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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 12

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CEDB(CT)266	4359	CHAN Chi-chuen	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CEDB(CT)267	6300	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)268	6301	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)269	6302	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)270	6304	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)271	6305	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)272	6307	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)273	6631	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	180	Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration
CEDB(CT)274	5285	WONG Yuk-man	180	
CEDB(CT)275	2401	IP LAU Suk-yea, Regina	111	
CEDB(CT)276	2467	LEUNG Kwok-hung	111	
CEDB(CT)277	0096	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	703	
CEDB(CT)278	3002	QUAT, Elizabeth	710	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)001

(Question Serial No. 1280)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

Over the past two years, the number of applications received by the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) stands at zero due to poor response. It is reported that instead of applying to the FGF, the trade has generally turned to the Film Development Fund (FDF) for financing the film production. The Administration will conduct a comprehensive review on the use of the FDF and the way forward of the FGF before the end of 2013. Can the Administration tell this Committee:

- (a) Will the FGF continue to exist? If yes, will the Administration review the FGF's application method, procedures, and assessment process and criteria so as to provide more film workers with support?
- (b) According to the Administration's estimate, there will be less than ten applications received and approved by the FDF. What is the latest development of the FDF?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (a) We are reviewing, in consultation with the Film Development Council and members of the film industry, the way forward of the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) as the means to support development of the local film industry. The review is expected to be completed by mid 2014. We will brief the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the findings of the review in due course.
- (b) The number of applications under the FDF for financing film production will be affected by various factors, for example, the market situation, the level of risks private investors are willing to take, etc. On the other hand, approval of an application will depend on whether the case meets the funding criteria of the FDF. It is difficult for us to estimate accurately the number of applications to be received and approved in 2014 as this involves quite a number of unforeseeable factors. Therefore, we adopted a relatively prudent method and estimated the number of applications to be received and approved in 2014 with reference to that of last year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)002

(Question Serial No. 4373)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 72):

It is indicated in this year's Policy Address that the Government has decided to re-initiate the setting up of an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). In this connection, will the Administration advise what estimated manpower and expenditure will be involved in the re-organisation of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in the coming year (2014-15)? And what are the estimated manpower and expenditure for the setting up of the ITB?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). The proposal will be submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. As regards the details of the estimated manpower and expenditure for the re-organisation of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and the ITB to be established, elaboration will be given in the papers submitted to the above-mentioned committees for consideration.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)003

(Question Serial No. 4972)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 533):

The Hong Kong Television Entertainment Company Limited indicated that it will put into service in July this year. Has the Bureau set aside additional resources to promote mobile TV services this year? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Broadcast-type mobile TV service is a nascent and personally-tailored service. At present, only one operator has obtained a carrier licence to provide broadcast-type mobile TV service. Same as the year before, we have not set aside any resources to promote the service concerned.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)004

(Question Serial No. 4973)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 534):

The Administration has been monitoring the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB). What is the outcome of the work concerned? What are the audience ratings of the three DAB licensees? Does the Administration earmark any additional expenditure for promoting DAB this year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Administration has been monitoring the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB), and certain progress has been made on the development of the service. Firstly, the three licensees have launched new channels gradually and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has also rolled out new services. The DAB operators have also stepped up publicity measures to promote the service to listeners. Secondly, the DAB operators have agreed to implement projects to enhance the DAB transmitter network, including plans to construct new gap filler stations which will help to expand the network coverage. Thirdly, under the coordination of the Administration, the DAB operators have maintained close contact with the related industries, enabling the industry to make products available to the market in a timely manner.

According to the listening survey on digital broadcasting conducted by RTHK from August to September 2013, the percentage of listeners who have listened to DAB service in the past seven days and who are certain of which DAB channel they have listened to is as follows:

	Channel	Audience Rating[#]
31	RTHK Putonghua	15.4%
32	China National Radio (Hong Kong Edition)	10.5%
33	RTHK3	4.9%
34	BBC World Service	4.7%
35	RTHK5	22.2%

Note : # Respondents can make more than one choices.

The Administration is unable to disclose the audience ratings of the three DAB licensees as they involve sensitive commercial information.

In 2014-15, the Administration will continue to promote the development of DAB and the workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)005

(Question Serial No. 4977)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 718):

The Bureau will assist in the remaining work relating to the applications for domestic free television programme service licences this year. What are the details of the work concerned? What is the time the Bureau expects the licensees concerned will launch their services?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

On 15 October 2013, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) approved in principle the applications of Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV) and Hong Kong Television Entertainment Company Limited (HKTVE) for domestic free television programme service (free TV) licences. The Communications Authority (CA) has requested the two applicants to submit the necessary additional information and will discuss the licence terms with them. The CA will review the information submitted by Fantastic TV and HKTVE in due course with a view to submitting to the CE in Council recommendations on whether free TV licences should be formally granted to the two applicants. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible.

According to the proposals in the two applications, the applicants plans to formally launch their integrated Cantonese channels within 12 months after the grant of licences.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)006

(Question Serial No. 4978)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 719):

Public complaints against the existing two free TV licensees have increased substantially in recent years. Has the Bureau set aside any additional resources to monitor the programme quality and content of the TV stations concerned and ensure compliance with the licence conditions? What are the details of the work concerned?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Communications Authority (CA) is a unified regulator tasked with overseeing the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors in Hong Kong. Complaints made to the CA about television and radio broadcasting are dealt with according to the provisions in the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 391). The expenditure involved will be met by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority and is not included in Head 55: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)007****(Question Serial No.4980)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 721):

Over the past three years, how many films have been subsidised by the Bureau through the Film Development Fund and the Film Guarantee Fund? What are the box office records of these films? Has the Administration currently provided financial support for small-scale low-budget films (commonly known as "microfilms")? If not, has the Administration reserved resources for the purpose of studying the feasibility of financially supporting microfilm production?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Over the past three years, a total of 17 films were financed through the Scheme for Financing Film Production under the Film Development Fund. Nine of them were released with a total box office of around HK\$58.10 million as at end February 2014 (as illustrated in the following table) and the remaining eight films are still in the stage of production. No application was received under the Film Guarantee Fund over the past three years.

Year	Titles of the Films Financed	Box Office (HK\$)*
2011	The Killer Who Never Kills	13,210,000
	Love Lifting	4,300,000
	The Bounty	5,730,000
2012	The Way We Dance	14,271,480
	A Complicated Story	274,157
	Bends	18,120,254
	Doomsday Party	290,326
	The True Love	454,943
2013	Kick Ass Girls	1,450,055
	Total	58,101,215

* including the box office of major Chinese language film markets of Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan, etc.

Regarding the funding support for microfilm production, the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) supports microfilm production projects that are beneficial to the overall development of individual creative industry sectors or the entire creative industries. In 2013-14, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) subsidised around \$2.33 million through the CSI to support the Hong Kong Association of Interactive Marketing Limited in organising “A Support Program for Advertising and Music Talents (Microfilm Production)”. 15 production companies were each provided with a subsidy of up to HK\$80,000. The project aims at nurturing advertising production start-ups and new and emerging directors by providing them with funding, professional guidance, training, publicity support, etc., thus enabling them to make their original microfilms and show their creativity and talents, while at the same time providing opportunities for local new singers to perform in the microfilms to increase their publicity and exposure opportunities. If there are other projects which involve microfilm production and meet the objectives of the CSI in the future, the CEDB will be pleased to consider the applications.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)008

(Question Serial No. 4981)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 726):

What is the utilisation rate of mobile number resources at present? What is the relevant work involved this year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Currently, 8-digit numbers are adopted by the Communications Authority for use by telecommunications users. Up to December 2013, 60.4 million numbers are available for use by telecommunications users, of which 36.4 million have been allocated to various service providers. The take-up rate is 60%. The Administration will closely monitor the utilisation of telephone numbers to ensure that there are adequate telephone number resources to meet the long-term need of the community for telecommunications numbering (including that of the mobile services).

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)009

(Question Serial No. 4984)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 739):

What is the work involved in the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance? Currently, a free TV licensee has aired reruns repeatedly as a means to comply with licence conditions. In the context of the review, will the Administration examine to impose licence conditions when processing the licence renewal to prevent TV licensees from airing reruns repeatedly?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Telecommunications Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance were enacted years ago. Although the two sets of regulatory regimes have been updated and amended over the years, the evolving circumstances may necessitate a review to ensure that the regimes can meet the prevailing needs.

Regarding the airing of reruns by domestic free television programme service (free TV) licensee, as members of the public have expressed concerns over the matter, the Communications Authority will examine the matter when processing the licence renewal applications of the two free TV licensees, collect public views in this regard and consider whether it is necessary to impose restrictions on the airing of reruns by the licensees if their licences are renewed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)010

(Question Serial No. 4987)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 744):

What is the expenditure of the Create Hong Kong Office? Will there be studies on the strategy to attract overseas and local companies to develop mobile platforms and innovative smartphone apps in Hong Kong this year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) in 2014-15 is \$249.7 million, being \$69.9 million for emoluments and departmental expenses, and \$179.8 million for general non-recurrent expenditure (including commitments of CreateHK's various funding schemes and funding for the Hong Kong Design Centre).

Over the past two years (2012-14), CreateHK has sponsored the relevant trade through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to organise activities such as the "To establish Hong Kong as the Asian Smartphone Apps Capital with a regional Contest & Summit" and the "Asia Smartphone Apps Contest and Summit 2013/2014" to recognise the achievements of Hong Kong's smartphone apps industry and provide a platform for the local trade to meet their counterparts from other Asian countries or regions so as to expand the overseas markets. CreateHK will continue to maintain close liaison with the trade and provide sponsorship through the CSI having regard to the needs of the trade so that similar activities will be held in future, with a view to encouraging the trade to develop new smartphone apps.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)011

(Question Serial No. 5304)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

What is the reason for the increase of eight non-directorate posts and two directorate posts in 2014-15? What are the ranks of these posts and the expenses for their emoluments involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The Communications and Technology Branch plans to add two directorate posts and eight non-directorate posts in 2014-15. The directorate posts are one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C to review the Broadcasting Ordinance (BO) and the Telecommunications Ordinance (TO). The non-directorate posts are one Senior Executive Officer, two Personal Secretary I and one Assistant Clerical Officer to support the above two directorate posts in reviewing the BO and the TO. The remaining posts include two Executive Officer II, one Assistant Trade Officer II and one Geotechnical Engineer to render support to the Create Hong Kong Office. The emoluments of these posts will carry an annual total cost of about \$7 million. This Branch will consult the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the proposed creation of the above two directorate posts in due course.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)012****(Question Serial No. 5356)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 113):

Please provide details of the government fleet under your purview:

	Number	Operational expenses for 2013	Estimated operational expenses for 2014-15
VIP Car			
Large Saloon Car (Grade A)			
Large Saloon Car (Grade B)			

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Details of the government fleet under our purview are as follows:

	Number	Operational expenses for 2013	Estimated operational expenses for 2014-15
VIP Car	0	-	
Large Saloon Car (Grade A)	1	Approx. \$198,000*	\$75,000
Large Saloon Car (Grade B)	1	Approx. \$45,000*	\$71,000

*The relevant expenses are calculated for the financial year 2013-14, including the maintenance costs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)013

(Question Serial No.5365)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 122):

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under this programme that the Government will continue to assist in completing the remaining work relating to the applications for domestic free television programme service licences (TV licences). In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of the above work?
- (b) When the Administration expects to grant TV licences to Fantastic Television Limited and Hong Kong Television Entertainment Company Limited?
- (c) What are the respective operating expenditure, staffing establishment and estimated salary expenditure to be involved in the above work in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

On 15 October 2013, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) approved in principle the applications of Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV) and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited (HKTVE) for domestic free television programme service (free TV) licences. The Communications Authority (CA) has requested the two applicants to submit the necessary additional information and will discuss the licence terms with them. The CA will review the information submitted by Fantastic TV and HKTVE in due course with a view to submitting to the CE in Council recommendations on whether free TV licences should be formally granted to the two applicants. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible.

The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)014

(Question Serial No. 5366)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 123):

Will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has preliminary work been undertaken for the setting up of an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB)? If yes, what are the details?
- (b) What are the estimated operational expenses for the ITB in 2014-15?
- (c) What are the respective estimated operational expenditure, staffing establishment and salary provision involved in preparing to set up the ITB in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). The proposal will be submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. As regards the details of the estimated operational expenses for the ITB to be established, elaboration will be given in the papers submitted to the above-mentioned committees for consideration. The workload involved in drawing up the details of the proposal to set up the ITB will be absorbed by existing manpower and resources. No separate breakdown of expenditure is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)015****(Question Serial No. 6494)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 205):

It is mentioned in the Policy Address that (we are) “reviewing the Film Development Fund”. According to the Director of Audit’s Report No. 59, the Fund has overly financed the deficits of three award presentation ceremony projects during the period. Will the Administration advise this Committee of the respective amounts of funding for the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Asian Film Awards and the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum over the past year, and the respective amounts of surplus for these activities?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The respective amounts of funding provided by the Film Development Fund (FDF) for the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Asian Film Awards and the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum held in 2013, and the respective amounts of expenditure and surplus for these activities are listed in the table below:

	Amount of FDF Subsidy	Amount of Expenditure (net of income)	Surplus*
The 32nd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony	\$4,857,809	\$4,857,809	\$0
The 7th Asian Film Awards	\$7,050,000	\$7,640,095	-\$590,095
The 11th Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum	\$3,669,375	\$3,983,028	-\$313,653

* The amount of over-spending will be borne by recipient organisations.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)016

(Question Serial No. 0859)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Edward SNOWDEN, a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States (US) who came to Hong Kong earlier, disclosed that the US had been systematically monitoring the internet information and phone records of government dignitaries and citizens in the world. This has aroused public worries over communication security and privacy protection. In this connection, will the Hong Kong Government set aside provisions or take measures to strengthen communication security in Hong Kong in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to information and cyber security. Information security is a mandatory requirement for all government information. All computer systems and networks connecting to the Internet must take appropriate security measures, including deploying advanced information security technologies and implementing stringent security control, monitoring, detection and responses procedures, in order to ensure normal operation and prevent cyber attacks and intrusions. Bureaux and departments will also conduct regular security risk assessments, audits and testings to ensure the stability and reliability of government computer systems and networks. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) also conducts incident response and system recovery drills on a regular basis to ensure that the relevant systems and personnel have the response capability to promptly and effectively handle security and service incidents including cyber attacks.

The Government will also strive to promote information security to the community. OGCIO actively works with the industry and stakeholders to promote through different channels the importance of protecting computer systems and cyber security among the enterprises and the general public, and raise public awareness and knowledge of information and data security. The Government, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre, provides the local Internet community with the latest information security news and alerts to help the public to know more about cyber security and enhance public awareness of Internet security. This enables the public to take appropriate measures to protect their computer systems so as to defend against possible cyber attacks. OGCIO will also co-ordinate with the relevant parties to handle security incidents when necessary.

If non-public officers conduct interception, such acts may constitute an offence under section 24 of the Telecommunications Ordinance (wilfully intercepting a message by a telecommunications officer) or section 27 of the Telecommunications Ordinance (damaging a telecommunications installation with intent by any person). It is part of the regular work of the departments concerned to take relevant enforcement actions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)017****(Question Serial No. 2574)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

Regarding the records management work of the Bureau and its departments over the past three years:

- (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 Government's records management policy, the Branch and its departments* have designated staff of different ranks to perform records management duties:

- (i) 2 Chief Executive Officers are designated to serve as Departmental Records Managers (DRMs) to devise, carry out and document departmental records management practices and procedures according to the guidelines and advice of the Government Records Service (GRS);
- (ii) 1 Senior Executive Officer and 1 Executive Officer (EO) II are appointed to serve as Assistant Departmental Records Managers to assist the DRMs in the execution of the duties concerned; and
- (iii) 10 EOs I/II or officers of equivalent rank are responsible for supervising records management in different divisions/sections.

Moreover, 1 EO I, 2 Senior Clerical Officers, 6 Clerical Officers, 13 Assistant Clerical Officers, 13 Clerical Assistants and 2 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 the Branch and its departments* are involved in related records management work according to operational needs.

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer by the Branch and its departments* 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	1995 - 2013	107 records 4.52 linear meters	1 - 5 years	Yes
Programme records	1996 - 2013	354 records 14.16 linear meters	15 years to permanent retention	Yes
Administrative records	1974 - 2013	1 254 records 33.02 linear meters	1 - 7 years	No
Programme records	1998 - 2013	404 records 16.63 linear meters	15 years to permanent retention	No

- (c) Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred by the Branch and its departments* 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	1989 - 1990	2 records 0.08 linear meters	2012	Permanent retention	Yes
Administrative records	1966 - 2002	16 records and 103 GF 115 (Record of Service) 0.55 linear meters	2012 - 2013	Permanent retention	No

- (d) Information on records of the Branch and its departments* 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
Administrative records	1985 - 2008	83 records 3.88 linear meters	2011 - 2013	2 - 4 years	Yes
Administrative records	1962 - 2012	392 records, 1 064 application forms for employment and 5 GF 185A 8.55 linear meters	2011 - 2013	Destruction one year after the departure of staff	No

Administrative records	1972 - 2012	1 839 records, 464 application forms for employment and 37 staff attendance registers 76.59 linear meters	2011 - 2013	1 - 7 years	No
Administrative records	2013	11 questionnaires 0.001 linear meters	2011 - 2013	Destruction after completion of cases	No

*including Radio Television Hong Kong and the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration, but excluding the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer as both departments have received the same question and they will give their replies separately.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)018****(Question Serial No. 4575)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 70):

- (a) Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of the Bureau and its departments over the past three years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Cap on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Cap on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

- (b) Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of the Bureau and its departments in 2013-14, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

- (c) Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for 2014-15 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Cap on entertainment expenses per guest	Cap on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

As a general rule, all civil servants should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines when providing official entertainment in the form of meals. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. According to the existing general guidelines, the expenditure limits on official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. The actual expenses on official entertainment incurred by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) (Communications and Technology Branch (CTB)) and its

departments* in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (as at 17 March 2014), and the estimated expenditure on official entertainment for 2014-15 are as follows:

Bureau/department	Expenses			Estimated expenditure for 2014-15
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (as at 17 March 2014)	
CEDB (CTB)	Approx. \$61,000	Approx. \$15,000	Approx. \$37,000	Approx. \$49,000
Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)	Approx. \$85,000	Approx. \$135,000	Approx. \$105,000	Approx. \$120,000
Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA)#	Approx. \$16,000	0	0	0

Before 1 April 2012, the duties of OFNAA were delivered through the former Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As we do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, we do not have the relevant statistics.

* including RTHK and OFNAA, but excluding the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer as both departments have received the same question and they will give their replies separately.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)019****(Question Serial No. 4614)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 112):

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by the Bureau and its departments 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 two financial years (2012-13 and 2013-14):

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 (2014-15)? 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:

The following is the related information provided by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) (CEDB(CTB)) and its departments*:

- (a) Information regarding the funded studies on public policy and strategic public policy for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is 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 completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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	Executive Summary of the Consultancy Report has been provided to the Film Development Council (FDC) for reference. The Government will make reference to the information obtained in the Consultancy Study to formulate measures to facilitate the development of the film industry in Hong Kong.	The outcome of the Study will be made public in due course.
Centre for the Advancement of Social Sciences Research, 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	99,800	September 2012	Completed	Executive Summary of the Survey Report has been 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 Executive Summary of the Survey Report has been made available to the pyrotechnic industry for reference.
F Media & Olsberg● SPI	Quotation	Consultancy Study on Overseas Strategies in Promoting Cinema Development and their Applicability to Hong Kong	784,195	November 2012	Completed	Executive Summary of the Consultancy Report has been provided to the FDC for reference. The Government will make reference to the information obtained in the Consultancy Study to formulate measures to facilitate the development of the film industry in Hong Kong.	The outcome of the Study will be made public in due course.
Culture and Development Consultancy Ltd.	Quotation	Title: Study on Hong Kong's Creative Industries Cluster 2014	600,000	December 2013	In progress	The Consultancy Report and Executive Summary will be provided to the CEDB(CTB) and its Create Hong Kong Office for reference.	The outcome of the Study will be made public in due course.

(b) No provision is earmarked for the purpose of conducting consultancy studies in 2014-15.

- (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.

**including Radio Television Hong Kong and the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration, but excluding the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer as both departments have received the same question and they will give their replies separately.*

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)020****(Question Serial No. 4629)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 126):

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 Bureau and its departments have been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information in 2011-12 to 2013-14 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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 in 2014-15, please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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 co-operation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and

expenditure involved over the past 3 years? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

We hereby provide relevant information in respect of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) and its departments:

(a) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes carried out in 2011-12 to 2013-14 are as follows:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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
“Creativity in Business” Seminar Series 2011	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC)) to stage the 2011 “Creativity in Business” Seminar Series to allow Hong Kong small and medium enterprises (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.	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) 2011	Funding support was given to the organiser (the HKTDC) to set up a large-scale exhibition at SmartHK to showcase the excellence of Hong Kong’s creative sectors including advertising and marketing, architecture and interior design, design and brand building. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$1,925,000	—	Completed	The organiser was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public. Event details have been uploaded to the website of the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK). The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)) to, exhibit in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen a wide range of architectural projects and urban designs at the Hong Kong	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.	N.A.

Architecture 2011	exhibition of the project held in 2012 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.				Event details have been uploaded to the website of CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	
“Creativity in Business” Seminar Series 2012-2013	Funding support was given to the organiser (the 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, exchange activities and small-scale exhibitions. The event was held in Quanzhou, Dalang in Dongguan and Chengdu. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$1,767,150	-	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.
Smarthk (Guangzhou) 2013	Funding support was given to the organiser (the HKTDC) to set up a large-scale exhibition at Smarthk to showcase the excellence of Hong Kong’s creative sectors including advertising and marketing, architecture and interior design, design and branding, digital entertainment, licensing, new media, printing and packaging services. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$1,809,250		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-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture 2013	Funding support was given to the organiser (the HKIA) to, exhibit in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen a wide range of architectural projects and urban designs at the Hong Kong exhibition of the project held in 2013-2014 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.	Around \$5,324,600	Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture Organiser Committee	The exhibition ended on 28 February 2014	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	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Association (HKDEA)) to stage the event to encourage creative cartooning and promote cultural exchanges between young cartoonists in Hong Kong, Guangdong, Macau and Taiwan. The project augments the	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	N.A.

exchanges of talents in Greater China (Guangdong, HK, Macau and Taiwan)	Framework Agreement.				CreateHK. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	
The 2nd Hong Kong Comic Camp – providing training of local comics talents and promote cultural exchanges of talents in Greater China (Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)	Funding support was given to the organiser (the HKDEA) to stage the event to encourage creative cartooning and promote cultural exchanges between young cartoonists in Hong Kong, Guangdong, Macau and Taiwan. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$484,660	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.
Cross-Strait Architectural Design (CAD) Symposium & Awards 2013	Funding support was given to the organiser (the HKIA) to stage the event, the First CAD Symposium & Awards, to give recognition to innovative and outstanding architectural works designed by architects from the Cross-Strait regions and establish a platform for exchanges in architectural culture. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$1,126,800	Shenzhen Registered Architects 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.
Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Publishing and Printing Industry Joining Three International Book Fairs in Greater China	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Publishing Federation Limited (HKPF)) to set up a Hong Kong Pavilion at the South China Book Festival, the Beijing International Book Fair and the Taipei International Book Exhibition to demonstrate the creativity and accomplishment of Hong Kong's publishing and printing industry as well as helping local companies explore outside markets. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$2,962,000	-	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.
Activities involving the Hong Kong Design Centre	With funding support for the HKDC's operation, links were maintained with design bodies in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Dongguan, with exchanges and promotional activities such as	The HKDC received funding from the Communications and	The Shenzhen Graphic Design Association, the Shanghai	Completed	The HKDC was responsible for event publicity and release of information to the public.	N.A.

	exhibitions and forums held.	Technology Branch for its operation. It bore the expenditure of the activities and no extra government spending was involved.	Industry Design Association, the Dongguan Bureau for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association			
The 2nd Greater China Illustration Awards	Funding support was given to the organiser (the 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 in the region. The event targeted illustrators and design students from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau. The organiser held roving exhibitions of the winning entries in Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau respectively. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$1,595,760	The 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.
EcoChic Design Award 2013	Funding support was given to the organiser (the 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 Mainland. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$2,290,200	About 10 Mainland fashion design institutes	February 2013 to March 2014	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.
The 3rd Greater China Illustration Awards	Funding support was given to the organiser (the 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 in the region. The event targeted illustrators and design students from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau. The organiser held roving exhibitions of the	Around \$1,587,590	The Organising Committee's Office of China Hangzhou Cultural & Creative Industry Expo Shenzhen Illustration Association	March 2013 to October 2014	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.

	winning entries in Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau respectively. The project augments the Framework Agreement.		Guangzhou Redtory Art & Design Co.,Ltd.			
HK/SZ Initiatives	Funding support was given to the organiser (the Hong Kong Federation of Design Limited) to stage the 4th HK/SZ Cultural and Creative Forum, conduct a survey on the design industry in Hong Kong and Shenzhen and establish a platform to provide design information so as to facilitate the development of the design industry in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The project augments the Framework Agreement.	Around \$4,404,000	Shenzhen Industrial Design Profession Association	May 2013 to April 2015	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 Film New Action - Idea · Action · Your NEXT” Workshop and Forum	Jointly organised by CreateHK, the Hong Kong Film Development Council (HKFDC), the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers and the Hong Kong Movie Production Executives Association, with assistance by the Guangdong Film Industry Association, activities of the event included forums, workshops and simulated presentation seminar on film projects, etc. held from 14 to 21 March 2013 to provide new generation filmmakers with knowledge related to film financing, marketing and administration as well as training in planning and promoting film projects, and introduce the advantages of Hong Kong films in the Guangdong film market. During the forum, one of the thematic talks was led by the Guangdong Film Industry Association on “How Hong Kong films access the Guangdong market?” The Guangdong Film Industry Association also acted as one of the judges in the simulated presentation seminar on film projects giving advices to the participants on how to promote film projects to the Mainland market.	\$854,683	Guangdong Film Industry Association	Completed	Event details have been made public mainly through the electronic newspaper eDM and distribution of leaflets in Hong Kong, inviting the public to participate in the forum and workshops. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.
Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2013 in Guangzhou	To tie in with the measures under CEPA, the HKFDC and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Guangdong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) together with the General Administration of Press	\$258,827	The GAPPRFT of Guangdong Province, Guangdong Film Industry Association	Completed	Event details have been made public via press release in Hong Kong and Guangdong. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	N.A.

	and Publication, Radio, Film, and Television (GAPPRFT) of Guangdong Province and the Guangdong Film Industry Association staged the seven-day Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2013 in Guangzhou from August 19 to 25, featuring original Cantonese version of five Hong Kong films so as to promote the Cantonese version of Hong Kong films in Guangdong and expedite their importation for screening, thereby expanding the Guangdong market.				Newspaper advertorials were also published to encourage the trades to make use of the measures under CEPA to expand the market of the Cantonese version of Hong Kong films in Guangdong.	
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 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 Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Guangdong Communications Authority	Completed. (OFTA of Hong Kong and the Guangdong Communications Authority signed the cooperative 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.

- (b) The Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2014-15 already known are as follows:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	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
Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2014 in Guangzhou	To tie in with the measures under CEPA, the HKFDC and the HKETO in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government together with the GAPPRFT of Guangdong Province and the Guangdong Film Industry Association plan to stage the Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2014 in Guangzhou in the autumn of 2014, featuring a few original Cantonese version of Hong Kong films so as to promote the Cantonese version of Hong Kong films in Guangdong and expedite their importation for screening, thereby expanding the Guangdong market.	\$300,000 (estimated)	The GAPPRFT of Guangdong Province, Guangdong Film Industry Association	Under preparation. Planned to be staged in the autumn of 2014	Event details have been made public via press release in Hong Kong and Guangdong. The workload was absorbed by existing staff and resources.	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 the Mainland broadcasters in programme productions. Such collaboration usually takes the form of simulcast or exchange of programmes but does not involve any manpower and expenditure.

** Including RTHK and the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration/ Office of the Communications Authority but excluding the Innovation and Technology Commission and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer as both departments have received the same question and they will give their replies separately.*

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)021

(Question Serial No. 4665)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 161):

Licensed free-to-air television (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. Over the past three years, please

- (a) list by programme type, the number of programme hours with subtitles on all channels of each of the two free-to-air TV stations and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT);
- (b) tell us whether the Administration has allocated resources over the past year to evaluate if the number of programme hours with subtitling meets the demand of people with special needs? If yes, how much resources have been involved? If not, what are the reasons? Will there be budget for conducting assessments in 2014-15?
- (c) 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 RTHK DTT;
- (d) tell us whether the Administration has allocated resources over the past year to look 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. If yes, how much? If not, what are the reasons? Will there be budget for conducting studies in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) In accordance with the conditions of the domestic free television programme service licences (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 programmes, current affairs and emergency announcements shown on their analogue/simulcast digital services (i.e. the two Chinese channels and the two English channels); and
 - (ii) as from end 2010, all drama programmes shown on the Chinese channels.

According to the records of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), both licensees currently comply with the above-mentioned requirements. Since it is not a licence condition for the licensees to furnish 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 p.m. and 11 p.m. As per this requirement, the two licensees offered in the past three years (2011-2013) 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 (2011-2013) 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 from end 2010. Starting from end 2012, the licensees have to provide English subtitles for all programmes shown on their English channels between 8:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. According to the records of OFCA, the two licensees offered in the past three years no less than 4 749 hours of programmes shown with English subtitles during the time slot in question.

For Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), to uphold the principle of serving the general public, RTHK has complied with OFCA's Generic Code of Practice on Television by primarily providing subtitles for all programmes (except unforeseen current affairs, live events and emergency announcements).

(b) and (d)

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 has begun a review in connection with licence renewal to extensively consult the public on their views about the performance of the two licensees. The CA will carefully consider the public views collected and balance the views of the public and stakeholders before considering if it is necessary to take follow-up action.

For RTHK, the TV Division of RTHK produces about 78 hours of information programmes with sign language interpretation and subtitles (e.g. the "News Review" (《時事摘錄》) and "Look and Learn" (《識多一點點》) every year to facilitate audience with hearing impairment. In 2013-14, the TV Division of RTHK jointly produced with the Labour and Welfare Bureau the "Sign Language Capriccios" (《手語隨想曲》) to introduce various sign language vocabularies through light-hearted, interesting stories, hoping to strike a more proper balance between entertainment and learning and arouse people's interest in sign language. Sign language interpretation and subtitling are also provided for the programme. Broadcasting signals with sign language interpretation (e.g. the Chief Executive's Policy Address and the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech) will also be provided for the media by the TV Division.

(c) 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)022

(Question Serial No. 2414)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau administers, through Create Hong Kong Office, the Film Development Fund and Film Guarantee Fund to facilitate location filming in Hong Kong, etc. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee whether there are relevant plans to facilitate location filming? Does the Government apply the same standards in facilitating production of local or overseas films? How much resources will be devoted to location filming in Hong Kong in 2014-15?

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

Reply:

One of the responsibilities of Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) is to assist film production companies to conduct location filming in Hong Kong. CreateHK acts as a bridge between the film industry and the government departments concerned, co-ordinating the related application procedures to facilitate film shooting and minimise inconvenience to the public. Services provided by CreateHK include recommending filming locations to production crews and providing relevant information, arranging production crews to visit the filming locations, assisting production crews to obtain necessary approvals or permits, and liaising with relevant government departments on matters relating to lane/road closure and parking of filming vehicles. In addition, CreateHK has prepared information on government and private premises available for location filming and published reference materials on location filming in Hong Kong for local and overseas film crews. The relevant information can be accessed online and at CreateHK's office.

CreateHK handles each case in an impartial manner. In 2013, CreateHK assisted 175 production crews to conduct location filming in Hong Kong, including 150 local crews and 25 overseas crews.

It is part of the regular work of CreateHK to facilitate location filming in Hong Kong. In 2014-15, the resources involved are mainly emoluments of the staff concerned, which have been included in the overall expenditure of the Communications and Technology Branch of the CEDB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)023

(Question Serial No. 1814)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

The Chief Executive, in his Policy Address, proposed to set up an Innovation and Technology Bureau as a centralised body to co-ordinate and promote innovation and technology policy. What are the details of the proposal? What is the provision earmarked? What are the respective estimated annual expenditures for the Secretary, the Under Secretary and civil servants of all ranks? When will the proposal be submitted to the Legislative Council for consideration?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). The proposal will be submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. As regards the details of the estimated expenditure for setting up the ITB, elaboration will be given in the papers submitted to the above-mentioned committees for consideration.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)024

(Question Serial No. 1909)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 22):

The Communications and Technology Branch will continue to assist in the processing of an application for renewal of a domestic pay television programme service licence and two applications for renewal of domestic free television programme service licences in 2014-15. What are the details, schedule, expenditure involved, consultancy fees and staffing arrangement for the work? Will the Branch review the established procedures for licence renewal and make public the processing criteria so as to increase its transparency?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

According to section 11 of the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562), the Communications Authority (CA) shall, in respect of an application for renewal of a domestic free or pay television programme service licence, as soon as is practicable after the receipt of the application and, in any case, not later than 12 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence, submit recommendations to the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) in relation to the renewal or non-renewal of the licence, and where appropriate, the conditions subject to which the licence may be renewed. The CE in Council shall consider the recommendations concerned and as soon as is practicable renew the licence to which they relate subject to such conditions as he thinks fit specified in the licence; or decide not to renew the licence.

The CA is now processing an application for renewal of a domestic pay television programme service licence and two applications for renewal of domestic free television programme service licences in accordance with the established procedures and will submit recommendations to the CE in Council in 2014-15. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources. No separate breakdown of expenditure is available.

When processing the renewal applications, the CA will not only assess the performance of the licensees concerned in relation to their compliance with the statutory requirements, licence conditions and codes of practice, but also consider their operational, financial, technical and programming arrangements, future commitments as well as views collected during public consultation. The CE in Council will consider all relevant factors before making any decision on the applications.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)025

(Question Serial No. 1911)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

In 2014-15, the Communications and Technology Branch will continue to oversee the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a public service broadcaster. What are the details, the expenditure involved and staffing arrangement envisaged for the relevant work? Regarding the shelving of the construction project of the New Broadcasting House for RTHK in Tseung Kwan O, when will the Administration re-submit the proposal to the Legislative Council for consideration? Has the Administration assessed the project estimate in the coming five years and the implications of shelving the project?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to embark on various new development initiatives in 2014-15 to fulfill its mission as the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong. These include digital terrestrial television (DTT) and digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services, the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service, the Media Asset Management project and the re-planning of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) project. This Bureau will continue to offer policy steer and resource support for RTHK for the implementation of various new development initiatives. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources and manpower without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

For the New BH project, when considering the funding application for construction of the New BH of RTHK, Members of the Public Works Subcommittee have generally agreed in principle to the need for the New BH. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will therefore start re-planning of the New BH project. In response to Members' concerns, RTHK will take a critical review of the necessary facilities proposed in the original proposal and explore whether there are methods to adjust the scope of the project and reduce project cost. RTHK will also review with the ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "Design and Build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "Consultancy" mode. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least two years to complete after the review. We are unable to forecast the project cost after re-tendering at this stage.

Owing to the delay in completion of the New BH, there would be corresponding delay in the commencement of RTHK's new services (e.g. further development of DTT and DAB services) after the completion of the New BH. Moreover, with the delay of the New BH project, we have to implement further and more extensive interim measures to properly tackle the dilapidated, congested and deteriorating working conditions of the existing premises of RTHK along the Broadcast Drive in order to maintain the current level of public broadcasting services provided for the public. In the estimate for 2014-15, RTHK has yet to earmark provision for any of these options.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)026

(Question Serial No. 1862)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 32):

How will the Administration oversee the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a public service broadcaster (PSB) in 2014-15? What are the expenditure and details of the development plans? Do they cover the funding application for construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O? If not, what specific plans will be implemented to offer support for RTHK to fulfil its mission as a PSB?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to embark on various new development initiatives in 2014-15 to fulfill its mission as the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong. These include digital terrestrial television (DTT) and digital audio broadcasting services, the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service, the Media Asset Management project and the re-planning of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) project. This Bureau will continue to offer policy steer and resource support for RTHK for the implementation of various new development initiatives.

The estimated expenditure of RTHK for 2014-15 is \$784,477,000, which is an increase of \$51,712,000 (7.1%) over the revised estimate for 2013-14. The increased provision is mainly for planning and launching new DTT services, implementing other new services and projects, providing necessary support for the re-provisioning of the BH, and enhancing web content and new media platforms.

For the New BH project, when considering the funding application for construction of the New BH of RTHK, Members of the Public Works Subcommittee have generally agreed in principle to the need for the New BH. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will therefore start re-planning of the New BH project. In response to Members' concerns, RTHK will take a critical review of the necessary facilities proposed in the original proposal and explore whether there are methods to adjust the scope of the project and reduce project cost. RTHK will also review with the ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "Design and Build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "Consultancy" mode. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least two years to complete after the review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)027

(Question Serial No. 0361)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

The estimated provision for Programme (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries in 2014-15 is \$298 million. Can the Administration explain in detail how it will use the provision, in addition to the funding provided through the CreateSmart Initiative, the Film Development Fund and the Film Guarantee Fund, for achieving the aim to “promote the development of broadcasting and creative industries and enhance Hong Kong’s position as a broadcasting and creative capital”?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

The Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) is responsible for promoting the development of broadcasting and creative industries and enhancing Hong Kong’s position as a broadcasting and creative capital. The estimated provision for Programme (1) under Head 55 in 2014-15 is \$298 million, among which about \$127 million will be disbursed through the CreateSmart Initiative and the Film Development Fund for supporting the trade in organising projects that are conducive to the development and promotion of creative industries and fostering a creative atmosphere. The remaining estimated provision is mainly for meeting the operational expenses of the CTB and supporting individual projects which facilitate the development of creative industries. Examples include:

- (a) providing funding support for the organisation of the Hong Kong International Film Festival;
- (b) holding a large-scale promotional project “Hong Kong Film New Action” at the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market;
- (c) organising activities in the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau for promoting Hong Kong-produced films;
- (d) supporting the operation of the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) and providing funding support for the HKDC to organise the Business of Design Week 2014 and the HKDC Awards and to administer the Design Incubation Programme;
- (e) providing funding support for the promotion of Comix Home Base and PMQ; and
- (f) organising activities which promote Create Hong Kong and its funding schemes.

The Government’s broadcasting policy objectives are to widen programme choice and diversity through competition and to enhance Hong Kong’s position as a regional broadcasting hub. In 2014-15, the Government will continue to monitor the implementation of digital broadcasting services and handle licensing and regulation matters in connection with the broadcasting industry according to the established broadcasting policy.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)028

(Question Serial No. 5997)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 532):

It is mentioned in paragraph 62 of the 2014-15 Budget Speech that “The Chief Executive, in his Policy Address, proposed to set up an Innovation and Technology Bureau as a centralised body to co-ordinate and promote innovation and technology policy. The proposal is widely supported by the industry, and I look forward to its early implementation.”

(a) In 2014-15, how much resources have been earmarked by the Administration as operational expenses for the Innovation and Technology Bureau?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). The proposal will be submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. As regards the details of the estimated operational expenses for the ITB to be established, elaboration will be given in the papers submitted to the above-mentioned committees for consideration.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)029****(Question Serial No. 6700)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 537):

It is mentioned in the 2014-15 Budget Speech that “101. The development of SMEs has always been high on my agenda, and I appreciate the different challenges that they face such as surging costs and keen competition. Over the years, Government has rolled out an array of appropriate measures to support their development. Given the uncertain external economic environment, I shall continue to lend support to local SMEs in financing, market expansion, brand building and productivity enhancement through the following seven measures -

(a)	extending the application period for the special concessionary measures under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme for one year to the end of February 2015. From its launch to the end of 2013, over 8 000 applications have been approved, benefiting over 5 500 enterprises with total loan guarantee of more than \$27 billion;
(b)	continuing the implementation of the Small Business Policy (SBP) scheme by the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation to allow SMEs engaging in export trade more flexibility in taking out insurance cover. The SBP scheme has been well received since its launch in March last year. More than 700 applications have been approved with the value of total insured business amounting to over \$1 billion. SBP policyholders will continue to enjoy waiver of the annual policy fee and up to 20 per cent premium discount;
(c)	earmarking \$50 million to support retailers on a matching fund basis for the use of IT and other technology solutions to increase productivity;
(d)	promoting cloud computing applications among SMEs and providing training to help them adopt appropriate and affordable IT solutions;
(e)	continuing with the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited's Microfinance Scheme. Up to the end of 2013, 106 applications have been approved under the scheme, with a total loan amount of over \$28 million;
(f)	continuing to make use of the dedicated fund and extend the network of the HKTDC Design Gallery to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing brands, in upgrading and restructuring, as well as in exploring market opportunities in the Mainland; and
(g)	continuing to identify suitable workspace for individuals and enterprises engaging in creative industries and help promote their work. The “Comix Home Base” converted from a pre-war building was open in July last year. The creative industries landmark “PMQ”, a \$500 million government project of revitalising the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road, is coming on stream in the first half of this year.

”

Please tell as what performance the Administration will expect from paragraph (g) above and what the performance indicator is.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) provides funding support through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) for the industry and relevant bodies to organise activities for the development and promotion of creative clusters including the “PMQ” and the “Comix Home Base”. The Government expects that the activities will help attract the public and tourists to visit the creative clusters and foster a creative atmosphere within the community with a view to facilitating the development of local creative industries. Under the present practice, the organisers of all projects funded by the CSI are required to issue a standard questionnaire to collect feedback from the participants of the programmes on whether they are satisfied with the programmes and whether the programmes are useful, etc. CreateHK will maintain contact with the operators of creative clusters and enhance promotion of the creative clusters where necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)030

(Question Serial No. 0601)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that (the Administration) will continue to identify suitable workspace for individuals and enterprises engaging in creative industries and help promote their work. What planned projects will the Bureau implement to facilitate the development of creative industries in the coming year? Will it collaborate with other bureaux to assist in promoting the development of creative industries and what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The Government will formulate policies in the coming year to encourage cinema patronage for Hong Kong-produced movies so as to promote development of the local film industry. Moreover, we will review, in consultation with the Hong Kong Film Development Council and the relevant stakeholders, the way forward of the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the Film Guarantee Fund as the means to support development of the local film industry. The Government also attaches great importance to nurturing talents for the local film industry. Three winning film projects have been selected under the First Feature Film Initiative launched in early 2013, and financial support from the FDF has been made available to three new directors and their film production teams to make their first feature films on a commercial basis. The shooting and production of these three films are underway.

Apart from the film industry, the Government will continue to provide funding support through the CreateSmart Initiative for the trade to organise suitable events and help promote the newly established Comix Home Base and PMQ to develop local creative clusters. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) will continue to work with other bureaux or departments where appropriate to facilitate development of the creative industries. For example, the CEDB has participated in the revitalisation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road which is led by the Development Bureau. The quarters are being converted into the PMQ, a landmark with a focus on the design sector. The PMQ will be opened in the middle of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)031****(Question Serial No. 2491)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 49):

After the Government launched the Scheme for Financing Film Production under the Film Development Fund in 2007, the number of enquiries and applications in connection with the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) has dropped significantly. Moreover, the utilisation rate of the FGF in recent years has been low. Will the Administration advise this Committee how many enquiries and applications have been received and how many applications approved in connection with the FGF on a year-on-year basis? Does the Administration have plans to review whether the FGF should exist? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? Has the Administration studied the effect of the simplification of the FGF's application procedures, and assessment process and criteria on the total operational expenses?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

Since the setting up of the Film Guarantee Fund (FGF) in 2003, 12 applications have been received and approved with a total commitment of around \$26 million. The figures are as follows:

Year	Number of applications approved	Amount of loan guarantee approved (\$)
2003	4*	8,630,000*
2004	3	7,875,000
2005	2	3,875,000
2006	1	2,375,000
2007	2	3,250,000

*One application was withdrawn by the applicant afterwards, the amount of loan guarantee involved being \$2.34 million.

We do not have information on the number of enquiries on the FGF.

