 2010. The programme aims to teach youths and children on how to resist objectionable materials and to promote their awareness on the COIAO. The targeted audiences of the programme are students of primary four to six and secondary schools.

In 2012-13, the OFNAA organised a total of 152 dramas and the expenditure involved is about $1.06 million.

Name in block letters: Miss Eliza LEE

Post Title: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Date: 8.4.2013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

CEDB(CT)193

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No

4926

Head: 703 – Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): 3005GA Science Park in Pak Shek Kok – phases 1a and 1b

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question: Regarding the Science Park at Pak Shek Kok - phases 1a and 1b, the project estimate is $1,982,700,000 while the expenditure so far is $1,576,593,000. However, the estimate for 2012-13 was zero. Please advise on the progress of the works. What was the reason for the zero estimate last year? What are the uses of the remaining $400 million? What will be the uses of the provision of $100,000 this year (i.e. 2013-14)?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply: All the works for the Science Park at Pak Shek Kok - phases 1a and 1b (the Project) have been completed and settlement of final account is in progress. In order to tally with the progress of the settlement of the final account, the original estimate for 2012-13 in the sum of $100,000 has been deferred to 2013-14.

Apart from the above outstanding payment for the settlement of final account, there is no other anticipated expenditure for the Project.

Name in block letters: K K LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Architectural Services

Date: 8.4.2013