We have not received any new applications under the FGF since July 2007. We are reviewing, in consultation with the Film Development Council and members of the film industry, the way forward of the Film Development Fund and the FGF as the means to support development of the local film industry. The review is expected to be completed by mid 2014. We will brief the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the findings of the review in due course.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2492)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 50):

The Administration has indicated that it will promote the development of broadcasting and creative industries in 2014-15 and enhance Hong Kong's position as a broadcasting and creative capital. Will the Administration advise this Committee of the specific work involved and distribution of expenses? How much resources have been deployed for promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital over the past three years?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The Create Hong Kong office (CreateHK) under the Communications and Technology Branch mainly provides financial support through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and the Film Development Fund (FDF) to the trade for organising events which promote the development of local creative industries and enhance Hong Kong's position as a creative capital. The estimated provision for the CSI and the FDF to support programmes conducive to the development of creative industries and the film industry in 2014-15 is about \$127 million. CreateHK will also continue to support the operation of the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC), provide funding support for the HKDC to organise the Business of Design Week and the HKDC Awards, and support the HKDC in administering the second phase of the Design Incubation Programme, with a view to promoting the development of the local design sector. The estimated provision in 2014-15 for the work in this regard is about \$52.9 million. In addition, CreateHK will in 2014-15 provide financial support for and organise initiatives which promote the Hong Kong film industry, facilitate the promotion of Comix Home Base and PMQ, and undertake other tasks which support local creative industries. The relevant estimated provision is about \$21.17 million.

CreateHK enhances Hong Kong's position as a creative capital by supporting the organisation of signature events in Hong Kong. Over the past three years (from 2011-12 to 2013-14), CreateHK has allocated about \$185 million in total to support the organisation of signature events for promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital.

The Government's broadcasting policy objectives are to widen programme choice and diversity through competition and to enhance Hong Kong's position as a regional broadcasting hub. In 2014-15, the Government will continue to monitor the implementation of digital broadcasting services and handle licensing and regulatory matters in connection with the broadcasting industry according to the established broadcasting policy.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)033****(Question Serial No. 3061)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 9.10):

On propelling development in the cultural and creative industries, please set out in table form:

- (a) specific measures that the Administration introduced last year to support sectors of the cultural and creative industries (e.g. advertising, architecture, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, 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 to support sectors of the cultural and creative industries (e.g. advertising, architecture, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, 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, the Create Hong Kong Office (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 nurturing of local creative talent; facilitating the development of creative start-up companies; expanding local market; exploring Mainland and overseas markets; fostering a creative atmosphere within the community; developing creative clusters; and supporting the organisation of flagship events to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital. CreateHK provides financial support to projects conducive to the development of creative industries mainly through 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 2013-14 (some of which straddle 2013-14 or previous years and 2014-15), the total funding involved is around \$210 million (Note 1). The table below lists the project categories by creative sectors:

Creative Sectors	Projects or its Category
Advertising	Sponsoring graduate support schemes; supporting the participation of local talents from the advertising sector in international advertising competitions; nurturing advertising production start-ups to make music microfilms for brand building; and sponsoring the organisation of the first Greater China Digital Advertising Creativity Forum, etc.
Architecture	Sponsoring the organisation of the 2013 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (Hong Kong) and the setting up of a response exhibition for the 13th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition (Hong Kong Exhibition), etc.
Design	Sponsoring the organisation of competitions and award presentation ceremonies that

Creative Sectors	Projects or its Category
	celebrate design excellence and identify new talents, the World Design Summer Camp and overseas exchange programmes, forums and exhibitions aiming to promote design, and annual mega events including the Knowledge of Design Week, DETOUR and the Business of Design Week (BODW), etc.; drafting the guidelines for the interior design industry; organising exhibition in Taiwan to promote Hong Kong design; holding forums, conducting industry surveys and establishing internet resources platform to strengthen exchanges with the counterparts in Shenzhen; and implementing the Design Incubation Programme (DIP) and the Design-Business Collaboration Scheme (DBCS), etc.
Film	Launching the First Feature Film Initiative; sponsoring the Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2014, the 38th Hong Kong International Film Festival, the 12th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum, the 32nd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the HKIFF Cine Fan Programme and The Bruce Lee Way, etc.; promoting Hong Kong films at the Cannes Film Festival and in Guangzhou; conducting study on the cinema facilities and publishing "A Collection of Information about Hong Kong Film Industry"; organising the "Hong Kong Film New Action" Workshop and Forum, etc.
Digital Entertainment	Organising the Hong Kong Ani-Com Summer 2013 and related activities; sponsoring graduate support schemes and the development of on-line and smartphone 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 International Comic Artist Conference and SIGGRAPH Asia in Hong Kong; supporting start-up animation companies; sponsoring the organisation of comic exhibitions in Taiwan to facilitate exchange between Hong Kong and Taiwan comic artists; and sponsoring the organisation of the first Asia Smartphone Apps Contest, etc.
Music	Sponsoring the organisation of the LiveTube concerts 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 international major book fairs held in Guangzhou, Beijing, Frankfurt, Taipei and Bologna, etc.
Cross-sector	Sponsoring the organisation of the Hong Kong Short Film: New Action Express to support the participation of local short films and animations in overseas competitions, large scale exhibitions held in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong creative products and brands, and the MaD Forum which is an annual creative signature event for the youth, etc.

Note 1 : The projects listed took place or commenced in 2013-14, including some approved in or before 2012-13. Thus, the amount of funding involved is not limited to the funding approved in 2013-14.

Besides, the Government has been providing support to the digital entertainment industry through the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport). Cyberport has been introducing leading-edge applications of information and communications technology (ICT) and providing high-end production equipment like the Cyberport Community Cloud to support the production of video, film, animation, etc. Moreover, Cyberport has implemented the Cyberport Incubation Programme to provide comprehensive financial, technical and business advisory supports to ICT (including digital entertainment, software and computing, etc.) startups to help them turn their creative ideas into business undertakings or commercial products. The expenditure involved in these projects was paid by Cyberport.

(b) In 2014-15, CreateHK will continue to provide financial support to projects conducive to the

development of the creative industries. At present, around \$49 million has been committed for projects that will commence in 2014-15 (Note 2). The table below lists the project categories by creative sectors:

Creative Sectors	Projects or its Category
Architecture	Sponsoring the setting up of the Hong Kong Exhibition at the 14th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition.
Design	Sponsoring the Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award, overseas promotion of Hong Kong design, the study on the needs of the design of taxi in Hong Kong in future, and continue the organisation of the BODW and the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) Awards and the running of the DIP and the DBCS, etc.
Film	Sponsoring the organisation of the 33rd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the promoting of Hong Kong films at the Cannes Film Festival, the organisation of the Indie Film Producer Workshop and the compilation of the HK Box Office Archive Data, etc.
Digital Entertainment	Sponsoring the organisation of the 2nd Animation Support Program, etc.

Note 2 : The projects listed are only those with funding committed and to be commenced in 2014-15. Projects that commenced in 2013-14 or before but with certain parts yet to take place in 2014-15 are not included. The amount of funding is the lump sum CreateHK approves for the projects concerned and the estimated expenditure of supporting the operation of the HKDC, organising the BODW and the HKDC Awards and implementing the DIP in 2014-15. Projects pending approval or submission of funding applications are not included

Regarding the promotion of software and computing, the measures mentioned in Part (a) will continue in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)034

(Question Serial No. 3079)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 114):

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 that (the Bureau) will continue to assist in completing the remaining work relating to the applications for domestic free television programme service licences. What are the details and expenditure of the work? When will the work be expected to complete? Is it possible to promise to complete the work within this year?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

On 15 October 2013, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) approved in principle the applications of Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV) and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited (HKTVE) for domestic free television programme service (free TV) licences. The Communications Authority (CA) has requested the two applicants to submit the necessary additional information and will discuss the licence terms with them. The CA will review the information submitted by Fantastic TV and HKTVE in due course with a view to submitting to the CE in Council recommendations on whether free TV licences should be formally granted to the two applicants. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible.

The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)035

(Question Serial No. 3082)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 11):

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 that (the Bureau will) "continue to monitor the implementation of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services". Will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the number of DAB listeners in the past year? What criteria the Administration has adopted for assessing the implementation of DAB services other than the number of listeners?
- (b) What specific measures the Administration has taken in 2014-15 to promote the use of DAB services by the public and enhance public awareness of the advantages of DAB? What is the budget for these measures?
- (c) How many meetings the DAB Steering Committee has held in 2013-14? What specific plans it has for promoting DAB services?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

- (a) We do not have the statistics on the number of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) listeners over the past year. According to a listenership survey on digital broadcasting conducted by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) from August to September 2013, among the pool of listeners who have listened to DAB services in the past seven days and we are certain of which DAB channel they have listened, the listening rate of RTHK's DAB channels is 41.7%. The Administration has been closely monitoring the implementation of DAB along three directions –
 - (i) monitoring the progress in rolling out DAB services by DAB broadcasters;
 - (ii) monitoring the progress of the construction of the transmission network by the operators and the enhancement of signal coverage; and
 - (iii) keeping in view the sale of DAB receivers and maintaining contact with the industry.
- (b) and (c)

Since granting sound broadcasting licences in March 2011 for the provision of DAB services, the Government has taken a series of measures through the Digital Audio Broadcasting Steering Committee (DABSC) to support the development of DAB services and, in particular, the promotion of the brand new service to the public. Members of the DABSC exchanged views through various channels, such as circulation of papers and holding meetings as necessary. In 2013-14, the DABSC held one working group meeting to discuss the relevant measures on publicity and promotion, and Members mainly exchanged views through circulation of papers by email. Through the DABSC, the Government has taken the following specific measures to promote DAB services –

- (i) co-operation with the broadcasters to promote DAB services to the public. The promotional measures already implemented include the creation of a dedicated website for DAB, participation in relevant exhibitions, meeting with the industry, production of promotional posters / leaflets 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 on public transport;
- (ii) close monitoring of the progress of construction of the transmission network by operators and the coverage of the network. To improve signal coverage and reception, the DABSC has urged the operators to optimise the transmission network by, among other things, the construction of new gap-filler stations;
- (iii) co-operation with the DAB operators to keep in view the sale of DAB receivers and maintain contact with the industry;
- (iv) liaison with the vehicle manufacturers / importers to encourage the industry to install DAB radios in vehicles imported to Hong Kong for sale, and in particular to explore with relevant department the feasibility of installing DAB radios with display panels inside vehicles without adversely affecting road safety; and
- (v) provision of technical advice and support by the Office of the Communications Authority and RTHK to the licensed broadcasters.

In the 2014-15 financial year, the Administration will employ existing resources to continue to take the above-mentioned measures to support the development of DAB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)036

(Question Serial No. 1376)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

It is mentioned in paragraph 62 of the Budget Speech that an Innovation and Technology Bureau will be set up. What are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for 2014-15 by the Administration?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up the Innovation and Technology Bureau. The proposal will be submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. The specific staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure will be elaborated in the papers submitted by the Administration to the above-mentioned committees for consideration.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)037

(Question Serial No. 1377)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Regarding the processing of the application for renewal of the domestic pay television programme service licence, will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for 2014-15?
- (b) In the event that the Chief Executive in Council decides not to approve the renewal of the licence, will the Administration earmark manpower and resources to handle the remaining work such as inviting licence applications and conducting a consultancy study? If yes, what is the content of the consultancy study? What are the work details, schedule, manpower and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

According to section 11 of the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562), the Communications Authority (CA) shall, in respect of an application for renewal of a domestic pay television programme service licence, as soon as is practicable after the receipt of the application and, in any case, not later than 12 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence, submit recommendations to the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) in relation to the renewal or non-renewal of the licence, and where appropriate, the conditions subject to which the licence may be renewed. The CE in Council shall consider the recommendations concerned and as soon as is practicable renew the licence to which they relate subject to such conditions as he thinks fit specified in the licence, or decide not to renew the licence.

The CA is now processing the application for renewal of a domestic pay television programme service licence in accordance with the established procedures and will submit recommendations to the CE in Council in 2014-15. As the assessment is still underway, it is not appropriate for us to speculate on the outcome. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources. No separate breakdown of expenditure is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)038

(Question Serial No. 1378)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

Regarding the development plans for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a public service broadcaster (PSB), will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) After withdrawal of the application for funding to build RTHK's New Broadcasting House, has the Administration assessed the increase in the estimated expenditure after the re-tendering exercise, the implications on digital television and digital audio broadcasting services, and the effects on the working environment of its staff? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure?
- (b) Does the Administration have plans to allocate additional resources to RTHK in 2014-15 to implement necessary improvement or enrichment measures so as to ensure that RTHK can continue to fulfill its mission as a PSB effectively? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) When considering the funding application for construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Members of the Public Works Subcommittee have generally agreed in principle to the need for the New BH. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will therefore start re-planning of the New BH project. In response to Members' concerns, RTHK will take a critical review of the necessary facilities proposed in the original proposal and explore whether there are methods to adjust the scope of the project and reduce project cost. RTHK will also review with the ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "Design and Build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "Consultancy" mode. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least two years to complete after the review. We are unable to forecast the project cost after re-tendering at this stage.

Owing to the delay in completion of the New BH, there would be corresponding delay in the commencement of RTHK's new services (e.g. further development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) and digital audio broadcasting services) after the completion of the New BH. Moreover, with the delay of the New BH project, we have to implement further and more extensive interim measures to properly tackle the dilapidated, congested and deteriorating working conditions of the existing premises of RTHK along the Broadcast Drive in order to maintain the current level of public broadcasting services provided for the public. In the estimate for 2014-15, RTHK has yet to earmark provision for any of these options.

- (b) The estimated expenditure of RTHK for 2014-15 is \$784,477,000, which is an increase of \$51,712,000 (7.1%) over the revised estimate for 2013-14. The increased provision is mainly for planning and launching new DTT services, implementing other new services and projects, providing necessary support for the re-provisioning of the BH, and enhancing web content and new media platforms. Regarding the staffing establishment, there will be a net increase of 35 non-directorate civil service

posts (creation of 36 new posts and deletion of one time-limited post) in RTHK this year. Of the 36 posts to be created, seven are newly created for mainly strengthening various support services (including engineering, repair and maintenance of the existing premises and facilities, administration, translation, accounting, etc.) to tie in with the implementation of new services. The remaining 29 civil service posts are created to replace corresponding non-civil service contract positions for which the long term need is established. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, television and new media programmes and performing other support duties.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)039

(Question Serial No. 1379)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Regarding the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) services, will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the DDT coverage of Hong Kong's population as at 28 February 2014?
- (b) Will the Government switch-off analogue broadcasting in 2015 so as to release spectrum for more television and other communication services? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for this year? If not, what are the reasons for the delay?
- (c) Will the Administration allocate resources to facilitate the migration to digital broadcasting, assign the released spectrum through auction or conduct a consultancy study? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for this year?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) According to the reports submitted by the two domestic free television programme service licensees, the coverage of their Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) services has reached 99% of the population by 30 September 2013, which is on a par with that of analogue television. The verification is underway and is expected to be completed by end of March this year.

(b) and (c)

The Government announced in 2011 that the working target for switching off analogue television services (i.e. "analogue switch-off" or ASO) would be at end 2015. The Administration will closely monitor the development and situation of the market as well as the progress in switching to DTT by the public before deciding on the actual date of ASO and announcing the decision in due course. We will continue to use existing resources to monitor the implementation of DTT services and prepare for the migration from analogue television to DTT.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)040

(Question Serial No. 1380)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 32):

Regarding the processing of the applications for renewals of the domestic free television programme service licences, will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for 2014-15?
- (b) In the event that the Chief Executive in Council decides not to approve the renewal of the licences, will the Administration earmark manpower and resources to handle the remaining work such as inviting licence applications and conducting a consultancy study? If yes, what is the content of the consultancy study? What are the work details, schedule, manpower and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

Under section 11 of the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562), the Communications Authority (CA) shall, in respect of a domestic free television programme service licence, as soon as is practicable after the receipt of an application and, in any case, not later than 12 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence, submit recommendations to the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) in relation to the renewal or non-renewal of the licence, and where appropriate, the conditions subject to which the licence may be renewed. The CE in Council shall consider the recommendations concerned and as soon as is practicable renew the licence to which they relate subject to such conditions as he thinks fit specified in the licence; or decide not to renew the licence.

The CA is now processing the two applications for renewal of domestic free television programme service licences in accordance with the established procedures and will submit recommendations to the CE in Council in 2014-15. As the assessment is still underway, it is not appropriate for us to speculate on the outcome. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible. The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources. No separate breakdown of expenditure is available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)041

(Question Serial No. 1381)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Regarding the digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services, will the Administration advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the DAB coverage of Hong Kong's population as at 28 February 2014?
- (b) Will the Administration allocate resources to facilitate the migration to DAB? What are the work plan, schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure envisaged for this year?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The digital audio broadcasting (DAB) licensees have completed the construction of seven main hilltop transmitting stations in mid-2012 with signal coverage of over 70% (in terms of buildings).
- (b) At present, analogue sound broadcasting continues to be the prevailing sound broadcasting format in the world. The listening public worldwide generally regard DAB as a complement to, rather than a replacement of analogue sound broadcasting services. In line with the prevailing international practice, we have no plan for the migration of analogue sound broadcasting to DAB. The Administration will continue to use existing resources to monitor the implementation of DAB services.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)042

(Question Serial No. 1398)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

As the Administration is going to introduce legislative amendments for the implementation of the spectrum re-assignment arrangements, will it allocate resources for studying and reviewing the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework in 2014-15? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule, required manpower and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

To implement the re-assignment arrangements for the spectrum in the 1.9-2.2 GHz band for the provision of 3G mobile services, the Government is in the process of preparing a new regulation under section 32I(2) of the Telecommunications Ordinance to prescribe the method for determining the spectrum utilisation fee (SUF) of the Right-of-first-refusal Spectrum, and amending the Telecommunications (Determining Spectrum Utilisation Fees by Auction) Regulation (Cap. 106AC) for determining the SUF of the Re-auctioned Spectrum. The legislative amendments are not related to the study and review of the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework.

It is stated clearly in the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework that the Government will review the framework from time to time having regard to the technological, market and societal developments in Hong Kong and internationally, as well as the key issues related to spectrum policy and management. We have no plan to allocate resources for studying and reviewing the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)043

(Question Serial No. 1399)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

Will the Administration allocate resources in 2014-15 for following up the study on radio spectrum trading? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

A preliminary examination of the experience of other countries and regions in spectrum trading by the Government indicates that this is a complicated issue and involves a number of implementation problems. These include the ways to prevent mobile network operators from buying more spectrum to lessen market competition, the requirements of eligible participating operators, vetting criteria, etc. The Government will continue to keep in view the latest international trend and market situation in Hong Kong, and will carefully study its feasibility and fully assess the implications before mapping out the way forward for radio spectrum trading.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the work will be met by existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)044

(Question Serial No. 1400)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 30):

Since the introduction of the "Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme" (CCSS) in November 2012, how many applications for mediation service have been received? How many cases have been accepted and how many cases have completed mediation with full or partial agreement? What are the specific schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure for assessing the effectiveness of the CCSS in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

To help resolve billing disputes in deadlock between consumers and their telecommunications service providers, the telecommunications industry has set up a voluntary "Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme" (CCSS) with the active facilitation of the Office of Communications Authority (OFCA). The scheme will run for a trial period of two years as from November 2012. The CCSS helps resolve, by means of mediation, billing disputes between the concerned parties without the involvement of formal legal procedures and without the need for expensive legal cost. At present, all major telecommunications service providers have participated in the scheme. Under the CCSS, mediation service is provided by an independent mediation service centre (the service centre) set up by the Communications Association of Hong Kong, an industry organisation. The consumer and the relevant telecommunications service provider are required to pay HK\$100 and HK\$200 respectively as the fees for using the mediation service. OFCA supports the scheme by sponsoring the residual operation expenses of the CCSS; assessing whether a dispute case is eligible for acceptance (the acceptance criteria include that the amount in dispute being not less than HK\$300 and the situation where the consumer has lodged a complaint with his telecommunications service provider but a deadlock is reached (a deadlock means a situation where more than six weeks have passed since the consumer has first complained to his telecommunications service provider and the dispute has not been settled)); actively monitoring the performance and the governance of the scheme, and providing other administrative support.

During the first 15 months of trial period of the scheme (i.e. from 1 November 2012 to 31 January 2014), a total of 146 eligible cases were received. Among them, 91 cases were settled through further negotiation between the consumers and their telecommunications service providers before referral to the service centre by OFCA, 44 were successfully settled after referral by OFCA to the service centre for processing, and the remaining 11 are being processed pending mediation to be arranged by the service centre.

Currently, one full-time mediator and five part-time mediators have been employed to provide mediation service at the service centre. The daily operating costs of the service centre mainly cover premises rental and fees for the mediators. After deducting the proceeds generated from the provision of mediation service, the OFCA Trading Fund will sponsor the residual operation expenses of the CCSS by contributing the necessary funding.

Following the completion of the two-year trial period in the fourth quarter of 2014, OFCA and the telecommunications industry will assess the effectiveness of the CCSS and the public demand for the scheme before deciding the way forward for its long-term development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)045****(Question Serial No. 1401)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 31):

It is known that there has only been one prosecution case since the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) came into force in 2007. Will the Administration advise the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of advisory letters, warning letters and enforcement notices issued by the Office of the Communications Authority to message senders who were found to be, or were likely to have been, in breach of the UEMO in 2013-14?
- (b) Does the Administration have plans to review the UEMO in 2014-15 so as to keep pace with the latest technological development, review the effectiveness of the enforcement of the UEMO and improve the reporting and investigation procedures? If yes, what are the specific schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) Since the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (UEMO) (Cap. 593) came into force in December 2007, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) has been empowered by the Communications Authority (CA) to be responsible for law enforcement action. The UEMO sets out the rules of sending commercial electronic messages and stipulates that the CA may serve an enforcement notice on a message sender who is likely to continue or repeat the contravention of these rules, directing him to remedy the contravention. Under the UEMO, any person who contravenes an enforcement notice served on him commits an offence and is liable to prosecution.

In general, if OFCA discovers after investigation that a person has contravened the rules of sending commercial electronic messages set out under the UEMO, it will consider issuing an advisory letter or a warning letter to him. According to past experience, when OFCA handled the complaint cases, most complained senders would be willing to take remedial action immediately upon approach by OFCA. If the concerned sender has taken remedial action, OFCA will not issue an enforcement notice for that case. However, OFCA will consider issuing an enforcement notice to the concerned sender if it is of the view that the contravention will likely continue or be repeated. Except for one recent prosecution case, other senders stopped sending further commercial electronic messages in contravention of the enforcement notices after receiving the served notices, and there had been no need for OFCA to pursue prosecution action.

The numbers of advisory letters, warning letters and enforcement notices issued by OFCA for the period from April 2013 to February 2014 are as follows:

	Number
Advisory letter	136
Warning letter	78
Enforcement notice	6

- (b) Since the full implementation of the UEMO in December 2007, the number of reports received by OFCA has dropped substantially from 8 000-odd in 2008 to 2 000-odd in 2013. OFCA has constantly monitored the situation of the sending of unsolicited commercial electronic messages and will streamline the procedures for more effective enforcement. At present, a technology-neutral stance has been adopted for the UEMO in regulating the sending of commercial electronic messages. It means that 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) adopted in sending such messages. The stance ensures that we are able to keep pace with the technological development and regulate the sending of all kinds of commercial electronic messages transmitted through the public telecommunications network. We will review the operation of the UEMO from time to time. OFCA will review the workload regularly and arrange adequate manpower to handle the investigation and enforcement work. The expenditure involved will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)046

(Question Serial No.2697)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 33):

Over the years, quite a number of schools and residents in remote areas such as outlying islands and villages in the New Territories have been requesting the Government to provide assistance in establishing fixed broadband networks. Does the Administration take any specific measures to promote the development of broadband networks in remote areas, compile statistics on the service needs of the residents in various areas and encourage operators to explore feasible options with a view to enhancing the penetration rate of the broadband Internet access services in remote areas and the territory? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Moreover, did the Office of the Communications Authority and other relevant departments (mainly including the Lands Department) receive applications from service operators for establishing fixed broadband networks in remote areas and requests from residents living in these areas for such services? What are the details and the number of applications received? What are the reasons for rejecting the applications?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

With the full liberalisation of the telecommunications market in Hong Kong, the provision of fixed broadband service, the network coverage and the type of technologies adopted are primarily based on the operators' commercial considerations. Upon the receipt of a request for fixed broadband service in remote areas, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) will relay it to operators and encourage them to explore feasible options, with a view to enhancing the network coverage of the subject areas and meeting market demand.

OFCA has all along been committed to offering facilitation measures to encourage and assist operators to invest in network expansion, so as to enhance network coverage and access. These measures include assisting operators in establishing network across public streets, government-owned bridges and tunnels; explaining to property management companies and owners' corporations the responsibilities and duties of operators and the advantages to the public in respect of network rollout in private premises, etc.

As it is a matter of commercial decisions for operators to expand their network coverage in remote areas, it is not necessary for them to provide OFCA with information on the number of applications received, the details of the applications and the reasons for rejecting the applications. During the period from May 2013 to February 2014, OFCA received a total of 59 enquiries from the public on fixed broadband network coverage and choices of broadband services.

For the Lands Department (Lands D), according to records, Block Licences have been granted to a total of nine fixed telecommunications network service providers for their installation of telecommunications systems and associated facilities on unleased Government land over the territory (including outlying islands and remote areas in the New Territories). The fixed telecommunications network service providers must abide by all relevant conditions set out in the Block Licence, including the requirement to obtain an Excavation Permit from the Highways Department (in the case of unleased land which is a street) or the

Lands D (in the case of unleased land other than streets) prior to any installation works involving excavation. In general, the Lands D will not reject an excavation permit application unless there is a valid objection from another government department or the works involve leased land. The Lands D does not have readily available information on the number of applications for excavation permit in remote areas.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)047

(Question Serial No. 4394)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 108):

In connection with the provision of public information and gathering of public opinions by means of the Internet, please advise on the following:

- (a) the information regarding the social media platforms set up and operated by your bureau/departments/public bodies or their agents (such as out-sourced contractors or consultants) for the past year in tabulated form (see Annex 1).

Commencement of operation (Month/Year)	Status (keep updating /ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments /public bodies/ government consultations)	Name	Social media (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/ No. of subscribers/ Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)...	(1)...					
			(2)...	(2)...					
			(3)...	(3)...					

- (b) whether the "Guidelines on the Use of Social Media" available on Government intranets give instructions to your Bureau on the ceilings on expenditures for using social media or web-based platforms, such as registration fees, advertising expenditures and value-added services. If yes, what are the details? If not, will the guidelines be revised to set out the reasonable levels of expenditures derived from the use of social media.

- (c) In recent years, governments around the world have introduced systems through which citizens may hand in their online proposals. They have also undertaken that they will give a formal online response if a certain number of citizens have indicated their support of the proposals. Has the Administration examined ways to improve the existing channels for collecting public opinions on the Internet and evaluate the feasibility of the system of collecting online proposals mentioned above? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

Reply of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) is as follows:

- (a) Please refer to Annex 1.
- (b) On using social media, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) provides technical advice and support to bureaux and departments (B/Ds) through the provision of information

security and other general guidelines for their reference, including setting up a thematic webpage to share information on as well as tips of using social media. As regards the expenditure for using social media, it would be up to individual B/Ds to decide according to their operational needs.

- (c) We do not have any specific plan at this stage from a technological perspective.

Annex 1

Commence-ment of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keep updating/ ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ Departments/ public bodies/ government consultations)	Name	Social media (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of “Likes”/ No. of subscribers/ Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
9/2011	Keep updating	Innovation and Technology Commission	(1) InnoCarnival	(1) Facebook	To utilise the popular social media to communicate with public Updated frequently	No. of “Likes”: 822 (as at 11 March 2014)	Yes	1 Assistant Manager (in addition to other duties)	Work absorbed by existing staff; no additional resources are involved and it is not possible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the set up and daily operation of the social media.
(1) 5/2009 (2) 7/2009 (3) 12/2009 (4) 9/ 2010 (5) 7/2011 (6) 4/2013	Keep updating	Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC)	(1) HKPC (2) HKPC (3) HKPC1967 (4) Hong Kong Productivity Council (5) Hong Kong Productivity Council (6) 生產力局	(1) YouTube (2) Flickr (3) Twitter (4) Sina Weibo (5) Facebook (6) Youku	To promote HKPC’s latest information, services and corporate image to existing clients and explore new client base (1) Updated on a need basis. Already uploaded 107 video clips. (2) Updated on a need basis. (3) Posted more than 790 tweets. (4) Updated on a need basis. Already published more than 660 posts. (5) Updated around 2 times per week. (6) Updated on a need basis. Already uploaded 30 video clips.	(1) Average 1 800 views per month (2) Information not available (3) About 100 followers (4) About 6 200 fans (5) No. of page post “Likes”: about 4 000. Average visitors per month around 7 600 (6) Average 140 views per month	No	1 Senior Corporate Communication Manager and 2 Corporate Communication Managers (in addition to other duties)	Implemented with HKPC’s existing manpower and resources; no additional resources are involved and it is not feasible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the set up and daily operation of the social media.

(1) 1/2011 (2) 10/2012	Keep updating	Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Institute Company Limited (ASTRI)	ASTRI	(1) YouTube (2) Facebook	(1) To provide a video channel for promoting ASTRI's latest news No. of updates: 45 (2) To build brand awareness and favourable relationship with the younger generation No. of updates: 101	(1) Total no. of video views: 9 849 No. of subscribers: 38 (2) Total no. of page post "Likes": 3 899 No. of fans: 1 939	Yes	1 Senior Manager, 1 Deputy Manager and 1 Associate (in addition to other duties)	Financial resources involving the cost for design and maintenance by the contractor assigned by ASTRI HK\$145,333 (ASTRI staff cost not included).
(1) 9/2011 (2) 10/2011	Keep updating	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC)	HKSTPC	(1) Facebook (2) YouTube	To utilise the popular social media to communicate with public Updated frequently	(1) No. of subscribers/fans: 17 672 (2) No. of views: 19 494	Yes	1 Assistant Manager (in addition to other duties)	Financial resources involving the cost for design and maintenance by the contractor employed by HKSTPC HK\$44,666 (HKSTPC staff cost not included).
3/2010	Keep updating	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)	GovHK	YouTube	To disseminate feature / promotional video clips on Government services and information No. of updates: 40 (as at 12 March 2013)	No. of subscribers: 1 646 (as at 12 March 2014)	No	1 Manager and 1 Analyst/ Programmer on part time basis	Implemented with OGCIO's existing manpower and resources and no additional resources are involved; it is not possible to delineate the financial resources involved in setting up and operating the social media.
12/2012	Keep updating	OGCIO	InfoSec	YouTube	To promote information security and electronic authentication to the public Update periodically, 154 video clips uploaded (as at 12 March 2014)	No. of subscribers: 265 (as at 12 March 2014)	No	1 Analyst/ Programmer on part time basis	Ditto
9/2013	Keep updating	OGCIO	Common Chinese Language Interface	YouTube	To promote adoption of coding standards for Chinese characters that facilitate the public to effectively communicate and process electronic information in Chinese Update periodically, 7 video clips uploaded (as at 12 March 2014)	No. of subscribers: 5 (as at 12 March 2014)	No	1 Analyst/ Programmer on part time basis	Ditto
11/2013	Ceased updating	OGCIO	Digital 21 Strategy	Facebook	To provide a platform for the public to submit feedback regarding the public consultation of the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy	"Like": 16	Yes	1 Analyst/ Programmer on part time basis	Ditto

					No. of updates: 7				
12/2010	Keep updating	Hong Kong Film Development Council (HKFDC)	HKFDC	Facebook	To publicise the activities related to the HKFDC No. of updates: 56	“Likes”/no. of subscribers: 202 Average monthly visits: 529	No	1 Personal Secretary I (in addition to other duties)	Implemented with CreateHK’s existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved, and it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.
(1), (2), (3) 11/2011	Keep updating	CreateHK	(1) Hong Kong – Asia’s Creative Capital (2) HK - Creative Capital (3) Hong Kong – Asia’s Creative Capital	(1) Facebook (2) Twitter (3) Sina Weibo	To promote the work of CreateHK No. of updates: around 428	(1) “Likes”: 344 (2) “Followers”: 19 (3) No. of fans: 404	Yes	1 Assistant Trade Officer II (in addition to other duties)	Implemented with CreateHK’s existing manpower and resources, no additional manpower and expenditure are involved, and it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.
(4), (5) 4/2012			(4) Create Hong Kong (5) Hong Kong – Asia’s Creative Capital	(4) YouTube (5) Youku	To showcase promotional videos produced by CreateHK No. of updates: 12 (YouTube) and 11 (Youku)	(4) No. of subscribers: 44 No. of views: 12 399 (5) No. of fans: 8 No. of views: 1,412			
(6) 3/2013			(6) Inspiration Sparks HK)	(6) Facebook	To publicise the promotional campaign launched by CreateHK No. of updates: 38	(6) “Likes”: 142			
(7) 5/2013			(7) Mascot Design Competition	(7) Facebook	To promote the Mascot Design Competition No. of updates: 32	(7) “Likes”: 1 415			
08/2010 (Note 1)	Keep updating	Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)	(1) RTHK (2) RTHK Memory (3) China on the Dot (Radio 1) (4) Call me Gaga (Radio 2) (5) Made In HK Alex Lee (Radio 2) (6) Lassies and Nerds (Radio 2) (7) 守下留情 (Radio 2) (8) Rightable Wrong (Radio 2) (9) We are Family	Facebook	To provide programme information and keep close contact and exchange views with the public Updated frequently	Total No. of “Likes” received : over 30 000	Yes	1 Senior Programme Officer, 1 Programme Officer and producers of relevant programmes (in addition to other duties)	Work absorbed by existing staff; no additional expenditure is involved and it is impossible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.

			(Radio 2) (10) 晨光第一線 (Radio 2) (11) 秣歌有情人(Radio 2) (12) Crazy and Happy (Radio 2) (13) 尋常事·認真做 (Radio 2) (14) Teen Power (15) Radio3 (Radio3) (16) Asian Threads (Radio 3) (17) Backchat (Radio3) (18) Chart Show with Alyson Hau (Radio3) (19) Money-For-Nothing (Radio 3) (2) Morning Brew (Radio 3) (21) Naked Cantonese (Radio3) (22) Naked Lunch (Radio3) (23) Pinoy Life (Radio3) (24) Steve James (Radio3) (25) Sunday Late (Radio 3) (26) Teen Time (Radio3) (27) The In Show (Radio3) (28) The Very Early Show (Radio 3) (29) Yes I Can! Recital (30) R4 Buddies (Radio 4) (31) RTHK DAB+ (32) 光影無限 LIKE - 攝影 (DAB 35) (33) Newpeople Bigworld (PTC) (34) DIY2K (TV) (35) IT Champions (TV) (36) The Pulse (TV) (37) The Works (TV) (38) The Moment 2 (TV) (39) Tutor Online (TV) (40) 天下父母心 - 與孩同行 (TV) (41) 功夫傳奇 III：決戰邊疆					
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			(TV) (42) Artspiration (TV) (43) All About Money (TV) (44) 視點 31 (TV) (45) 開庭 (TV) (46) Rich Mate Poor Mate Series III (TV) (47) Headliner (TV) (48) 壓力不倒翁 (TV) (49) A Dream Comes True (TV) (50) Why Poverty (TV) (51) Hong Kong Connection (TV) (52) eTVonline (53) PAU Special (54) Hong Kong Book Prize Special (55) Soha (56) HK · 300 (57) tvLiberalstudies.tv (Note 2)						
05/2006	Keep updating	RTHK	(58) RTHK	YouTube	To introduce the latest RTHK TV programmes Updated once or twice per week	Subscribers : over 40 000	Yes	1 Senior Programme Officer and 1 Programme Officer (In addition to other duties)	Work absorbed by existing staff; no additional expenditure is involved and it is impossible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.
02/2010 (Note 1)	Keep updating	RTHK	(59) RTHK Official (60) 香港電台網站 (61) Chinese News (62) eLearning (63) English News (64) Radio 3 (65) Chart Show with Alyson Hau (66) Steve James (Radio 3) (67) Teen Time (Radio 3)	Twitter	To relay RTHK News and latest programme information Updated frequently	Total No. of Followers : over 10 000	Yes	Producers of relevant programmes and RTHK Chinese and English Newsrooms(In addition to other duties)	Work absorbed by existing staff; no additional expenditure is involved and it is impossible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.

01/2011 (Note 1)	Keep updating	RTHK	(68) China on the Dot (Radio 1) (69) Gimme 5 (Radio 2) (70) Love is All Around (Radio 5) (71) 活在有情天 (Radio 5) (72) e 線金融網 (PTC) (73) 觸動黃昏 (PTC) (74) 全球華語歌曲排行 (PTC) (75) Liberalstudies.tv	Sina Weibo	To provide RTHK's latest programme information Updated frequently	Total No. of "Fans": over 10 000	Yes	1 Programme Officer and producers of relevant programmes (In addition to other duties)	Work absorbed by existing staff; no additional expenditure is involved and it is impossible to work out separately the amount of financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation of the social media.
4/2012	Keep updating	Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA)	Communication Authority (CA) YouTube Channel	YouTube	To make use of social media to disseminate short videos and TV APIs of the CA 32 short videos have been uploaded	A total of 35 "Likes" were received for the 32 short videos. No. of subscribers: about 72 Average monthly visits: about 31.62 (as at 11 March)	No	Related manpower was provided by the OFCA Trading Fund	Expenditure involved was met by the OFCA Trading Fund

Note 1 : RTHK would from time to time create, delete and revise pages in a social media. Hence, only the date on which RTHK began to create pages in a social media could be provided.

Note 2 : Apart from the programmes mentioned, RTHK created from time to time some time-limited pages for promotion of programmes. As these pages were deleted, the relevant information could not be traced and provided.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)048

(Question Serial No. 6171)

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries, (2) Telecommunications

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance will be reviewed. What are the specific schedule, staffing arrangement and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Communications and Technology Branch plans to create two directorate posts and four non-directorate posts in 2014-15 for a period of three years to review the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) and the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106). This new team is led by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B and supported by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Senior Executive Officer, two Personal Secretary I and one Assistant Clerical Officer. The emoluments of these posts will carry an annual total cost of about \$5.5 million and the relevant departmental expenses will be around \$3.2 million. We prepare to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the proposed creation of two supernumerary directorate posts to take forward the review of the Ordinances and seek funding from the Finance Committee afterwards within this legislative year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)049****(Question Serial No. 6172)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Regarding the work of the Create Hong Kong Office, will the Administration please advise of the following:

- (a) What are the respective total amounts of funding granted to the approved projects (film-related projects and film productions) under the Film Development Fund (FDF) over the past three years? What is the estimated expenditure in 2014-15? Does the Administration have plans to allocate additional resources to meet the need of the long term development of the film industry?
- (b) In regard to the review of the FDF and the Film Guarantee Fund, what are the specific details, schedule, manpower and estimated expenditure in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

Over the past three years, the respective amounts of funding approved under the Film Development Fund (FDF) for financing film productions and subsidising film-related projects are as follows:

Financial Year	Financing Film Productions* (\$million)	No. of Applications Approved*	Subsidising Film-related Projects* (\$million)	No. of Applications Approved*
2011-2012	18.73	8	27.99	16
2012-2013	30.91	11	38.13	19
2013-2014	9.71	4	12.82	10

* Including approved applications which were withdrawn subsequently

In 2014-15, the estimated expenditures for financing film productions and subsidising film-related projects by the Government are \$19.7 million and \$22.81 million respectively. We will, as in the past, consult the Film Development Council (FDC) and the film industry so as to utilise resources appropriately to support the long term development of the film industry.

In October 2013, the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) started the review on the FDF and the Film Guarantee Fund. The views and recommendations from film organisations and stakeholders were collected by means of questionnaires and consultation sessions, and the FDC will be consulted. The review is expected to be completed in mid-2014. CreateHK is responsible for conducting the review and no additional manpower and expenditure are involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)050

(Question Serial No. 6183)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 118):

Regarding official entertainment expenses of the Bureau/ department, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number of exceptions where official entertainment expenses of public officers for lunch and dinner exceeded the respective ceilings per head, the number of exceptions with approval of directorate officers, the exceeded amounts and the reasons for the excess over the past three years? Please provide the information by bureau/department/public organisation, etc.
- (b) the number of non-compliance with the guidelines on the bestowal of gifts or souvenirs by public officers during the conduct of official activities, and the number of and reasons for exceptions with approval of directorate officers over the past three years? Please provide the information by bureau/department/public organisation, etc.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Civil Service Regulations (CSRs) set out the principles, rules and approval procedures relating to official entertainment. Heads of Departments have the delegated authority to authorise all expenditure from the departmental entertainment vote. In addition, according to the Government's internal guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertaining guests should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. Where there are sufficient justifications for exceeding the expenditure limits, the departments are required to consider those applications according to the established mechanism and to document properly the detailed justifications for granting such approval.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation.

In the past three years, no officer of this Branch was subject to disciplinary action for alleged contravention of the CSRs or other government requirements in relation to claiming reimbursement of entertainment expenses or offering gifts/souvenirs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)051

(Question Serial No. 6202)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 159):

The Government has announced that it would make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats. In respect of this,

- (a) Please provide in the table below details of the government information to be released for public consumption by your Bureau/Department.

Bureau/ Department	Information items that can be released for public consumption	Description of the information	Period of the information	Is the information released in digital formats currently and date of release	If not, will it be converted into digital formats	Digital format already/planned to be used (please choose)			
						Machine-readable, non-proprietary formats (e.g. CSV)	Machine-readable, proprietary formats (e.g. MS Excel, Word)	Non-Machine-readable formats (e.g. JPG, PDF, PNG)	Open-standard formats (e.g. XML)

- (b) Would the Administration indicate the manpower and expenditure involved for releasing government information for public consumption in 2014-15? Will more resources and manpower be provided for your Bureau/Department for handling this task so that the plan can be more effectively implemented?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) In 2011, the Government launched the public sector information (PSI) portal Data.One (data.one.gov.hk), making available PSI for free-of-charge re-use such as development of web services and mobile applications. So far, the portal has provided over 2 000 datasets under 15 categories including Air Quality Health Index, buildings, approved charitable fund-raising activities, food and environmental hygiene, geo-referenced public facility data, image resources, law and order, marine, news and information, population Census statistics, property market statistics, public transport, real-time traffic data, water quality and weather data. These datasets are available in digital formats including CSV, JPG, JSON, HTML, MDB, PNG, RSS, XLS and XML. A great variety and number of PSI are being released to the public and therefore they cannot be listed individually.
- (b) In the 2014-15 Budget, the Government proposed to make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats from 2015 onwards. Given that bureaux/departments (B/Ds) have all along been compiling or collecting different types of PSI and we are going to release the raw data in digital formats, only very minimal processing of the data will be involved. We envisage that this initiative can be implemented with the existing manpower of B/Ds, and no additional expenditure will be incurred.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)052

(Question Serial No. 6214)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 186):

Regarding the expenditure on the procurement of computer software and hardware by the Bureau, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Government developed standardised internal guidelines on procurement for the Bureau setting out the criteria for procuring or renewing computer software and hardware? If yes, what are the details? Is the Bureau required to renew its computer software and hardware in a timely manner according to the guidelines?
- (b) Given that Microsoft, a computer software and hardware provider, will terminate support services for its Windows XP operating system, please provide information on the respective numbers of computers that are using (i) Microsoft Windows XP operating system; (ii) other operating systems launched before 2001 by Microsoft; (iii) other operating systems (please state the version) in the Bureau, the respective percentages of the numbers of computers of the above three types against the total number of computers in the Bureau. Does the Bureau have any plan to renew the outdated version of the above operating systems?
- (c) What are the expenditure and criteria for procuring different kinds of tablet computers by the Bureau? What are the models and work purposes of these tablet computers? Is there any confidential information stored in these tablet computers? If yes, what are the details? Are the tablet computers used by the Bureau installed with information security software? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) According to the prevailing government guidelines, we will conduct timely planning to ensure that our information technology (IT) projects can practically and effectively meet the business and operational needs of this Branch. With regard to the planning for IT replacement projects, we will examine and assess various potential risks. From the technology perspective, the potential risks that are taken into consideration include product compatibility, maintenance and support, replacement products for ensuring continuity and availability of market supply. In procuring or replacing computer software and hardware, we will follow the government procurement guidelines to make the most cost-effective purchase through open and fair competition. We will also take into account the importance and priority of the IT projects in replacing computer software and hardware.
- (b) A total of 157 computers in this Branch are using Microsoft Windows 7 operating system. We do not have any plan to renew the operating platform version for the time being.
- (c) We purchase tablet computers according to our needs and availability of market supply. In 2013-14, the expenditure on procurement of tablet computers is about \$20,000, and the model of the tablet computers procured is iPad (4G) for use by directorate officers during meetings and in discharging

duties outside office environment. No confidential information is stored in these tablet computers. The relevant information security measures are provided by service providers according to the services requested (e.g. receiving/sending emails). No additional expenditure is incurred.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)053****(Question Serial No. 6548)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 148):

In respect of the public relations expenses of various government departments in the past year, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) The expenses the Bureau spent on advertisement on mainstream or online media as well as the relevant details in table form (please see Annex 1):

Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

- (b) The expenses the Bureau spent on sponsoring media to provide programmes or materials as well as the relevant details (please see Annex 2):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Sponsoring Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Sponsorship (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

- (c) The expenses on and details of the Advertorial of the Bureau (please see Annex 3):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme / Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation / Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...				

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

(a) The expenses the Bureau spent on advertisement on mainstream or online media as well as the relevant details are as follows:

Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
4/2013	Done	Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK)	Inspiration Sparks HK	(1) East Touch Magazine (2) Cult Magazine (3) Milk Magazine (4) HK Movie mobile apps (5) HK Toolbar mobile apps (6) Metro mobile apps (7) AM730 mobile apps (8) Discuss website (9) Uwants website (10) Facebook	To promote the publicity of "Inspiration Sparks HK" Items 1-5: One time for each media Items 6-10: Two times for each media	One officer equivalent to the rank of Trade Officer	\$172,500
5-7/2013	Done	CreateHK	Mascot Design Competition	(1) Milk Magazine (2) AM730 (3) Sky Post (4) Facebook	To promote the Mascot Design Competition hosted by CreateHK One time for Milk Magazine, AM730 and Sky Post respectively 15 times on Facebook	One officer equivalent to the rank of Trade Officer	\$37,400

11-12/2013	Done	CreateHK	Hong Kong: Our Home - December Blast of Creativity	1) Box advertisements at bus stops 2) Box advertisements at MTR stations 3) Sing Tao Daily 4) Hong Kong Economic Times (HKET) 5) Sky Post 6) The Standard	To promote activities sponsored by CreateHK Three times for each media	One officer equivalent to the rank of Trade Officer	\$434,009
1-3/2014	Broadcast until mid- March	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) (CEDB(CTB))	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	Car wrap advertising on Citybus, New World First Bus and Kowloon Motor Bus	To promote digital audio broadcasting (DAB) service Car wrap advertising on 145 buses	1 Senior Executive Officer (SEO)	\$800,000
1-3/2014	Broadcast until late March	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	Advertising panels at bus stops	To promote DAB service Advertising panels at 112 bus stops	1 SEO	\$500,000
1-3/2014	Broadcast until late March	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	Advertisement on websites Google and Yahoo	To promote DAB service	1 SEO	\$600,000
2/2014	Done	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	On 19 February: Headline Daily Oriental Daily South China Morning Post On 25 February: Apple Daily Ming Pao On 28 February: HKET AM730	To promote DAB service One time on each newspaper	1 SEO	\$217,000
2-3/2014	Broadcast until mid- March	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	Car wrap advertising on trams	To promote DAB service Car wrap advertising on two trams	1 SEO	\$258,000
2-3/2014	Broadcast until mid- March	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	TV advertising in MTR train compartments	To promote DAB service Broadcasting of "announcements in the public interest" by the Government around 16 times daily on average	1 SEO	\$300,000

(b) We have not sponsored other media to provide programmes.

(c) The expenses on and details of the Advertorial of the Bureau are as follows:

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme / Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation / Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
3/2013	Done	CreateHK	CreateHK • Inspiration Sparks HK series	HKET	To promote awarded local young creative talents Three times in total	One officer equivalent to the rank of Trade Officer	Editorial Department of Hong Kong Economic Times	\$54,000
4/2013	Done	CreateHK	Inspiration Sparks HK	(1) East Touch Magazine (2) Cult Magazine (3) Milk Magazine	To promote the publicity of "Inspiration Sparks HK" One time for each media	One officer equivalent to the rank of Trade Officer	Advertising company	\$22,500
8/2013	Done	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	U Magazine	To promote DAB service One-off	1 SEO		\$26,000
9/2013	Done	CreateHK under the CEDB and the Hong Kong Film Development Council	Hong Kong Films Exhibition 2013 in Guangzhou – to encourage the film industry to make use of the preferential measures under CEPA, facilitating Cantonese Hong Kong films access the Guangdong market	(1) Ming Pao (2) Hong Kong Economic Journal (3) HKET	One-off	1 Assistant Head of CreateHK and 1 Principal Entertainment Standards Control Officer		\$79,300
2/2014	Done	CEDB(CTB)	Digital Audio Broadcasting The Sound of the Future	Eat Drink Man Woman Magazine	To promote DAB service One-off	1 SEO		\$39,000

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)054

(Question Serial No. 2983)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

Hong Kong has a mobile phone penetration rate of 237%. Has the Government used existing financial resources and manpower to understand the coverage and take-up rates of the communication networks of different generations? If yes, what are the respective coverage and take-up rates of 2G, 3G and 4G networks? For 4G network, what is the amount of spectrum re-farmed from 3G network? At present, what measures does the Government have to promote the development and application of 4G network? How much financial resources and manpower are required in this regard? Does the Government have plans to develop 5G network? How much financial resources and manpower will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

As at December 2013, there are 17.19 million mobile subscribers in Hong Kong, out of which 5.33 million are 2G subscribers, 9.65 million 3G subscribers and 2.21 million 4G subscribers. The total number of subscribers using mobile data services (including 2.5G/3G/4G subscribers) in Hong Kong is 12.12 million, which is nine times the number a decade ago (i.e. 2004). Moreover, the total volume of mobile data usage is multiplying annually. With the advent of smartphones in 2007, the volume of mobile data usage has been surging from 32 Terabytes (TB) (11 Megabytes (MB) per customer) per month in December 2007 to 12 073 TB (997 MB per customer) per month in December 2013.

At present, the amount of spectrum deployed for the provision of 3G and 4G services are 173 mega hertz (MHz) and 260 MHz respectively. In other words, the amount of spectrum deployed for 4G services is 50% more than that of 3G services. However, there are 2.21 million of 4G service subscribers, only equal to 23% of the number of 3G service subscribers (9.65 million). In terms of MHz of frequency spectrum, one MHz of 3G spectrum presently supports 55 800 subscribers while that of 4G spectrum only supports 8 500 subscribers. Although the volume of mobile data usage by each 4G service subscriber is generally higher than that by each 3G service subscribers, the take-up rate of 4G spectrum still has room for further increase. It is expected that the capacity of 4G network will be able to meet the needs for the growth of mobile data services in the coming years.

The Communications Authority (CA) does not have the information on the coverage of 2G, 3G and 4G networks. In general, the development of 2G and 3G networks are comparatively mature and the networks of all operators have already covered most of the districts in Hong Kong. As 4G network only launched in the end of 2010 and the time of development is shorter, all operators tend to develop their 4G network coverage in busier districts in Hong Kong first. As the market competition is vibrant, we believe that all operators will gradually extend their 4G network coverage to more districts for service provision.

Currently, none of the operators has reformed their frequency spectrum formerly used for the provision of 3G services to provide 4G services while individual operators have reformed part of the frequency spectrum in the 1.8 GHz Band formerly used for the provision of 2G services to provide 4G services.

The mobile communications market in Hong Kong is fully liberalised. Except for individual licences (e.g. the CDMA200 licence) that stipulate the operators to adopt particular technology, all operators may deploy their assigned spectrum to provide different services upon their own commercial decisions. We have been releasing suitable spectrum in a timely manner, allowing the operators to deploy state of the art mobile broadband technologies and provide the necessary network capacities to develop and promote various mobile communications service including 4G services in Hong Kong. Since 2009, the CA has conducted three auctions for assigning frequency spectrum in the 2.3 GHz band and the 2.5/2.6 GHz band for 4G services and a total of 230 MHz of 4G spectrum was released into the market (one of the successful operators who was assigned frequency spectrum in the 2.3 GHz band has planned to deploy its 30 MHz of frequency spectrum for the provision of fixed services). It is stipulated that each successful operators who was assigned the frequency spectrum concerned shall provide mobile communications service to cover 50% of the population within five years (if the operator plans to provide fixed services, the services shall cover at least 200 commercial and/or residential buildings).

For 5G network, the technology, spectrum allocation and standard concerned are still at the discussion stage in the global community. We will keep watch for the International Telecommunication Union and other international organisations in respect of the related development so as to cope with the provision and regulation of the frequency spectrum concerned.

The above-mentioned work will be paid by the Office of the Communications Authority Trading Fund.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)055

(Question Serial No. 2990)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

How much financial resources, man-hours and manpower were employed by the Government in studying the setting up of an Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) and lobbying the community for giving support to the proposal? What specific policy issues and functions for which the ITB will be responsible in the current proposal? How much financial resources and manpower will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

This Bureau is drawing up, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, the details of the proposal to set up the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). We will solicit the support from the community and Members when the proposal is submitted in due course to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for discussion. The Administration has not compiled statistics on the resources employed in studying the setting up of the ITB and lobbying the community for giving support to the proposal. As regards the policy issues and functions for which the ITB to be established will be responsible, and the details of the financial resources and manpower to be involved, elaboration will be given in the papers submitted to the above-mentioned committees for consideration.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)056

(Question Serial No. 1659)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 33):

In 2014-15, has the Government earmarked funds for the purpose of studying options for opening up the airwaves? If yes, what is the amount set aside? Please list the estimated expenditure items. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)057

(Question Serial No. 1661)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Has the Government set aside any expenditure in 2014-15 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? Please list the estimated expenditure items. If not, what are the reasons?

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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)058****(Question Serial No. 1665)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

What signature events have been organised by the Administration over the past five years to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital? What is the expenditure involved? Does the Administration assess the effectiveness of the events? Does the Administration have plans to implement the above-mentioned events in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

Since its establishment in June 2009, the Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) under the Communications and Technology Branch has organised or sponsored the staging of the following signature creative events (listed by year) through departmental votes as well as the CreateSmart Initiative, the DesignSmart Initiative and the Film Development Fund:

Year	Signature creative event	Amount of approved funding (\$million)
(1) Annual signature event		
2009-10 to 2013-14	Business of Design Week (BODW)	45.23 (Note 1)
2009-10 to 2013-14	Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)	55.93 (Note 2)
2009-10 to 2013-14	Entertainment Expo	9.03 (Note 2)
2009-10 to 2013-14	Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum	19.47 (Note 2)
2009-10 to 2012-13	Asian Film Awards (AFA)	29.6 (Note 3)
2009-10 to 2013-14	Hong Kong Film New Action	8.71 (Note 2)
2010-11 to 2013-14	Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony	22.91 (Note 4)
2010-11 to 2013-14	Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival	22.66 (Note 5)
(2) Other signature event		
2010-11	Hong Kong Ani-Com Carnival (Hong Kong)	0.76
2010-11 and 2011-12	Hong Kong: Creative Ecologies - Business, Living, Creativity	8.38
2011-12 and 2012-13	2012 Hong Kong Design Year	9.26 (includes only funding from CreateHK)
2012-13	Cross-Strait Architectural Design Symposium & Awards 2013	1.13
2013-14	Hong Kong Ani-Com Summer 2013	2.5 (includes only funding from CreateHK)
2013-14	International Comics Artist Conference 2013	2.34

Note 1 : This figure is the sum of government funding support for the BODW from 2009 to 2013. Government funding was offered to both BODW 2009 and the Hong Kong Design Centre

(HKDC) Awards 2009. There is no separate breakdown of the respective amount of funding for these two items. Therefore, this figure also includes government funding for the HKDC Awards 2009.

Note 2 : This figure is the sum of government funding support for the event from 2009 to 2014.

Note 3 : This figure is the sum of government funding support for the AFA from 2009 to 2013.

Note 4 : This figure is the sum of government funding support for the Hong Kong Film Awards from 2009 to 2013.

Note 5 : This figure is the sum of government funding support for the event from 2011 to 2014.

CreateHK will assess the effectiveness of the events having regard to the number of participants/visitors of the events, the number of television viewers and media coverage, and the findings of questionnaires collected from the participants.

In 2014-15, CreateHK will continue to organise or sponsor the staging of signature creative events to promote Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital. Tentative projects include the 33rd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the 39th HKIFF, the BODW 2014, the Hong Kong Contemporary Film Showcase to be staged in Taipei, etc. Riding on the opening of the Comix Home Base (CHB) in July 2013 and the opening of the PMQ in the first half of 2014, CreateHK will explore supporting activities related to ani-com, design and creative industries to be held at the CHB and PMQ respectively with a view to promoting the CHB and PMQ as the new creative landmarks for Hong Kong's ani-com and design sectors respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)059

(Question Serial No. 1666)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 41):

It is indicated in paragraph 10 of Head 55 that the Broadcasting Ordinance (BO) will be reviewed. What is the estimated expenditure for the review? Will there be a review of the amount which "shall not exceed \$1,000,000 for any subsequent occasion on which a penalty is imposed" under section 28 of the BO? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

We plan to create two directorate posts and eight non-directorate posts in 2014-15. Of which, two directorate posts and four non-directorate posts will be created from 2014-15 to 2016-17 to review the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) (BO) and the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) (TO). This new team will be led by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B and supported by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Senior Executive Officer, two Personal Secretary I and one Assistant Clerical Officer. This establishment will spend half of their time reviewing the BO (and the remaining half of their time reviewing the TO). Half of the emoluments of these posts will carry an annual total cost of about \$2.7 million and the relevant departmental expenses will be around \$1.6 million. We plan to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting within this legislative year on the proposed creation of two supernumerary directorate posts to take forward the review of the Ordinances and seek funding from the Finance Committee afterwards.

The review will cover the provision on the penalty.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)060

(Question Serial No. 1669)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 44):

The Administration has indicated that it will continue to assist in completing the remaining work relating to the applications for domestic free television programme service licences in 2014-15. What are the details of the work and the expenditure involved? When will the remaining work be completed?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

On 15 October 2013, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in Council) approved in principle the applications of Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV) and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited (HKTVE) for domestic free television programme service (free TV) licences. The Communications Authority (CA) has requested the two applicants to submit the necessary additional information and will discuss the licence terms with them. The CA will review the information submitted by Fantastic TV and HKTVE in due course with a view to submitting to the CE in Council recommendations on whether free TV licences should be formally granted to the two applicants. After receiving the recommendations, the CE in Council will make a decision as soon as possible.

The workload involved will be absorbed by existing resources without a separate breakdown of expenditure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)061

(Question Serial No. 1670)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 45):

Before the licences of the existing two free television broadcasters expire in November 2015, will the Administration conduct a study in 2014-15 on putting up the broadcasters' exclusive spectrum for public auction as early as possible so as to allow those interested in applying for free TV licences to bid for the licence for broadcasting business through auction proceedings? If yes, what are the details? What is the amount of spectrum to be released? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The Communications Authority (CA) is now processing the two applications for renewal of domestic free television programme service licences and will consider matters in relation to the spectrum in processing the applications. At present, the CA has not made any decision on matters in relation to the spectrum.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5178)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

At present, the Government often conducts consultancy studies at the expense of public coffers during public consultation. Taking the granting of free TV licences as an example, the Government has appointed Spectrum Value Partners, a multinational consultant company, to prepare four consultancy reports. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the total expenditure involved in appointing the consultant company to prepare the consultancy reports on the granting of free TV licences?
- (b) What are the reasons for preparing four consultancy reports?
- (c) What criteria does the Government adopt when deciding whether to appoint a consultant company to conduct policy studies or put forward recommendations?
- (d) It is reported that the Government often quote selectively information in the consultancy reports when making policy decisions or publishing the consultancy reports. Over the past three years, how many decisions have been made or consultancy reports published in this manner? What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

Hong Kong Television Network Limited, Fantastic Television Limited and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited submitted their domestic free television programme service (free TV) licence applications (the three applications) between December 2009 and March 2010 respectively. When processing the three applications, the former Broadcasting Authority (i.e. the predecessor of the Communications Authority) commissioned an independent consultant to conduct a two-stage competition study on the basis of the applicants' proposals. As the assessment was conducted as early as 2010, the Government invited the same consultant in early 2012 to update its assessment having regard to the updated inflation rates and Gross Domestic Product growth rates provided by the Government Economist (the four reports collectively as the "the Consultant's Reports").

- (a) The expenditure for the Consultant's Reports is around \$1.17 million. The expenditure involved is met by the Office of the Communications Authority Trading Fund but not included in Head 55 (Commerce and Economic Development Bureau).
- (b) One of the study items covered in the Consultant's Reports was to analyse, based on the business plans and estimates submitted by the three applicants, the impact on the free TV market in Hong Kong if licences were to be granted to them.
- (c) The Government's practice is to commission outside consultants as necessary to provide analysis and advice on particular issues, and to procure such consultancy service in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations.

- (d) The Government, in making policy decisions, may sometimes commission outside consultants as necessary to provide neutral and professional analysis and advice on certain relevant issues. These findings are with reference values. Policy decision-making involves comprehensive considerations and there is no question of the so-called selectively quoting the information in the consultancy reports.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)063

(Question Serial No. 5184)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 68):

In 2013-14, the Communications and Technology Branch (CTB) “worked with the trade to promote Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital”. What specific measures are there? How much resources have been involved? How effective are the measures?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) under the Communications and Technology Branch supports the organisation of signature events in Hong Kong to promote Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital. In 2013-14, CreateHK provided funding support for preparing and organising ten signature events. They include the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Business of Design Week, the Hong Kong Design Centre Awards, the Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards, the Entertainment Expo, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum, the Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival, the Hong Kong Ani-Com Summer 2013 and the International Comics Artist Conference 2013. The total amount of funding for these events is around \$62 million. As at mid-March 2014, the completed or on-going signature events mentioned above have attracted over 1.13 million participants/visitors and over 1.4 million television viewers. These events have helped foster a creative atmosphere within the community and attract practitioners of creative industries to come to Hong Kong for exchanges and discussions on business co-operation, thereby promoting the development of local creative industries.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)064

(Question Serial No. 5185)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 69):

In 2014-15, the Communications and Technology Branch will “continue to support the organisation of signature events to promote Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital.” What specific plans are there? How much resources have been involved? How to assess the effectiveness of the events?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

The Create Hong Kong Office (CreateHK) under the Communications and Technology Branch supports the organisation of signature events in Hong Kong to promote Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital. Projects to be funded by CreateHK in 2014-15 include the 33rd Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony and the Business of Design Week 2014, involving funding of about \$15 million. Annual projects for which funding will be sought include the Entertainment Expo, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum, the Hong Kong Asian-Pop Music Festival, as well as the Hong Kong Contemporary Film Showcase to be held in Taipei, etc. The amount of funding is subject to merits of individual applications. The above-mentioned projects do not include projects for which funding is yet to be sought. CreateHK will assess the effectiveness of the events having regard to the number of participants/visitors of the events, the number of television viewers and media coverage, and the findings of questionnaires collected from the participants.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)065****(Question Serial No. 1039)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 76):

Regarding the communications infrastructure, will the Government provide information as follows:

- (a) By District Council district, how many mobile radio base stations have been installed in Hong Kong over the past five years? How many public complaints concerning mobile radio base stations have been received by the Administration?
- (b) What are the safety standards of radiofrequency radiation currently adopted in Hong Kong? Does the Administration have plans to further tighten up the standards? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Regarding the motion on "Regulating mobile radio base stations to protect public health" passed at the Legislative Council meeting of 22 January 2014, will the Administration please provide the details, progress, schedule and staffing arrangement of the follow-up measures as well as the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) Radio base stations (base stations) are one of the most fundamental components forming the mobile communications network. Mobile network operators (MNOs) have to install base stations throughout the territory in order to provide continuous communications services for the public. With the rising demand for mobile communications, MNOs need to install more base stations to extend and enhance mobile network coverage, and increase network capacity so as to meet public demand.

Currently, there are a total of 33 000 base stations in the territory to meet the service demand of over 17 million mobile service subscribers.

Over the past five years, with the rapid development of 3G and 4G mobile services, the number of approved base stations throughout the territory increased accordingly, the details of which are listed in the table below. The geographical distribution of these radio stations is at Annex.

Date (Month/Year)	2/2010	2/2011	2/2012	2/2013	2/2014
No. of Base Stations	23 605	23 856	25 864	30 221	33 141

Over the past five years, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) received some 550 enquiries and complaints in relation to base stations, most of which concerned radiation safety. Over the same period, OFCA conducted over 1 300 measurements of electromagnetic (EM) radiation level in residential settlement throughout the territory but has not detected any non-compliance with the radiation safety standards. Moreover, OFCA conducted a two-month sampling survey in the middle of

last year, during which 600 plus base stations were measured and no non-compliance with the radiation safety standards was detected.

- (b) As regards the radiation safety of base stations, OFCA keeps close liaison with and observes the professional advice of the Department of Health (DH).

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has developed the Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields (ICNIRP Guidelines) on the safety level of non-ionizing radiation exposed to the human body, based on scientific literature and related health risk assessments. After seeking the professional advice of the DH, the Communications Authority has adopted the non-ionizing radiation limits proposed in the ICNIRP Guidelines as the criteria for approving the installation of base stations.

The World Health Organization also encourages that national authorities should adopt the ICNIRP Guidelines as the relevant safety standards, and considers that at present, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that EM fields (including radiofrequency EM fields) exposure under the exposure limits proposed in the ICNIRP Guidelines would cause any adverse health effects.

The limits proposed in the ICNIRP Guidelines or similar safety standards are generally adopted as the radiation safety standards by some major developed economies and those economies with high population density, including Germany, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Korea, etc. We consider it inappropriate to revise the radiation safety limits adopted in Hong Kong in the absence of sufficient scientific evidence. OFCA will continue to seek professional advice of the DH from time to time to monitor the latest development of radiation safety standards.

- (c) Regarding the motion on “Regulating mobile radio base stations to protect public health” passed at the Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting of 22 January, the Administration will submit to LegCo a progress report to report on the follow-up actions taken.

The geographical distribution of mobile radio base stations¹

District	No. of Radio Base Stations (as at February 2014)
Central and Western District	3 246
Eastern District	1 985
Islands District	1 540
Kowloon City	1 936
Kwai Tsing	1 621
Kwun Tong	2 285
Northern District	963
Sai Kung	1 358
Sha Tin	1 913
Sham Shui Po	1 577
Southern District	1 296
Tai Po	876
Tsuen Wan	1 212
Tuen Mun	1 161
Wan Chai	3 210
Wong Tai Sin	906
Yau Tsim Mong	4 289
Yuen Long	1 767
Total	33 141

¹ Record of the locations of radio base stations is broken down by districts but not completely by District Council boundaries.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)066****(Question Serial No. 5211)**

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 141):

What are the indicators that the Bureau adopts to measure the effectiveness of the mandatory guidelines and self-regulatory schemes? Does the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme (CCSS) implemented by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) handle complaints other than billing disputes? Has OFCA handled any complaints against poor service quality or inability to terminate pay TV service?

Please provide a breakdown by types of complaints received under the CCSS. Of which, how many complaints can reach settlement between the two parties?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Mandatory guidelines and self-regulatory schemes

To safeguard consumers' interests and enhance service quality of telecommunications service operators, the Communications Authority (CA) has been working closely with the telecommunications sector in recent years to implement a number of mandatory guidelines and self-regulatory schemes covering chargeable mobile content services, billing information for telecommunications services, fair usage policy, telecommunications service contracts, person-to-person marketing calls, etc. Details are as follows:

- (a) Industry self-regulatory scheme for the provision of chargeable mobile content services (MCS)
- Implemented by: Communications Association of Hong Kong (CAHK) (an industry organisation)
- Nature: Self-regulatory scheme adopted by the trade
- Effective date: January 2010
- Purpose: To improve the transparency of the charging information of MCS.
- Participation: All mobile network operators (MNOs) have pledged compliance with the Code.
- No. of complaints: The number of complaints (include billing disputes only) have dropped from 142 cases in 2010 to 52 cases in 2011, 56 cases in 2012 and 35 cases in 2013. Since the Code came into force in 2010, the number of complaints has been kept at a low level.
- (b) Measures to prevent mobile bill shock
- Implemented by: CA
- Nature: Implemented by the trade on a voluntary basis
- Effective date: May 2010
- Purpose:
- To reduce the number of complaints against mobile data services;
 - To reduce occasions where customers experience shock when they receive unexpectedly high mobile bill charges owing to problems with data usage;
 - To enhance customer awareness of mobile data usage.
- Participation: five MNOs and 10 mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) have launched the related measures.

- No. of complaints: The number of complaints has dropped from 526 cases in 2011 to 475 cases in 2012 and 422 cases in 2013.
- (c) Industry Code of Practice for Telecommunications Service Contracts
- Implemented by: CAHK (an industry organisation)
- Nature: Self-regulatory scheme adopted by the trade
- Effective date: July 2011
- Purpose: To provide guidelines on drawing up telecommunications service contracts that are fair, balanced and reasonable for the trades and consumers so as to bring about improvements in such aspects as contract contents and arrangements for contract termination or renewal.
- Participation: All major fixed network operators and MNOs and one major external telecommunications service operator in Hong Kong have pledged compliance with the Industry Code and implemented the necessary measures.
- No. of complaints: The number of complaints has decreased from 1 277 cases in 2011 to 1 116 cases in 2012 and has continually decreased to 894 cases in 2013.
- (d) Guidelines for the Implementation of Fair Usage Policy (FUP) for the Provision of Mobile and Fixed Broadband Services
- Implemented by: CA
- Nature: Mandatory guidelines
- Effective date: February 2012
- Purpose:
 - To ensure uniform application of FUP by service providers;
 - To increase transparency of the provision of service by service providers;
 - To enhance customers' understanding of FUP;
 - To enable customers to make informed subscription decisions.
- Participation: All service providers shall fully comply with the Guidelines.
- No. of complaints: The number of complaints has dropped from 78 cases in 2011 to 46 cases in 2012 and 38 cases in 2013.
- (e) Code of Practice in Relation to Billing Information and Payment Collection for Telecommunications Services
- Implemented by: CA
- Nature: Code of practice to be adopted on a voluntary basis
- Effective date: July 2012
- Purpose:
 - To help reduce billing disputes of telecommunications services;
 - To improve the transparency of the chargeable items in the bills.
- Participation: Seven local fixed network operators and five MNOs have pledged compliance with the Code of Practice.
- No. of complaints: The number of complaints has dropped from 1 171 cases in 2011 to 1 121 cases in 2012 and 954 cases in 2013.
- (f) Self-regulatory scheme for person-to-person marketing calls
- Implemented by: Trade associations of the telecommunications, finance and insurance sectors and call centres
- Nature: Self-regulatory scheme adopted by the trades
- Effective date: As early as March 2010
- Purpose: To encourage the trades to adopt the best practices when making person-to-person telemarketing calls recommended in the Code of Practice agreed by the industry so as to minimise the nuisance of telemarketing calls caused to the public.
- Participation: Trade associations of the finance, insurance, telecommunications sectors and all their members as well as that of the trade association of call centres and its 15 members have participated in the self-regulatory scheme and promulgated their own codes of practices.
- No. of complaints: The numbers of enquiries and complaints received by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 are 2 060, 2 010 and 1 693 respectively.

The CEDB and OFCA monitor the effectiveness of the mandatory guidelines and self-regulatory schemes mainly based on the number of complaints received after the promulgation of the guidelines or the implementation of the schemes. After the above-mentioned measures came into effect, the number of complaints received has in general (comment: suggest to make corresponding change to the Chinese text; see above) been decreasing, showing that the measures have been effective to a certain extent.

Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme (CCSS)

To resolve billing disputes in deadlock between consumers and their telecommunications service providers, the telecommunications industry has set up a voluntary CCSS with the active facilitation of OFCA. The CCSS will run for a trial period of two years as from November 2012. It helps resolve, by means of mediation, billing disputes without the involvement of formal legal procedures and without the need for expensive legal cost. At present, all major telecommunications service providers have participated in the CCSS. Under the CCSS, mediation service is provided by an independent mediation service centre (the service centre) set up under the CAHK, an industry organisation. The consumer and his telecommunications service provider are required to pay HK\$100 and HK\$200 respectively as the fees for using the mediation service. OFCA supports the scheme by sponsoring the residual operation expenses of the CCSS; assessing whether a consumer's dispute is eligible for acceptance (the acceptance criteria include, among others, the amount in dispute being not less than HK\$300, and the situation where the consumer has lodged a complaint with his telecommunications service provider but a deadlock is reached (a deadlock means a situation where more than six weeks have passed since the consumer has first complained to his telecommunications service provider and the dispute has not been settled)); actively monitoring the performance and the governance of the CCSS and providing other administrative support.

During the first 15-month trial period of the CCSS (i.e. from 1 November 2012 to 31 January 2014), a total of 146 eligible cases were received. Among them, 91 cases were settled through further negotiation between the consumers and their telecommunications service providers before referral to the service centre by OFCA, 44 were settled after referral to the service centre by OFCA for processing, and the remaining 11 are being processed pending mediation by the service centre. All cases accepted under the CCSS are billing disputes related to telecommunications service, in which around 80% are related to disputes of mobile phone roaming and local data usage, broadband or international call services, etc.

The CCSS has been running smoothly since its launch. In the 135 eligible cases, all billing disputes between the consumers and their telecommunications service providers have been satisfactorily settled, except for 11 cases being processed pending mediation by the service centre. Moreover, according to the surveys conducted by the service centre after providing mediation service to each case, it was found that both the consumers and the telecommunications service providers have high regard for the CCSS. Upon completion of the two-year trial period in the fourth quarter of 2014, OFCA and the industry will assess the effectiveness of and the public demand for the CCSS before deciding the way forward for the long-term implementation of the CCSS (including consideration to expand its scope of service to cover matters other than billing disputes).

Complaints against poor service quality or inability to terminate pay TV service

In 2013, OFCA received a total of 1 447 complaints against poor telecommunications service, most of which concerned dissatisfaction with customer service, quality of mobile/fixed network/broadband services. Besides, OFCA received 275 complaints against poor pay TV service and 29 complaints against inability to terminate pay TV service during the same period.

After receiving such complaints, OFCA will, upon obtaining consent of the complainants, refer them to the operators concerned for their handling and resolution. OFCA will closely monitor the follow-up actions and replies of the operators. Based on past experience, most of the cases have been handled properly.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)067

(Question Serial No. 5212)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 142):

What indicators will the Bureau adopt to evaluate the implementation of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television broadcasting services? At present, DAB listeners are heavily outnumbered by listeners listening to conventional AM/FM radio services, and this has hindered the promotion of DAB services. What specific measures will be formulated to support the promotion of DAB services to the public?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Administration has all along been monitoring the implementation of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services, and has adopted the following three general directions in evaluating the implementation of the two services –

- (a) monitoring the progress of service roll-out by the broadcasters;
- (b) monitoring the progress of the construction of the transmission network by the broadcasters and the enhancement of signal coverage; and
- (c) keeping in view the sale of DTT / DAB receivers.

As DAB is a new broadcasting service, the Administration has worked with the broadcasters to promote DAB services to the public. The promotional measures implemented include the creation of a dedicated DAB website, participation in relevant exhibitions, meeting with the relevant industries, production of promotion posters / leaflets for distribution to members of the public, 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. The Administration has encouraged the broadcasters to enhance publicity of their services to the public. The Administration has co-operated with the broadcasters to keep in view the sale of DAB receivers and maintained contact with the industry to ensure the supply of such products to the market in a timely manner. Moreover, the Administration has liaised with the vehicle manufacturers / importers to encourage the industry to install DAB radios in vehicles imported to Hong Kong for sale, and in particular to explore with the relevant department the feasibility of installing DAB radios with display panels inside vehicles without compromising road safety. The Administration will continue to adopt the above-mentioned measures to support the development of DAB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)068

(Question Serial No. 5213)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 143):

What are the provisions earmarked for operating or supporting the Comix Home Base and the PMQ in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Comix Home Base (CHB) and PMQ are operated by the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the PMQ Management Co. Ltd. respectively. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau does not render financial support to the relevant operators for operation.

The Create Hong Kong Office under the Communications and Technology Branch will help promote the CHB and PMQ. It has earmarked \$400,000 in 2014-15 to support the CHB and PMQ in the production of visitor's guides and promotional materials and the organisation of small scale exhibitions at government premises to promote local creative clusters, including the CHB and PMQ.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)069

(Question Serial No. 5214)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 144):

It is indicated in the Policy Address that (the Government is going to) formulate measures to encourage cinema patronage for Hong Kong-produced movies in order to promote the local film industry. What are the estimated expenditures for these measures in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Government is reviewing the Film Development Fund (FDF) and will consider developing an audience which is supportive of local films in a cost-effective manner. The Film Development Council and relevant organisations will be consulted on the specific implementation measures. The review is expected to be completed in the middle of this year and the Government will brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on the findings of the review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)070

(Question Serial No. 5250)

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) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)'s duty visits to or exchanges with the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits to or exchanges with the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, officers of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch) will promote further co-operation and exchange with the Mainland with regard to operational needs and conduct duty visits such as attending relevant meetings. We do not have any specific plans for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should have prior formal approval and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to visit destinations, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)071

(Question Serial No. 1247)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 6):

It is stated under Programme (5) that the aim of the provision is to develop world-class support infrastructure to facilitate technological upgrading and development of the industry and to promote innovation and technology. Would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of its definition of “world-class” support infrastructure; and
- (b) for 2010-2013, of the amount of annual provision for the manpower requirement and the annual manpower involved in relation to such development work, the “world-class” support infrastructure developed each year, and the current top 5 “world-class” support infrastructural facilities in dollar terms?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP) located in Pak Shek Kok is one of our key infrastructure in promoting innovation and technology. It provides an enabling environment for the development of technology companies through making available suitable space for lease to technology-based enterprises to carry out research and development (R&D) and providing various support services. Since its inauguration in 2002, the HKSP has successfully attracted the admission of many companies, including large multi-national corporations as well as local and Mainland renowned technology companies. At present, the HKSP Phases 1 and 2 are home to about 440 technology companies, providing some 9 800 R&D-related jobs. Near 40% of the partner companies are from locations outside Hong Kong, occupying about half of the total lettable area of the HKSP.

Phase 3 of the HKSP is currently under development at an estimated total expenditure of \$4.9 b. Phase 3 development was commenced by HKSTPC in 2011 and is expected to be completed in phases in this year to 2016. Green technology is adopted in the construction, design and operation of every building in Phase 3, and the building design meets various international standards in all aspects and has obtained relevant certification. Upon completion of the Phase 3 development, the R&D spaces of the HKSP will be increased by about 50% to 330 000 square metres, which will accommodate another some 150 technology companies and provide over 4 000 job opportunities.

The provision under Programme (5) is mainly for salary expenses. 18 officers working in the Innovation and Technology Commission are involved. They are mainly responsible for the work of the HKSP, Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited on top of their other duties under other Programmes. For the 3 financial years from 2010-11 to 2012-13, the relevant salary provisions were \$11.6 m, \$11.5 m and \$12 m respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)072

(Question Serial No. 6329)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 588):

How does the Commission monitor the success of projects funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund? How many of these projects have resulted in the successful transfer of R&D results to companies in the private sector?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) aims to promote and support applied research and development (R&D) projects that contribute to innovation and technology upgrading in industry, encourage and finance projects with better prospect of realisation/commercialisation. At present, applicants are required to provide a holistic plan for realisation/commercialisation in their applications for assessment by the Panel of Assessors.

During the project period, we will regularly monitor the project progress according to the milestones set out in the project applications, which include the following:

- 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; and
- We will 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 the Innovation and Technology Commission for our systematic assessment on the outcome of funded projects, e.g. if a project is successful, how to disseminate the results.

In recent years, we are starting to see some results in the realisation/commercialisation of some ITF-funded projects. Some examples are as follows:

- Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel has granted licences to several companies for the use of the “Nu-Torque Cotton Yarn Technology”. Discussions are on-going with several other potential licensees.
- R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies has collaborated with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department to apply the “E-Lock-Based Enabling Technology” at the boundary control points. This technology has helped reduce the number of repeated customs inspection for cargos at these control points, and facilitate logistics flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- The “Interactive Intention-Driven Upper-Limb Training Robotic System” developed by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has been granted patent in the United States and China. It was awarded the “Grand Prix Du Salon International Des Inventions De Genève” in the 40th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, Switzerland in 2012. A local rehabilitation equipment company which has been granted a non-exclusive licence is planning to manufacture the product for sale.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)073

(Question Serial No. 6330)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 589):

Please provide detailed statistics regarding the nature of and funding provided to each individual project under the programme area of "Support for Research and Development".

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The work of the Innovation and Technology Commission under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" includes administration of several funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) and the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme, etc.

Statistics regarding the nature and amount of funding provided under the projects are as follows:

(i) Funding programmes under the ITF (funded by the ITF)

Funding programme	Nature	New projects/ applications funded in 2013	Amount of funding (\$m)
Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP)	Support midstream/downstream R&D projects, divided into 3 tiers		
• Tier 1 funding	Applicable to R&D centres. Please refer to "R&D centre projects" below.		
• Tier 2 funding	Applicable to designated local public research institutions other than R&D Centres (mainly universities).	13	52.6
• Tier 3 funding	Also applicable to designated local public research institutions other than R&D Centres, but for exploratory and forward-looking R&D projects.	61	58.6
Total		74	111.2
Patent Application Grant	Encourage local companies and individual inventors who are first-time patent-seekers to protect and capitalise their intellectual work through patent registration. The maximum amount of grant for each approved application is \$150,000.	121	18.2

Funding programme	Nature	New projects/ applications funded in 2013	Amount of funding (\$m)
R&D centre projects	Provide funding for the R&D centres to undertake R&D projects in selected focus areas.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre 	8	34.1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies 	36	247.7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies 	7	10.6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nano and Advanced Materials Institute 	17	22.9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel 	13	29.6
	Total	81	344.9
Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS)	Provide R&D funding for technological projects conducted jointly between Hong Kong and Guangdong, and Hong Kong and Shenzhen, to encourage collaboration among universities, research institutions and industries in both places, and upgrading the technology level of industries in the Greater Pearl River Delta region.	31	71.4

(ii) R&D Cash Rebate Scheme (funded by non-recurrent expenditure under Programme (1))

Nature	New projects/ applications funded in 2013	Amount of funding (\$m)
The Scheme provides private sector 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).	218	28.0

Details of the above projects funded under the ITSP and TCFS are available at the ITF website (www.itf.gov.hk). As the applications of the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme involve commercial information of private sector companies, details of such applications cannot be released to the public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)074****(Question Serial No. 2884)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Support for Research and DevelopmentControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 43):

“Five research and development (R&D) centres were established in April 2006 to drive and co-ordinate R&D efforts in 5 focus areas namely nanotechnology and advanced materials, textile and clothing, automotive parts and accessory systems, logistics and supply chain management enabling technologies, and information and communications technologies. The R&D projects carried out by these centres are funded mainly by the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF).”

Please inform us of the number of ITF-funded R&D projects completed (including those terminated) by each of the 5 R&D Centres since their establishment, their total amount of government funding, their number of R&D results applicable in the relevant industries, and the 5 projects receiving the highest funding.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lamReply:

The number of completed R&D projects funded by the ITF and the total amount of funding of the 5 R&D centres since their establishment up to end-February 2014 are as follows:

	Number of completed R&D projects (including those terminated)	Funding amount (\$ m)
Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS)	53	134.9
R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI)	251	1,649.7
Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)	59	169.9
R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM)	34	206.4
Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)	60	148.1
Total	457	2,309.0

For the same period, the 5 projects receiving the highest amount of funding are all conducted by the ICT under ASTRI. Their project titles and the amount of funding are as follows:

	Project title	Funding amount (\$ m)
1	Ultimate e-Book for e-Learning	21.0
2	65nm Multimedia Full-HD SoC Development Platform	21.0
3	High Efficient Video Post Processing Silicon IP for Digital TV	20.8
4	Visual Signal Processing Technology for Emerging 3D Applications	20.0
5	Reconfigurable RF	20.0

Among the above projects, some have achieved commercialisation. For example, based on the R&D results of “Ultimate e-Book for e-Learning” (i.e. item 1 in the above table) and other related projects, ASTRI launched a classroom control system for managing learning activities and e-learning devices in late 2012, and granted a licence to a company for launching a cloud-based e-learning service. With regard to the R&D results of “Reconfigurable RF” (i.e. item 5 in the above table), ASTRI has also signed 14 licensing agreements with 9 companies to apply them in RF jamming technology for road tolling and antenna for hand-held direction finding device.

Furthermore, we are delighted that after some 8 years of operation, the R&D centres have gradually become more mature. They have started to see some results in commercialisation in recent years. Some of the successful examples include:

- (i) HKRITA has granted licences to several companies for the use of the “Nu-Torque Cotton Yarn Technology”. Discussions are on-going with several other potential licensees.
- (ii) LSCM has collaborated with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department to apply the “E-Lock-Based Enabling Technology” at the boundary control points. This technology has helped reduce the number of repeated customs inspection for cargos at these control points, enhance couriers’ efficiency and reliability, and facilitate logistics flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)075

(Question Serial No. 6491)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No.499):

Since 2009, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) has been undertaking independent assessment for the Quality Elderly Service Scheme. In this connection, please inform us:

- (a) of the respective annual numbers of institutions certified and failed to pass the assessment since HKPC has undertaken the assessment work;
- (b) whether HKPC will re-examine or review the certified institutions; if yes, of the details and the number of institutions re-examined for the past 5 years; if not, of the reasons for that;
- (c) of the average number of days required for getting through the assessment for the past 5 years; and
- (d) of the amount of annual receipts of assessment and administrative fees charged against the applicant institutions, as well as the total expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

According to the information provided by HKPC, the Quality Elderly Service Scheme is a programme developed and implemented by the Hong Kong Health Care Federation (HKHCF), which is a charitable institution registered in Hong Kong. The Scheme aims to offer recognition for operators providing quality elderly service. For details of the Scheme (including the list of organisations qualified by HKHCF), please visit HKHCF's website: www.healthcare.org.hk.

HKPC is commissioned by HKHCF to provide consultancy and assessment services for the Scheme. All relevant expenses, including manpower cost, are borne by HKHCF. The Government has neither taken part in the Scheme nor provided any funding support.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)076

(Question Serial No. 0858)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

It is stated in paragraph 47 of the Budget Speech that Hong Kong was ranked first in International Internet Bandwidth and comes first in Asia for Data Centre Risk Index. However, Google announced earlier its decision to shelve its plan to set up a data centre in Tseung Kwan O (TKO) due to the difficulties in sustainable development, and that it would go for Singapore and Taiwan instead of Hong Kong. On this incident, has the Government conducted an internal review and invited the senior management of Google for discussion, in order to find out their specific reasons for shelving the development in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

In 2010, Google (under the name of Allied Trade Holdings Limited) applied to the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) for a site in TKO Industrial Estate (IE) for the development of a high-tier data centre, and was granted the site in the same year. However, the grantee informed HKSTPC of its decision to surrender the site in September 2013. After obtaining approval from its Board of Directors, HKSTPC signed a Deed of Surrender with the grantee.

HKSTPC has been critically assessing applications for admission to IEs and overseeing enterprises admitted to IEs in accordance with the established procedures, as well as monitoring the progress of development according to the development timeframe specified in the land leases. There was no exception in this case.

With its pro-business environment, effective protection of data privacy and information security, free flow of information, robust information technology infrastructure as well as reliable power supply, Hong Kong is a perfect location for setting up data centres. Hong Kong was ranked the number one location in the Asia Pacific region for setting up high-tier data centres by International Data Corporation in its 2013 study report. From time to time, the Data Centre Facilitation Unit of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer receives enquiries from global enterprises, requesting assistance in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. At present, many renowned data centre operators have set up high-tier data centres in Hong Kong, with 11 data centres located in TKO IE alone, reflecting a strong market demand on setting up data centres in Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)077****(Question Serial No. 2579)****Head:** (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission**Subhead (No. & title):****Programme:****Controlling Officer:** Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development**Question (Member Question No. 34):**

Regarding the records management work of the Bureau and its departments over the past 3 years:

- (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. Cyd HO Sau-lan**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 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, 23 Assistant Clerical Officers and 12 Clerical Assistants.

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

- (b) Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the 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
Programme records	2006-2013	2 038/33.67 linear metres	5-7 years	No
Administrative records	1984-2013	158/7.7 linear metres	2-7 years	No
Administrative records	1988-2013	92/4.32 linear metres	3-5 years	Yes

- (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 meters of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

- (d) 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
Programme records	1986-2007	5 997/33.8 linear metres	2011-2013	4-7 years	No
Administrative records	1981-2010	450/23.1 linear metres	2011-2013	2-5 years	No

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)078****(Question Serial No. 4582)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 79):

- (a) Regarding the expenditure on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview over the past 3 years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenditure on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenditure on entertainment and gifts in the year	Expenditure limit for entertainment (including beverages) per head for the year	Expenditure limit for gift per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

- (b) Regarding the expenditure on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview in 2013-14, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

- (c) Please provide the estimated expenditure on entertainment and gifts for 2014-15 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Estimated expenditure on entertainment and gifts	Expenditure limit for entertainment per guest	Expenditure limit for gift per guest

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

As a general rule, all government officers hosting entertainment should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. According to the prevailing guidelines, the expenditure limits for provision of official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. In 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (as at 17 March 2014), the actual expenditure on official entertainment incurred by the Innovation and Technology Commission are \$0.34 m, \$0.33 m and \$0.25 m respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is \$0.35 m.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where

bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As we do not maintain separate accounts for the expenditure on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, we do not have the relevant statistics.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)079****(Question Serial No. 4605)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 104):

Regarding the consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Bureau and its departments 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 (2012-13 and 2013-14):

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 (2014-15)? 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, CydReply:

- (a) & (b)

The Innovation and Technology Commission did not commission any study on public policy and strategic public policy from 2012-13 to 2013-14 and has no such plan in 2014-15.

- (c) Not applicable.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)080

(Question Serial No. 4638)Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 136):

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 Bureau and its departments have been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information for 2011-12 to 2013-14 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)	Expenditure involved	Mainland officer(s) and 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 2014-15, please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland officer(s) and 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 co-operation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 3 years? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) The information on the Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2011-12 to 2013-14 is as follows:

Project / Programme	Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland officer(s) and 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
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.	No additional expenditure involved	Guangdong Provincial Department of Science and Technology, and the Science and Technology Innovation Commission of Shenzhen Municipality	A total of 51 TCFS projects were approved from 2011-12 to 2013-14 with funding of about \$132 m from the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF).	The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) announces the Scheme's application arrangements every year. The amounts of funding approved by ITC for projects are uploaded to the ITC website.	N.A.

- (b) The information on the Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes for 2014-15 is as follows:

Project / Programme	Details, objective, whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland officer(s) and 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 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.	No additional expenditure involved	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 2014-15 with ITF funding of about \$40 m.	ITC will announce the Scheme's application arrangements for 2014 in the middle of this year.	N.A.

(c) None.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)081****(Question Serial No. 2409)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Support for Research and DevelopmentControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 39):

Regarding the increase of 33.4% in the estimated provision under Support for Research and Development (R&D) of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), please explain in detail the allocation of the additional resources.

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yea, ReginaReply:

The estimated expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" of the Innovation and Technology (ITC) is mainly for:

- (i) administering the various funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund;
- (ii) supporting the activities of the research and development (R&D) centres; and
- (iii) expenses relating to the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

The distribution of the estimated expenditure under Programme (1) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is as follows:

	2013-14 (Revised estimate) (\$m)	2014-15 (Estimate) (\$m)	Increase
Recurrent expenditure (mainly for staff salaries)	37.0	43.4	+17.3%
Non-recurrent expenditure (solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme)	30.0	46.0	+53.3%
Total:	67.0	89.4	+33.4%

Increase in recurrent expenditure

The increase in the estimate of recurrent expenditure for 2014-15 is mainly due to additional salary cost and expenses in the year arising from:

- the creation of 11 civil service posts to replace 11 non-civil service contract posts under this Programme ; and
- the upgrading of the ITC Funding Administrative System.

Increase in non-recurrent expenditure

The increase in the estimate of non-recurrent expenditure under this Programme for 2014-15 is estimated based on the expected growth in the number of applications and amount of cash rebate under the Research &

Development Cash Rebate Scheme in 2014-15, given that the Scheme is increasingly welcomed by companies and thus attracting more applications.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)082

(Question Serial No. 3125)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

Would the Administration inform us of the reasons for a substantial increase of 28.3% in the estimate for 2014-15 over the original estimate for 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The estimated expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is mainly for:

- (i) administering the various funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund;
- (ii) supporting the activities of research and development (R&D) centres; and
- (iii) expenses relating to the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

The estimate under Programme (1) for 2014-15 is \$89.4 m, which is 28.3% higher than the original estimate of \$69.7 m for 2013-14, including \$43.4 m of recurrent expenditure on salary and departmental expenses and \$46 m of non-recurrent expenditure solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

Increase in recurrent expenditure

The recurrent expenditure under this Programme for 2014-15 is 18.3% higher than the original estimate of \$36.7 m for 2013-14. This is mainly due to additional salary cost and expenses in 2014-15 arising from:

- the creation of 11 civil service posts to replace 11 non-civil service contract posts under this Programme; and
- the upgrading of the ITC Funding Administrative System.

Increase in non-recurrent expenditure

The non-recurrent expenditure under this Programme for 2014-15 is 39.4% higher than the original estimate of \$33.0 m for 2013-14. This is estimated based on the expected growth in the number of applications and amount of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme in 2014-15, given that the Scheme is increasingly welcomed by companies and thus attracting more applications.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)083

(Question Serial No. 0363)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 6):

The estimated provision for 2014-15 under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" is \$89.4 m. Please provide details of how the Administration will make use of the provision to:

- (a) support the activities of the research and development (R&D) centres and promote technology transfer of funded projects, with information on the situation of technology transfer in the past year; and
- (b) enhance collaboration and effectively monitor the progress on R&D between Hong Kong and Guangdong under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

The estimated expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is mainly for:

- (i) administering the various funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF);
- (ii) supporting the activities of the R&D centres; and
- (iii) expenses relating to the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure under this Programme is \$89.4 m, including \$43.4 m of recurrent expenditure on salary and departmental expenses and \$46 m of non-recurrent expenditure solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

- (a) We attach great importance to the technology transfer activities of the R&D centres, which include realisation (e.g. application in the public sector) and commercialisation of R&D results.

In the past few years, the Government has put forward various measures to provide a more conducive ecological environment to facilitate the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results. In particular, we have extended the funding scope of ITF and formally introduced in March 2011 the Public Sector Trial Scheme whereby additional funding is provided to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conducting of trials in the public sector. The public sector includes Government departments, public bodies and trade associations, etc. The funding ceiling is capped at 30% of the original cost of the R&D project, although the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology may exercise discretion for providing additional funding support under exceptional circumstances (e.g. the product developed would bring great benefits to the community). Through these measures, the R&D centres can apply their R&D results in the real world, collect user feedback and then fine-tune the research outcomes so that the products will better meet market needs.

Apart from this, we also support the R&D centres to set up dedicated teams for promoting R&D results and conducting technology transfer.

The R&D centres have started to see some results in this area in recent years. Some successful examples include:

- (i) The R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) has collaborated with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department to apply the “E-Lock-Based Enabling Technology” at the boundary control points. This technology has helped reduce the number of repeated customs inspection for cargos at these control points, enhance couriers’ efficiency and reliability, and facilitate logistics flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland.
 - (ii) The R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute has licensed the “LTE Release 9 Evolution and Performance Enhancement” technology to 2 companies in 2012-13. One of the licensees launched the first commercial grade TD-LTE small cellular base station reference design in 2012, and the other company set up a new R&D centre in the Hong Kong Science Park.
- (b) Hong Kong has launched the TCFS with Guangdong since 2004 to provide R&D funding for Guangdong-Hong Kong technology projects and encourage research personnel of the 2 places to carry out collaboration projects. The ITC will work with Guangdong to formulate technological themes for the TCFS by including R&D focus areas which are of interest to the industry, academic and research sectors of both places, with a view to attracting more applications and enhancing R&D collaboration between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

We regularly monitor the progress of projects according to the milestones set out in the project applications. Applicants are required to submit progress reports on their R&D work on a regular basis. We will also conduct on-site inspections or hold review meetings to assess project progress as and when necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0364)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 7):

The estimated provision for 2014-15 under Programme (3) "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" is \$7.2 m. Would the Innovation and Technology Commission explain in detail:

- (a) the basis to adjust upwards the "indicator" of "applications received and processed under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP)" from 54 last year to 67 this year; and
- (b) the ways to attract more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to participate in SERAP?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

The Government introduced the following enhancement measures under SERAP in 2012-13:

- (i) raising the funding ceiling for each project from \$4 m to \$6 m;
- (ii) expanding the eligibility criteria to cover enterprises which have received venture capital investment; and
- (iii) extending the funding scope to include industrial designs, testing and certification of prototypes, pre-clinical trials, etc. to facilitate commercialisation.

Following implementation of the measures, the number of applications under SERAP has increased from 48 in 2012 to 54 in 2013. In estimating target figures for 2014-15, we have taken into account the number of enquires received and the trend of increase of applications.

We attach great importance to promotion of SERAP and seek to attract more SMEs to participate by:

- (i) promoting SERAP through websites, short videos and leaflets;
- (ii) organising or speaking in seminars to introduce SERAP to chambers of commerce, universities, start-up co-working space for young entrepreneurs and technology talents; and
- (iii) providing details of SERAP through the networks of the industry and supporting organisations, such as the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Productivity Council and chambers of commerce.

We propose setting up the Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the existing SERAP in order to promote more private sector investment in applied R&D. The new Scheme will be more attractive than SERAP in various aspects, e.g. funding ceiling for each project will be raised from \$6 m to \$10 m. It is believed to be welcomed by the industry. We are now working on the implementation details of the new Scheme, including setting up an assessment panel comprising technical experts, professionals, academics, industry players, etc. to assess applications, and developing clear assessment criteria and sufficient checks and balance. These are

to ensure that assessments will be done in a fair and objective manner and that the development needs of the industry will be met.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)085

(Question Serial No. 2471)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 516):

Regarding the 58 projects funded and being monitored under the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) in 2013-14, please inform us of the project titles, the universities and industry partners involved, the amount of funding approved and the estimated value of R&D results commercialised.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

Overall speaking, universities participating in the 58 projects funded and being monitored under the UICP in 2013 included: the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University. The technology areas covered by the 58 projects mainly included biotechnology, information technology, manufacturing technology and electronics; involving a total funding of \$74 m. Project details are available at the Innovation and Technology Fund website: http://www.itf.gov.hk/l-eng/prj_search_index.asp (the relevant project reference numbers are shown in the Annex).

The UICP supports private companies to conduct proprietary R&D work on a matching grant basis through leveraging the knowledge and resources of local universities, and provides funding support to local companies to take on university professors and graduates to assist in conducting R&D projects with a view to training R&D talents for Hong Kong.

In general, the commercialisation process of the R&D results only commences after project completion and it takes time. As the above projects are still ongoing, commercialisation work has generally not yet commenced. In addition, as the intellectual property rights derived from projects funded under the UICP are solely owned by the participating companies which would also commercialise them, we do not have the details and statistics in this regard.

University-Industry Collaboration Programme
(projects funded and being monitored in 2013)
大學與產業合作計劃 (於 2013 年獲撥款和受監察的項目)

No.	Project Reference No. 項目編號	No.	Project Reference No. 項目編號
1.	UIM/186	30.	UIM/228
2.	UIM/191	31.	UIM/230
3.	UIM/194	32.	UIM/231
4.	UIM/196	33.	UIM/233
5.	UIM/197	34.	UIM/234
6.	UIM/198	35.	UIM/235
7.	UIM/199	36.	UIM/236
8.	UIM/200	37.	UIM/237
9.	UIM/202	38.	UIM/238
10.	UIM/203	39.	UIM/239
11.	UIM/204	40.	UIM/240
12.	UIM/205	41.	UIM/241
13.	UIM/206	42.	UIM/242
14.	UIM/207	43.	UIM/243
15.	UIM/208	44.	UIM/245
16.	UIM/210	45.	UIM/246
17.	UIM/212	46.	UIM/249
18.	UIM/213	47.	UIM/250
19.	UIM/214	48.	UIT/106
20.	UIM/215	49.	UIT/109
21.	UIM/216	50.	UIT/110
22.	UIM/217	51.	UIT/111
23.	UIM/218	52.	UIT/113
24.	UIM/219	53.	UIT/112
25.	UIM/220	54.	UIT/115
26.	UIM/221	55.	UIT/116
27.	UIM/223	56.	UIT/117
28.	UIM/224	57.	UIT/118
29.	UIM/226	58.	UIT/119

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6599)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 531):

It is mentioned in paragraph 60 of the Government's Budget Speech for the financial year 2014-15 that "Government will create a better ecological environment for technology start-ups in collaboration with local research and development (R&D) institutions and universities. The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) will provide an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities to provide seed money for R&D projects that they recommend, encouraging their students and teachers to start downstream R&D businesses and commercialise their R&D results."

Please inform us of:

- (a) the success rate of businesses started by the students and teachers from these 6 designated universities with the support of such \$24 m technopreneurship funding during 2012-14; and
- (b) the respective numbers of university R&D results from these 6 designated universities that have actually been commercialised during 2012-14 as well as the market values of such commodities.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (a) To encourage teams from the designated universities to start technology businesses and commercialise universities' R&D results, the Government proposes setting up a new technopreneurship grant scheme (scheme) through ITF, initially for 3 years from 2014-15, to provide an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities. As such, no start-ups under these universities benefited from the scheme during the 2 financial years of 2012-14.
- (b) In recent years, both the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) have been encouraging the universities to enhance their efforts in knowledge transfer and technology transfer. In particular, it was announced in the 2013-14 Budget that each of the 6 universities designated as local public research institutions would be provided with a funding of up to \$4 m each year for a period of 3 years (i.e. a total of \$12 m) through ITF to support the work of their technology transfer offices, including intellectual property support, promotion of technology transfer (e.g. organising activities to facilitate technology transfer and technological entrepreneurship), staff training, etc. ITC has also maintained liaison with the universities to understand the overall situation of commercialisation of their R&D results. According to the annual reports on knowledge transfer submitted by the universities to UGC, the universities have their own spin-off companies. However, we do not have the details of their commercialisation work during the 2 financial years of 2012-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)087****(Question Serial No. 6604)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (1) Support for Research and DevelopmentControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 528):

It is mentioned in paragraph 56 of the Government's Budget Speech for the financial year 2014-15 that "Government aims to provide an enabling environment and proper financial support for universities, research and development (R&D) organisations and industry to conduct research and commercialise their innovations. In 2012, Hong Kong's total R&D expenditure amounted to around \$15 b, of which more than half came from the public sector. We shall accelerate technology transfer of upstream R&D results to translate more innovations into commercialised midstream and downstream R&D products or services."

Please inform us of the distribution of the \$15 b by category of R&D as well as the effectiveness of the commercialisation work.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hungReply:

The Government attaches great importance to R&D activities and commercialisation/realisation of R&D results. According to the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) in 2012 amounted to around \$15 b, the breakdown of which is shown in the table below:

Expenditure on R&D (HK\$ billion)	2012
GERD = [a]+[b]	14.82
[a] Business sector R&D expenditure (as % of GERD)	6.65 (45%)
[b] Public sector R&D expenditure =(i)+(ii) (as % of GERD)	8.17 (55%)
(i) Higher education sector R&D expenditure	7.58
(ii) Government sector R&D expenditure	0.59

On the business sector front, information from the C&SD indicated that about 5 000 enterprises conducted activities related to commercialisation (including technological product or process innovations) in 2012.

As for the government sector, commercialisation/realisation of R&D results is mainly conducted by the 5 R&D Centres funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission, as well as designated local public research institutions such as the Hong Kong Productivity Council. We are delighted that after some 8 years of operation, the R&D Centres have gradually become more mature. Their commercialisation efforts have started to bear fruit. Some of the successful examples include:

- (a) The R&D Centre for Information and Communications Technologies under the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute has licensed the "LTE Release 9 Evolution and Performance Enhancement" technology to 2 companies in 2012-13. One of the licensees launched the

first commercial grade TD-LTE small cellular base station reference design in 2012, and the other company set up a new R&D centre in the Hong Kong Science Park.

- (b) Since its establishment, Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel has granted 30 licences for its R&D outputs. One of the more outstanding examples is the licensing of the “Nu-Torque Cotton Yarn Technology” to a number of companies. Discussions are taking place with several other potential licensees.

As for the higher education sector, according to the annual reports on knowledge transfer submitted by the universities to the University Grants Committee, the universities have their own spin-off companies, but we do not have the details of their business and commercialisation work.

In the fields of science and technology, there are always uncertainties associated with the R&D work and not every R&D project can bear fruit. However, the process itself and the experience accumulated are very important for future R&D work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)088****(Question Serial No. 6605)**

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 529):

It is mentioned in paragraph 57 of the Government's Budget Speech for the financial year 2014-15 that "the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) has been supporting applied research and development (R&D) and is constantly being refined to nurture an environment conducive to innovation and technology in Hong Kong. Established 15 years ago, the ITF has funded more than 3 600 projects with about \$8 b. To further enhance the application and commercialisation of R&D results, we shall introduce two new measures –

(a)	setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS) to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme. The ESS will provide funding support for R&D activities of private sector companies, irrespective of size, with the funding ceiling for each project raised from \$6 m to \$10 m. While the recipient company must bear at least half of the cost, it may retain all the intellectual property rights of the project; and
(b)	extending the scope of funding to development work and system integration, industrial design, compliance testing and clinical trials. This will render stronger support to downstream R&D and commercialisation activities, allowing full exploitation of the technological edge of local industries.

It is mentioned in page 465 of the Estimates that -

"the Commission provides funding support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities through the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) of the ITF. The SERAP provides financing to support technology entrepreneurs and small enterprises (including start-ups) to carry out R&D on innovation and technology. The Applied Research Fund (ARF) provides funding to technology companies in Hong Kong at the venture capital stage but has been on a winding down mode since 2005. In addition, the Commission works closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), which operates incubation programmes to provide technology start-ups with support in marketing, finance, technology and management in their critical initial years of operation."

Question:

- (a) Why SERAP is still used in the brief description of the Scheme under Programme (3) of Head 155 – Government Secretariat: Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in page 465 of the Government's Estimates for the financial year 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

On 18 March 2014, the ITC briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry (C&I Panel) on the approach to implement the ESS, which will replace the existing SERAP, in order to encourage more

private sector investment in applied R&D. As set out in the paper for the Panel, we will work on the implementation details and seek advice from the C&I Panel and the Finance Committee. The SERAP will continue to operate prior to the launch of the ESS.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6606)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 530):

It is mentioned in paragraph 58 of the Government's Budget Speech for the financial year 2014-15 that "these 2 measures are intended to further boost research and development (R&D) investments and commercialisation activities among private companies at home and attract those from abroad to bring their R&D departments to our city, hence creating a more diversified ecology for innovation and technology".

Please inform us of:

- (a) the expected effectiveness of these 2 measures to further boost R&D investments and commercialisation activities among private companies at home, and the relevant performance indicators; and
- (b) the expected effectiveness of these measures to attract companies from abroad to bring their R&D departments to our city, and the relevant performance indicators.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (a) It is expected that the proposed Enterprise Support Scheme and the extended funding scope of the Innovation and Technology Fund will (i) encourage private sector investments in R&D; (ii) foster commercialisation of technologies; (iii) create more job opportunities; and (iv) contribute to the upgrading of local industries. Regarding performance indicators, since these are new measures, we are not able to make an accurate estimation of their effectiveness or the number of applications at the moment. Nevertheless, in monitoring their implementation, we will keep in view the number and quality of applications, and the benefits to be brought to the industry and the community as a whole. We must understand that, in the fields of science and technology, there are always uncertainties associated with the R&D work and not every R&D project can bear fruit. However, the process itself and the experience accumulated are very important for future R&D work.
- (b) The setting up of R&D departments in Hong Kong by technology companies from abroad will provide more opportunities for local graduates in science, technology and engineering disciplines to pursue their careers in R&D. That will also engender a critical mass of talents, capital and intellectual property, and thus will create a more diversified ecology for innovation and technology to flourish in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Innovation and Technology Commission, Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation have been working closely together to provide various forms of support, encouraging and assisting overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong. In the past 3 years, with the concerted efforts of the 3 parties, about 90 overseas and Mainland technology enterprises were attracted to set up or expand their R&D departments (most of them were established in the Hong Kong Science Park) in Hong Kong, creating some 1 200 jobs. These technology enterprises cover various areas including electronics, information technology and telecommunications, biotechnology, medicine, green and environmental technologies, and precision engineering.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)090

(Question Serial No. 6608)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 861):

It is mentioned in paragraph 68 of the Government's Budget Speech for the financial year 2013-14 that "in my view, 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. To facilitate technology transfers and the realisation of research and development (R&D) results, 6 local universities have set up their own technology transfer offices to deal with the complicated process of commercialising R&D results. I propose that these 6 universities be each provided with a subvention of up to \$12 million 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 inform us of the funded projects undertaken by these 6 universities, the industry partners and amount of income from the industry for these funded projects in the financial year 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

It was announced in the 2013-14 Budget that each of the 6 universities designated as local public research institutions would be provided with a funding of up to \$4 m each year for a period of 3 years (i.e. a total of \$12 m) through the Innovation and Technology Fund to support the work of their technology transfer offices. Funding will be provided on an accountable and reimbursement basis. The universities will submit the reimbursement requests to the Innovation and Technology Commission between April and July 2014 for relevant expenses incurred in Government financial year of 2013-14. Hence, we do not have the information on the funded projects yet.

The universities can request reimbursement on expenses in the following areas:

- (a) professional services for technology transfer (including hiring of in-house staff and/or external professional services, e.g. legal, business development, etc.);
- (b) promotion of technology transfer (e.g. organising or participating in technology transfer activities);
- (c) Intellectual property (IP) support (e.g. patent search, IP evaluation, etc.); and
- (d) staff training on technology transfer related matters.

We will conduct a review on the implementation of the measure in 2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)091

(Question Serial No. 0608)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

The estimated financial provision for 2014-15 is about 33% higher than the revised financial provision for 2013-14, representing a significant increase compared with the growth rate of 14.5% from 2012-13 to 2013-14. Would the Administration inform us of the distribution of the estimated financial provision among the 5 research and development (R&D) centres, the reasons for that, and their percentages in the total financial provision?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The estimated expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) is mainly for:

- (i) administering the various funding programmes under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF);
- (ii) supporting the activities of the R&D centres; and
- (iii) expenses relating to the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

The estimate under Programme (1) for 2014-15 is \$89.4 m, which is 33.4% higher than the revised estimate of \$67 m for 2013-14, including \$43.4 m of recurrent expenditure on salary and departmental expenses and \$46 m of non-recurrent expenditure solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme.

Increase in recurrent expenditure

The recurrent expenditure under this Programme for 2014-15 is 17.3% higher than the revised estimate of \$37 m for 2013-14, which is mainly due to additional expenditure on salary and costs arising from the creation of 11 civil service posts to replace 11 non-civil service contract posts under this Programme, as well as the upgrading of the ITC Funding Administrative System in 2014-15.

Increase in non-recurrent expenditure

The non-recurrent expenditure under this Programme for 2014-15 is 53.3% higher than the revised estimate of \$30 m for 2013-14. This is estimated based on the expected growth in the number of applications and amount of cash rebate under the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme in 2014-15, given that the Scheme is increasingly welcomed by companies and thus attracting more applications.

Note

The expenditure of the R&D centres includes operating expenditure and R&D expenditure.

The operating expenditure of 4 R&D centres (i.e. the Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS), Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA), R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) and Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI)) is met by the funding under the ITF 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 funded by Government's annual recurrent subvention to ASTRI (which is separately set out under Programme 7 "Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited"). The operating expenditure of the 5 R&D centres for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is as follows:

	Operating cost (\$ m)		
	Total FC funding	2013-14 (Revised estimate)	2014-15 (Estimate)
APAS	228.2	10.0	17.0
ICT under ASTRI	Not applicable ^(Note)	134.5	141.5
HKRITA	197.7	21.7	27.9
LSCM	207.9	21.6	21.6
NAMI	385.2	50.0	55.1
Total:	1,019.0	237.8	263.1

Note: The operating expenditure of ICT under ASTRI is funded by the Government's recurrent annual subvention to ASTRI.

The R&D expenditure of the 5 R&D centres is supported by the ITF on individual R&D project basis. The amount of funding for R&D expenditure of the 5 R&D centres for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is as follows:

	Amount of funding for R&D expenditure (\$ m)	
	2013-14 (Revised estimate)	2014-15 (Estimate)
APAS	17.0	17.6
ICT under ASTRI	210.3	224.7
HKRITA	29.5	30.9
LSCM	32.1	35.9
NAMI	40.9	41.7
Total:	329.8	350.8

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)092

(Question Serial No. 0609)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

The Commission's estimated number of applications received and processed under the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme (TCFS) is increased by about 35%, while its estimated number of projects funded and being monitored is decreased slightly by 4%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

With regard to TCFS applications under ITF, since the resources available, work plans and workload of the eligible research institutions may be different each year, the number of project applications can also vary. The 2014 estimate of applications received and processed is generally projected based on the average number of applications received for the past 3 years, and therefore is estimated at 65, representing an increase of about 35%.

There is no direct causal relationship between the percentage change in number of application received and processed and percentage change in number of projects funded and being monitored due to complex technical reasons. For example,

- the duration of project is generally up to 2 years. However, there can be variations from projects to projects. Furthermore, extension may be granted if there are justifications. The actual time taken to complete the projects may range from 12 months to 36 months in general. Hence, the number of projects to be continued to be monitored can change accordingly;
- the quality of application may also vary from year to year. Even if the number of applications received and processed in a particular year is high, the number of projects to be funded ultimately (and hence need to be monitored subsequently) will not necessarily increase accordingly.

Our estimation is a best possible effort made taking into account trends of previous years as well as other available information (e.g. we already know some projects will most likely be completed or delayed).

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)093

(Question Serial No. 0610)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration, (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 37):

The Commission's estimated financial provisions for fostering university-industry collaboration and promotion of technological entrepreneurship are reduced by 4% and 1.4% respectively, which are not consistent with the principle of promoting the innovation and technology industry as stated in the Policy Address and the Budget. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The provisions under Programme (2) "Fostering University-Industry Collaboration" and Programme (3) "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" are mainly for salary expenses.

The estimate of expenditure under Programme (2) is reduced by 4.0% (or \$300,000). This is mainly due to reduced expenses for salaries and contract gratuities payable to non-civil service contract staff.

The estimate of expenditure under Programme (3) is reduced by 1.4% (or \$100,000). This is mainly due to reduced salary expenses arising from the staff changes involving posts filled by officers with lower salaries.

The slight changes in the above expenditures are technical adjustments to the salary expenses of the Innovation and Technology Commission, and will not affect our continued efforts to promote the innovation and technology industry proactively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)094

(Question Serial No. 0611)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

The Commission's estimated financial provision for the promotion of technological entrepreneurship for 2014-15 is on the decrease when compared with the revised financial provisions for 2012-13 and 2013-14. Does it mean that the Commission considers that much has already been done to promote technological entrepreneurship targeting small and medium enterprises?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The provision under Programme (3) "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship" is mainly for salary expenses. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 under this Programme is \$7.2 m, which is \$0.1 m lower than the revised expenditure of \$7.3 m for 2013-14. The slight change in the expenditure is mainly due to technical adjustment to the salary expenses arising from the transfer of public officers, and will not affect our continued efforts to actively promote activities related to the innovation and technology industry.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)095

(Question Serial No. 0612)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 39):

The estimated financial provision for planning for innovation and technology (I&T) development in 2014-15 is only about 8.2% higher than the revised financial provision in 2013-14. What are the reasons for that? What are the respective percentages of the provisions for enhancing public awareness of I&T and organising local promotional events, administering the Internship Programme as well as promoting the development of Chinese medicines (CM) in the total financial provision, and the relevant growth rates over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The aim of Programme (4) is to support the formulation and co-ordination of I&T policies. Major work includes:

- (i) providing secretariat support to the Steering Committee on I&T;
- (ii) supporting technology co-operation with the Mainland;
- (iii) organising I&T promotional events and administering the General Support Programme to fund projects which help foster an I&T culture;
- (iv) administering the Internship Programme; and
- (v) co-ordinating the promotion of the development of research and development as well as testing of CM, etc.

The provision under this Programme is mainly for salary and departmental expenses.

The estimate for 2014-15 is 8.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision arising from the creation of 2 civil service posts to replace the non-civil service contract posts as well as increased departmental expenses to enhance the promotion of I&T, e.g. promoting the "Enterprise Support Scheme" that is soon to be set up and the new initiative of providing technopreneurship funding to designated universities, as well as launching the first round of selection exercise for establishment of the Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres.

We do not have the breakdown and percentage of the departmental expenses and salaries for individual item of enhancing public awareness of I&T and organising local promotional events, administering the Internship Programme and promoting the development of CM. Nevertheless, the overall estimated provision under this Programme for 2014-15 is \$39.8 m, of which \$18.2 m (45.7%) is for salary expenses and \$21.6 m (54.3%) is for departmental expenses.

The expenditure under this Programme and the percentage increase over the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	2014-15 (Estimate)	2013-14 (Revised estimate)	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
Expenditure (\$m)	39.8	36.8	34.3	33.7	31.4	27.6
% increase	8.2%	7.3%	1.8%	7.3%	13.8%	-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)096

(Question Serial No. 0613)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Support for Research and Development, (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration, (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

As there is a marked increase of about 53% in the general non-recurrent expenditure in the estimate for 2014-15 over the revised estimate for 2013-14, would the Administration inform us of which item accounts for the largest part of such expenditure? What is the non-recurrent expenditure for fostering university-industry collaboration and promotion of technological entrepreneurship as a percentage of the total expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC)'s general non-recurrent expenditure under Subhead 700 of Head 155 in the Estimates for 2014-15 is solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme, which is estimated at \$46 m, representing an increase of about 53% over the revised estimate of \$30 m for 2013-14. Such increase is estimated based on the expected growth in the number of applications and amount of cash rebate in 2014-15, given that the Scheme is increasingly welcomed by companies and thus attracting more applications. No operating expenditure of the ITC is involved.

Note

The work on fostering university-industry collaboration and promotion of technological entrepreneurship is carried out under Programme (2) and Programme (3) respectively. No non-recurrent expenditure is involved under these 2 Programmes, and only recurrent expenditure mainly for staff salaries is involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)097

(Question Serial No. 0391)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 10):

It is stated in paragraph 57 of this year's Budget Speech that the Administration will set up an Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS) to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP). The ESS will provide funding support for research and development (R&D) activities of private sector companies, irrespective of size, with the funding ceiling for each project raised from \$6 m to \$10 m. In this connection, please inform us:

- (a) whether the Administration has anticipated that it would be harder than before for small enterprises to succeed in obtaining research funding as more companies will be eligible to apply; and whether the Administration will take account of small enterprises' need for research support and consider striking an appropriate balance in assessing the applications without compromising research quality; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

We propose setting up the ESS to replace the existing SERAP in order to promote more private sector investment in applied R&D. The new Scheme will be more attractive than SERAP in various aspects, e.g. the raising of funding ceiling for each project from \$6 m to \$10 m. It is believed to be welcomed by the industry.

We are now working on the implementation details of the new Scheme, including the assessment mechanism, e.g. composition of the assessment panel, assessment criteria, etc., with a view to ensuring that assessments will be done in a fair and objective manner, as well as meeting the development needs of the industry as a whole and various types of enterprises.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)098

(Question Serial No. 0502)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

The Administration indicated that the Innovation and Technology Commission worked with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) during 2013-14 on revitalisation of the Industrial Estates (IEs) and the feasibility study on expanding the Yuen Long Industrial Estate. In this connection, please inform us: whether the Administration has considered the industry's calls for supporting some members of the industry to return from overseas to Hong Kong for development and promoting the development of industries which focus on research and development, high technology, high value-adding and low pollution; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-ki

Reply:

HKSTPC manages the 3 IEs located in Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tseung Kwan O respectively. So far, 97% of the land of the 3 existing IEs has already been granted.

The Government closely monitors the industry's demand for land in the IEs. To meet the long-term demand, HKSTPC will continue to actively identify suitable sites for the development of new IEs and explore the feasibility of expanding the existing IEs.

Moreover, to ensure effective use of valuable land and to release under-utilised sites to meet short to medium term demand, HKSTPC has been 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. According to HKSTPC's selection criteria, priority will be given to projects involving significant investment, high added value, employment of a large number of technical personnel, as well as new or upgraded technology, regardless of whether the applicant enterprises are returning from overseas to Hong Kong for development.

Since 2007, 28 sites have been revitalised through assignment, involving an aggregated area of 31 hectares, or 14% of the total land of the 3 IEs (i.e. 217 hectares). 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)099

(Question Serial No. 1391)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 53):

It is known that the Administration will set up an Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS) to replace the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP). The ESS will provide funding support for research and development activities of private sector companies, irrespective of size, with the funding ceiling raised to \$10 m. The Administration will also extend the scope of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). Would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the detailed eligibility requirements, applicable research areas, expenditure and manpower involved, and estimated number of working days needed from processing the application to disbursement of funds under the ESS; and
- (b) the target numbers of project applications received, processed and approved as well as the funding expenditure involved in the first year after the launch of the ESS, and their percentage changes compared with the annual average numbers of project applications received, processed and approved as well as the expenditure involved under SERAP?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) Companies registered in Hong Kong, regardless of size, are eligible to apply. We do not have restriction on the research areas of the applications, but the projects must have innovation and technology content and have a chance of development into new products or services. As the ESS is a new initiative, we are not able to make an accurate estimation of the expenditure involved and manpower required at this stage. We are currently working on the implementation details, including the assessment system, assessment criteria, project monitoring and reporting process, etc. At present, the relevant work is being handled by the existing staff of the Innovation and Technology Commission.
- (b) Over the past 5 years, the annual number of SERAP applications processed ranged from 50 to over 80. Since there are marked differences between SERAP and ESS (e.g. the latter has no restriction on the number of employees of the applicant company and no requirement to recoup the approved funding, etc.), it is difficult for us to make an estimation of the number of projects and expenditure involved at the moment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)100

(Question Serial No. 1392)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 54):

It is mentioned in paragraph 60 of the Speech that the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) will provide an annual technopreneurship funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities. Would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) which scheme under the ITF will provide the above funding; and of the application details and the vetting criteria;
- (b) of the estimated numbers of project applications received, processed and approved in the first year after this technopreneurship funding scheme is introduced; and whether there is any limitation on the use of funding; if yes, of the details; and
- (c) of the manpower and resources earmarked for 2014-15 by the Administration to manage this funding scheme?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) To encourage students and professors from the designated universities to start technology businesses and commercialise universities' research and development (R&D) results, the Government proposes setting up a new technopreneurship grant scheme (scheme) through ITF, initially for 3 years from 2014-15, to provide an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities. The scheme will not be included in the 4 major funding programmes under ITF. Instead, the funding will be provided through ITF following the prevailing funding arrangements for the Partner State Key Laboratories, etc.
- (b) An overview of the scheme is as follows:
 - (i) No limit on the number of start-ups set up under each university subject to the annual funding ceiling of \$4 m for each university; and each start-up will be funded for not more than 3 years with an annual funding capped at \$1.2 m.
 - (ii) Technology start-ups formed by teams of the universities (comprising students, professors, alumni, etc.) should register under the Companies Ordinance. Applications evaluated internally and recommended by the respective universities will be assessed by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), e.g. to see if the eligibility requirements are met, the budget is reasonable, etc.
 - (iii) The funds can be used to meet the expenditure on essential items for setting up and operating the start-ups (e.g. furniture and equipment, legal and accounting services, etc.); project expenditure (e.g. manpower, equipment, other direct costs, etc.); and promotion of the start-ups and marketing of their project deliverables. Any expenditure item or part thereof which is

^{Note} The 4 major programmes under ITF are the Innovation and Technology Support Programme, University-Industry Collaboration Programme, Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme and General Support Programme.

already funded by the Government, a Government subvented body/institution or the university will however not be covered.

We will discuss with the universities and stakeholders on the implementation details, including the general assessment criteria, e.g. research capability and business management capability of the team, its passion and commitment on technology and entrepreneurship, propensity of success of the business, etc. Our main objective is to provide the universities with sufficient room for making the best use of the resources. Apart from setting the annual funding cap at \$1.2 m for each start-up, we do not have the minimum funding level for each start-up and quota for the scheme. Universities can adjust the number of teams recommended and the amount of funding requested based on the number of suitable technology start-ups, their R&D focus, etc.

- (c) ITC will implement the scheme with its existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)101

(Question Serial No. 1393)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 99):

The Government provides 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. Would the relevant department inform us of:

- (a) the use of such funding as at February 2014 and the total amount of funding granted to the universities so far; and
- (b) the details of projects being undertaken by the universities?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

It was announced in the 2013-14 Budget that each of the 6 universities designated as local public research institutions would be provided with a funding of up to \$4 m each year for a period of 3 years (i.e. a total of \$12 m) through ITF to support the work of their technology transfer offices. Funding will be provided on an accountable and reimbursement basis.

Relevant expenses incurred in the Government financial year of 2013-14, up to end-March 2014, are reimbursable. Hence, reimbursement request has not been received yet. Individual universities will submit their respective requests to the Innovation and Technology Commission between April and July 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)102

(Question Serial No. 6173)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 96):

Regarding the Patent Application Grant (PAG), would the Government review and relax the existing application rules, e.g. to cover divisional applications or continuation-in-part applications and all the fees required for patent applications, so as to benefit more local companies and individuals for their inventions? If yes, what are the details and manpower expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The PAG aims to encourage local companies and individual inventors who are first-time patent-seekers to protect and capitalise their intellectual work through patent registration. The maximum amount of grant is \$150,000. To ensure proper use of public funds, each applicant should have never owned any patents, and is allowed to submit one application for grant under the PAG for one patent application only. The grant, however, can be used for patent applications in one or more countries/territories. Since the launch of the PAG in 1998 to end-2013, over 1 300 applications were approved, involving funding of more than \$170 m.

Regarding the scope of funding support, the PAG basically covers all types of patent applications, including divisional applications or continuation-in-part applications related to an applicant's patent application, and the relevant expenses, including the cost for patent search-cum-technical assessment and other direct costs, e.g. attorney fees, consultant fees and fees charged by the relevant patent office, etc.

Regarding the amount of grant, according to our record, the existing amount of grant is sufficient for an applicant to make a successful application for patent registration in at least one country/territory for most of the cases.

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) reviews the PAG from time to time and makes improvements as and when necessary. For example, we raised the maximum funding amount under the PAG from \$100,000 to \$150,000 (i.e. a 50% increase) in 2010 and introduced a number of improvement measures in 2012, including listing the fees that may be incurred in the application process and providing a detailed flowchart on the application process for applicants' reference.

The manpower expenditure for administering and reviewing the PAG is part of the expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development". The relevant work is carried out by ITC's existing staff and no additional resource is involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)103

(Question Serial No. 6231)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Regarding the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme), please provide a breakdown of figures for the past 3 years, including:

- (a) the number of Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) projects and Partnership projects involving cash rebate applications by research area each year, the number of such projects with cash rebate applications approved; the amount of sponsorship of each project and its percentage share in the total project cost; the amount of cash rebate disbursed to the sponsoring companies;
- (b) relevant details of the projects involving designated local public research institutions with cash rebate applications each year, the number of such projects with cash rebate applications approved, the respective amounts of cash rebate and amount of sponsorship ; and
- (c) whether the Administration has any plan to increase the number of designated local public research institutions or include certain private research institutions under the Scheme; if yes, the details and the timetable concerned.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Scheme provides private sector companies with 30% cash rebate for their investments in 2 types of applied R&D projects below:

- (i) sponsorship in projects funded under the ITF (ITF projects); and
 - (ii) project cost of applied R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions (Partnership projects).
- (a) For the past 3 years (i.e. 2011-2013), the number of projects involving cash rebate applications was 144, 159 and 172 respectively, and all of the applications were approved.

The total amount of cash rebate approved for the above projects in each year was about \$6 m, \$26 m (the level of cash rebate was raised from 10% to 30% with effect from February 2012) and \$28 m respectively. The breakdown on the number of projects by research area is as follows:

Research area	2011		2012		2013	
	ITF project	Partnership project	ITF project	Partnership project	ITF project	Partnership project
Biotechnology	15	0	13	3	6	1
Chinese medicine	1	0	3	0	5	3
Electrical and electronics	26	3	25	7	12	24
Environmental technology	4	4	3	2	3	1
Information technology	35	2	33	7	23	21
Manufacturing technology	26	8	30	16	28	22
Materials science	12	1	7	0	6	5
Nanotechnology	6	0	6	1	4	2
Others	0	1	2	1	4	2
Sub-total:	125	19	122	37	91	81
Total:	144		159		172	

The share of sponsorship in the total cost of the projects depends on the nature of the projects:

- (i) ITF projects: they are classified into platform projects and collaborative projects. Platform projects generally require industry sponsorship of about 10% of the project cost, whereas collaborative projects require industry sponsorship of 30% (for R&D Centre projects) to 50% (for non-R&D Centre projects) of the project cost; and
 - (ii) Partnership projects: as project cost is entirely borne by the companies, the amount of sponsorship is equivalent to the project cost.
- (b) With regard to the cash rebate applications in the past 3 years (i.e. 2011-2013), the number of projects involving designated local public research institutions (i.e. excluding R&D projects conducted by companies under Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP)) was 108, 126 and 159 respectively, and all of the applications were approved.

The total amount of cash rebate approved for the above projects in each year was about \$3.5 m, \$19 m (the level of cash rebate was raised from 10% to 30% with effect from February 2012) and \$24 m respectively. The breakdown on the number of projects by research institution is as follows:

Designated local public research institutions	2011		2012		2013	
	ITF project	Partnership project	ITF project	Partnership project	ITF project	Partnership project
Local universities	29	0	34	5	32	12
Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre	9	0	7	0	2	0
R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies	9	0	10	0	7	0
Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel	19	0	15	0	12	0
Nano and Advanced Materials Institute	12	0	8	0	5	4
Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute	8	4	11	7	15	30
Others (including Hong Kong Productivity Council, Vocational Training Council and Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology)	3	15	4	25	5	35
Sub-total:	89	19	89	37	78	81
Total:	108		126		159	

- (c) We review the scope of the Scheme from time to time. For example, we added the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology as a designated local public research institution in April 2013.

As regards private sector R&D projects, private companies are already eligible to receive cash rebate for their expenditure in R&D projects under SERAP. Under the Enterprise Support Scheme to be set up to replace SERAP, companies are also eligible to receive cash rebate for their R&D expenditure in the funded projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)104

(Question Serial No. 6232)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 56):

With respect to the various recommendations on the project management of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) put forward in the Director of Audit's Report No. 61 (the Report), would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the respective manpower allocated by the Administration to handle various funding schemes under the ITF, and the average man-days required for processing a project application under each of the funding schemes; whether recruiting additional staff will expedite the processing of applications; if yes, what are the expenditure and timetable for recruiting additional staff; on the other hand, how the Administration will streamline the vetting process of the funding schemes, and of the details and expenditure involved; and
- (b) given that among the recipient companies which completed Phase I of the projects under the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP), 72 of such cases were unable to reach an agreement with the Government for Phase II by a prescribed date (which involved total SERAP funding of \$23 m) as mentioned in the Report, of the work progress and amount of funding recovered after the Audit Commission requested a review on the SERAP funding for such projects?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The Report put forward various recommendations on the management and monitoring of projects under the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) and SERAP under the ITF.

The ITSP is part of the work of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development" (other work includes supporting the Research and Development (R&D) centres and the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme), whereas SERAP is part of the work under Programme (3) "Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship". We do not have separate breakdowns on the salary expenses and manpower allocated for these 2 funding programmes.

Regarding the processing time:

- ITSP: 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.
- SERAP: 50 working days are normally required for processing an application.

The above are the processing times under normal circumstances only that are generally under the control of ITC. However, there are other factors which may affect the processing time that are outside ITC's control, e.g. whether the applicant is able to revise certain details of its application in a timely manner as requested by the Assessment Panel, or provide formal sponsorship letters from its sponsors.

We are now actively studying the recommendations of the Director of Audit, in particular those relating to the existing application processing procedures of the R&D centres to identify room for improvement. We will carry out the relevant work with existing resources and thus no additional expenses are involved.

- (b) When SERAP was first launched in 1999, the funded projects were required to be conducted in 2 phases. After completion of the R&D Phase I, the funded company needed to submit a separate application for Phase II. We abolished the 2-phase arrangement in 2008 upon review. Therefore, all the 72 cases mentioned in the Report are projects applied before 2008.

As regards the 72 cases, the ITC is now setting up a task force comprising industry players and professionals to examine the cases that need to be followed-up. In handling these cases, we will protect the interests of the Government and at the same time act appropriately to the companies concerned. We will assess if there are reasonable explanations or cases of hardship and devise an appropriate way forward, e.g. demanding repayment, setting the timeframe for repayment, consulting the Department of Justice about the feasibility of instigating legal action and, in cases where recovery action is not warranted, seeking approval for write-off in accordance with prevailing Government procedures.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6233)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 57):

With respect to the various recommendations on the overall management of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) put forward in the Director of Audit's Report No. 61 (the Report), would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the progress of overall comprehensive review or impact studies of the ITF, and whether a timetable with a target completion date has been worked out as recommended by the Audit Commission; if yes, of the details and expenditure involved; and
- (b) whether the Administration has considered disclosing the justifications on the vetting results for the funding schemes under the ITF for the applicants' self-evaluation; if yes, what are the manpower and expenditure required for the relevant disclosure mechanism?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) As the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) mentioned in its response to the recommendations of the Audit Commission in the Director of Audit's Report No. 61 (the Report), the Government has already commenced a comprehensive review on the ITF in mid-2013 to explore further areas of improvement.

Given the wide scope of the review, we will consult the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry (the Panel) in stages. So far, we have briefed the Panel in February and March 2014 on various improvement measures. In particular, we reported in the paper submitted to the Panel in February 2014 the progress of our follow-up on the Report and various improvement measures. For example -

- we will develop/implement a more comprehensive/systematic post-project evaluation framework to better assess and monitor the outcome and commercialisation of the projects as well as the performance of the project teams; and
- we have critically reviewed the operating expenditure and cost-effectiveness of the research and development (R&D) centres and will continue to work with the Board of Directors/management of the R&D centres and enhance their existing set of performance indicators and targets from time to time.

We are continuing with the review on other areas of the ITF and will consult the Panel. We expect to complete the entire comprehensive review within 2014.

- (b) In accordance with the current vetting procedures, we will notify the applicants in writing of the vetting results of their project applications. For unsuccessful applications, we will set out in the notifications letters their inadequacies for the applicants' reference.

The above 2 tasks are carried out by ITC's existing staff and therefore no additional financial resources and manpower are involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)106

(Question Serial No. 6234)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

What are the Administration's measures and policies to attract research and development (R&D) professionals to engage in R&D work in Hong Kong and foreign R&D companies to develop their business in our city? What are the details and timetable for the relevant measures as well as the manpower expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The SAR Government attaches great importance to R&D activities and welcomes technology companies and R&D professionals outside Hong Kong to set up business and engage in R&D activities in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), the InvestHongKong and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation have been working closely together to provide various forms of support, encouraging and assisting overseas and Mainland technology companies (and professionals) to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong. The relevant support we offer includes:

- (a) Through its 27 overseas and Mainland offices or representatives around the globe, the InvestHongKong proactively reaches out to technology companies all over the world to invite them to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong, including setting up their R&D departments here. It provides enterprises with one-stop services, including providing information about doing business in Hong Kong, introducing the SAR Government's support for technology companies, assisting enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong, generating publicity, as well as providing business networking opportunities for the industry and the commercial sector.
- (b) The Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP) is an important part of the infrastructure set up by the Government in support of innovation and technology development. To facilitate innovation and technology activities, HKSP provides companies in the Park with comprehensive service support, including 11 laboratories, technical support, business support services and incubation programmes.
- (c) ITC provides financial support for enterprises to conduct R&D activities through the following initiatives:
 - (i) Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)

The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under the ITF provides funding support on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for small technology based enterprises (with less than 100 employees) to undertake in-house R&D, with a funding ceiling of \$6 m per project. To encourage more private sector investment in applied R&D, we propose setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the existing SERAP. The new Scheme will be more attractive than SERAP in various aspects, e.g. the funding ceiling for each project will be raised from \$6 m to \$10 m.

(ii) R&D Cash Rebate Scheme

This Scheme was introduced in April 2010 with the objective to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. Under this Scheme, companies may receive a cash rebate equivalent to 30% of their expenditure on 2 types of applied R&D projects: (i) R&D projects funded under the ITF and (ii) R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions and funded by the companies.

- (d) In attracting R&D professionals to engage in R&D work in Hong Kong, the SAR Government administers an open and liberal immigration regime to facilitate the entry of talents and professionals (including science, technology and engineering talents) from around the world. Relevant talent admission schemes include the General Employment Policy, Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, Quality Migrant Admission Scheme and Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates. We regularly review these admission schemes to ensure that they continue to suit the circumstances and needs of Hong Kong.

ITC and other government departments concerned will make the necessary staffing arrangement to provide relevant support depicted above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)107****(Question Serial No. 6561)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological EntrepreneurshipControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 34):

Regarding the 3 incubation programmes including Incu-App, Incu-Tech and Incu-Bio administered by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) -

- (a) What are the respective numbers of recipient companies under the above programmes, as well as the number and percentage of offices occupied by them in the Science Park?
- (b) What is the amount of rental subsidies received by the above recipient companies and such amount as a percentage of their payable rent?
- (c) It is known that each incubatee may have access to a package of financial aid during the incubation period to cover part of the cost of the business support and development services provided by HKSTPC as well as their business operational expenditure. What are the criteria for granting the above financial aid? What are the respective amounts of financial aids received by the recipient companies and the number of recipient companies that have used up such amount? Has HKSTPC examined their expenses? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (d) What is the number of graduated companies? How many of them are still operating in the Science Park? What is the number of offices in the Science Park occupied by them and the rental expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles PeterReply:

- (a) According to the information provided by HKSTPC, there are currently a total of 139 companies participating in various incubation programmes. Details on the number of office area occupied by them in terms of percentage of the total gross floor area of the Science Park are listed below:

	Number of incubatees	Number/area of offices occupied	Percentage in the total gross floor area
Incu-Tech	82	86 (54 774 sq. ft.)	3%
Incu-Bio	7	8 (6 452 sq. ft.)	0.3%
Incu-App	50	93 (9 579 sq. ft.)	0.5%
	139		

- (b) In addition to a series of all-rounded services, the incubatees can enjoy reduced office rental during the incubation period. Details are set out below:

	Working space	Monthly rental (HK\$)			
		First year	Second year	Third year	Fourth year
Incu-Tech (for a duration of 3 years)	Office	1) 0 (first 800 sq. ft.) 2) 10.8/sq. ft. (area beyond 800 sq. ft.)	10.8/sq. ft.	10.8/sq. ft.	Not applicable
Incu-Bio (for a duration of 4 years)	Laboratory	1) 0 (first 800 sq. ft.) 2) 14.2/sq. ft. (area beyond 800 sq. ft.)	14.2/sq. ft.	14.2/sq. ft.	14.2/sq. ft.
Incu-App (for a duration of 18 months)	Shared workstation	1) 0 (first 2 workstations) 2) 3,000/workstation (3 rd workstation onwards)	<u>Only applicable to the 13th-18th month</u> 1) 0 (first 2 workstations) 2) 3,000/workstation (3 rd workstation onwards)	Not applicable	Not applicable

Note: The above prices are inclusive of rental, management fee, electricity fee and office cleaning fee.

- (c) HKSTPC grants a financial aid package to incubatees based on the results of regular progress reviews. HKSTPC will examine an incubatee's actual development progress against its original business plan, and verify the supporting documents submitted together with its reimbursement request to ensure that the financial aid is indeed used for the development of the approved project. An incubatee which successfully passed the review will be entitled to the financial aid for that period. Hence, an incubatee is required to pass every regular review in order to continue to enjoy the aid package.

The aid package provided by the incubation programmes comprises:

		Maximum amount of financial aid (HK\$)
1. Financial aid applicable to Incu-Tech and Incu-Bio		
Micro Fund	Reimbursement to support operational expenses including furniture, computer equipment, monthly charges on company telecommunications services, stationery, etc. Reimbursement up to 100%.	Incu-Tech: 45,000 Incu-Bio: 60,000
Business Support Fund	Support expenses on marketing activities, business consultancy, accounting services, etc. Reimbursement up to 50%.	Incu-Tech: 300,000 Incu-Bio: 400,000
Technology Support Fund	Support expenses on laboratory services, technology transfer, technical consultancy, legal consultancy, patent application, data storage, training, etc. Reimbursement up to 50%.	Incu-Tech: 300,000 Incu-Bio: 400,000
Total amount		Maximum amount of financial aid for Incu-Tech: 645,000 Maximum amount of financial aid for Incu-Bio: 860,000
2. Financial aid applicable to Incu-App		
Business Support Fund and Technology Support Fund	Coverage is the same as above. Reimbursement up to 50%.	300,000

Since the research projects conducted as well as the technical and business development status vary among the incubatees, the type and amount of financial aid sought are also different. Not many incubatees will use up the financial aid. Over the past 3 years, the incubatees used about 30% of the financial aid amount on average, and the total amount of financial aid granted to all the incubatees each year was about \$5.2 m on average.

- (d) HKSTPC was established in May 2001 through the merger of the former Hong Kong Industrial Technology Centre Corporation (HKITCC), the Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation and the Provisional Hong Kong Science Park Company Limited. HKITCC launched the technology incubation programmes in 1992, which was later taken over by HKSTPC for operation. As at end-February 2014, the accumulated number of graduated companies was 304, of which over 75% are still in operation. Among them, 64 graduated companies are still operating in the Science Park, occupying a total office area of about 100 500 sq. ft. Based on the average rental in 2013-14, the rental expenses incurred by these 64 graduated companies are about \$1.69 m per month.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)108****(Question Serial No. 2984)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (4) Planning for Innovation and Technology DevelopmentControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 17):

In 2012, Hong Kong's total research and development (R&D) expenditure amounted to around \$15 b. Please inform us whether the Government has looked into the specific situation with existing financial resources and manpower; if yes, of the respective R&D expenditures of the Chinese medicine (CM) industry and the environmental technology industry; and of the financial resources and manpower that the Government and relevant public bodies have allocated to the R&D work of these 2 industries.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, ElizabethReply:

According to the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) in 2012 amounted to around \$15 b, the breakdown of which is shown in the table below:

Expenditure on R&D (HK\$ billion)	2012
GERD =[a]+[b]	14.82
[a] Business sector R&D expenditure (as % of GERD)	6.65 (45%)
[b] Public sector R&D expenditure =(i)+(ii) (as % of GERD)	8.17 (55%)
(i) Higher education sector R&D expenditure	7.58
(ii) Government sector R&D expenditure	0.59

R&D on CM

According to the C&SD, R&D expenditure by enterprises on CM in 2012 was about \$19 m.

The Government has been supporting various sectors to conduct CM-related R&D activities through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). In 2012-13, the relevant approved funding under the ITF was about \$20 m.

In addition, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) has been working closely with the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification in promoting the development of CM testing and certification, as well as supporting the Hong Kong Productivity Council to develop a Product Certification Scheme for Chinese Materia Medica through funding provided by the General Support Programme under the ITF.

Among the higher education sector R&D expenditure, over 70% of the funding was provided by the University Grants Committee (UGC) and the Research Grants Council to support academic research on various disciplines. Other funding sources include Government funding programmes and local private funds etc. According to the information provided by the UGC-funded institutions, R&D expenditure by the institutions did not have a category on CM in 2012-13 academic year. Therefore, information on funding

and R&D expenditure on CM pertaining to the local higher education sector in the same year cannot be provided.

R&D of Environmental Technology

According to the C&SD, R&D expenditure by enterprises on environmental technology in 2012 was about \$170 m.

The Government has been supporting various sectors to conduct environmental technology-related R&D activities through the ITF. In 2012-13, the relevant approved funding under the ITF was about \$49 m.

According to the information provided by the UGC-funded institutions, R&D expenditure by the institutions did not have a category on environmental technology in 2012-13 academic year. Therefore, information on funding and R&D expenditure on environmental technology pertaining to the local higher education sector in the same year cannot be provided.

The ITC and other government departments concerned will make the necessary staffing arrangement to provide relevant support in promoting the R&D activities depicted above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)109

(Question Serial No. 2986)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 19):

Has the Government looked into the entrepreneurial activities of the innovation and technology (I&T) industry in Hong Kong with existing financial resources and manpower? If yes, please provide information for the past year on the number of start-ups in the local industry, their nature, major scope of business, government support provided to these enterprises, as well as the amount of funding and manpower involved in providing such support.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Invest Hong Kong has commissioned a study on the entrepreneurial activities in Hong Kong's innovation and technology industry. The study seeks to acquire an overview of local start-up clusters (e.g. the number, origin and business sectors of start-ups), and look into the social and economic benefits brought about by these start-ups to Hong Kong. It will also benchmark Hong Kong against other major hubs of entrepreneurship.

At present, the Government provides support to technology companies through various means including:

- (a) The incubation programmes run by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) and Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) have been providing start-ups with a structured form of support, including provision of infrastructure/working space and networking platforms, dissemination of information and market intelligence, promotion and attraction of overseas investments, development of promotion and marketing channels, etc. While Cyberport operates the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund Scheme to assist start-ups in translating their innovative ideas into prototypes, HKSTPC provides incubatees with subsidised office space and various financial aid packages;
- (b) In March 2014, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the "iStartup@HK", a comprehensive interactive portal which not only provides practical information for technology start-ups but also serves as an online exchange platform for them to promote their companies and products as well as reach out to investors and other venture partners to attract financing and other forms of support. The portal development was outsourced at a cost of some \$250,000; and
- (c) The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under ITF provides funding support on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for technology start-ups and other small and medium enterprises to undertake in-house R&D projects. Government's maximum funding for each project is \$6 m. Of the 16 approved projects under SERAP in 2013, more than 10 were projects undertaken by technology start-ups (i.e. enterprises established for less than 3 years) with a total approved funding of about \$30 m. As SERAP is one of the items under Programme (3), we do not have a separate breakdown of expenditure on SERAP by salary expenses and manpower.

To step up efforts to promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, we propose setting up a technopreneurship grant scheme initially for 3 years from 2014-15, to provide an annual funding

of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities to encourage the setting up of more technology start-ups. We also propose setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the existing SERAP to encourage more private sector investment in applied R&D.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)110

(Question Serial No. 2987)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

What were the resources and manpower deployed by the Government in exploring the replacement of the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme by the Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS)? As the ESS will target private sector companies irrespective of size, would this lead to the limited funding being flowed into large enterprises that are already financially strong, whereas small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that are in urgent need of support are being neglected? Will the Government adopt measures to prevent the above situation from happening? If yes, what are the details and the resources and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Companies registered in Hong Kong, regardless of size, may apply for funding under the ESS. Applications from big and small companies will all be processed in a fair manner. Factors to be taken into account in approving an application include the merits of the project, capability of the research team, the benefits to be brought to the industry and the community as a whole, etc. By launching the ESS, we hope to provide better support for enterprises of various sizes and at different stages of development. As far as SMEs are concerned, the ESS will provide stronger incentives for them to conduct research and development (R&D) activities. For large enterprises, the ESS will encourage them to invest more in R&D activities, thereby engendering a critical mass of R&D talents, capital and intellectual property, and creating more job opportunities.

We are currently working on the implementation details of the ESS, including setting up an assessment panel comprising technical experts, professionals, academics, industry players, etc. to assess applications, and developing clear assessment criteria and sufficient checks and balance. These are to ensure that assessments can be done in a fair and objective manner and that the development needs of the industry will be met. At present, the relevant work is being handled by the existing staff of the Innovation and Technology Commission.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)111

(Question Serial No. 2988)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Has the Government, with existing financial resources and manpower, looked into the situation of companies from abroad setting up research and development (R&D) departments in Hong Kong? If yes, please list out the companies from abroad that set up R&D departments in Hong Kong in the past 3 years, the economic benefits and employment opportunities brought to Hong Kong, the major R&D results produced, the government support provided to these companies, as well as the funding and manpower involved in providing such support.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The SAR Government attaches great importance to R&D activities and welcomes technology companies outside of Hong Kong to set up their R&D bases locally. In this connection, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), the InvestHK and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation have been working closely together to provide various forms of support, encouraging and assisting overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong.

In the past 3 years, with the concerted efforts of the 3 parties, about 90 overseas and Mainland technology enterprises were attracted to set up or expand their R&D operations in Hong Kong [most of them were established in the Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP)], creating some 1 200 jobs. These technology enterprises cover various areas including electronics, information technology and telecommunications, biotechnology, medicine, green and environmental technologies, and precision engineering.

We provide support to enterprises interested in setting up or expanding their business operations in Hong Kong and the measures include :

- (a) Through its 27 overseas and Mainland offices or representatives around the globe, the InvestHK proactively reaches out to technology companies all over the world to invite them to set up or expand their business operations in Hong Kong, including setting up their R&D departments in our city. It provides enterprises with one-stop services, including providing information about doing business in Hong Kong, introducing the SAR Government's support to technology companies, assisting enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong, generating publicity, as well as providing business networking opportunities for the industry and the commercial sector.
- (b) HKSP is an important part of our infrastructure in support of the Government's effort to promote innovation and technology development. To facilitate innovation and technology activities, HKSP provides companies in the Park with comprehensive service support, including 11 laboratories, technical support, business support services and incubation programmes.
- (c) ITC provides financial support to enterprises to conduct R&D activities through the following initiatives:
 - (i) Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)

The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under the ITF provides funding support on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for small technology based enterprises (with less than

100 employees) to undertake in-house R&D, with a funding ceiling of \$6 m per project. To encourage more private sector investment in applied R&D, we propose setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the existing SERAP. The new Scheme will be more attractive than SERAP in various aspects, e.g. the funding ceiling for each project will be raised from \$6 m to \$10 m.

(ii) R&D Cash Rebate Scheme

This Scheme was introduced in April 2010 with the objective to reinforce the research culture among companies and encourage them to establish stronger partnership with local research institutions. Under this Scheme, companies may receive a cash rebate equivalent to 30% of their expenditure on two types of applied R&D projects: (i) R&D projects funded under the ITF and (ii) R&D projects conducted in partnership with designated local public research institutions and funded by the companies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)112

(Question Serial No. 2989)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fostering University-Industry Collaboration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 22):

Since the Government plans to encourage university students and teachers to start businesses in the technology sector, has the Government, with existing financial resources and manpower, found out beforehand the current situation of entrepreneurship of this group of people? If yes, please explain in detail the current situation of technological entrepreneurship of university students and teachers in Hong Kong, including the number and nature of these organisations, their major products and services, the commercialisation of their research and development (R&D) results, their operation profiles, the government support provided to these organisations, as well as the funding and manpower involved in providing such support.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The Government has been encouraging technology transfer and commercialisation of R&D results. As such, it was announced in the 2013-14 Budget that each of the 6 universities designated as local public research institutions would be provided with a funding of up to \$4 m each year for a period of 3 years (i.e. a total of \$12 m) through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) to support the work of their technology transfer offices. The relevant areas of work of the technology transfer offices include intellectual property support, promotion of technology transfer (e.g. organising activities to facilitate technology transfer and technological entrepreneurship), staff training, etc. The Innovation and Technology Commission has also maintained liaison with the universities to understand the overall situation of commercialisation of their R&D results. According to the annual reports on knowledge transfer submitted by the universities to the University Grants Committee, the universities have their own spin-off companies, but we do not have the details of their business and commercialisation work. In the 2014-15 Budget, we propose providing funding support to technology start-ups formed by the universities' teams. Prior to the proposal, we have exchanged views with representatives from the academia. They indicated that such funding from the Government would help bring R&D results from campus to the real world, and encourage young graduates to set up technology start-ups, thereby contributing to the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong.

At present, we provide support to technology companies, including technology spin-offs of the universities, through various channels. For example:

- (a) The incubation programmes run by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) and Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) have all along been providing start-ups with a structured form of support, including provision of infrastructure/working space and networking platforms, dissemination of information and market intelligence, promotion and attraction of overseas investments, promotion and marketing, etc. While Cyberport operates the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund Scheme to assist start-ups in translating their innovative ideas into prototypes, HKSTPC provides incubatees with subsidised office space and various support services;

- (b) In March 2014, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the “iStartup@HK”, a comprehensive interactive portal which not only provides practical information for technology start-ups but also serves as an online exchange platform for them to promote their companies and products as well as reach out to investors and other venture partners to attract financing and other forms of support. The portal development was outsourced at a cost of some \$250,000; and
- (c) The Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) under ITF provides funding support on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for technology start-ups and other small and medium enterprises to undertake in-house R&D projects. Government’s maximum funding for each project is \$6 m. Of the 16 approved projects under SERAP in 2013, more than 10 were projects undertaken by technology start-ups (i.e. enterprises established for less than 3 years) with a total approved funding of about \$30 m. As SERAP is one of the items under Programme (3), we do not have a separate breakdown of expenditure on SERAP by salary expenses and manpower.

To step up efforts to promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, we propose setting up a technopreneurship grant scheme initially for 3 years from 2014-15, to provide an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities to encourage the setting up of more technology start-ups. We also propose setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme to replace the existing SERAP to encourage more private sector investment in applied R&D.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)113

(Question Serial No. 2996)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Google has earlier shelved its plan of setting up a data centre in Hong Kong. Has the Government find out the specific reasons? What were the financial resources and manpower deployed by the Government in its previous effort to pursue the setting up of a data centre by Google in Hong Kong? Given that Google has now shelved its plan, what are the economic losses of the Government and Hong Kong? How will the land released by Google be disposed of? And what are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

In 2010, Google (under the name of Allied Trade Holdings Limited) applied to the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) for a site in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate (IE) for the development of a high-tier data centre, and was granted the site in the same year. However, the grantee informed HKSTPC of its decision to surrender the site in September 2013. After obtaining approval from its Board of Directors, HKSTPC signed a Deed of Surrender with the grantee.

HKSTPC has been critically assessing applications for admission to IEs and overseeing enterprises admitted to IEs in accordance with the established procedures, as well as monitoring the progress of development according to the development timeframe specified in the land leases. There was no exception in this case.

From time to time, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) liaises with renowned data centre operators and multi-national information and communications technology organisations to coax with them to set up data centres in Hong Kong. Such work is absorbed within OGCIO's existing manpower resources. We do not have breakdown of expenditure and manpower by individual cases.

On HKSTPC, the buy-back price of the site concerned is calculated based on an established formula (taking into account factors such as the remaining land lease term, depreciated value of the facilities established and administration fee). HKSTPC has not suffered any loss in this transaction since the buy-back price is about two-third of the original land premium. The site has been put into the land reserve for the IE and will be disposed of in accordance with HKSTPC's policy.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)114

(Question Serial No. 1667)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 42):

The Administration stated that it will work closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) on its various developments and business plans of the Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP) and the Industrial Estates (IEs). What are the details and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

To promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, the Government has been encouraging collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. On hardware, the HKSP operated and managed by HKSTPC is an important part of our infrastructure in promoting innovation and technology in Hong Kong. The IEs under HKSTPC have also been playing an important role in broadening the local industrial base and upgrading the technology levels of Hong Kong. In this connection, the Government has been working closely with HKSTPC.

HKSTPC, a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance, provides a comprehensive range of services to cater the needs of industry at various stages, ranging from nurturing technology start-ups through the incubation programmes, providing premises and services in HKSP for applied research and development activities, to offering land and premises in the IEs for production. HKSTPC is wholly-owned by the Government and governed by a Board of Directors. The Board Chairman is appointed by the Chief Executive, and other members are appointed by the Financial Secretary. The Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) is an ex-officio member on the Board.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau/Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) have been working with HKSTPC on its various developments and business plans through participation in the Board meetings of HKSTPC and close communication with its management to ensure that the infrastructure and services provided are fully utilised and up-to-date.

The provision under Programme (5) is mainly for salary expenses. 18 officers working in the ITC are involved. They are mainly responsible for the work of the HKSP, Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited on top of their other duties under other Programmes. In the financial year 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for the salaries concerned is around \$12.3 m.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)115

(Question Serial No. 0777)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

It is stated in paragraph 56 of the Budget Speech that in 2012, Hong Kong's total research and development (R&D) expenditure amounted to around \$15 b, of which more than half came from the public sector. Would the Administration set out in tabular form a breakdown of the expenditure by R&D projects supported by the public sector and the related expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) in 2012 amounted to around \$15 b, the breakdown of which is shown in the table below:

Expenditure on R&D (HK\$ billion)	2012
GERD = [a]+[b]	14.82
[a] Business sector R&D expenditure (as % of GERD)	6.65 (45%)
[b] Public sector R&D expenditure =(i)+(ii) (as % of GERD)	8.17 (55%)
(i) Higher education sector R&D expenditure	7.58
(ii) Government sector R&D expenditure	0.59

The R&D activities of the public sector are mainly conducted by the higher education and government sectors. Higher education sector refers to the 8 institutions funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC)². They mainly conduct academic research of different disciplines. When grouped according to academic departments, the academic research areas cover Medicine, Dentistry and Health, Sciences, Engineering and Technology, etc.³

In the government sector, R&D activities are mainly conducted by 5 R&D Centres funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission, and other government agencies such as the Government Laboratory. They mainly conduct applied R&D activities in technology areas covering automotive parts and accessory systems, textiles and clothing, logistics and supply chain management enabling technologies, nano technology and advanced materials, information and communications technologies, and electrical and electronics, etc.

² The 8 institutions funded by the UGC are City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the University of Hong Kong.

³ Other categories include Business and Management, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Education and Continuing Education.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)116

(Question Serial No. 3287)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Quality Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 74):

During 2014-15, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will set up a Secretariat to provide support on a permanent basis to the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC), a non-statutory advisory body, in implementing measures to further support the development of the testing and certification industry. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee when the permanent Secretariat is expected to come into operation, as well as of details of its functions and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The HKCTC Secretariat was set up by the ITC in September 2009 to support the work of the HKCTC. As of now, the Secretariat comprises 8 time-limited non-directorate civil service posts and 1 supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post. With the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, starting from 1 April 2014, the 9 civil service posts in the Secretariat will become permanent posts, and 2 additional non-directorate civil service posts will also be created, to continue providing dedicated support for the HKCTC in formulating strategies, and implementing measures as recommended in its Review Report 2013 to the Government.

The estimated expenditure of the Secretariat for 2014-15 is about \$15 million, including expenses for the above 11 permanent civil service posts.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)117

(Question Serial No. 3288)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 75):

During 2014-15, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) will continue to enhance its support to Hong Kong companies operating in the Pearl River Delta (PRD), through subsidiary consulting firms set up in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the number of subsidiary consulting firms set up in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan and the amount of resources allocated; whether their effectiveness has been assessed; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

HKPC established 3 wholly-owned subsidiaries which operate on a self-financing basis in Guangzhou in 2003, and Dongguan and Shenzhen in 2004 respectively. Their operating expenditure is met by the fees charged for the services (including promotional activities and training courses) provided to Hong Kong companies. Apart from monitoring their operation, HKPC does not provide them with any recurrent provision nor funding. The total estimated expenditure of the 3 wholly-owned subsidiaries in 2014-15 is about \$25 m.

The 3 wholly-owned subsidiaries serve as HKPC's marketing platform in the Mainland, and focus on promoting HKPC's support services to Hong Kong companies operating in the Pearl River Delta. Their work includes: promotion of industry studies for the region, upgrading and transformation, environment protection and training, planning and consulting services, etc.

HKPC regularly reports to the Council on the work of the 3 wholly-owned subsidiaries and conducts reviews from time to time. The Government monitors the relevant work through its representatives on the Council.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)118

(Question Serial No. 5166)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 71):

In 2014-15, the Innovation and Technology Commission plans to provide funding assistance to the Partner State Key Laboratories in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres and funding support to universities being designated as local public research institutions, as well as administer the Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the work progress of the above schemes and the respective estimates of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Partner State Key Laboratories (PSKLs)

Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERCs)

Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) of universities designated as local public research institutions

- (a) PSKLs: In collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), we have completed the second round of application exercise for PSKLs in July 2013, with the number of PSKLs in Hong Kong increased from 12 to 16. These PSKLs cover various technology areas including chemistry, information and communications technology, life science, etc. Starting from 2013-14, we have increased the annual funding support for each PSKL from \$2 m to \$5 m until 2015-16.
- (b) Hong Kong Branches of CNERCs: In June 2012, approval was granted by MOST for the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute to partner with the Southeast University to establish the first Hong Kong Branch of CNERC on a pilot basis. Building on this success, we issued letters in February this year to local universities and the Research and Development (R&D) Centres, inviting them to submit applications under the first round of application exercise for Hong Kong Branches of CNERCs. Starting from 2013-14 until 2015-16, we will provide a total funding of \$15 m to each Hong Kong Branch for a period of 3 years.
- (c) TTOs of universities: Between April and July 2014, TTOs may submit reimbursement requests for relevant expenses incurred in 2013-14 to the Commission. Starting from 2013-14, we provide an annual funding of up to \$4 m for a period of 3 years to each of the 6 designated universities for their TTOs.

As administering the above 3 schemes is part of the work under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development", we do not have a separate breakdown of expenditure on it. The funding granted under the schemes comes from the Innovation and Technology Fund.

R&D Cash Rebate Scheme

After the increase of the cash rebate level from 10% to 30% on 1 February 2012, companies have responded positively towards the Scheme. There has been a growth in the number of approved applications and the amount of cash rebate approved, as well as the number of pre-registrations of Partnership projects. For

example, the amount of cash rebate approved increased from some \$11 m in 2011-12 to some \$24 m in 2012-13, representing an increase of about 110%.

The expenditure for administering the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme is part of the expenditure under Programme (1) "Support for Research and Development", which includes recurrent expenditure (mainly for staff salaries) and non-recurrent expenditure solely for the disbursement of cash rebate under the Scheme.

The estimate of the amount of cash rebate disbursement under the Scheme in 2014-15 is \$46 m, which is some 39% higher than the original estimate of \$33 m in 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)119****(Question Serial No. 5167)**Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology CommissionSubhead (No. & title):Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological EntrepreneurshipControlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 72):

During 2014-15, the Innovation and Technology Commission will continue to administer the Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme (SERAP) and monitor progress of the funded projects under SERAP and the residual work relating to the Applied Research Fund. Regarding this, would the Administration inform this Committee of the respective numbers of applications received and approved, the number of recipient companies and amount of funding under SERAP (in tabular form)?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, JamesReply:

The number of applications received and approved, the number of funded companies and amount of approved funding under SERAP in 2013 are as follows:

No. of applications received	111
No. of applications approved	23
No. of funded companies	23
Amount of approved funding	\$50.76 m

Moreover, we propose setting up the Enterprise Support Scheme to replace SERAP to promote more private sector investment in applied research and development. The new Scheme will be more attractive than SERAP in various aspects, e.g. the funding ceiling for each project will be raised from \$6 m to \$10 m, private companies regardless of size may apply, etc.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)120

(Question Serial No. 5168)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Infrastructural Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 73):

During 2014-15, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) will continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) on its various developments and business plans of the Hong Kong Science Park (HKSP) and the Industrial Estates (IEs), and 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. Regarding the above activities, would the Government inform this Committee of the specific work and timetable concerned as well as the estimate of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

HKSTPC's work

To promote the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, the Government has been encouraging collaboration among the Government, industry, academia and research sectors through the provision of hardware and software support. On hardware, the HKSP operated and managed by HKSTPC is an important part of our infrastructure in promoting innovation and technology in Hong Kong. The IEs under HKSTPC have also been playing an important role in broadening the local industrial base and upgrading the technology levels of Hong Kong. In this connection, the Government has been working closely with HKSTPC.

HKSTPC provides a comprehensive range of services to cater the needs of industry at various stages, ranging from nurturing technology start-ups through the incubation programmes, providing premises and services in HKSP for applied R&D activities, to offering land and premises in the IEs for production.

ASTRI's work

The Government will continue to support the R&D Centres to conduct commercialisation of their R&D results. ASTRI, which is one of the 5 R&D Centres set up by the Government, is tasked with the R&D of information and communications technologies. Its aim is to promote 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.

The work and estimate of expenditure involved

The above 2 institutions are wholly-owned by the Government and governed by their respective Boards of Directors. The Boards, which comprise representatives from the industry, academia and the Government, are responsible for overseeing the operation of these institutions. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau/ITC have been participating in the Boards' meetings and maintaining close communication with their management to ensure that their development directions and business plans are up-to-date.

The provision under Programme (5) is mainly for salary expenses. 18 officers working in the ITC are involved. They are mainly responsible for the work of the HKSP, Hong Kong Productivity Council and ASTRI on top of their other duties under other Programmes. In the financial year 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for the salaries concerned is around \$12.3 m4.

⁴ HKSTPC is a statutory body established under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation Ordinance. The financial resources and manpower involved in its development and business plans are not included in the Government's expenditure. As for ASTRI, ITC will continue to support ASTRI's operating expenditure with an estimated subvention of \$141.5 m under Programme (7) in 2014-15. At the same time, ASTRI, like the other R&D Centres, may also seek funding from the Innovation and Technology Fund for its R&D programmes.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)121

(Question Serial No. 1588)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

It is stated in paragraph 57 of the Budget Speech that the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) has been established for 15 years and funded more than 3 600 projects with \$8 b. This time, the ITF will further provide an annual technopreneurship funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities. Please inform us:

- (a) of the types (e.g. biotechnology, electronics, etc.) of the funded projects in the past 5 years;
- (b) of the number of applications rejected in the past 5 years;
- (c) given that the Budget proposed to “provide an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities”, of the names of the 6 designated universities and the vetting criteria for the applications; and
- (d) of the cost-effectiveness of providing an annual funding of up to \$24 m to the 6 designated universities.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

Since the establishment of the ITF, more than 3 600 projects have been approved, involving a total funding of over \$8 b. Apart from research and development (R&D) projects (about 2 100), other non-R&D projects (about 1 500), e.g. projects funded under the General Support Programme and the Internship Programme, are also included.

- (a) In the past 5 years (from 2009 to 2013), the technology areas of R&D projects funded under the ITF included: information technology, electronics, manufacturing technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, materials science, environmental technology, Chinese medicine, etc.
- (b) In the past 5 years, the ITF received about 2 950 R&D project applications, of which some 950 were approved, accounting for around 30% of the total number of applications received.

With regard to non-R&D projects, about 1 500 applications were received in the past 5 years, over 90% of which were approved given that most non-R&D projects (e.g. those under the Internship Programme) will be approved as long as they meet the basic requirements of the programmes.

- (c) The proposed technopreneurship grant scheme (scheme) aims to provide an annual funding of up to \$4 m to each of the 6 universities 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 and the University of Hong Kong, to encourage their teams to start technology businesses and commercialise their R&D results.

We propose teams of the universities (comprising students, professors, alumni, etc.) to form technology start-ups. Such start-ups should register under the Companies Ordinance. Applications evaluated internally and recommended by the respective universities will be assessed by the Innovation

and Technology Commission (ITC), e.g. to see if the eligibility requirements are met, the budget is reasonable, etc. We will discuss with the universities and stakeholders on other implementation details.

- (d) We expect that the scheme can bring R&D results from campus to the real world by encouraging more technopreneurial activities and facilitating commercialisation of university intellectual property. The scheme will provide incentive to encourage young outstanding science, technology and engineering graduates to pursue their career in the innovation and technology sector, adding fresh impetus to the innovation ecosystem. In the fields of science and technology, there are always uncertainties associated with the R&D work and not every R&D project can bear fruit. However, the process itself and the experience accumulated are very important for future R&D work. To ensure proper use of public money, we will monitor the expenditure properly and the funded enterprises are also required to submit an auditor's report prepared by an independent auditor in accordance with the ITC's requirements.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)122****(Question Serial No. 0123)****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 (Miss Janet WONG)**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development**Question (Member Question No. 30):**

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the annual gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) by universities, the public and private sectors for the past 5 years.
- (b) What were the respective R&D expenditures by the local public and private sectors as a ratio to the gross domestic product (GDP) for the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing**Reply:**

(a) & (b)

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the relevant statistics from 2008 to 2012 are set out below:

Expenditure on R&D (HK\$ billion)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D = [a]+[b] (as % of GDP)	12.29 (0.72%)	12.83 (0.77%)	13.31 (0.75%)	13.95 (0.72%)	14.82 (0.73%)
[a] Business sector R&D expenditure (as % of GDP)	5.27 (0.31%)	5.47 (0.33%)	5.77 (0.32%)	6.19 (0.32%)	6.65 (0.33%)
[b] Public sector R&D expenditure = (i)+(ii) (as % of GDP)	7.03 (0.41%)	7.36 (0.44%)	7.55 (0.42%)	7.75 (0.40%)	8.17 (0.40%)
(i) Higher education sector expenditure	6.65	6.84	6.95	7.16	7.58
(ii) Government sector R&D expenditure	0.38	0.52	0.60	0.60	0.59

Note: Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)123

(Question Serial No. 1051)

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 (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

It is mentioned in paragraph 24 that during 2013-14, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) supported the development of Chinese medicines (CM), and co-ordinated various parties in promoting the development of research and development (R&D) and testing of CM through a government-led committee. What are the financial resources needed for the operation of the committee and the manpower required for its daily administration? What are the civil service grades and ranks involved? Moreover, how much money has the Administration spent on supporting the R&D, testing and certification, commercialisation and marketing in the CM industry respectively in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

As the operation and daily administration of the Committee on Research and Development of Chinese Medicines, which was set up in 2011, are supported by the existing staff (e.g. Biotechnology Officers, Administrative Officers and Executive Officers) of the ITC, no additional financial resources and manpower are involved.

For the past 3 years, the Administration has made continued efforts to promote the R&D, testing and certification, commercialisation and marketing in the CM industry. The funding support provided is as follows:

- (a) Regarding R&D, ITC provides support to CM applied research mainly through the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). In the past 3 financial years from 2011-12 to 2013-14, more than 20 CM-related R&D projects were approved under the ITF with funding of some \$45 m;
- (b) During the same period, the industry received a cash rebate of about \$2.4 m through the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme;
- (c) Apart from ITF funded projects, ITC's expenditure in the past 3 years also included a sum of about \$3 m for activities related to the promotion of CM innovation and applied R&D, CM testing and certification, as well as commercialisation of CM project deliverables, e.g. seminars related to CM R&D and testing and certification, radio programme, proficiency testing programmes for CM testing laboratories and training for practitioners of the industry; and
- (d) In the past 3 years, funding of some \$5 m was approved under the General Support Programme of the ITF for CM-related non-R&D projects, including the development of a product certification scheme for Chinese Materia Medica and a basic training programme on the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements for the manufacturing of proprietary CM.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)124

(Question Serial No. 1114)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (6) Quality Support, (7) Subvention: Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 44):

What specific results were achieved in the research efforts on Chinese medicines (CM) quality testing by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) over the past year? What were the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

There is potential demand for testing and certification services arising from Hong Kong being a well-established market and trading hub for CM. Seeing the opportunities, ITC and Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification have been actively promoting CM testing in recent years, with the assistance of HKPC. ASTRI did not conduct any research on CM quality testing over the past year.

ITC's efforts in the promotion of CM testing are as follows:

- (a) Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) of the ITC provides accreditation service for laboratories to carry out CM testing. There are now 12 laboratories accredited by HKAS for undertaking CM testing in Hong Kong. In 2013, HKAS approved the applications of 5 laboratories to extend their accreditation scope to cover test items in the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS), including microscopic identification, physiochemical identification, chromatographic fingerprinting, assay and safety tests.
- (b) To enhance the technical capability of laboratories and respond to the industry's calls, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification has since last year been co-ordinating the second round of proficiency testing programme for laboratories undertaking assay test based on HKCMMS in order to assist them in assessing their technical competence through inter-laboratory comparisons. The programme, covering 12 Chinese Materia Medica (CMM), is expected to be launched in mid-2014.

The testing and certification of CM is under Programme (6). The revised provision under this Programme for 2013-14 is \$100.5 m. We do not have a separate breakdown of expenditure on the promotion in individual industries. Under this Programme, there are 105 staff members from various grades and ranks responsible for quality support-related work, including the above work related to the promotion of CM testing and certification.

In addition, the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund has also provided a funding of \$1.1 m to HKPC to develop a Product Certification Scheme for CMM. HKPC conducted a pilot run of the Scheme in 2013 and expects that the development work will be completed by mid-2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)125

(Question Serial No. 1207)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Promotion of Technological Entrepreneurship

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 1):

To enhance the application and commercialisation of research and development (R&D) results, the Budget introduces new measures which include setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS) to provide funding support for R&D activities of private sector companies, irrespective of size, with the funding ceiling for each project raised from \$6 m to \$10 m. While the recipient company must bear at least half of the cost, it may retain all the intellectual property rights of the project.

Will there be any project screening procedures? What are the details? Is it fair to provide funding support for companies, irrespective of size? Has the Administration estimated the annual average amount of funding support to be provided? What will happen if the R&D projects have not come up with any research results eventually?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

On 18 March 2014, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry on the approach to implement the ESS. As set out in the paper for the Panel, we will work on the implementation details of the ESS, including setting up an assessment panel comprising technical experts, professionals, academics, industry players, etc. to assess the applications, and developing clear assessment criteria and sufficient checks and balance. These are to ensure that assessment will be done in a just and objective manner and that the development needs of the industry will be met. Applications from companies regardless of size will be processed fairly. Factors to be taken into account in approving an application include the merits of the project, its technology content, capability of the research team and the benefits to be brought to the industry and the community as a whole.

In the fields of science and technology, there are always uncertainties associated with the R&D work and not every R&D project can bear fruit. However, the process itself and the experience accumulated are very important for future R&D work. We will properly monitor the funded projects, monitor their progress against the approved milestones, and disburse funds based on the progress made. To ensure proper use of public money, enterprises are also required to submit audited accounts completed by independent auditors in accordance with the ITC's requirements.

As the ESS has yet to be launched and the amount of funding support required varies among the R&D projects, the average amount of funding support to be provided under the ESS cannot be anticipated at the moment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)126

(Question Serial No. 5260)

Head: (155) Government Secretariat : Innovation and Technology Commission

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

What is the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC)'s estimated expenditure on duty visits or exchanges in Mainland China in 2014-15? Please inform us of the themes of duty visits or exchanges in Mainland China to be conducted in 2014-15. How would the Administration avoid non-duty related activities being undertaken during duty visits and prevent applications for change of place of visit from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

ITC staff may make duty visits in 2014-15 to meet operational needs for promoting regional co-operation with the Mainland and attending relevant meetings, such as working meetings of the "Mainland/Hong Kong Science and Technology Co-operation Committee". No concrete plan has been drawn up yet.

The expenditure on duty visits, if met by public funds, will be subject to the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring of such expenses and proper use of public funds. For example, all duty visits should be fully justified on operational grounds and be approved in advance. The itinerary of visit should avoid any non-official element. The applicant has to provide all the details of the visit in the application. Should there be any subsequent change to the arrangement such as place of visit, the applicant should notify the approving officer as soon as possible for re-examination of the application.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)127****(Question Serial No. 4363)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

Regarding further extension of the GovWiFi service to more government premises, including leisure locations such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, as well as popular focal points, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the plan? What is the estimated additional coverage area across the territory?
- (b) The Audit Commission had pointed out that the performance of "GovWiFi" service was unsatisfactory (problems included slow transmission speed, no full coverage in some hotspots, cumbersome set-up procedures for using encrypted connection, etc.). Has the Administration improved the service under the plan?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (a) As at February 2014, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) has installed 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots at 444 government premises across the 18 districts for free use by citizens and visitors. In the coming two years, the GovWiFi service will be further extended to more government premises, including leisure locations and popular focal points such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. It is estimated that the total number of GovWiFi premises will reach 480 by the end of this year, and the number of GovWiFi hotspots will be increased to 2 700 by the end of 2014 and 3 000 by the end of 2015. To ensure cost-effectiveness, GovWiFi service is provided at government premises with high patronage and strong public demand as well as premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services or promote the image of Hong Kong. We will continue to actively explore with relevant departments the extension of GovWiFi service to suitable locations to facilitate citizens and visitors to use the service.
- (b) In response to the recommendations made in the Director of Audit's Report on the GovWiFi service, we have taken a series of measures to enhance the GovWiFi service quality, including:
 - (i) conducted thorough on-site service checks at all GovWiFi premises to ensure the service quality and connectivity within hotspot coverage areas;
 - (ii) increased the bandwidth limit for each GovWiFi user (from the previous 1 to 2 Mbps to a maximum of around 3 Mbps) starting from October 2013 and increased the transmission speed by suitably adjusting the overall bandwidth of individual premises based on service usage;
 - (iii) set up the GovWiFi Maintenance Board with members from major participating bureaux and departments to manage the development and maintenance of the GovWiFi service as well as monitor the service quality and the performance of the contractors. Under the supervision of the Maintenance Board, we perform monthly sample checks at GovWiFi premises to monitor the service performance, including transmission speed and connection stability;

- (iv) convene service management meetings with the contractors on a regular basis to review the service level, and conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the *GovWiFi* service performance; and
- (v) the encrypted connection of *GovWiFi* service is set up through the encrypted connection method available in the operating systems of users' mobile devices. To facilitate the public in making encrypted connection by themselves, detailed setup procedures of encrypted connection for common operating systems have been uploaded on the *GovWiFi* website. We have also prepared and uploaded video clips on the setup of encrypted connection for some popular mobile devices on the *GovWiFi* website. Moreover, we have produced bookmarks and setup manual for distribution at appropriate *GovWiFi* premises for reference by the public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)128

(Question Serial No. 4364)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 63):

One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under this Programme is that “(OGCIO will) organise outreaching activities to encourage ‘hidden’ elders and elderly with limited mobility to use ICT to improve their quality of life and promote social inclusion”. According to OGCIO’s website, “OGCIO openly invited non-profit organisations to submit proposals from 30 October 2013 to 20 November 2013. Out of the total of seven project proposals received, three were selected for funding support totalling \$0.75 million. The selected projects will commence by March 2014 and be completed by December 2014.” Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the scale of the outreaching activities as a whole and the estimated number of elderly to be reached out in the coming year?
- (b) What is the expenditure involved? What is the number of staff involved?
- (c) How will the Administration implement the outreaching activities as a whole? Apart from the 3 selected projects mentioned above, will the Administration implement such activities through outsourcing or will it invite other organisations to carry out these activities? If yes, what is the selection mechanism?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (a) In view of the fact that institutionalised or “hidden” elderly persons may not have the opportunity to appreciate the benefits brought about by information and communications technology (ICT), we have commissioned 3 social service organisations, namely Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council, to implement “ICT Outreach Programmes for Elderly” (the Programmes) across the territory. Through visits and a variety of activities, the Programmes aim at assisting and encouraging the seniors who are not active in the community to adopt ICT to broaden their social circles and integrate into the society.

We expect that the Programmes, commencing in March 2014 for 9 months, will reach out to about 1 000 institutionalised or “hidden” elderly persons.

- (b) We will provide funding totalling \$0.75 million to support the 3 organisations in implementing the Programmes. Since the organisations will deploy many volunteers to assist in the Programmes activities, we do not have information on the exact number of personnel involved.
- (c) We selected the 3 implementation agencies through an open Invitation of Proposals exercise. All of them are very experienced in elderly services and have the expertise and service network to connect with institutionalised or “hidden” elderly in the community. They will bring along tablet computers to help the elderly persons appreciate the technologies, with a view to arousing interests in adopting ICT.

The Programmes cover all 18 districts of Hong Kong. We have no plan of commissioning additional implementation agencies during the programme period.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)129

(Question Serial No. 4365)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

Regarding the support provided by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to bureaux and departments in the development of mobile applications for e-government services, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the name, project cost involved, launch date and number of downloads of the mobile applications (apps) developed by the Government over the past 2 years?
- (b) What are the name, project cost involved and launch date of the mobile applications for which the development work will be completed soon in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (a) Information on the mobile applications (apps) launched by Government bureaux and departments in the past 2 years is set out at Annex A.
- (b) Information on the mobile apps to be launched by Government bureaux and departments in 2014-15 is set out at Annex B.

Government Mobile Applications Launched in the Past 2 Years

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Country Parks Tree Walks	Development: \$995,000 Routine maintenance: One maintenance contract awarded through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester. Total maintenance cost for the 4 mobile apps is \$259,700 per year.	April 2012	29 944
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Forester	Development:\$304,000 Routine maintenance: One maintenance contract awarded through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester. Total maintenance cost for the 4 mobile apps is \$259,700 per year.	December 2012	2 460
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Journey to Geopark (Chinese only)	Development:\$48,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Roll-out of trial version: June 2013	1 250
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Red Tide Information Network	Development and first-year maintenance:\$128,000	January 2014	10
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Reef Check Hong Kong	Development: \$94,950 Routine maintenance: \$49,950 per year	iOS December 2011 Android November 2012	3 689
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Development: \$237,300 Routine maintenance: Not applicable	iOS May 2010 Android May 2012	12 641 (Not including the download figures for iOS platform)
Architectural Services Department	Architour	Development and first year routine maintenance: \$447,000	May 2013	Around 2 200
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	《基本法》保衛戰 (An app on Basic Law)	Development and routine maintenance: \$918,000	24 February 2013	16,416 (As at 23 February 2014)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	精靈《基本法》 (An app on Basic Law)	Development and routine maintenance: \$925,750	Official roll-out of latest version: Late March 2014	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Create Hong Kong	Inspiration Sparks HK	Development and routine maintenance: \$360,000	30 March 2013	729
Department of Health (Student Health Service)	Student Body Weight for Height Check	Development: \$148,000 (Including routine maintenance for the first 6 months)	16 December 2013	2 776
Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 試戴樂 (Chinese version only)	Development: \$148,230 Routine maintenance: \$60,000	22 April 2012	20 013
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Primary Care Directory	Development: Around \$840,000 (Around \$140,000 was incurred by the Primary Care Office; whereas around \$700,000 was incurred by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)) Routine maintenance: \$90,000 (Incurred by OGCIO)	22 August 2013	5 097
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Framework@PC	Development: \$90,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	9 September 2013	331 (As at 19 January 2014)
Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT	Development: \$146,250 Routine maintenance: \$15,000	iOS February 2013 Android April 2013	Around 4 700
Department of Health (Central Health Education Unit)	Snack Nutritional Classification Wizard	iOS Development: \$20,000 Routine maintenance: \$3,600 Android Development: \$64,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	iOS March 2012 Android January 2014	4 049
Department of Health (Tobacco Control Office)	Quit Smoking App	Development: \$294,700 Routine maintenance: \$84,000	iOS August 2011 Android August 2012	29 751
Development Bureau (In collaboration with Construction Industry Council)	Working at height training	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	27 May 2013	1 242

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Development Bureau	Tree & Landscape Map	Development: iOS: \$207,000 Android: \$75,300 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 14 October 2012 Android 3 December 2013	1 514
Drainage Services Department	DSD Connect	Development: iOS: \$130,000 Android: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 9 January 2013 Android 14 June 2013	1 007
Drainage Services Department	R&D Forum	Development: \$206,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	5 November 2013	356
Education Bureau (Applied Learning Section)	ApL app	Development: \$216,500 Routine maintenance: \$49,000	5 September 2011	6 368
Education Bureau (Life-wide Learning and Library Section)	e-Navigator	Development: \$1,384,800 Routine maintenance: Under the e-Navigator contract, the total maintenance cost for both the mobile app and mobile website is \$497,400. No separate breakdown is available	18 May 2012	83 206
Education Bureau (Curriculum Resources Section)	ETV App	Development: \$45,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	1 December 2012	9 135
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Beyond Campus	Included in the operating expenditure.	5 August 2013	327
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	悅文 (Chinese version only)	Ditto	5 August 2013	797

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Grouping Wizard	Ditto	30 July 2013	880
Efficiency Unit	Where is Dr Sun	Development: Around \$200,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	April 2012	2 479
Efficiency Unit	Youth.gov.hk	Development: Around \$700,000 Routine maintenance: \$69,600	iOS July 2011 Android September 2012	9 411
Environmental Protection Department	Hong Kong Air Quality Health Index	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: \$8,000 per year	30 December 2013	10 600
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department	Waste Less	Development: \$406,300 Routine maintenance: \$71,700 per year	10 March 2014	The application was recently launched on 10 March 2014. Relevant information is not yet available.
Environment Bureau	Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), Municipal Solid Waste Charging - Online Views Collection Form Mobile Apps	Development and routine maintenance:\$65,300	iOS 1 November 2013 Android 6 November 2013 [Note: Municipal solid waste charging public engagement process - public involvement phase ended on 24 January 2014]	42 (From 1 November 2013 to 24 January 2014)
Financial Secretary's Office (Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit)	Business Consultation e-Platform mobile application	iOS Development: \$114,000 Routine maintenance: \$14,250 per year (including technical support, application system and content hosting services) Android Development: \$134,000 Routine maintenance: \$30,000 per year (including technical support, application system and content hosting services)	iOS 15 November 2012 Android 9 October 2013	1 625

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety Charter	Development: \$130,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	March 2012	1 164
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Nutrition Calculator	iOS Development: \$150,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved Android Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS October 2011 Android December 2012	69 466
Home Affairs Bureau	“M” Mark Events App	Development: \$70,000 Routine maintenance: \$14,400	January 2013	531
Hong Kong Observatory	My Observatory	Developed and maintained internally; no additional expenditures were involved	iOS Q1 2010 Android Q4 2010 Windows Q1 2014	Around 3 847 000
Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorldWeather	Ditto	iOS Q4 2011 Android Q1 2013	Around 117 000
Hong Kong Observatory	iCWeatherOS	Ditto	Q3 2013	Around 3 000
Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	Development: \$750,000 Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost, including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS, was absorbed by the existing resources of the Hong Kong Police Force	18 July 2012	Around 92 449
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Hong Kong ImmD Mobile Application	Development: Around \$130,000 Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost, including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS, was absorbed by the existing resources of ImmD	5 December 2013	68 676
Independent Commission Against Corruption	ICAC Smartphone App	Development: \$480,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$50,000 per year	December 2013	Around 1 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Information Services Department	Government Bookstore	Development: \$650,726 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	31 December 2013	Around 2 900
Information Services Department	“Hong Kong 2011” Yearbook iPad app	Development: \$150,000	23 October 2012	2 697
Information Services Department	“Hong Kong 2012” Yearbook iPad/Android Tablet app	Development: \$214,572 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	25 November 2013	835
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong (2012 version)	Development: \$94,000	6 December 2012	Around 8 500
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong (2013 version)	Development: \$94,000	1 December 2013	Around 1 500 (From December 2013 to February 2014)
Innovation and Technology Commission	Mcmug X ITC	Development and routine maintenance: \$600,000	22 October 2012	19 713
Innovation and Technology Commission	McMug on Green Technology	Development and routine maintenance: \$600,000	iOS 21 October 2013 Android 9 October 2013	18 628
Intellectual Property Department	“No Fakes Pledge” Shop Search	Development and first-year maintenance: \$389,600 Production cost for additional features: \$35,400 Routine maintenance: \$84,040 (second-year routine maintenance)	4 February 2013	6 242
Labour and Welfare Bureau (Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF))	Social Capital Winner	Development: \$113,625	November 2012 [Note: This app is part of the CIIF brand-building exercise, of which the promotion work (including this app) was completed in July 2013.]	317
Labour Department	iES	Development and first-year maintenance: \$334,653 Routine maintenance: \$126,917	iOS 31 January 2012 Android 22 March 2012	367 695

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Labour Department	Work Safety Alert	Development and first-year maintenance: \$75,000 Routine maintenance: \$15,000 per year	iOS 9 March 2012 Android 27 April 2012	7 870
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Fitness Walking	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: \$25,000	August 2013	19 097
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Culture	Development: \$2,300,000 (Including cost for development and updating database, as well as contract staff wages) Development cost for new features in 2013: \$98,000 Routine maintenance: \$68,000	September 2012	27 550
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	King Yin Lei (Android version)	Development: Subsumed in the “Generic platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for monuments” project; no separate breakdown is available. Routine maintenance: Free warranty up to April 2014	Soft launch: December 2013 Official roll-out: Within 2014	20
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Matching@ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	Ditto	15
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Photo ME @ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	Ditto	30
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Puzzle@ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	Ditto	20
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Restore King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	Ditto	8
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Jurassic World	Development: \$518,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the app was created for the Special Exhibition “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs”	November 2013	Around 15 000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Dino Raiser	Development: \$50,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the app was created for the Special Exhibition “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs”	October 2013	Around 15 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Bruce Lee: Kung Fu • Art • Life	Development and first-year maintenance: \$102,400	July 2013	11 760
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	MMIS Viewer	This mobile app is a plug-in application of the mobile website of MMIS. Its development cost was included in the implementation cost of the MMIS Major Upgrade Project. As it is not an individual project, no separate breakdown is available.	August 2013	681
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	HKMA Outdoor Sculpture Guide	Development and first-year maintenance: \$52,800 Routine maintenance: \$50,670	May 2012	4 652
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Chinese Opera Festival 2012	Development and maintenance during promotion period (from January to August 2012): \$80,000	April 2012	608 (From April to August 2012)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	New Vision Arts Festival 2012	\$65,964 (Including development and platform registration fee)	August 2012	948
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor	\$120,000	July 2012	Not available
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)	e-Auth	Developed in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	September 2013	326
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	EventHK	Ditto	21 April 2013	19 039
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	Ditto	17 August 2012	601 741
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	Development: \$600,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$35,000 per year	17 August 2012	114 307
Planning Department	City Gallery	Development: \$262,500 Routine maintenance: \$97,500 per year	App1.0 May 2013 App2.0 January 2014	1 229

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Official Roll-out Date	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Prime	Development: \$610,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 12 December 2011 Android 20 November 2012	82 218
Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	Development: \$450,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 21 November 2012 Android 31 January 2013	27 706
Radio Television Hong Kong	I want to be a LegCo Member	Development: \$91,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 10 August 2012 Android 8 August 2012	12 282
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Cube	Development: \$174,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	iOS 17 June 2013 Android 30 November 2013	22 982
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK SCREEN	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 January 2014	47 357
Social Welfare Department	Let Them Shine Gourmet	Development: \$39,000	22 November 2013	Not available
Transport Department	Hong Kong eRouting	Development: Around \$1,930,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$100,000 per year	iOS March 2013 Android January 2013	63 000
Water Supplies Department (WSD)	WSD Mobile App	Development: \$1,100,000 Routine maintenance: \$280,000 per year	Roll-out of trial version: iOS 9 January 2014 Android 30 December 2013	Around 600

Government Mobile Applications Planned to be Launched in 2014-15

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost (HK\$)	Expected Launch Date
Civil Service Bureau	Government Vacancies	\$980,000	June 2014
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	Mobile Application for Promotion of Children's Rights	\$448,000 (Including first-year routine maintenance)	Q2 2014
Correctional Services Department	Correctional Services Department	\$300,000	Q3 2014
Customs and Excise Department	HK Car First Registration Tax	\$200,000	May 2014
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Framework@PC (Android version)	\$106,000	Q3 2014
Department of Health (Student Health Service)	Student Body Weight for Height Check (iOS English version and Android version)	\$140,000 (Estimated based on the iOS Chinese version that has been launched)	February 2015
Development Bureau	Walk to Victoria Harbourfront (Tentative)	\$450,000	Q1 2015
Education Bureau (Further Education Division)	Mobile App for Concourse and E-APP	\$274,750	End 2014
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section, Education Infrastructure Division)	TSS Technical Knowledge Channel	\$580,000	30 April 2014
Education Bureau (Quality Education Fund)	QEF ebook	\$218,000 (2014-15)	Second half of 2014
Environmental Protection Department	Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign	\$220,000	End 2014
Efficiency Unit	SIE Fund	Less than \$400,000 (Estimated)	Q3 2014
Fire Services Department	Fire Services Department	\$1,118,000	Q2 2014
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety	\$132,000 (iOS version) \$132,000 (Android version)	April 2014
Independent Commission Against Corruption	ICAC Smartphone App V2.0	Around \$300,000	Early 2015
Independent Commission Against Corruption	e-book App with Mini-games for Tablet	Around \$200,000	Early 2015
Information Services Department	"Hong Kong 2013" Yearbook iPad/ Android Tablet app	\$100,000	October 2014
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong	\$150,000	December 2014
Labour Department	Youth Employment Start	\$149,000	June 2014

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost (HK\$)	Expected Launch Date
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	A Glimpse of Old Hong Kong	\$64,000 (This is an academic exchange project, for which the hardware development is supported by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong.)	End April 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Hong Kong Space Museum (To be confirmed)	\$700,000	July 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Mobile App for Promotion of Museum Exhibition (To be confirmed)	\$90,000	Between November 2014 and January 2015
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Development cost is subsumed in the "Generic platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for monuments" project. No separate breakdown is available.	Within 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Matching@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto	Within 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Photo ME@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto	Within 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Puzzle@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto	Within 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Restore King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto	Within 2014
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Provision of Mobile Application of Public Library Services for the Public	\$3,500,000	Mid 2014
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Government Wi-Fi Programme	\$295,000	June 2014
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Common Wi-Fi Branding	\$340,000	July 2014
Office of the Licensing Authority	Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses	\$252,000	End 2014
Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)	RTHK Mine	\$400,000	Mid 2014
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Memory	\$280,000	Mid 2014
Radio Television Hong Kong	A mobile app for facilitating collective creation (To be confirmed)	\$200,000	Mid 2014
Security Bureau	Security Bureau	\$100,000	June 2014
Social Welfare Department	Social enterprises funded by 3E Project	\$47,016	November 2014

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)130

(Question Serial No. 1693)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48(c) of the 2014-15 Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that the Government will further digitalise its operations and actively implement paperless solutions. What is the estimated quantity of paper that can be saved in various departments? To what extent can this initiative alleviate the burden on the three strategic landfills? What is the amount of expenditure involved for the initiative?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose that the Government should reduce paper consumption and automate business processes as far as possible through proactive adoption of paperless solutions for handling government records, statutory submissions (such as licence applications, building plans, etc.) This strategic initiative is conducive to protecting the environment and enhancing operational efficiency. Government departments will progressively implement suitable measures along this broad direction having regard to their operation. We do not have estimation on the amount of paper that could be saved by different departments and the resultant impact on landfills.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)131

(Question Serial No. 2887)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 50):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access will be doubled to 20 000 by the end of 2014. What is the additional number of hotspots to be provided over that of 2013? What is the expenditure earmarked for the initiative in this financial year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service to further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city. In 2013, the total number of completely free or time-limited free of charge Wi-Fi hotspots provided by the Government and the industry is around 10 000. With the concerted efforts of the Government and the industry, we anticipate that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots providing completely free or time-limited free of charge service will be doubled to 20 000 by the end of 2014.

The Government proposed in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free *GovWiFi* service to more government premises. The funding for extending the service in 2014-15 is around \$2.3 million, which will be funded by the *GovWiFi* Programme. At the same time, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. We have reserved \$1.3 million for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding. We have also invited relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding, including arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand, developing a web site and mobile application as well as conducting related promotion activities. Besides, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)132

(Question Serial No. 4808)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 140):

Please provide information on the number and manpower of district cyber centres, the number of activities held by district cyber centres and the expenditure involved in the past 5 years. Has the Administration reviewed how the above measure can achieve 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 needy groups in the neighborhood 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 the public at various centres. 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. While the Government provided funding support totalling HK\$26.56 million for the implementation of the Scheme, DCCA obtained 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 a collaborative support network among them, and building up an effective platform for coordinating sponsorship and commercial support. The number of participating centres has increased from 33 at Scheme inception to 57 in various parts of the territory. With the satisfactory achievement of the Scheme's objectives, we have entrusted the Information Technology Resource Centre (ITRC) of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service 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 to facilitate their provision of ICT facilities and services to needy groups in the community.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)133

(Question Serial No. 2833)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 22):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15, it is noted that the Administration plans to “further extend the GovWiFi service to more government premises, including leisure locations such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, as well as popular focal points”. However, the Director of Audit’s Report had pointed out that the existing Wi-Fi services provided by the Administration were not satisfactory. Will the Administration allocate resources to enhance the existing network coverage in addition to increasing the number of premises that are provided with Wi-Fi services? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

In response to the recommendations made in the Director of Audit’s Report on the Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi), we have taken a series of measures to enhance the GovWiFi service quality, including:

- (a) conducted thorough on-site service checks at all GovWiFi premises to ensure service quality and connectivity within hotspot coverage areas;
- (b) increased the bandwidth limit for each GovWiFi service user (from the previous 1 to 2 Mbps to a maximum of around 3 Mbps) starting from October 2013, and increased the transmission speed by suitably adjusting the overall bandwidth of individual premises based on service usage;
- (c) set up the GovWiFi Maintenance Board with members from major participating bureaux and departments to manage the development and maintenance of the GovWiFi service as well as monitor the service quality and the performance of the contractors. Under the supervision of the Maintenance Board, we perform monthly sample checks at GovWiFi premises to monitor the service performance, including transmission speed and connection stability; and
- (d) convene service management meetings with the contractors on a regular basis to review the service level, and conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the GovWiFi service performance.

To ensure service quality, these measures also apply to all newly installed GovWiFi hotspots. The expenditure for the above service enhancements is funded by the the GovWiFi Programme, and no additional provision is required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)134

(Question Serial No. 3198)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

It is mentioned in paragraph 101(d) of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that the Government will promote cloud computing applications among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and provide training to help them adopt appropriate and affordable information technology solutions. Please inform this Committee of the details of the measure. Is there any implementation timetable? What kind of training will be provided to SMEs? Or how will such training be provided to SMEs? What is the expenditure involved for the measure?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply:

In 2014-15, we have earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services. We are now formulating the detailed arrangements for the Campaign, such as format and content of training. We plan to commence the training in around September 2014, and complete the whole Campaign by April 2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)135****(Question Serial No. 0856)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

- (a) It is mentioned in paragraph 48(a) of the Budget Speech that the number of Government Wi-Fi hotspots will be increased by 10 000 by the end of this year. What is the approximate distribution by district of these 10 000 hotspots? Will the Administration ensure that all government buildings, facilities and leisure locations across the territory will be provided with free Wi-Fi services?
- (b) In the past, many people complained that the connection speed of Wi-Fi was very slow at some busy locations, and they could not go online even after connecting to the Internet. In this regard, does the existing GovWifi service guarantee a minimum connection speed? If yes, what is the minimum connection speed (KB)? Moreover, is there a limit set for the number of Internet connections and the usage time at busy locations to ensure connection quality?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- (a) The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the service providers and private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. With the concerted efforts of service providers, private sector and the Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 18 districts covering government premises and public areas, such as libraries, parks, museums, sports venues, public enquiry service centres, job centres, community halls, cooked food centres and markets, tourists spots, major transport facilities such as airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries as well as various coffee shops, restaurants, shopping centres and so on. The public and visitors can now use Wi-Fi services that are completely or time-limited free of charge through some 10 000 hotspots at more than 5 400 locations. Specifically, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (“GovWiFi”) currently provides free Wi-Fi service to the public and visitors through 2 506 hotspots at 444 government premises with high patronage and high public demand as well as premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services and promote the image of Hong Kong, with due consideration to the cost-effectiveness of the service. We will further extend the GovWiFi service to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. It is estimated that the number of GovWiFi premises and hotspots will reach 480 and 2 700 respectively by 2014. The distribution of the existing 2 506 GovWiFi hotspots by districts is as follows:

District	No. of hotspots
Hong Kong	
Central and Western District	251
Eastern District	220
Southern District	95
Wan Chai District	263
Kowloon	

District	No. of hotspots
Kowloon City District	142
Yau Tsim Mong District	274
Sham Shui Po District	153
Wong Tai Sin District	98
Kwun Tong District	121
New Territories	
Tai Po District	74
Yuen Long District	150
Tuen Mun District	76
North District	78
Sai Kung District	155
Sha Tin District	98
Kwai Tsing District	82
Tsuen Wan District	131
Islands District	45
Total	2 506

- (b) To ensure reasonable service level of the GovWiFi service, there are bandwidth and time controls for each connection session. In general, the average connection speed for each user is about 1 to 2 Mbps, with maximum up to 3 Mbps. The actual performance depends on the number of concurrent users and the signal strength of the location where the user is situated. There are also other environmental factors affecting the Wi-Fi connection speed, such as interference from other wireless devices or other Wi-Fi services nearby, weather condition, signal blockage by obstacles like trees and moving objects, etc. To ensure service quality, we performed a thorough on-site service check at all GovWiFi premises in 2013. We also monitor the number of connections and bandwidth usage at GovWiFi premises daily. When there is continual increase in usage, we will enhance the service by increasing the overall bandwidth and adding hotspots at the premises.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has also set up the GovWiFi Maintenance Board with members from major participating departments to manage and monitor the GovWiFi service. Under the supervision of the Maintenance Board, we perform monthly sample checks to test the service performance on-site, including transmission speed, connection stability, etc. We also convene service management meetings with the contractors on a regular basis to review the service level, and conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the GovWiFi service performance.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)136

(Question Serial No. 0857)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

- (a) The Government has expressed that it would consider the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens. Please provide details on this. What day-to-day services will require the use of digital identity certificates by the general public?
- (b) Given the failure of the Post Office's strategy for operating digital identity certificates had led to serious loss in early years, a private information technology company was engaged through outsourcing to take over the operation of the service since 2007. If it is decided to provide digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens in the future, will the relevant system be continued to be operated by that contractor or taken over by a government department?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

Digital identity ensures the confidentiality of electronic transactions and enables users to digitally sign in an electronic transaction, thus ensuring non-repudiation as well as the authenticity and integrity of the information transmitted in the transaction. Currently, a number of e-government services require the use of digital identity, such as renewal of driving licence and vehicle licence, voter registration and change of address, etc. In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)137****(Question Serial No. 5670)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 85):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that “(we will be) doubling the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access to 20 000 by the end of this year through public-private partnership to promote city-wide Wi-Fi for all. We shall engage the public in the naming of a common Wi-Fi brand. Citizens and visitors will have easy and convenient access to Wi-Fi services”. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following: Did the Administration conduct any review on the utilisation of Government Wi-Fi service in the past? If yes, what were the results? Did the Administration assess the changes in people’s habit of using Wi-Fi outdoors with the increasing popularity of 3G and 4G services? Will the Administration consider enhancing the signal transmission strength, expanding the coverage and simplifying the interface for access to Wi-Fi service, with a view to attracting the public to use the service more frequently? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Since the launch of the Government Wi-Fi (GovWiFi) service, there has been a steady growth in the usage. The average numbers of daily users and Internet connections have increased from around 3 700 and 6 700 in June 2009 to around 26 300 and 36 100 in January 2014 respectively. To cater for the expiry of the first GovWiFi service contract in December 2012, we had conducted a review of the programme in 2010. The review results showed a steady growth in the usage of the GovWiFi service, and confirmed a strong public demand on the provision of free Wi-Fi service at government premises. On 11 April 2011, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) obtained support from the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the implementation of the next generation GovWiFi programme upon the expiry of the GovWiFi service contract in December 2012. On 17 June 2011, OGCIO got the funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo to increase the commitment of the GovWiFi programme by \$68 million for the implementation of the next generation GovWiFi programme for a period of 5 years from December 2012 to December 2017.

When providing Wi-Fi services, those Wi-Fi related radiocommunications apparatus must comply with the code of practices of the Office of the Communications Authority in respect of radiated power. Besides, the GovWiFi service is provided at government premises with high public patronage, and its coverage areas mainly centre around locations that are convenient to public access with higher patronage. We will continue to monitor the GovWiFi service with the user departments, and add Wi-Fi hotspots at locations with strong public demand to extend service coverage. Starting from October 2013, the bandwidth limit for each GovWiFi user has been increased from 1 to 2 Mbps to a maximum of around 3 Mbps.

To facilitate the public to use the GovWiFi service, detailed connection setup procedures for common operating systems have been uploaded on the GovWiFi website. We have also prepared and uploaded video clips on the setup of encrypted connection for some popular mobile devices on the GovWiFi website. Moreover, we have produced bookmarks and setup manual for distribution at appropriate GovWiFi premises for reference by the public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)138

(Question Serial No. 5671)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 86):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that “(the Government will be) considering the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens in order to develop a common, shared and safe platform for the delivery of services such as electronic health records and e-cheques”. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following: What are the details of the above initiative? What are the expenditure and manpower arrangement involved for such initiative? What is the estimated schedule for the initiative as a whole?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)139****(Question Serial No. 2581)**

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Regarding the records management work of the Bureau and its departments over the past 3 years:

- (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) 11 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	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)
	2003 – 2013	23 records/ 1.15 linear metres	3 - 13 years	No
Programme records (Note 1)	2004 – 2011	28 records/ 1.4 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No
	1999 – 2012	43 records/ 2.15 linear metres	3 - 5 years	No
	2006 – 2013	10 records/ 0.5 linear metres	14 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	N.A.	N.A.	2011	N.A.	No
	N.A.	N.A.	2012	N.A.	No
	N.A.	N.A.	2013	N.A.	No

- (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 2)	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	1992 - 2003	7 records/ 0.35 linear metres	2011	3 years	No
	1969 - 2010	876 records/ 39.15 linear metres	2012	1 - 7 years	No
	1973 - 2005	531 records/ 26.55 linear metres	2013	1 - 7 years	Yes (4) No (527)
Programme records	1975 - 1998	733 records/ 36.65 linear metres	2012	14 years	No
	N.A.	N.A.	2013	N.A.	No

Note 2: 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)140****(Question Serial No. 4585)**

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 83):

- (a) Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview over the past 3 years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Cap on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Cap on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

- (b) Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview in 2013-14, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

- (c) Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for 2014-15 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Cap on entertainment expenses per guest	Cap on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

As a general rule, all politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines when providing official entertainment in the form of meals. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgment and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. According to the existing general guidelines, the expenditure limits on official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. In 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

(as at 17.3.2014), the actual expenses on official entertainment incurred by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer are \$80,000, \$180,000 and \$230,000 respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is \$200,000.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As we do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, we do not have the relevant statistics.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)141****(Question Serial No. 4602)**

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 102):

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by the your bureau and the departments under its purview 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 (2012-13 and 2013-14):

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 (2014-15)? 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) The information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past 2 financial years (2012-13 and 2013-14) is 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 completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
IBM China/ Hong Kong Limited	Tender	<p>Title: "Digital 21 Strategy Review"</p> <p>Objective: To put forward recommendations on the development of information and communications technology in Hong Kong in the next few years.</p>	1.2 million	4 February 2013	Completed	<p>The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has made reference to the consultancy report in preparing the public consultation document for the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy.</p> <p>We have completed the public consultation at the end of 2013, and are now finalising the Strategy taking into consideration the views collected.</p>	The consultancy report has been uploaded onto the Digital 21 Strategy website.

(b) No.

(c) In awarding a consultancy project to a consultant, we will consider the qualifications and experience of the company, its expertise in the subject matter, the research methods proposed, work plans and schedules as well as the quotations for the project before the most suitable one is selected.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)142

(Question Serial No. 4643)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 139):

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 your bureau and the departments under its purview have been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information in 2011-12 to 2013-14 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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 in 2014-15, please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(a) Information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2011-12 to 2013-14 is set out as follows:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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
Study of the Framework of Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong and its Standing Arrangement	<p>The mutual recognition scheme is an item under the Framework Agreement to promote the development of secure cross-boundary e-commerce between Hong Kong and Guangdong.</p> <p>The study reviewed the experiences of the pilot scheme and drew up recommendations for setting up the Standing Arrangement.</p>	<p>The expenditure involved for the study was \$1,429,000.</p> <p>The expenditure for promoting the Standing Arrangement was \$6,000.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT);</p> <p>The Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province (GDEI)</p>	<p>Completed in August 2012.</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee on Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities and the industry were consulted on the findings of the study. A summary of the study was published on the website of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.</p> <p>The Standing Arrangement was announced via press release, websites and press conference on 10 August 2012.</p> <p>The manpower involved was absorbed by internal resources. The expenditure for the press conference on the Standing Arrangement was \$6,000.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
The 6 th , 7 th and 8 th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summits	<p>These annual summits aim at spurring co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the objectives of the Framework Agreement to encourage the industry to expedite the adoption of information technology in the logistics industry.</p>	<p>The annual sponsorship for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$100,000 each.</p>	<p>GDEI;</p> <p>The Guangdong RFID Technology Service Center (GDRC)</p>	<p>Held in September 2011, August 2012 and September 2013 respectively.</p>	<p>These summits were open to the public. Relevant information was published by GDRC and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies prior to the summits.</p> <p>No government manpower or other expenditure was involved.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

(b) Information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2014-15:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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
Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong	The Mutual Recognition scheme is an item under the Framework Agreement to promote the development of secure cross-boundary e-commerce in the two places.	The manpower involved was absorbed by existing resources, and no other expenditure was involved.	MIIT; GDEI	In progress.	Details of the Standing Arrangement were announced via press release, websites and press conference on 10 August 2012.	Nil
The 9 th Guangdong-Hong Kong RFID Technology Application Summit	The summit aims at spurring co-operation and applications of RFID and Internet of Things in Guangdong and Hong Kong. It is one of the objectives of the Framework Agreement to encourage the industry to expedite the adoption of information technology in the logistics industry.	The estimated expenditure is \$100,000.	GDEI; GDRC	Expected to be held in September 2014.	The summit will be open to the public. Relevant information will be published by GDRC and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies prior to the summit. No government manpower or other expenditure will be involved.	Nil

(c) Nil.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)143

(Question Serial No. 2016)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that “(we) plan to incorporate enrichment programmes in secondary schools which are outstanding in IT education. By so doing, we hope to cultivate young IT professionals and even entrepreneurs to meet the development needs of a digital society”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the estimated amount of provision for this initiative and the expenditure data of similar overseas programmes?
- (b) What are the specific uses of the estimated provision for the initiative and the percentage of expenditure for different uses? And
- (c) Will this initiative cause an increase or a decrease in the expenditure on the promotion of e-learning under the operating account of the Education Bureau in the short, medium and long terms? Please elaborate.

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

Reply:

We are formulating the implementation details for the Enriched IT Class Programme, including mode of operation, class arrangement and curriculum content, criteria for selecting participating schools and resources required, etc. We plan to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submit funding proposal to LegCo later this year, with a view to openly inviting all secondary schools to submit proposals by the end of this year. We hope to kick off the Enriched IT Class Programme in the 2015/2016 school year.

We do not have information on the expenditure of similar overseas programmes. This initiative is not related to the promotion of e-learning under the Education Bureau.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)144

(Question Serial No. 2027)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

With the introduction of cloud technology by the Government on various aspects, the practice of storing huge amount of information in cloud systems may induce substantial risks. In view of this, will the Administration elaborate the following in details:

- (a) How will it allocate resources to enhance cyber security?
- (b) How will it cooperate with the relevant organisations at national level to enhance cyber security?

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

Reply:

- (a) In implementing government cloud computing strategy, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has formulated relevant information security policies and guidelines for reference by bureaux and departments (B/Ds). On the adoption of cloud services, B/Ds should consider having appropriate information security measures for relevant information systems, data transmission and storage as well as network security to ensure compliance with government information security requirements. Regarding cyber security, the key security measures include: (1) installing firewalls, anti-virus software, and intrusion detection and prevention systems at Internet gateways, and encrypting all important data; (2) refraining from using public cloud services for handling and storing confidential information; (3) implementing stringent security control, monitoring, detection and response procedures; and (4) widening and deepening the level of training for our information technology (IT) security professionals. In general, the relevant expenditures have been included in B/Ds' operating budget for information systems. We do not have a separate breakdown on resource allocation for cyber security. Besides, B/Ds are required to conduct regular security risk assessments and audits.
- (b) The Government will continue to collaborate with the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT) to participate in the activities organised by the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) and the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST). We will also work jointly with the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China (CNCERT/CC) and the computer emergency response teams in other regions to conduct information security incident response drills, handle regional cyber security challenges, and exchange information security intelligence. The Technology Crime Division of the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force also maintains close liaison with the law enforcement agencies in other regions.

Furthermore, OGCIO has been actively participating in international information security activities and cooperating with relevant institutions, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the International Organisation for Standardisation to establish working contacts with relevant experts at the international and regional levels to keep abreast of the latest news and trends on information security threats and defensive measures. OGCIO promotes wider adoption of information security best practices within the Government and among the industry to enhance cyber security. OGCIO also

works closely with the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province and has established the Hong Kong/Guangdong Expert Committee on Cloud Computing Services and Standards to promote the development of cloud computing technology in both places. The collaboration will facilitate exchanges on cloud computing standardisation, cloud services certification and security of information system and network as well as enhance the reliability and security of cloud services in both places.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)145

(Question Serial No. 2335)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The current number of GovWiFi hotspots, the estimated total expenditure of the project and the average cost of each hotspot;
- (b) The number of citizens using GovWiFi services; and
- (c) Has the Government set any utilisation benchmark? What is the number of hotspots with a low utilisation rate?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The Government Wi-Fi Programme (*GovWiFi*) has currently installed 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots at 444 government premises for free use by citizens and visitors. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a total funding of \$286 million in 2007 and 2011 for the provision of *GovWiFi* service for 10 years up to 2017. As at February 2014, the total expenditure of *GovWiFi* was around \$212 million, which included the expenditure for the provision of the *GovWiFi* service by the contractor and programme coordination, management and support by the Government, hotspots and network setup, site preparation work, installation, daily operation and maintenance, security management, content filtering service, monthly Internet access service of the premises, 24-hour network monitoring and helpdesk hotline service, etc. The Next Generation *GovWiFi* Programme was launched in December 2012 with a service period of 61 months up to the end of 2017. The total estimated expenditure is \$152 million. With a total of around 3 000 Wi-Fi hotspots, the average cost of each hotspot is around \$830 per month. The average cost per connection is around \$0.97.
- (b) There has been a steady growth in the usage of *GovWiFi* service. The average numbers of daily users and Internet connections have increased from around 3 700 and 6 700 in June 2009 to around 26 300 and 36 100 in January 2014 respectively.
- (c) The main objective of the *GovWiFi* Programme is to provide free Wi-Fi services at government premises with high public patronage. In order to serve more citizens, one of our major considerations for selecting premises is the number of visitors. For certain types of premises including public libraries, public enquiry service centres of District Offices and job centres, they usually have higher patronage and can also serve as an additional channel for the delivery of e-government services due to their business nature. All these premises are fully covered by the Programme. In selecting other types of premises, apart from considering the number of daily visitors (no less than 300 and 5 000 daily visitors for indoor and outdoor premises respectively), we will also consider whether the premises can help promote Hong Kong's image and facilitate the delivery of e-government services by bureaux and departments. When adding new *GovWiFi* premises, we will consider its patronage and service demand, and accord priority to install Wi-Fi hotspots at locations which are convenient to public access with higher patronage. We will also monitor the usage of *GovWiFi* service and make adjustment as and

when necessary, such as adjusting the overall bandwidth of the premises, to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the service facilities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)146****(Question Serial No. 1855)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

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, 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 2014-15? Does the Government provide the persons with disabilities with financial support for using these research deliverables?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) implemented different programmes to support the industry in the development of assistive tools and applications that cater for persons with disabilities:

- (a) In 2011-12, we launched the "Development of Assistive Technology for Persons with Disabilities Fund" to support the development of information and communications technology (ICT) assistive tools and application systems for persons with different disabilities. 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 to showcase and promote these 9 products with a view to driving adoption by potential users. We distributed 400 units of barrier-free keyboard devices to different groups of physical handicapped persons for free. The input method developed for visual impaired persons was also well-received by users. Two of the products, namely the barrier-free keyboard device and Kinelabs rehabilitation platform, won the Hong Kong ICT awards. The Kinelabs rehabilitation platform further gained international recognition by winning the grand award in the e-Health category of the Asia Pacific Information and Communication Technology Alliance Awards. The funding scheme incurred a total expenditure of \$3.43 million.
- (b) In 2012-13, in view of the increasing popularity of mobile technology, we launched a funding scheme to encourage the development of mobile applications for the underprivileged. Of the 45 proposals received, we selected 7 applications that cover different underprivileged groups, including social skill educational kits for children with autism spectrum disorder, a publishing platform of educational resources for students with cognitive disabilities, a Cantonese speech recognition training kit for children with hearing impairment, barrier-free travel guide for persons with mobility difficulties, a Chinese vocabularies and Cantonese pronunciation service for ethnic minorities, a platform for searching activities in local elderly centres for the elderly, and the provision of speech augmented map information and indoor venue facility information for visually impaired persons.

The 7 applications were completed in end 2013 and are available for free download and use. They are being promoted to respective user groups, and many of them are well-received by users. For instance, the social skill educational kits for autistic children has recorded over 2 000 downloads within the first 2 months after its launch. Besides, according to user feedback, many parents of hearing impaired children considered that the Cantonese speech recognition training kits could effectively arouse the

interest of their children in learning. All of the applications will be showcased in an exhibition at Cyberport on 19-20 April. The total expenditure incurred was \$3 million.

- (c) In 2014-15, we will launch a new round of the funding scheme on mobile applications. The open Invitation of Proposals exercise closed on 10 March. We aim to select projects for funding support in May for the funded non-profit organisations to complete the development work by early 2015. The estimated expenditure involved is \$3 million, similar to that in the previous year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)147

(Question Serial No. 3232)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 77):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the number of Wi-Fi hotspots will be doubled to 20 000 by the end of this year. What is the expenditure involved for the proposed initiative? What is the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots across the territory by District Council districts?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

To further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, the Government proposed in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free Government Wi-Fi (GovWiFi) service to more government premises. It is expected that the number of GovWiFi hotspots will be increased from the current 2 506 to 2 700 by 2014. The funding required for extending the GovWiFi service will be funded by the GovWiFi Programme, and the estimated expenditure on service extension in 2014-15 will be around \$2.3 million. The distribution of the existing 2 506 GovWiFi hotspots by districts is as follows:

District	No. of hotspots
Hong Kong	
Central and Western District	251
Eastern District	220
Southern District	95
Wan Chai District	263
Kowloon	
Kowloon City District	142
Yau Tsim Mong District	274
Sham Shui Po District	153
Wong Tai Sin District	98
Kwun Tong District	121
New Territories	
Tai Po District	74
Yuen Long District	150
Tuen Mun District	76
North District	78
Sai Kung District	155
Sha Tin District	98
Kwai Tsing District	82

District	No. of hotspots
Tsuen Wan District	131
Islands District	45
Total	2 506

The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. With the concerted efforts of service providers, private sector and the Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 18 districts covering government premises and public areas, such as libraries, parks, museums, sports venues, public enquiry service centres, job centres, community halls, cooked food centres and markets, tourists spots, major transport facilities (e.g. airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries), various coffee shops, restaurants and shopping centres, etc. The public and visitors can now use Wi-Fi services that are completely free or time-limited free of charge through some 10 000 hotspots at more than 5 400 locations. The Government will also continue to facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities. Besides, to facilitate the public and visitors to access free public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. We have reserved \$1.3 million for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding. With the concerted efforts of the Government and the industry, it is anticipated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots that are completely free or time-limited free of charge will be doubled to 20 000 by the end of 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)148

(Question Serial No. 3249)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that the Government will “plan to incorporate enrichment programmes in secondary schools which are outstanding in IT education. By so doing, we hope to cultivate young IT professionals and even entrepreneurs to meet the development needs of a digital society”. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the details of the plan as well as the numbers of the participating secondary schools and participating students.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

We are formulating the implementation details for the Enriched IT Class Programme, including mode of operation, class arrangement and curriculum content, criteria for selecting participating schools and resources required, etc. We plan to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submit funding proposal to LegCo later this year, with a view to openly inviting all secondary schools to submit proposals by the end of this year. We hope to kick off the Enriched IT Class Programme in the 2015/2016 school year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)149

(Question Serial No. 0373)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

The financial provision for 2014-15 under Programme (1): Use of IT in Government is \$544 million. Please provide details on how the Administration will use the funding to:

- (a) further extend the GovWiFi service to more government premises, including leisure locations as well as popular focal points;
- (b) strengthen support to bureaux and departments in the development of mobile applications for e-government services.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) In order to further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, we suggested in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) service to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. The funding required for service extension will be provided under the GovWiFi Programme. The estimated expenditure on service extension in 2014-15 will be around \$2.3 million, which will not involve the use of the estimated provision for the Programme "Use of IT in Government" in 2014-15.
- (b) In 2014-15, apart from continuing to provide technical support and advice to bureaux and departments (B/Ds), the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will roll out the following 5 new measures to strengthen the support for B/Ds to develop mobile applications:
 - (i) Improve the practice guide for the development of mobile applications and incorporate an action checklist for B/Ds to better understand the work flow and points to note for mobile application development;
 - (ii) Arrange training and experience sharing sessions to enable B/Ds to know more about mobile applications, with a view to facilitating the development of mobile applications that cater for public needs;
 - (iii) Develop simple and practical mobile application templates for B/Ds' reference, with a view to reducing the cost and lead time of developing individual mobile applications;
 - (iv) Launch a mobile application platform for B/Ds to centrally disseminate information of similar nature for easy access of the public;
 - (v) OGCIO will launch a promotion campaign, including publication of a catalogue on government mobile applications and production of promotion videos, etc. to promote the government mobile applications for use by the public.

The total expenditure for the above measures is around \$3.4 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)150

(Question Serial No. 0374)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 18):

The estimated financial provision for 2014-15 under Programme (3): IT in the Community is \$93.7 million. Please provide details on how the Administration will use the funding to implement the following items:

- (a) promote a common branding for Wi-Fi services offered by the public and private sectors that are either completely free or free for a certain period of time and facilitate the provision of Wi-Fi services at other government-related premises;
- (b) organise the second International IT Fest to strengthen Hong Kong's image as a leading information and communications technology hub;
- (c) work with bureaux and departments and public organisations to make available more public sector information datasets on the "data.one" portal;
- (d) facilitate the setting up of high-tier data centres.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) We have reserved \$1.3 million in 2014-15 for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding, including inviting relevant organisations in the industry and public organisations to participate in promoting the common branding by arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand, developing a web site and a mobile application, as well as conducting related promotion activities. Besides, we will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free public Wi-Fi services at their facilities, which does not require the use of funding provision.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for organising the second International IT Fest is around HK\$3 million, mainly for publicity and promotion, including setting up a thematic website, publishing advertorials in newspapers and magazines to promote Hong Kong's information technology (IT) development and achievements in various domains, organising promotion activities and IT exploration tours for students, etc.
- (c) In 2011, the Government launched the public sector information (PSI) portal Data.One (data.one.gov.hk) to provide PSI in digital formats for free download and use, with a view to promoting the development of innovative mobile applications and online services and facilitating research and analysis. In addition to bringing convenience to the public and creating business opportunities, PSI also spurs the development of the information and communications technology industry.

In view of the benefits to the public and industry brought about by PSI in terms of convenience and business opportunities, the Government will make all information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats from 2015 onwards so as to provide more data to the community.

We will also encourage public organisations to release data in digital formats. In 2014-15, the operational cost of the Data.One portal is around \$0.74 million.

- (d) The total estimated expenditure for facilitating the development of high-tier data centres is around HK\$2.92 million, among which HK\$1.63 million will be the staff cost for maintaining the day-to-day operation of the Data Centre Facilitation Unit of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to provide information and one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. Furthermore, we will conduct a planning study for the second data centre site in Tseung Kwan O, the estimated expenditure of which is about HK\$1.29 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)151

(Question Serial No. 5846)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 525):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the 2014-15 Budget Speech that “In the recent fourth update of the Digital 21 Strategy, we have proposed a series of initiatives under the theme of ‘Smarter Hong Kong, Smarter Living’, including the following five –

- (a) doubling the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access to 20 000 by the end of this year through public-private partnership to promote city-wide Wi-Fi for all. We shall engage the public in the naming of a common Wi-Fi brand. Citizens and visitors will have easy and convenient access to Wi-Fi services;
- (b) making all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats from next year onwards to provide more opportunities for the business sector. Currently, Public Sector Information available for free access covers real-time data such as road traffic information, geo-referenced public facility data, property market statistics, population census statistics, etc;
- (c) further digitalising government operations and actively implementing paperless solutions to enhance efficiency, facilitate information sharing and protect the environment;
- (d) looking into the wider use of the Internet of Things, sensors and big data analytics to enhance our municipal management; and
- (e) considering the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens in order to develop a common, shared and safe platform for the delivery of services such as electronic health records and e-cheques.”

Please provide a breakdown on the resources earmarked and the manpower arrangement for these 5 items in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

We have recently updated the Digital 21 Strategy for the fourth time and completed the public consultation on the new Strategy at the end of 2013. We are now finalising the Strategy taking into consideration the views received. We aim to promulgate the new Strategy by mid-2014, with a view to implementing the various initiatives in the next few years. Details of the 5 initiatives mentioned in the Budget Speech are as follows:

- (a) We have reserved \$1.3 million in 2014-15 for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding, including inviting relevant organisations in the industry and public organisations to participate in promoting the common branding by arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand, developing a web site and a mobile application, as well as conducting related promotion activities. Besides, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide

time-limited free public Wi-Fi services at their facilities, which does not require the use of funding provision.

- (b) In view of the benefits to the public and industry brought about by public sector information in terms of convenience and business opportunities, we propose to make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats for re-use from 2015 onwards. OGCIO is currently preparing technical guidelines for implementing the initiative. As bureaux and departments are already compiling or collecting different types of public data, and information in digital formats is raw data and requires minimal processing, this initiative can be implemented with departments' existing manpower and no additional resources will be required.
- (c) We propose that the Government should reduce paper consumption and automate business processes as far as possible through proactive adoption of paperless solutions for handling government records, statutory submissions (such as licence applications, building plans, etc.). Government departments will progressively implement suitable measures along the broad direction of this strategic initiative having regard to their operation. We do not have estimation on the resources and manpower involved.
- (d) We propose to establish a smarter city infrastructure by leveraging on the Internet of Things technology and explore the use of big data to provide better public services. In addition, we propose government departments to deploy sensors and share data, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of municipal management and making public services even more convenient. OGCIO will work with relevant departments to examine the scope of application, implementation timetable and resources required, etc. with a view to formulating specific plans.
- (e) We propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. OGCIO is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)152****(Question Serial No. 6701)**

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 537):

It is mentioned in the 2014-15 Budget Speech that “The development of SMEs has always been high on my agenda, and I appreciate the different challenges that they face such as surging costs and keen competition. Over the years, Government has rolled out an array of appropriate measures to support their development. Given the uncertain external economic environment, I shall continue to lend support to local SMEs in financing, market expansion, brand building and productivity enhancement through the following seven measures –”

(a)	extending the application period for the special concessionary measures under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme for one year to the end of February 2015. From its launch to the end of 2013, over 8 000 applications have been approved, benefiting over 5 500 enterprises with total loan guarantee of more than \$27 billion;
(b)	continuing the implementation of the Small Business Policy (SBP) scheme by the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation to allow SMEs engaging in export trade more flexibility in taking out insurance cover. The SBP scheme has been well received since its launch in March last year. More than 700 applications have been approved with the value of total insured business amounting to over \$1 billion. SBP policyholders will continue to enjoy waiver of the annual policy fee and up to 20 per cent premium discount;
(c)	earmarking \$50 million to support retailers on a matching fund basis for the use of IT and other technology solutions to increase productivity;
(d)	promoting cloud computing applications among SMEs and providing training to help them adopt appropriate and affordable IT solutions;
(e)	continuing with the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited's Microfinance Scheme. Up to the end of 2013, 106 applications have been approved under the scheme, with a total loan amount of over \$28 million;
(f)	continuing to make use of the dedicated fund and extend the network of the HKTDC Design Gallery to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing brands, in upgrading and restructuring, as well as in exploring market opportunities in the Mainland; and
(g)	continuing to identify suitable workspace for individuals and enterprises engaging in creative industries and help promote their work. The “Comix Home Base” converted from a pre-war building was open in July last year. The creative industries landmark “PMQ”, a \$500 million government project of revitalising the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road, is coming on stream in the first half of this year.

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the expected effectiveness and the performance indicators of the measure mentioned in item (d) above?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2014-15, we have earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services. We are now formulating the detailed arrangements and performance indicators for the Campaign.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)153

(Question Serial No. 1319)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4.03):

The Government proposes to promote cloud computing applications among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and provide them with relevant training. What is the specific plan?

- (a) Will the Government take up the relevant training project itself or outsource it to non-government organisations? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) Are the relevant training courses free of charge? Or will the participants be subsidised for joining these courses?
- (c) What is the estimated number of SMEs that can benefit from these training activities? Are there any eligibility criteria for the participating enterprises? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) In 2014-15, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services. The required staffing will be absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources is required. We plan to partner with industry bodies to organise the training.
- (b) The training will be free of charge to SMEs.
- (c) We are now formulating the detailed arrangements for the Campaign, including eligibility criteria, estimated number of SME beneficiaries, performance indicators, etc.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)154

(Question Serial No. 0615)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 42):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government will promote cloud computing applications among small and medium enterprises and provide them with relevant training. In this regard, will the Bureau allocate additional financial resources to support the above initiatives? If yes, what is the expected expenditure involved in promoting cloud computing? And what is the expected expenditure involved in providing training? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises to adopt cloud computing services. We are now formulating the detailed arrangements and performance indicators for the Campaign.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)155

(Question Serial No. 0343)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of this year's Budget Speech that the Government will look into the wider use of the Internet of Things, sensors and big data analytics to enhance our municipal management. In this regard, please inform this Committee of whether the Administration has mapped out any overall targets and strategies for such relevant matters as facilitating the development of infrastructure for the Internet of Things as well as the setting up of an infrastructure database for shared use. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

We have recently updated the Digital 21 Strategy for the fourth time and completed the public consultation on the new Strategy at the end of 2013. We are now finalising the Strategy taking into consideration the views received. We aim to promulgate the new Strategy by mid-2014, with a view to implementing the various initiatives in the next few years.

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to establish a smarter city infrastructure by leveraging on the Internet of Things technology and explore the use of big data to provide better public services. In addition, we propose government departments to deploy sensors and share, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of municipal management and making public services even more convenient. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will work with relevant departments to examine the scope of application, implementation timetable and resources required, etc. with a view to formulating specific plans.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)156

(Question Serial No. 0344)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 14):

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is responsible for providing comprehensive one-stop support to facilitate the setting up of high-tier data centres in Hong Kong, and implementing a scheme to encourage the use of existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In the past 2 years, what were the respective numbers of successful cases for the above 2 initiatives? For those unsuccessful cases, what were the major obstacles encountered?
- (b) Has the Administration refined the relevant policy initiatives in view of the above unsuccessful cases? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

- (a) In June 2012, the Government launched 2 incentive measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. So far, the Government has received a total of 7 applications for converting industrial buildings into data centres, and all of them were approved. Furthermore, the Government has received 2 applications for developing data centres on industrial lots, which are being processed.
- (b) So far, there are no unsuccessful applications.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)157

(Question Serial No. 0345)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

It is mentioned in paragraph 101 of this year's Budget Speech that the Government will promote cloud computing applications among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and providing training to help them adopt appropriate and affordable information technology (IT) solutions. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How much resources will be allocated by the Administration for this purpose? Have any specific indicators been developed to evaluate the effectiveness? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Has the Government considered supporting SMEs on a matching fund basis for the use of relevant IT technology such as cloud computing to help enhance their productivity? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

- (a) In 2014-15, we have earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services. We are now formulating the detailed arrangements and performance indicators for the Campaign.
- (b) At present a number of affordable cloud computing services suitable for SMEs are available in the market. According to a study conducted by the Hong Kong Productivity Council, SMEs' hesitation in adopting cloud services is mainly due to lack of understanding of cloud computing, information security and privacy protection concerns, etc. To help them overcome these impediments, we would provide training and organise promotional activities to raise their awareness and address their concerns. Besides, the Financial Secretary has earmarked \$50 million in the Budget to support retailers on a matching fund basis for the use of IT and other technology solutions to increase productivity to manage manpower demand. The Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch is working out the details. In identifying solutions appropriate for the retail industry, consideration will be given to cloud solutions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)158

(Question Serial No. 0500)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of this year's Budget Speech that the Government will consider the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens for the delivery of various e-services. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Government estimated how much public fund and time will be needed for the implementation of this plan? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) Has the Government drawn up any concrete timetable for implementation of this plan? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)159

(Question Serial No. 0501)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 18):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of this year's Budget Speech that the Administration will introduce a common Wi-Fi brand to promote city-wide Wi-Fi for all through public-private partnership, so that citizens and visitors will have easy and convenient access to Wi-Fi services. In this regard, please inform this Committee of whether the Government has put in place any measures to encourage and attract the private sector to help increase the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. With the Government taking the lead in launching the Government Wi-Fi Programme (*GovWiFi*) at government premises in 2008, there is an increase in the number of public Wi-Fi services provided by private Wi-Fi service operators.

To further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, the Government proposed in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free *GovWiFi* service to more government premises. At the same time, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge, with a view to facilitating the public and visitors to find and access free public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong. We have invited relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding by arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand, developing a web site and mobile application, as well as conducting related promotion activities. Besides, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)160

(Question Serial No. 1354)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 1):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access will be increased to 20 000 by the end of this year. Please provide relevant details with breakdown showing information on the providers (public/private organisations), types of premises, districts, duration of free access and whether the hotspots are newly installed. Also, please inform the Committee of the implementation timetable as well as the manpower and expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. Currently, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWi-Fi) service is available in all 18 districts in Hong Kong, providing 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots at 444 government premises for free use by citizens and visitors. The distribution of premises and hotspots is as follows :

Premises types	No. of premises	No. of hotspots
Sports venues	111	554
Public libraries	67	506
Law court buildings, government buildings and offices	65	275
Community halls and centres/complexes	55	214
Parks, gardens and visitor centres	43	495
Cooked food markets/centres	37	110
Cultural and recreational centres	21	105
Public enquiry service centres of District Offices	20	41
Job centres	13	27
Others (beaches / harbourfront promenades / ferry terminals / holiday villages)	12	179
Total :	444	2 506

We will continue to extend the GovWi-Fi service to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points, such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. We plan to increase the number of GovWi-Fi hotspots from the current 2 506 to 2 700 by the end of 2014. The funding required for extending the GovWi-Fi service will be funded by the GovWi-Fi Programme, and the estimated expenditure on service extension in 2014-15 will be around \$2.3 million. At the same time, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely or time-limited free of charge, covering over 5 400 locations in 18 districts in Hong Kong. These locations include the above mentioned government premises and public areas such as tourist spots, major transportation facilities (e.g. airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries) as well as various coffee shops, restaurants, shopping centres, and so on. To facilitate the public and visitors to find and access the free public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong, we have reserved \$1.3 million in 2014-15 for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding. We have invited

relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding, and plan to collect relevant information on the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots of the participating organisations and upload it to the Internet for the public's reference. We will also develop a mobile application to show the locations of these hotspots, thereby facilitating the public to find free public Wi-Fi service. The common Wi-Fi branding is planned to be launched in the mid-2014. Besides, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities. With the concerted efforts of the service providers, the private sector and the Government, it is anticipated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots that are completely or time-limited free of charge will reach to 20 000 by 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)161

(Question Serial No. 1355)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 2):

Regarding the new government data centre complex and central information technology infrastructure facilities, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the expenditure incurred by bureaux and departments (B/Ds) on data centre services and data processing in the past 3 years?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on renting private data centres or purchasing data hosting services in 2014-15?
- (c) How many data centres are being operated by B/Ds? What is the estimated number of these data centres that can be migrated to the new government data centre complex upon its completion? How much expenditure can be saved?
- (d) Is there any plan to expedite the completion of the new government data centre complex? Or has the Administration considered starting the integration of data centres operated by various B/Ds prior to the completion of the new government data centre complex?
- (e) Given the Standing Offer Agreement for Data Centre Services (SOA-DCS) is going to expire, will the Administration review the arrangement and carry out preliminary preparatory work for the next SOA-DCS in 2014-15? If yes, what are the details and expenditure?
- (f) What is the progress of the preliminary work for the second new government data centre complex? What are the timetable, manpower and estimated expenditure for this project? Will the Administration plan for the third government data centre complex to meet the long-term needs for data centre services?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) According to the information provided by bureaux and departments (B/Ds), the expenditures incurred on data centre services and data processing in the past 3 years, i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, were \$61 million, \$54 million and \$63 million respectively.
- (b) The estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on renting private data centres or purchasing data hosting services in 2014-15 is \$87 million.
- (c) Currently, there are 25 data centres being operated by B/Ds. At the present stage, 9 B/Ds have planned to use the new government data centre complex in the future. We will continue to discuss with B/Ds the arrangement for the migration of data centres, with an aim to achieve high performance services and greater cost-effectiveness. We are also working with the Architectural Services Department on the preparatory works for building the new government data centre complex, including requirement specification, architectural and building design arrangements, cost estimation, project planning, etc. As the project is now under the preliminary planning and preparation stage, we are not able to provide the information on the estimated expenditure savings for the time being.

- (d) In preparing the project plan, we will consider various options in order to enable the early operation of the new government data centre complex in a cost-effective manner. Having regard to technological advancement, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has been continuously promoting and assisting B/Ds to adopt cloud computing services in the past few years, with a view to fulfilling the demands from B/Ds on integrated data centre services by leveraging on the virtualisation infrastructure.
- (e) We are now reviewing the arrangement of the Standing Offer Agreement for Data Centre Services (SOA-DCS) so as to determine whether the next SOA-DCS will be arranged. The review is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2014. The related work does not incur additional financial and manpower resources.
- (f) In light of the rapid development of e-government services in recent years, B/Ds have increasing demands for data centre services. We believe initially that planning for the second new government data centre complex can facilitate the long-term development of e-government services. Although we have yet to draw up the details (such as a specific timetable, estimated manpower and expenditure) of the second new government data centre complex at the present stage, we will continue to discuss with the relevant B/Ds on the data centre services strategy, with a view to exploring and formulating a concrete development plan of the second government data centre complex for shared use by B/Ds.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)162

(Question Serial No. 1356)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Use of IT in Government, (3) IT in the Community

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 3):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that the Government will make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats from next year onwards.

- (a) Has the Administration formulated relevant strategies and guidelines and conducted promotion within the Government to encourage and assist bureaux and departments in releasing public sector information (PSI) in digital formats for easy reuse? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) Is there any plan to devote more resources to make use of public data analysis for conducting policy study within the Government? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower spent by the Administration on the promotion and educational activities to facilitate the use of PSI in the past 3 years? What were the content and targets of these activities as well as the number of participants?
- (d) Since the launch of the "Data.One" portal, what is the average number of unique visitors per month?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

(a) & (b)

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is currently preparing technical guidelines and working with bureaux and departments to implement the initiative as soon as practicable.

- (c) Since the launch of the public sector information (PSI) portal Data.One in March 2011, OGCIO has rolled out 2 promotion campaigns from August 2011 to February 2012 and from November 2013 to April 2014 respectively, comprising a series of promotional activities, talks, training courses, application competitions and exhibitions. The campaigns aimed to raise the awareness of PSI among application developers, tertiary students and the general public, and to encourage its re-use. More than 4 000 people have participated in the events and the total expenditure involved is \$2.5 million.
- (d) Since the launch of the Data.One portal, the monthly average number of visitors is about 11 000, while in certain months there were more than 29 000 visitors.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)163****(Question Serial No. 1357)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Regarding the use of information technology (IT) in Government, please inform this Committee of the following:

- What was the expenditure incurred by government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) on purchasing commercial software licences and related services in the past 3 years? What was the percentage of such expenditure against the annual IT expenditure?
- What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on purchasing commercial software licences and related services in 2014-15? What is the percentage of such expenditure against the annual IT expenditure?
- Does the Administration have any plan to use more open source software where feasible? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- In the past 3 years, the expenditure incurred by bureaux and departments (B/Ds) on purchasing commercial software licences and related services for implementation of computer projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 – Computerisation as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the annual information technology (IT) expenditure are as follows -

	2011-12 Actual Expenditure (\$ million)	2012-13 Actual Expenditure (\$ million)	2013-14 Estimated Expenditure* (\$ million)
Purchase of commercial software licences and related services	171	194	235
Percentage in IT expenditure	14.5%	14.1%	14.3%

* Information on the annual actual expenditure of 2013-14 is not yet available as the financial year has not ended. The estimated expenditure is therefore provided.

- (b) In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on purchasing commercial software licences and related services for implementation of computer projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 – Computerisation as well as the percentage of such expenditure against the estimated annual IT expenditure are as follows –

	2014-15 Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)
Purchase of commercial software licences and related services	263
Percentage in estimated IT expenditure	14.2%

- (c) The Government has been adopting open source software (OSS), including server software, desktop software and office software, to set up government IT infrastructure and develop e-government services. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer also continuously promotes and supports B/Ds in the wider adoption of OSS where feasible, such as in the development of departmental portals and government mobile applications. In general, the related expenditures have been included in the project cost or operating cost of the respective IT systems. Hence, we do not have a separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for the use of OSS.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)164

(Question Serial No. 1358)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Regarding the use of information technology (IT) in Government, please inform this Committee of the following:

Does the Administration have any plan to promote the use of open source software among the enterprises, education sector and the public for business and educational purposes to facilitate the development of IT industry? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

To encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt open source software (OSS) in their business, we have been according higher priority in sponsoring projects adopting or developing OSS under the Sector-specific Programme (SSP) since 2011-12. To date, we have provided a total sponsorship of around \$2.4 million for 3 SSP projects involving the use of OSS, namely Taoyuan Project for medical and health sector, Security Cloud for security sector and Flag-bag Easy for logistics sector.

With regard to promoting the use of OSS within the Government, we have encouraged contractors to provide OSS products and support services through the Standing Offer Agreement for PCs. In 2012-13, the total value of OSS products and support services procured by government bureaux and departments was around \$3.4 million.

Besides, the Education Bureau regularly arranges information technology seminars and workshops. These seminars and workshops also cover topics on OSS adoption for schools, so as to encourage the education sector to use OSS for educational purposes.

The Government, in collaboration with an industry body, also organised the "Seminar on Free and Open Source Software in Hong Kong" during the International IT Fest 2013 to promote the use of OSS to all sectors and the public. This seminar will be held again during the International IT Fest 2014.

The manpower and expenditure for the above work are absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources is required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)165

(Question Serial No. 1359)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 5):

Regarding the measures on promoting network and information security, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many cases of non-compliance with government information security requirements and how many information security incidents were found in government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) in the past 3 years?
- (b) What was the expenditure incurred by B/Ds on conducting security risk assessment and audit in the past 3 years? What was the percentage of such expenditure against the annual IT expenditure?
- (c) What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on conducting security risk assessment and audit in 2014-15? What is the percentage of such expenditure against the annual IT expenditure?
- (d) Does the Administration have any plan to conduct local and international information security incident response drill exercises in 2014-15 to mitigate information security risk? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to cyber security and information security. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has formulated comprehensive information security regulations, policies, guidelines and procedures, which are timely updated for compliance by bureaux and departments (B/Ds). OGCIO has also implemented a compliance monitoring and auditing mechanism to check B/Ds' compliance with the security requirements.

- (a) B/Ds have complied with government information security regulations and guidelines in the past 3 years. No serious violation of security requirements was discovered. The Government Information Security Incident Response Office received a total of 34 information security incident reports, including cases related to data leakage (20 cases), web defacement or implantation of phishing webpages on websites (8 cases), bogus websites or emails (5 cases), and unauthorised access to information technology (IT) services (1 case).
- (b) Information security risk assessment and audit conducted by the Government can be classified into 2 major categories: (1) those conducted for individual information systems; and (2) those conducted for B/Ds' overall information security management. B/Ds will conduct security risk assessment and audit on the relevant information system before its launch or major enhancements. The expenditure of these works is generally included in the development and maintenance costs of the relevant information system. Thus, we do not have separate figures for such audit work.

In general, B/Ds conducts comprehensive information security risk assessment and audit around every 2 years. The expenditures incurred by the Government on information security risk assessment and audit in the past 3 years are listed below.

	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000) (as at the end of February 2014)
Security risk assessment and audit expenditure	9,500	14,580	10,190
Total annual expenditure under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerisation	697,400	814,640	654,550
Percentage against annual expenditure	1.36%	1.79%	1.56%

- (c) The estimated expenditure to be incurred by B/Ds on conducting security risk assessment and audit in 2014-15 is around \$17.91 million, accounting for 1.93% of the total estimated annual expenditure under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerisation.
- (d) OGCIO collaborates with the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT), local critical Internet infrastructure service providers, mobile network operators and government departments to conduct cyber security drill annually for testing and raising the incident response capability of industry stakeholders and government departments against cyber attacks. HKCERT also participates in the cyber security drills organised by the Asia-Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) annually, and coordinates with APCERT and computer emergency response teams in other regions in handling cyber security issues and exchanging relevant intelligence. The manpower and expenditure incurred are already included in the recurrent expenditure of OGCIO, and no additional expenditure is involved. In 2014-15, we will continue to conduct both local and international information security incident response drill exercises.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)166

(Question Serial No. 1360)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 6):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Administration will consider the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure required for implementing this initiative in 2014-15? When will the study be completed?
- (b) Will the Administration encourage government departments and the information technology industry to develop applications that require the use of digital identity certificates so as to enhance the functions of such platform and its attractiveness to the public? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.
- (b) Currently, a number of e-government services require the use of digital identity for authentication and signature, such as renewal of driving licence and vehicle licence, voter registration and change of address, etc. With wider adoption of digital identity, we will encourage government departments to provide more online services requiring authentication and signature, and continue to improve interface design and user experience in order to encourage wider use of such services. These services will be developed by relevant departments as appropriate. We do not have information on their specific plans and the associated manpower requirements and expenditure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)167

(Question Serial No. 1361)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 7):

Regarding the use of information technology in Government, the expenditure for 2014-15 is \$10 million higher than that in last year. The Bureau indicated that it was due to the increased requirement for service contracts, contract staff and maintenance. Please provide relevant details, breakdown of expenditure and information on staffing arrangement.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

Regarding the use of information technology in Government, the expenditure for 2014-15 is \$10 million higher than that in last year. The details are provided below:

- (a) Increased requirement for service contracts (\$4.8 million) due to the projected increase in usage from users for Data Centre Service Outsourcing Initiative contract and the increased price arising from contract renewal of government Central Internet Gateway Service; and
- (b) Increased requirement for contract staff costs (\$3 million) and increased requirement for hardware and software maintenance contracts (\$2.2 million) due to inflation. Under Programme (1) of Head 47, the manpower requirement of contract staff in 2014-15 is similar to that in 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)168****(Question Serial No. 1362)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 8):

Regarding the facilitation of information and communications technology (ICT) manpower development in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

- What are the manpower and expenditure required for implementing the unified professional recognition system for the local ICT profession in 2014-15?
- How many activities on ICT manpower development were held by the Administration in 2013-14? What were the content of these activities, number of participants as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?
- What are the manpower and expenditure required for establishing an awarding body for professional recognition?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- For the implementation of the information and communications technology (ICT) professional recognition framework in Hong Kong, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will redeploy internal resources to meet the manpower requirement in 2014-15. Other expenditure required in the year, including website set-up, publicity and promotion as well as various preparatory work, is estimated at around \$2 million.
- OGCIO organised the following activities on ICT manpower development in 2013-14:

Activities	No. of participants	Manpower and expenditure
iCity Project and TV episodes	Around 4 000 students, parents and teachers participated in research study Around 700 students participated in competitions Around 1 400 students, parents and teachers participated in talks/ visits/ workshops	Through internal redeployment of manpower resources Sponsorship amount: \$1 million
Setting up of an exhibition booth in the Joint School Electronics and Computer Exhibition and invitation of speakers for experience sharing	More than 100 students and parents visited the exhibition	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources
Exchange session with academia	A total of 6 government officials and 19 representatives from academia joined the session	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources

Activities	No. of participants	Manpower and expenditure
Setting up of the Student IT Corner website	As at the end of February 2014, there were more than 220 000 web page visits	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources
Setting up of an exhibition booth in the Education and Careers Expo 2014 and organisation of public seminar	Around several thousand local students, job seekers, practitioners and professionals visited the exhibition	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources
Setting up of an exhibition booth in the IT Career Expo 2014	Around 1 500 local students, job seekers, practitioners and professionals visited the booth	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources
Organisation of a series of consultation and exchange sessions for the relevant stakeholders on the proposed ICT professional recognition framework	A total of 8 consultation and exchange sessions were held with several hundred stakeholders (including employers, practitioners, academia and professional bodies) joining the sessions	Through internal redeployment of manpower and financial resources

- (c) For the establishment of the awarding body for professional recognition, OGCI will redeploy internal resources to meet the manpower requirement. As for the setting up of a secretariat under the awarding body and the operation of the secretariat in first 3 years, the expenditure is estimated at around \$2 million per annum.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)169

(Question Serial No. 1363)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 9):

Regarding the promotion of the adoption of electronic signature certificates issued under the mutual recognition scheme between Hong Kong and Guangdong, how many certificates were issued and what was their utilisation rate in the past 3 years? What are the manpower and expenditure for the Administration's work plan in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

With the "Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong" having been made a standing arrangement, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has been assisting local Recognized Certification Authorities (RCAs) to devise electronic signature certificates with mutual recognition status, as well as apply for approval for their issuance. We expect that electronic signature certificates with mutual recognition status could be issued within 2014. We will then work with the RCAs to promote the use of electronic signature certificates. The manpower and expenditure involved in 2014-15 will be absorbed by our existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)170

(Question Serial No. 1364)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 10):

Regarding the facilitation of information and communications technology (ICT) development in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) With reference to the content on the facilitation of ICT development mentioned in "The Agreement on Information Framework Co-operation", what are the manpower and expenditure required for implementing the relevant measures?
- (b) With reference to the Administration's plan to facilitate collaboration among the information technology industry of the two places in 2014-15, what are the manpower and expenditure required for implementing the relevant measures?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plan to promote local ICT industry to overseas markets apart from the Mainland market? If yes, what are the details, timetable as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The Cooperation Framework Agreement on Informatisation between Guangdong and Hong Kong sets out the following areas of collaboration —
 - (i) Co-operation in the development of a cluster of intelligent cities in the Greater Pearl River Delta region, including promoting the development of information infrastructure, promoting the applications of smart city and cloud computing technologies, and strengthening co-operation in the area of big data;
 - (ii) Co-operation in the application of Internet of Things to facilitate customs clearance between Guangdong and Hong Kong, including application of information technologies in logistics between the two places, application of Internet of Things to support speedier customs clearance, and strengthening co-operation in e-Commerce;
 - (iii) Guangdong and Hong Kong co-operation in the development of the Information Services Industrial Park of Nansha.

The resources for implementing the initiatives under the Framework Agreement will be provided through internal redeployment. We do not have a breakdown of the resources involved.

- (b) In 2014-15, we will continue to promote the adoption and development of cloud computing services and standards by the ICT industries of Guangdong and Hong Kong, strengthen the development of cloud computing talents, and promote the implementation of the related exchange and co-operation projects. Moreover, we will, together with the industry, continue to participate in exhibitions and seminars on the Mainland so as to foster exchanges between the two places and promote the information and communications technology (ICT) products and services of Hong Kong, with a view to creating business opportunities for the local ICT industry.

The related work will be absorbed within existing resources and no additional resources are required.

- (c) Each year, a number of public bodies, including the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Cyberport, Science Park, etc., organise trade delegations to overseas economies to promote the ICT products and services of Hong Kong, e.g. trade delegations to Thailand and the United States of America to promote Hong Kong's ICT industry in June and September 2013 respectively. With Government's support, these public bodies will continue to explore overseas market so as to create business opportunities for local ICT products and services.

Besides, through the organisation of large scale ICT events by the Government, like the International IT Fest, we showcase the vibrant development of local ICT industry and provide a platform for local and overseas industry players to exchange insights and explore collaboration opportunities. The related work is absorbed within existing resources and we do not have a breakdown of the resources involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)171****(Question Serial No. 1365)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 11):

Regarding the mobile websites and mobile applications developed by government departments and public organisations, please provide the relevant information using the format below.

(a) Please provide the relevant information in 2013-14 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 31.3.2014 (monthly average number of visitors)

Mobile applications

Government department	Title	Content and purpose	Applicable platforms (e.g. Apple/Android)	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 31.3.2014 (total downloads)

(b) It is noted that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) formed a unit in May 2012 to facilitate the development of mobile applications, and provide bureaux and departments (B/Ds) with support and advice on the development of government mobile applications. OGCIO has earmarked about \$9.5 million for the unit to develop mobile applications for e-government services from 2012-13 to 2014-15. As at to-date, what kind of support and advice were rendered by the unit to B/Ds? What is the current expenditure status of the unit? Please provide a breakdown.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) Information about the mobile applications (apps) and mobile websites developed by government departments and public organisations is set out at Annexes A and B respectively.
- (b) The "Mobile App Development Facilitation Unit" (the Unit) was established in May 2012 to provide the following 3 types of support services on mobile apps development to bureaux and departments:

- (i) providing information and guidelines on mobile apps technology and design, for example, information on service providers and practice guide for the entire development life cycle, and assisting departments in the testing of mobile apps.
- (ii) organising training courses, seminars and study visits for departments to enhance their understanding of mobile apps development. The Unit has organised 22 training courses and seminars, covering apps design, security and the latest mobile technology trends, etc. The Unit has also arranged study visits to Cyberport and Science Park for technology exchange. There were over 1 700 participants in total.
- (iii) collaborating with departments in developing specific mobile apps. In 2013-14, the Unit and the Department of Health jointly developed the “Primary Care Directory” mobile app.

The expenditure status of the Unit since its establishment is tabulated as follows:

Item	Description	Expenditure (HK\$) (as of end February 2014)
1	Providing technical support on mobile technologies and apps design, and assisting in the testing of apps	850,000
2	Coordination and promotion work including organisation of training courses and seminars, etc. for departments	550,000
3	Collaborating with departments in developing mobile apps	790,000
Total		2,190,000

Mobile Applications (Apps)

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
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	Routine maintenance: One maintenance contract awarded through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester.	Project commencement: September 2010 Official roll-out: December 2010	232 042
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 introduces geo-tour 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.	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractors through tendering	Total maintenance cost for the 4 apps: \$259,700 per year	Project commencement: August 2010 Official roll-out: April 2011	54 401
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, text descriptions, and transportation guide. The online Google map function provides the location of the users in real time. Users can also tour a tree walk using the offline maps. The AR mode 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.	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractors through tendering		Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: April 2012	29 944
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Forester	Forester is a mobile game application. Through this tree planting game, 16 common and interesting tree species will be introduced with an aim to enhance citizens' knowledge on trees.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering		Project commencement: September 2011 Official roll-out: December 2012	2 460
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Journey to Geopark (Chinese version only)	Full-day or half-day itineraries to visit "Hong Kong Global Geopark of China", including boat-trip and land-based journey, are suggested. Description of sites, videos and photos, exhibits facilities and traffic information have been provided for each itinerary.	iOS (only for iPad)	Developed by contractor	Development: \$48,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: January 2013 Roll-out of trial version: June 2013	1 250
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Red Tide Information Network	Purpose: To enhance the public's knowledge of red tide.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through	Development and first-year maintenance:	Project commencement: October 2012	10

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Department		The application features species of red tide that have been recorded in Hong Kong with photos and text descriptions. Besides, the public can report red tide sighting through the application. Connected to the "Hong Kong Red Tide Database", it allows users to search red tide data and obtain the latest information easily and expediently.		tendering	\$128,000	Official roll-out: January 2014	
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	Routine maintenance: \$49,950 per year	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: August 2011 Official roll-out: December 2011 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: April 2012 Official roll-out: November 2012	3 689
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong 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 Park, enhance public awareness of wetland animals and promote wetland conservation.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Routine maintenance: Not applicable	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: August 2009 Official roll-out: May 2010 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: November 2011 Official roll-out: May 2012	12 641 (Not including the download figures for iOS platform)
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 ArchSD projects.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractors through tendering	Development and first-year maintenance: \$447,000	Project commencement: September 2012 Official roll-out: May 2013	Around 2 200
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	精靈《基本法》 (An app on Basic Law)	To enhance the general public's knowledge and understanding of the Basic Law and to allow viewing of the Basic Law articles and related materials.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through quotation	Development and routine maintenance: \$925,750	Official roll-out of latest version: Late March 2014	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	Mobile Application for Promotion	E-book of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention), including a full version and a child-friendly version of the	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$89,600	Project commencement: January 2013	Not applicable (Not yet officially)

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
	of Children's Rights	Convention; e-book of the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention; and games and information related to the Convention. To facilitate users of smartphones and tablets to use and receive information related to the Convention conveniently.				Official roll-out: Q2 2014 (Tentative)	launched)
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 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.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$35,000	Project commencement: 13 October 2011 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> 20 July 2012 <u>Android</u> 26 November 2012	14 353
Create Hong Kong	Inspiration Sparks HK	To introduce the awarded local creative talents and information on the talent development initiatives organised, sponsored and supported by Create Hong Kong.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$54,000	Project commencement: 22 November 2012 Official roll-out: 30 March 2013	729
Department of Health (Chinese Medicine Division)	Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards	Content: Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Volume 1 which include eight monographs of Chinese Materia Medica. Purpose: To facilitate the Chinese medicines trade, profession and research institutes to access the information.	iOS	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$100,000	Project commencement: 23 June 2011 Official roll-out: 11 November 2011	9 320
Department of Health (Student Health Service)	Student Body Weight for Height Check	A tool for students to check their body weight for height and monitor their growth. It also provides health tips on diet and physical activities.	iOS	Developed by contractor	Development: \$148,000 (Including routine maintenance for the first 6 months)	Project commencement: 28 March 2013 Official roll-out: 16 December 2013	2 776
Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 試戴樂 (Chinese version only)	To promote HIV antibody testing and safer sex.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$60,000	Project commencement: 11 November 2011 Official roll-out: 22 April 2012	20 013
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Primary Care Directory	Contains practice-based information about different primary care providers (including doctors, dentists and Chinese medicine practitioners) to facilitate the public search for their own primary care	iOS and Android	Developed in-house by the Office of the Government Chief Information	Development: Around \$840,000 (Around \$140,000 was incurred by the	Project commencement: 28 September 2012 Official roll-out: 22 August 2013	5 097

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		providers.		Officer (OGCIO)	Primary Care Office; whereas around \$700,000 was incurred by OGCIO Routine maintenance: \$90,000 (Incurred by OGCIO)		
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Frame-work @PC	Provides healthcare professionals with evidence-based recommendations on diagnosis, assessment and management of patients with hypertension and diabetes in primary care settings in Hong Kong, as well as alerts on important primary care related notices issued by the Department of Health.	iOS	Developed by contractor	Development: \$90,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	Project commencement: 11 July 2012 Official roll-out: 9 September 2013	331 (As at 19 January 2014)
Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT	A mobile app to provide “Reducing bacterial resistance with IMPACT guidelines”. This app has search function. Users can use this app to browse the guidelines uploaded by the Clusters of Hospital Authority and to perform calculator functions using pre-set medical formulae. This app aims to enhance the awareness of medical staff on using antibiotics and is a very important reference.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Development: \$146,250 Routine maintenance: \$15,000	Project commencement: October 2012 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> February 2013 <u>Android</u> April 2013	Around 4 700
Department of Health (Central Health Education Unit)	Snack Nutritional Classification Wizard	By inputting product information of prepackaged snacks, consumers will know whether the product conforms to healthy eating principles. By doing so, the Wizard enables health conscious people to make healthy choices.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	<u>iOS</u> Routine maintenance: \$3,600 <u>Android</u> Development: \$64,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: August 2011 Official roll-out: March 2012 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: September 2013 Official roll-out: January 2014	4 049
Department of Health (Tobacco Control Office)	Quit Smoking App	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.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Development: \$63,000 Routine maintenance: \$84,000	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: August 2011 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: March 2012 Official roll-out:	29 751

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		Non-smokers can learn more about quitting smoking and recommend the app to their family and friends.				August 2012	
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 app, 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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: 15 December 2011	1 413
Development Bureau (In collaboration with Construction Industry Council)	Working at height training	This game serves as a safety training tool for construction workers. The game is divided into two parts. In the first part, the player needs to identify seven working-at-height hazards in a building construction site and select the necessary safety precautionary measures for each of the hazards. In the second part, the player is required to erect a metal scaffold according to a safe working sequence. The player is also required to answer some questions about various requirements of a properly erected metal scaffold.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 28 March 2013 Official roll-out: 27 May 2013	1 242
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 app 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.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: <u>Android</u> \$75,300 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: 22 March 2012 Official roll-out: 14 October 2012 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: 17 July 2013 Official roll-out: 3 December 2013	1514
Drainage Services Department	DSD Connect	To provide a fast and convenient way to access information about the department.	Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 3 April 2013 Official roll-out: 14 June 2013	363

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Drainage Services Department	R&D Forum	To provide latest information on the DSD Research & Development Forum 2013.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$206,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 9 August 2013 Official roll-out: 5 November 2013	356
Education Bureau (Applied Learning Section)	ApL app	Purpose: Let students, parents, teachers and schools understand the curriculum of Applied Learning and help students choose suitable courses. Content: Information on courses of Applied Learning, Students Sharing, Frequently Asked Questions and What's New, etc.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$49,000	Project commencement: May 2011 Official roll-out: 5 Sept 2011	6 368
Education Bureau (Life-wide Learning and Library Section)	e-Navigator	This searching 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 and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Under the e-Navigator contract, the total maintenance cost for both the mobile app and mobile website is \$497,400. No separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: 18 May 2012	83 206
Education Bureau (Curriculum Resources Section)	ETV App	Provides a convenient platform for students, teachers and parents to view about 800 programmes related to contemporary curriculum, broadcasting schedule, current news, information of ETV, etc. at anytime and anywhere.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	Official roll-out: 1 December 2012	9 135
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Beyond Campus	Educational e-tool for teachers to conduct outdoor activities.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the operating expenditure	Official roll-out: 5 August 2013	327
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	悅文 (Chinese version only)	Contains reading articles for Chinese Language.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the operating expenditure	Official roll-out: 5 August 2013	797
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Grouping Wizard	Student grouping tool for teachers' use.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the	Official roll-out: 30 July 2013	880

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Education Section)					operating expenditure		
Education Bureau (Quality Education Fund)	QEF ebook	Content: To support students with special educational needs (SEN), eight sets of deliverables are developed as electronic deliverables covering six areas, namely Autism Spectrum Disorders, Intellectual Disability, Specific Learning Difficulties, Visual Impairment, Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity and Physical Disability. Purpose: To enhance effective learning and promote self-directed learning of SEN students.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$173,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)	Project commencement: March 2012 Official roll-out: Second half of 2014 (Tentative)	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Efficiency Unit	Tell me@1823 mobile app	Enables citizens to submit enquiries, complaints and suggestion via 1823.	iOS and Android	Developed in-house by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Routine maintenance: \$160,000 (Maintained together with related mobile website)	Project commencement: October 2010 Official roll-out: 11 April 2011	55 765
Efficiency Unit	Where is Dr Sun	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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: April 2012	2 479
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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$69,600	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: December 2010 Official roll-out: July 2011 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: May 2012 Official roll-out: September 2012	9 411
Environmental Protection Department	Hong Kong Air Quality Health Index	Provides real-time air quality health index (AQHI) recorded at the 12 general and three roadside monitoring stations.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: \$8,000 per year	Project commencement: 5 July 2013 Official roll-out: 30 December 2013	10 600
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection	Waste Less	Provides locations of the recyclable collection points and information about waste reduction and recycling and allows users to record the types	iOS, Android and Windows	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$406,300 Routine	Project commencement: 17 September 2013	The app was recently launched on 10 March

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Department		and daily quantities of recyclables recovered.			maintenance: \$71,700 per year	Official roll-out: 10 March 2014	2014. Relevant information is not yet available.
Environment Bureau	Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), Municipal Solid Waste Charging - Online Views Collection Form Mobile Apps	Provides online views collection form mobile apps function for SDC's "Municipal Solid Waste Charging Public Engagement Process".	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering (development and routine maintenance of the desktop version of the related website are included in the same tender)	Development and routine maintenance: \$65,300	Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> 1 November 2013 <u>Android</u> 6 November 2013	42 (From 1 November 2013 to 24 January 2014) [Note: Municipal solid waste charging public engagement process - public involvement phase ended on 24 January 2014]
Financial Secretary's Office (Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit)	Business Consultation e-Platform mobile application	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 and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	<u>iOS</u> Routine maintenance: \$14,250 per year (Including technical support, application system and content hosting services) <u>Android</u> Development: \$134,000 Routine maintenance: \$30,000 per year (Including technical support, application system and content hosting services)	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: 20 April 2012 Official roll-out: 15 November 2012 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: 6 June 2013 Official roll-out: 9 October 2013	1 625
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety Charter	To facilitate the public in their search for food premises which have signed up to the Food Safety Charter.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: June 2011 Official roll-out: March 2012	1 164
Food and Environmental	Nutrition Calculator	To help the public make better food choices by using nutrition labels.	iOS and Android	<u>iOS</u> Developed by	Routine maintenance:	<u>iOS</u> Project	69 466

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Hygiene Department				contractor through tendering <u>Android</u> In-house development	Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	commencement: June 2011 Official roll-out: October 2011 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: June 2012 Official roll-out: December 2012	
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety	To make it easy for the public to obtain and download food safety messages, alerts, news and publications; and allows them to share food safety information via email, Facebook and WeChat.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: <u>iOS</u> \$132,000 <u>Android</u> \$132,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable (not yet officially launched)	Project commencement: August 2013 Official roll-out: April 2014 (Tentative)	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Home Affairs Bureau	18 Handy Tips for Family Education	To promote family education, the Family Council introduces a series of family educational programmes, including parent-child education, with a view to promoting the core values of family and strengthening family values.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$2,600	Project commencement: May 2011 Official roll-out: November 2011	2 590
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. This app offers information about "M" Mark events, from general information and past results to photos and other information.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$14,400	Project commencement: April 2011 Official roll-out: January 2013	531
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA)	HKDSE mobile application	To provide information to candidates and members of the public regarding the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination and allow users to get the latest and important news of the HKDSE Examination.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Development (Version 3.0): \$27,000 Routine maintenance: (rental for dedicated server and bandwidth service) \$ 102,000 per year	Project commencement: December 2011 Official roll-out: <u>Version 1.0</u> March 2012 <u>Version 2.0</u> December 2012 <u>Version 3.0</u> December 2013	<u>Version 1.0</u> 39 839 <u>Version 2.0</u> 29 124 <u>Version 3.0</u> 10 212 (As at 31 Jan 2014)
Hong Kong Observatory	My Observatory	To provide weather information to mobile users.	iOS, Android and Windows	In-house development	Developed and maintained internally; no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: Second half of 2009 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> Q1 2010 <u>Android</u> Q4 2010	Around 3 847 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
						<u>Windows</u> Q1 2014	
Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorldWeather	To provide official city weather forecast worldwide.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Ditto	Project commencement: First half of 2011 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> Q4 2011 <u>Android</u> Q1 2013	Around 117 000
Hong Kong Observatory	iCWeather OS	Provides a one-stop platform for users to take weather photos, produce weather observation reports and share them with fellow users, with a view to encouraging members of the public to carry out first-hand weather observation to broaden their knowledge in weather and climate. Some fun facts on weather are also provided in the mobile app for general educational purpose.	iOS	In-house development	Ditto	Project commencement: Q4 2011 Official roll-out: Q3 2013	Around 3 000
Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	To engage the community and strengthen the communication with different sectors of the society, the Police launched the first "Hong Kong Police Mobile Application" on 18 July 2012. By using this mobile application on smart phones, people can access the latest police information at anytime and anywhere.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS was absorbed by the existing resources of the Hong Kong Police Force	Project commencement: September 2011 Official roll-out: 18 July 2012	Around 92 400
Hongkong Post	Hongkong Post	To provide relevant information on the services provided by Hongkong Post. Its functions include: checking and tracking of the latest delivery status of mail items; informing clients of the delivery status of their mail items; calculating postages and comparing different postal services; searching postal facilities and providing relevant information; and providing the latest notices or press releases of the Hongkong Post, etc.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: November 2010 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> June 2011 <u>Android</u> December 2011	Around 157 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Travel Pack	Contains a variety of travel guides published by the HKTB on dining, shopping, accommodation and sightseeing, as well as interactive travel information and local recommendations, etc.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$81,000	Official roll-out: <u>iOS (iPad)</u> 29 March 2013 <u>Android (Tablet)</u> 30 April 2013	Around 87 000
Hong Kong Tourism	Discover Hong	Allows visitors to check information on four outlying	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance:	Official roll-out: <u>iOS (iPhone)</u>	Around 96 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Board	Kong • Island Walks	islands, including information on over 70 sightseeing spots and transportation.			\$167,000	13 December 2012 <u>iOS (iPad)</u> 28 December 2012 <u>Android</u> 1 March 2013	
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • Heritage Walks	Introduces four themed walking trails. Visitors can use the augmented reality (AR) function to obtain practical information on attractions.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$167,500	Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> 2 May 2012 <u>Android</u> 20 April 2012	Around 81 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • City Walks	Equipped with the AR function, it allows visitors to explore "Asia's World City" more conveniently and in greater depth. It takes visitors through four themed routes to get a feel of the metropolis' past and present and experience Hong Kong's east-meets-west culture.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$167,500	Official roll-out: 11 May 2011	Around 218 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • AR	Offers the AR function. Once switched on, the phone camera can be used to scan the user's surroundings to provide images, information and direction to attractions, so that visitors can explore Hong Kong in a more comprehensive manner.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor (co-op with Cathay Pacific Airways)	(Expenditures shared equally with Cathay Pacific Airways) Routine maintenance: \$118,000	Official roll-out: 17 May 2011	Around 373 000
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Discover Hong Kong • 720°	With selected 720-degree images of various attractions, it makes visitors feel as if they were at the spot to soak in Hong Kong's views. The app also provides Google maps, information and videos of attractions to allow visitors to tour Hong Kong freely.	iOS	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$9,750	Official roll-out: 31 May 2009	Around 764 000
Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC)	HKTDC Mobile App	Allows users to source quality suppliers and exhibitors. The app also provides research information, fair details and webcasts.	iOS, Android and Blackberry	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Not available	Official roll-out: October 2009	112 299
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	HKTDC Product Magazine App	Helps users get the latest product ideas and plan their visits to HKTDC fairs using the official catalogues.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Not available	Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> May 2011 <u>Android</u> October 2011	169 005
Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Asian Financial Forum	Provides information of the Forum such as speakers profile, webcast interviews, list of participants and programme.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Not available	Official roll-out: November 2011	5 674
Hospital Authority	Fall Prevention	To provide tips and education on fall prevention and strengthen patient support.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$40,000 Routine	Project commencement: October 2011	254

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
					maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: March 2012	
Hospital Authority	Finding Patient Groups	To provide patients and the general public with access to contact information of patient self-help groups.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	<u>iOS</u> Development: \$98,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved <u>Android</u> Development: \$60,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	<u>iOS</u> Project commencement: February 2012 Official roll-out: October 2012 <u>Android</u> Project commencement: January 2013 Official roll-out: September 2013	1 018
Hospital Authority	HAC 2013	To facilitate mobile access to programmes of the Hospital Authority Convention 2013.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$56,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: Q3 2012 Official roll-out: Q1 2013	1 168
Hospital Authority	Touch Med	To alert patients when their drugs are ready for collection in the hospital pharmacies; access to drug information will be included in future version.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development: \$410,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)	Project commencement: April 2013 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> March 2014 <u>Android</u> Q2 2014	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Hospital Authority	Institute of Mental Health, Castle Peak Hospital 減壓情識	To help the public better understand own emotions, encourage positive thinking and more effectively cope with the pressures of living.	iOS	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$60,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: January 2011 Official roll-out: October 2011	26 421

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Hospital Authority	United Christian Hospital 出藥一叮	To alert patients when their drugs are ready for collection.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development: \$80,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: April 2011 Official roll-out: November 2011	12 268
Hospital Authority	Kowloon Central Cluster KCCERP	To provide an interactive and diversified health-related information medium for patients, carers, patient groups, volunteers and the community of the Kowloon Central Cluster.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: May 2011 Official roll-out: <u>iOS</u> August 2011 <u>Android</u> September 2011	1 229
Hospital Authority	Prince of Wales Hospital 急症先 Phone	To provide information on the service and triage system of Prince of Wales Hospital Accident & Emergency Department, current waiting numbers of patients, and contacts of nearby clinics which are open to facilitate patients' consideration of consultation channels.	iOS	In-house development	Development: \$80,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)	Project commencement: January 2013 Official roll-out: Q2 2014 (Tentative)	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Hong Kong ImmD Mobile Application	Facilitates Hong Kong residents and visitors to obtain information on estimated passenger waiting time at all land boundary control points and other ImmD information.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Development: Around \$130,000 Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS was absorbed by the existing resources of ImmD	Project commencement: March 2013 Official roll-out: 5 December 2013	68 676
Independent Commission Against Corruption	ICAC Smartphone App	Provides information and promotion.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$480,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$50,000 per year	Project commencement: 2012 Official roll-out: December 2013	Around 1 000
Information Services Department	news.gov.hk	To facilitate the browsing of news.gov.hk with mobile phones or devices.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional	Project commencement: Commenced together with the revamp of news.gov.hk in	Around 115 200

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
					expenditures were involved.	September 2008 Official roll-out: <u>iPhone</u> October 2010 <u>iPad</u> March 2011 <u>Android</u> January 2011	
Information Services Department	Government Bookstore	To provide a new way for members of the public to browse the list of government publications for sale, so as to attract the public to visit the online Government Bookstore.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$650,726 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: 20 March 2013 Official roll-out: 31 December 2013	Around 2 900
Information Services Department	“Hong Kong 2012” Yearbook iPad/ Android Tablet app	To enable downloading and browsing of the content of “Hong Kong 2012”. The Year book provides an in-depth account of government policy and activities and an overview of Hong Kong’s development during the year.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$214,572 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: 1 June 2013 Official roll-out: 25 November 2013	835
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong	This is Hong Kong is themed on the city’s core values, showcasing what makes Hong Kong a diverse, dynamic and cosmopolitan city closely connected to the rest of Asia and the world while also offering a secure environment to live and work.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$94,000	Project commencement: 25 July 2013 Official roll-out: 1 December 2013	1 534
Innovation and Technology Commission	McMug on Green Technology	To promote InnoCarnival 2013. Members of the public can make use of the app to participate in a game and download the latest news of InnoCarnival. They can also send greetings to their friends on Facebook via the app, and spread the news about InnoCarnival.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$600,000	Project commencement: July 2013 Official roll-out: iOS 21 October 2013 Android 9 October 2013	18 628
Intellectual Property Department	“No Fakes Pledge” Shop Search	Purpose: To facilitate tourists and consumers searching for shop information of all participating retail merchants of the “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme. Users can easily find the location of a “No Fakes Pledge” shop by searching using the map, district,	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and first-year maintenance: \$389,600 Routine maintenance: \$84,040 (second-year	Project commencement: 27 August 2012 Official roll-out: 4 February 2013	6 242

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		merchant's name and merchandise category.			maintenance) Production cost for additional features: \$35,400		
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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$126,917	Project commencement: 28 July 2011 Official roll-out: iOS 31 January 2012 Android 22 March 2012	367 695
Labour Department	Work Safety Alert	To alert employers / contractors and employees about the occurrences of serious or fatal work injuries and the need to take relevant measures to prevent recurrence.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and first-year maintenance: \$75,000 Routine maintenance: \$15,000 per year	Project commencement: 22 December 2011 Official roll-out: iOS 9 March 2012 Android 27 April 2012	7 870
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Fitness Walking	Purpose: To promote the "Fitness Walking" and encourage members of the public to establish a healthy lifestyle through regular physical exercise. It provides information of 33 LCSD walking tracks in 18 districts with the Global Positioning System (GPS) function to locate the nearest walking track of the users. Other functions include recording the data of walking time, distance and calorie consumed, and calculation of target training heart rate etc.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: \$25,000	Project commencement: March 2013 Official roll-out: August 2013	19 097
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Culture	Covers cultural programmes presented, sponsored or jointly presented 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	Developed by contractor through tendering	Production cost for additional features in 2013: \$98,000 Routine maintenance: \$68,000	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: September 2012	27 550
Leisure and Cultural	King Yin Lei	Guides users through King Yin Lei, as if they were travelling on site.	Android (iOS)	Developed by contractor	Development: Subsumed in the	Project commencement:	20

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Services Department		Multimedia information like videos aided with animations, panoramas, and still photos are available for further exploration of King Yin Lei.	version will be launched within 2014)	through tendering	“Generic platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for monuments” project; no separate breakdown is available. Routine maintenance: Free warranty up to April 2014	May 2011 Official roll-out: Within 2014 Soft launch: December 2013	
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Matching@ King Yin Lei	The game requires the player to match the patterns of King Yin Lei and complete the mission within the time limit. The game should be able to enhance public understanding on the architectural feature of King Yin Lei.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	15
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Photo ME @ King Yin Lei	User can take a photo or use saved photo through the app to create a new picture with different scenes at King Yin Lei. The game should be able to raise the interest of the public to King Yin Lei.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	30
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Puzzle@ King Yin Lei	The game requires player to restore King Yin Lei to its original glory by swapping the tiles in full speed. The game should be able to enhance public understanding on the architectural features of King Yin Lei.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	20
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Restore King Yin Lei	Allows players to join the restoration project, by which players are required to guess the order of restoration processes of various architectural features. The game should be able to enhance public understanding on restoration process of King Yin Lei.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	8
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Jurassic World	An informative and entertaining app for enhancing the educational and interactive appeal of the “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs” exhibition. Through the application to both outdoor and indoor exhibits, users	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$518,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the	Project commencement: August 2013 Official roll-out: November 2013	Around 15 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		can enjoy an exciting experience of witnessing dinosaurs “becoming alive” and acquire more scientific information including attractive animation and audio guide of selected exhibits. They can even extend the virtual experience by scanning the publicity materials, like the promotion pamphlet after visiting the exhibition.			app was created for the Special Exhibition “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs”		
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Dino Raiser	For promoting the “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs” exhibition, the app allows users to have a pleasurable learning of dinosaurs through a series of interesting questions. Users can hatch the six different types of dinosaurs’ eggs by answering questions correctly.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$50,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the app was created for the Special Exhibition “Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs”	Project commencement: August 2013 Official roll-out: October 2013	Around 15 000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Bruce Lee: Kung Fu • Art • Life	Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief introduction of the “Bruce Lee: Kung Fu • Art • Life” exhibition Interactive games: “Take a Snap with Bruce” – to take pictures with Bruce Lee; “Words of Wisdom” – to retrieve Bruce Lee’s words of wisdom by shaking their phones. Purpose: To promote the exhibition and to attract public visiting the exhibition.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and first-year maintenance: \$102,400	Project commencement: May 2013 Official roll-out: July 2013	11 760
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	MMIS Viewer	A multi-media player capable of playing or rendering digital content of video, audio, ebook, map and image delivered from MMIS to a web browser of the mobile device.	Android (iOS version will be launched within 2014)	Developed by contractor through tendering	This mobile app is a plug-in application of the mobile website of MMIS. Its development cost was included in the implementation cost of the MMIS Major Upgrade Project. As it is not an individual project, no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: August 2013	681
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	HKMA Outdoor Sculpture Guide	Provides mobile guided tour services for the 11 large outdoor sculptures near the Hong Kong Museum of Art. Audiences can	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$50,670	Project commencement: September 2011	4 652

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		start the tour of sculptures and listen to the contents of the guided tour anytime and anywhere with their mobile phones.				Official roll-out: May 2012	
Office of the Communications Authority	OFCA Broadband Performance Test	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 contractor through tendering	Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority	Project commencement: 2010 Official roll-out: 23 December 2010	Total no. of tests: 37 584 949
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	e-Auth	Provides information about e-authentication for IT Professional and Business Users.	iOS	In-house development	Developed in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	Project commencement: June 2013 Official roll-out: September 2013	326
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	EventHK	A one-stop inter-departmental platform that provides citizens a convenient way to look for public events organised by the government or under government premises.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Developed and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	Project commencement: October 2012 Official roll-out: 21 April 2013	19 039
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	An inter-departmental app that provides a convenient channel via a mobile platform for citizens to receive government information and alerts with mobile phones.	iOS and Android	In-house development	Developed and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	Project commencement: June 2011 Official roll-out: 17 August 2012	601 741
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	A one-stop inter-departmental platform for citizens to search and download a series of government mobile apps.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Around \$35,000 per year	Project commencement: December 2011 Official roll-out: 17 August 2012	114 307
Planning Department	City Gallery	Adopts indoor positioning technology to enable audio guided tour in English, Cantonese and Putonghua for different exhibition zones. Users can also check the latest events and exhibitions of the City Gallery with link to the relevant images and video clips.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$262,500 Routine maintenance: \$97,500 per year	App1.0 Project commencement: November 2012 Official roll-out: May 2013 App2.0 Project commencement: August 2013 Official roll-out: January 2014	1 229
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Prime	Displays RTHK video programme on tablet in a magazine layout. The user can create his / her layout by selecting individual channel from the default content list.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures	Official roll-out: iOS 12 December 2011 Android 20 November 2012	82 218

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		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.			were involved		
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK On The Go	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 around 30 programmes of Podcast Highlights, and users can listen to or watch the latest ten episodes of each programme.	iOS, Android, Windows, Symbian, Meego	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: iOS 30 May 2010 Android 13 March 2011 Windows 24 December 2011 Symbian 8 January 2012 Meego Not available	1 291 771
Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	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 understanding 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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: iOS 21 November 2012 Android 31 January 2013	27 706
Radio Television Hong Kong	I want to be a LegCo Member	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.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: iOS 10 August 2012 Android 8 August 2012	12 282
Radio Television Hong Kong	Cat's World	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 contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: May 2010 Official roll-out: 22 November 2010	6 500
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Thumb	RTHK Thumb is a mobile app based on TV programme 《城市論壇》. Users can give instant response with the “Thumb Up”, “Thumb down” buttons on the screen while watching the live	iOS	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures	Official roll-out: 19 September 2011	14 792

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
		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.			were involved		
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Node	Enables users to watch the Live Webcast and Video Archive of 《鏗鏘集》 and 《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 issues, contemporary China and the international vision. It is the oldest documentary TV programme in Hong Kong.	iOS	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: 21 November 2011	22 410
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Cube	The music-themed app provides an easy and simple way for users to access to RTHK’s recommended music content. Users can search for favourite music, access to live radio programmes and share favourite music through social media such as Facebook and Twitter anytime and anywhere through Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G network.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$174,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: iOS 17 June 2013 Android 30 November 2013	22 982
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK LENS	To promote the LENS photo competition of the RTHK eTVonline, this mobile app enables applicants to submit photos instantly and review other applicants’ photos.	iOS	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: Q1 2011 Official roll-out: 13 September 2011	4 105
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK SCREEN	Provides live webcast of RTHK TV 31 and 32, video-on-demand (VoD), download and programme subscription.	iOS and Android	In-house development and developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: 1 January 2014	47 357
Social Welfare Department (SWD)	Senior Citizen Card Scheme	To facilitate both the elders and their family members to search and select the concessions and services under the “Senior Citizen Card Scheme” of SWD.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: \$24,772 per year	Official roll-out: 15 September 2011	12 323
Social Welfare Department	Let Them Shine Gourmet	To promote cafes operated by persons with disabilities (PWDs) and food made by PWDs e.g. bakery, desserts, soy products, etc.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor	Development: \$39,000	Official roll-out: 22 November 2013	Not available

Government Department	Name of Mobile App	Content and Purpose	Applicable Platforms (e.g. iOS / Android)	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development cost and routine maintenance expenditure) (HK\$)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Total number of downloads)
Transport Department	Hong Kong eTransport	To provide public transport route enquiry service.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Around \$200,000 per year	Project commencement: November 2010 Official roll-out: iOS August 2011 Android November 2011	1 100 000
Transport Department	Hong Kong eRouting	To provide driving route searching service.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: Around \$440,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$100,000 per year	Project commencement: July 2012 Official roll-out: iOS March 2013 Android January 2013	63 000
Tuen Mun District Council	Eco Shopping & Cultural Tour in Tuen Mun	Provides eco-shopping routes of Tuen Mun under the themes of "Play", "Eat" and "Buy", so to promote the tourism of Tuen Mun.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$180,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable	Project commencement 18 September 2013 Official roll-out: 2 March 2014	Not applicable
Water Supplies Department (WSD)	WSD Mobile App	To enable public to browse water bill summary, bill reminder, temporary water suspension notices and what's new of the WSD through mobile phones.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$1,100,000 Routine maintenance: \$280,000 per year	Project commencement: April 2013 Roll-out of trial version: iOS 9 January 2014 Android 30 December 2013	Around 600
Wong Tai Sin District Fight Crime Committee	Happy WTS	To disseminate fight crime messages to the public. It also comes with a game designed to enhance public awareness about fighting crime.	Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$50,000 Routine maintenance: Not applicable	Project commencement: 2 August 2013 Official roll-out: 3 October 2013	289
Yuen Long District Office	Heritagein Kam Tin	To introduce the heritage sites in Shui Tau Tsuen and Sui Mei Tsuen of Kam Tin, Yuen Long.	iOS and Android	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: October 2011	Not available

Mobile Websites

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Country Parks Tree Walks	Features 96 species of trees planted along the 16 Country Parks Tree Walks.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Subsumed in the cost for the corresponding mobile app.	Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: April 2012	80
Architectural Services Department	Tender Notices (Mobile Version)	To facilitate mobile users to view tender notices.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: August 2010 Official roll-out: 1 April 2011	290
Census and Statistics Department (C&SD)	Census and Statistics Department Mobile Version Website	Provides the latest statistics, press releases, statistical publications and tables, etc. for users to browse on mobile devices.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Included in the routine maintenance expenditure of the C&SD Website. No separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: 9 March 2012 Official roll-out: 29 June 2012	4 500
Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office (Policy and Project Co-ordination Unit)	Population Policy	To disseminate information related to the Steering Committee of Population Policy, including the details of the public engagement exercise launched in the end of October 2013 such as the consultation of forum and promotional mini-films.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$133,000 (Including the development of non-mobile websites and first-year routine maintenance of the website)	Project commencement: August 2013 Official roll-out: October 2013	8 710
Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office (Policy and Project Co-ordination Unit)	Bless Hong Kong	To facilitate the dissemination of latest information of the "Bless Hong Kong" Campaign to the public, the mobile website provides event updates on a regular basis. "Bless Hong Kong" mini-films and promotion videos as well as stories of unsung heroes in the community are also featured in the website so as to encourage the public to lend a helping hand to the disadvantaged around them, and hence to strengthen the poverty alleviation efforts.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$150,000 (Including the development of non-mobile websites and first-year routine maintenance of the website)	Project commencement: December 2013 Official roll-out: February 2014	Not available (Not yet launched as at the cut-off date)
Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau and related websites	Contains general information on the policy, organisational structure, latest news and related documents of this bureau.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$17,000 per year	Project commencement: January 2012 Official roll-out: December 2012	38 501

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
Civil Service Bureau	Cyber Learning Centre Plus (offers both desktop and mobile version)	Provides an alternative means for users to access selected e-learning resources available in the desktop version of Cyber Learning Centre Plus.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$95,200 per year (Including both desktop and mobile versions; no separate breakdown is available)	Project commencement: February 2010 Official roll-out: April 2011	1 800
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Technology Branch)	Digital TV	To provide information to the public on the benefits of digital TV and the implementation of digital terrestrial TV in Hong Kong.	Developed by contractors through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$26,400 per year (Including desktop and mobile versions; no separate breakdown is available)	Project commencement and official roll-out: 2006	(As information is available only in the form of total visitors for website (including both desktop and mobile version), relevant information for usage of only mobile website is not available)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	The Basic Law Website	To promote the Basic Law.	Developed by contractor through quotation	Routine maintenance: \$12,330	Project commencement: February 2011 Official roll-out: May 2011	Not available
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016 – Public Consultation	To publicise the Public Consultation on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016.	Developed by contractor through tendering	The expenditure for the website is around \$94,500 including the desktop version and the mobile version.	Project commencement: November 2013 Official roll-out: February 2014	Not applicable (Not yet launched as at the cut-off date)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai (SHETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)	To provide useful information of economic and trade ties and cooperation between HKSAR and the Municipality of Shanghai and the four provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Hubei.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$21,900 (Estimated) Routine maintenance: Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)	Project commencement: January 2014 Official roll-out: March 2014 (Tentative)	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	The Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing (Beijing Office)	To disseminate useful information to various parties, including Hong Kong people who are living, studying, working and investing in the Mainland and Hong Kong enterprises thereat. Information is also provided to Mainland enterprises interested in	Developed by contractor through quotation	Development: Subsumed into the whole Beijing Office webpage revamp contract; no separate breakdown is available. Routine maintenance: Subsumed into the general information	Project commencement: June 2013 Official roll-out: December 2013	Not available

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
		investing in Hong Kong and Mainland people who are interested in living, studying, working and investing in Hong Kong.		technology service provided by contractor; no separate breakdown is available.		
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the HKSAR	The mobile website will be launched together with the revamped website. There will be enhanced design and functions for more efficient delivery of government information and services.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development cost for website revamp: \$139,000 (Of the total cost, \$93,200 is to be paid by end-March 2014, and the balance, i.e. \$45,800, will be paid after the revamp is completed in 2014-15. The total cost of website revamp includes that for development of a mobile version of the website; no separate breakdown is available.) Routine maintenance: Not applicable	Project commencement: January 2014 Official roll-out: March 2014	Not applicable (not yet launched as at the cut-off date)
Correctional Services Department (CSD)	Hong Kong Correctional Services (Mobile / Accessible Version)	To revamp the old desktop website by using web accessibility design and adding mobile version to it to provide information on penal management and rehabilitation services of CSD.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$800,000 (Including both desktop and mobile versions; no separate breakdown is available) Routine maintenance: As the routine maintenance cost is absorbed the existing resources of CSD, no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: Late September 2012 Official roll-out: Mid-January 2014	Not available (The website was launched in mid-January)
Create Hong Kong	Create Hong Kong	To introduce to the public — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the work of Create Hong Kong; services offered by Create Hong Kong; and events organised, sponsored and supported by Create Hong Kong. 	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$21,595	Project commencement: 19 October 2011 Official roll-out: 5 March 2012	4 746
Customs and Excise Department	Customs and Excise Department	To provide the public with up-to-date information of the Department.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$39,000 Routine maintenance: \$18,750 per year	Project commencement: 26 September 2013 Official roll-out: 19 December	15 017

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
					2013	
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.	Developed by contractor	Development: \$141,100 Routine maintenance: \$32,160	Project commencement: 2 January 2013 Official roll-out: 28 January 2013	1 241
Department of Justice	Bilingual Laws Information System	To provide mobile version of the website.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Included in the routine maintenance expenditure of the Bilingual Laws Information System; no separate breakdown is available	Project commencement: 17 October 2010 Official roll-out: 16 May 2011	200 344
Department of Justice	Department of Justice Website	To provide mobile version of the website.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 27 June 2012 Official roll-out: 5 March 2013	74 021 (This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Department of Justice	Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training Website	To provide mobile version of the website.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 10 October 2012 Official roll-out: 22 January 2013	2 480 (This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Department of Justice	The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong Website	To provide mobile version of the website.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 22 August 2012 Official roll-out: 29 January 2013	33 309 (This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Education Bureau	Education Bureau Website (mobile version)	To provide information on education policy and services to various stakeholders, students, parents, teachers, schools and citizens.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$75,503	Project commencement: May 2011 (Revamp of Education Bureau Website) Official roll-out: 25 February 2013	20 000
Education Bureau (Life-wide Learning and Library Section)	e-Navigator	This searching tool helps students search for course information across different local institutions and levels (e.g. degrees, higher diplomas and	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: Under the e-Navigator contract, the total maintenance cost for both the mobile app and	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: 18 May 2012	9 724

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
		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.		mobile website is \$497,400. No separate breakdown is available.		
Education Bureau (Life-wide Learning and Library Section)	Book Works Reading Site	To enhance students' motivation in reading and to develop their good reading habits.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$150,000	Project commencement: 11 November 2013 Official roll-out: March 2015 (Tentative)	Not applicable (not yet officially launched)
Environment Bureau	Mobile Version	To provide information of the Environment Bureau via mobile devices. Contents of the mobile version are the same as the desktop version.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Developed together with other softwares; no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: 7 December 2012 Official roll-out: 4 March 2014	Not available (Not yet launched as at the cut-off date)
Environmental Protection Department	PDA Version	To provide the common and latest information of the Environmental Protection Department via mobile devices.	In-house development	Developed in-house together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: 2006 Official roll-out: 2006 (A new mobile version is scheduled to be launched in mid-2014 to replace the PDA version)	1 100
Office of the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	Office of the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Website Mobile Version	To facilitate the general public to browse the content of the website more conveniently on mobile platforms.	Developed by contractor	Development and routine maintenance costs of mobile website have been included in the total development and routine maintenance cost of the Website Revamp Project. Development cost of the Website Revamp Project: \$518,000 Routine maintenance cost of the Website Revamp Project: \$11,000 per year	Project commencement: April 2013 Official roll-out: 16 December 2013	Monthly average no. of page views : 6 000
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Monthly average no. of page views : 2 000

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
	Branch) Website Mobile Version					
The Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance)	The Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance) Website Mobile Version	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Monthly average no. of page views : 4 200
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Mobile Version (Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)	To provide a more convenient way to view in mobile devices information of latest news of the department, and common telephone numbers and district environmental hygiene offices.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: December 2010 Official roll-out: March 2011	10 105
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Centre for Food Safety Mobile Version	To provide a more convenient way to view in mobile devices information of food alerts, activities and latest news and briefs provided by the Centre.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: July 2010 Official roll-out: October 2010	3 967
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Internet Memorial Service	To facilitate the public to pay tribute and show condolence to their beloved who have passed away.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$25,000	Project commencement: June 2011 Official roll-out: September 2011	950
Food and Health Bureau (FHB)	Food and Health Bureau	To provide general information on the policies, organisation, latest news and related documents of FHB.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$292,500 (Included in the revamp of the desktop version and other FHB websites) Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 1 May 2012 Official roll-out: 10 July 2013	8 985
Food and Health Bureau	Healthcare Planning and Development Office Website	The homepage of the Healthcare Planning and Development Office, which is a dedicated office under FHB to take forward the various healthcare reform initiatives based on the outcome of the Second Stage Public Consultation on Healthcare Reform.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$127,500 (Including the development of the desktop version and maintenance for a 20-month period)	Project commencement: 1 March 2012 Official roll-out: 14 September 2012	3 521
Food and Health Bureau	Research Fund Secretariat Website	To provide information about local health and medical research funding opportunities, relevant	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: US\$935,148 (Included in the	Project commencement: 1 August 2012	Not available

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
		application and assessment procedures and reports of completed projects.		eGrant Management System project; the project cost covers development and 5-year maintenance and support service)	Official roll-out: 16 December 2013	
Highways Department	Road Damage or Defect Report (through GovHK website)	To facilitate the general public to raise their views on road maintenance.	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: The minimal costs are covered by the operating cost of the departmental website.	Project commencement: September 2011 Official roll-out: December 2011	Around 40
Highways Department	Fault Report on Traffic Signs / Road Markings (through GovHK website)	To facilitate the general public to raise their views on road maintenance.	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: The minimal costs are covered by the operating cost of the departmental website.	Project commencement: September 2011 Official roll-out: December 2011	Around 8
Home Affairs Bureau	Public Affairs Forum Mobile Version	Contents of the mobile version are the same as the desktop version. The mobile version is specially designed for mobile devices.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the maintenance cost of the Public Affairs Forum website.	Project commencement: 22 August 2013 Official roll-out: 6 December 2013	Not available
Hong Kong Education City Limited	HKEdCity Website (Mobile version)	Hosts learning and teaching materials from different sources for direct use or adaptation by teachers, online learning programmes for students, and an e-platform to facilitate the online transactions of e-learning resources.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: January 2013 Official roll-out: July 2013	50 000
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA)	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority	To provide information and latest news regarding the HKEAA to candidates and members of the public.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Developed and maintained together with the HKEAA corporate website.	Project commencement: December 2012 Official roll-out: November 2013	Monthly average no. of page views : Around 4 400
Hong Kong Observatory	Hong Kong Observatory Website (Mobile Version)	To provide weather information for mobile users.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: Second half of 2010 Official roll-out: Q1 2011	Around 9 991 000 (for the past 12 months)
Hong Kong Observatory	Hong Kong Observatory Website (WAP Version)	To provide weather information for WAP mobile users.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: First half of 2001 Official roll-out: Late 2001	Around 13 000 (for the past 12 months)
Hong Kong Trade	hktdc.com	Provides market	In-house	Not available	2000	Around

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
Development Council		intelligence, trade leads, information about business activities etc.	development and developed by contractor through tendering			5 000 000 (This website can be viewed via all mobile devices (including all browsing engines))
Hospital Authority	Hospital Authority Corporate Website (Mobile Mode)	To provide mobile access to a wide range of information on public hospitals and clinics to the members of the public, patients, healthcare staff, community partners, employees and the media, etc.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$80,000 Routine maintenance: \$12,000 per year	Project commencement: May 2009 Official roll-out: March 2010	Not available
Hospital Authority	Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) PWH One Touch (Mobile Mode)	Similar to the above with specific focus on information on PWH.	In-house development	Development: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: \$10,000 per year	Project commencement: December 2011 Official roll-out: June 2012	600
Hospital Authority	North District Hospital (NDH) NDH One Touch (Mobile Mode)	Similar to the above with specific focus on information on NDH.	In-house development	Development: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: \$10,000 per year	Project commencement: April 2012 Official roll-out: October 2012	200
Hospital Authority	Pok Oi Hospital (POH) Internet (Mobile Mode)	Similar to the above with specific focus on information on POH.	In-house development	Development: \$30,000 Routine maintenance: \$10,000 per year	Project commencement: February 2013 Official roll-out: August 2013	2 500
Hospital Authority	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (AHNH) AHNH One Touch (Mobile Mode)	Similar to the above with specific focus on information on AHNH.	In-house development	Development: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: \$10,000 per year	Project commencement: June 2013 Official roll-out: December 2013	Not available
Housing Authority (HA) / Housing Department (HD)	HA / HD Mobile Website	To provide information regarding the policy and plans of the public housing of the HA / HD. The Mobile version is to allow members of the public to access HA / HD information conveniently and speedily via mobile devices.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Routine maintenance: \$450,000 per year (including the desktop and mobile versions and the Web Content Management System).	Project commencement: August 2010 Official roll-out: March 2012	Monthly average no. of page views: 31 669
Independent Commission Against Corruption	Independent Commission Against	To provide information and promote its activities.	Developed by contractor through	<u>Tablet version</u> Development: \$60,000	Tablet version Project commencement:	Tablet version Around 27 800

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
	Corruption Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tablet version • Smartphone version 		tendering	Routine maintenance: \$20,000 per year <u>Smartphone version</u> Routine maintenance: \$20,000 per year	Late 2012 Official roll-out: Late 2013 Smartphone version Project commencement: Late 2010 Official roll-out: Mid-2011	Smartphone version Around 7 700
Information Services Department	news.gov.hk (Mobile Version)	To facilitate citizens to browse the content of news.gov.hk with smartphones or mobile devices.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Developed together with desktop version and no additional expenditures were involved.	Commenced together with the revamp of news.gov.hk in September 2008 Official roll-out: October 2010	Not available
Information Services Department	brandhk.gov.hk (Mobile Version)	To facilitate citizens to browse the content of brandhk.gov.hk with smartphones or mobile devices.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the expenditure of revamping brandhk.gov.hk website.	Project commencement: December 2009 Official roll-out: March 2010	Not available
Inland Revenue Department (IRD)	IRD Website Mobile Version	The public can obtain a wide range of updated information on Hong Kong taxation and IRD through the website. Contents of the mobile version are the same as the desktop version.	Developed by contractor	Development: \$300,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: 1 June 2012 Official roll-out: 14 June 2013	Monthly average no. of page views: Around 400 000(This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Innovation and Technology Commission	InnoCarnival	To introduce and promote InnoCarnival activities and encourage active participation.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$26,000	Project commencement: 1 April 2013 Official roll-out: 17 September 2013	1 918
Invest Hong Kong	Mobile Version	Mobile version of the departmental website.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$45,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 9 January 2013 Official roll-out: 14 June 2013	21 061
Invest Hong Kong	StartmeupHK	Thematic site for developing Hong Kong into a leading hub for	Developed by contractor through	Development: \$34,200	Project commencement: 18 July 2013	877

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
		startups.	tendering	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: 4 November 2013	
Lands Department	GeoMobile Map HK	Content: - Digital base map details and orthomap from LandsD; and - Geospatial information about public and departmental facility data from various government departments. Purpose: - To facilitate the government in the delivery of geospatial information service to the public through mobile platform (web browser on mobile devices); - To allow users to view government maps and to search for community facilities in the surrounding area while they are on the move.	In-house development	Development: \$430,000 Routine maintenance: \$160,000	Project commencement: Late June 2010 Official roll-out: 22 June 2011	120 132
Lands Department	Hong Kong Geodetic Survey	To provide users with mobile platform for browsing geodetic survey information.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: 1 January 2012	20 000
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	Routine maintenance: Included in the operating expense and no separate breakdown is available	Official roll-out: 28 December 2011	Monthly average number of page views: 330
Legal Aid Department	Mobile Version of Means Test Calculator	The Means Test Calculator provides a means for prospective applicants to conduct a preliminary self assessment of their financial eligibility for legal aid before lodging an application.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 31 May 2011 Official roll-out: 20 July 2011	279
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Library Catalogue - Mobile Version	Provides 24-hours library service e.g. searching of library materials and renewal of borrowed items, etc.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: Included in Replacement of the Library Automation System project; as it is not an individual project, no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: January 2010 Official roll-out: December 2011	23 565

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Multimedia Information System (MMIS)	Provides 24-hour usage of digitized content in MMIS.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: Included in the Major Upgrade project of the MMIS; as it is not an individual project, no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: October 2011 Official roll-out: August 2013	2 670
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Hong Kong Archaeological Archive System	A system featuring various archaeological finds in Hong Kong. Photos, artefacts information and interactive 360-degree viewing of selected finds are now made accessible online.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Subsumed in the system implementation project of the Hong Kong Archaeological Archive System; no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: February 2010 Official roll-out: June 2013	28 663 (This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	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 contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Subsumed in the system implementation project of the Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Architectural Information System; no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: October 2003 Official roll-out: March 2008	1 050
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Virtual Heritage Explorer	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 contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Subsumed in the system implementation project of the Virtual Heritage Explorer; no separate breakdown is available.	Project commencement: September 2004 Official roll-out: July 2007	28 560 (This represents the total usage of the website; no separate breakdown for mobile version is available.)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Generic Platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for Monuments (VRS)	Provides the multimedia information of the restoration of King Yin Lei, including videos, animations, photos, computer graphics and games. Citizen can access the system using personal computer, Internet-enabled mobile phone and tablet via the Internet to understand the restoration process and the restored appearance of King Yin Lei.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: Subsumed in the system implementation project of the Generic Platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for Monuments; no separate breakdown is available Routine maintenance: Free warranty up to April 2014	Project commencement: May 2011 Official roll-out: November 2013	219
Marine Department	Marine Department Website (Mobile)	The Website provides information on — - Arrivals and Departures	Developed by contractor through	Routine maintenance: \$70,000 per year	Project commencement: March 2010	1 900

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
	Version)	<p>information for Ocean-going Vessels and Non-Convention Vessels;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ocean-going Vessels Movement Reports; - Port Formality - Permit Verification for Port Clearance and Multiple Entry and Clearance Permit; - Seafarers' Examination Schedule; - Seafarer's Certification Information Verification Services; - Link to Hong Kong to Macau and Hong Kong to Mainland Ferry Services and Marine Department Terminal Enquires; - Maritime Security; and - Enquiry phone numbers for the Department and different divisions. <p>Purpose: The mobile website enables the public to obtain some information of the Marine Department more quickly and conveniently via mobile device.</p>	tendering		Official roll-out: October 2010	
Office of the Communications Authority	Office of the Communications Authority Website	To provide information of the Communications Authority to the public.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority	Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: April 2012	1 294
Office of the Communications Authority	Office of the Communications Authority Website	To provide information of the Office of the Communications Authority to the public.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority	Project commencement: March 2011 Official roll-out: April 2012	2 679
Office of the Communications Authority	Smooth Net Surfing	To provide guidance on mobile Internet services and consumer tips to the public.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Paid by the Trading Fund of the Office of the Communications Authority	Project commencement: January 2010 Official roll-out: April 2010	5 820
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)	Common Chinese Language Interface Website	Promote the adoption of Chinese Standard for facilitating the public in more effective use of Chinese for electronic communications and information handling.	In-house development	Developed and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: Late April 2013 Official roll-out: 30 July 2013	5 983

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
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 and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional expenditures were involved.	Official roll-out: 23 March 2010	520 986
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	InfoCloud mobile version	InfoCloud is established as a one-stop portal for the general public and enterprises (especially the small and medium-sized enterprises) to effectively access information and resources on cloud computing technologies.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the expenditure for InfoCloud website.	Project commencement: 30 October 2012 Official roll-out: 5 March 2013	840
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	MyGovHK Mobile version	Users can access various e-government services and receive information and reminders from various B/Ds through the "MyGovHK" e-service.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Phase 1 development: \$2,450,000	Project commencement: November 2012 Official roll-out of Phase 1: 8 January 2014	No. of logins: 3 384 (from 8 to 31 January 2014)
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer Mobile Version	The mobile version is designed for viewing on mobile devices. Contents of the mobile version are the same as the desktop version.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Included in the expenditure for OGCIO's website.	Project commencement: 1 June 2011 Official roll-out: 18 December 2011	Monthly average no. of page views: 91 903
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	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: February 2011 Official roll-out: August 2011	3 923
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 contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: \$97,000	Project commencement: August 2012 Official roll-out: November 2012	12 442
Radio Television Hong Kong	m.rthk.hk	Content includes live broadcast of six channels, browsing of real time Chinese and English news and listening to news programmes.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Official roll-out: June 2010	Not available
Rating and Valuation Department	RVD Website Mobile version	Enables citizens to browse the website of RVD by mobile device at any time	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: Included in the expenditure of the	Project commencement: 13 December	Monthly average no. of page views:

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
(RVD)		and any place		Rating and Valuation Department website; no separate breakdown is available	2011 Official roll-out: 17 December 2012	43 857
Sha Tin District Office	Sha Tin Arts and Culture Promotion Committee Website	- To introduce the work of Sha Tin Arts and Culture Promotion Committee; - To promote and review activities held by the Committee; - To provide a platform for promoting arts and culture activities in Sha Tin; and - To present the report on Sha Tin Culture Studies Scheme.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$19,700 Routine maintenance: Not applicable	Website Project commencement: December 2013 Official roll-out: December 2013 Mobile website Project commencement: December 2013 Official roll-out: January 2014	Around 550
Trade and Industry Department (TID)	Trade and Industry Department website	The TID Web Portal system is the entry portal of TID to provide trade-related information to the public and the trading community. It also provides e-Services to facilitate authorized users to submit applications online as well as functions to facilitate relevant parties to obtain the necessary information.	In-house development	Development: \$18,000 (Including both desktop and mobile versions) Routine maintenance: \$54,123.88 (The cost is to be shared among all websites of TID except SUCCESS website.)	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 26 February 2013	1 817
Trade and Industry Department	Brand Development and Promotion website	Provides useful information on brand development and promotion, such as funding and various support measures, promotional activities, training opportunities, etc.	In-house development	Development and routine maintenance: Shared the same platform with TID website	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 31 December 2012	495
Trade and Industry Department	Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (Organisation Support Programme) Website	To disseminate information on the BUD Fund (Organisation Support Programme) and to provide public e-enquiry service for the public.	In-house development	Ditto	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 31 December 2012	218
Trade and Industry Department	SME Funding Schemes website	To disseminate information on the four Funding Schemes, namely, SME Loan Guarantee Scheme, Special Loan Guarantee Scheme, SME Development Fund and SME Export Marketing Fund.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$9,000 (including both desktop and mobile versions; shared the same platform with TID website) Routine maintenance: Shared the same	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 28 March 2013	1 290

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
				platform with TID website		
Trade and Industry Department	Fashion Website	Provides the public with market information on the fashion industry including support services available and industry news etc. The website also provides a platform for the industry to offer attachment and internship opportunities to fashion students.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Shared the same platform with TID website	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 25 February 2013	522
Trade and Industry Department	Strategic Commodities Control System website	To provide information about Hong Kong's strategic trade control system.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$16,800 (Including both desktop and mobile versions) Routine maintenance: \$24,989.25	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 8 April 2013	736
Trade and Industry Department	Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance Website	To provide information about the implementation of the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development and routine maintenance: Shared the same platform with Strategic Commodities Control System website	Project commencement: 8 May 2012 Official roll-out: 4 January 2013	165
Trade and Industry Department	SUCCESS Website	Contains a comprehensive range of business information that are of interest to SMEs, including requirements on government licences and permits.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Development: \$39,000 Routine maintenance: \$8,563	Project commencement: 3 December 2012 Official roll-out: 30 August 2013	480
Transport Department	Hong Kong eTransport	To provide public transport route enquiry service.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Developed and maintained together with desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Project commencement: November 2010 Official roll-out: August 2011	20 000
Transport Department	Hong Kong eRouting	To provide driving route searching service.	Developed by contractor through tendering	Ditto	Project commencement: January 2011 Official roll-out: August 2011	3 000
The Treasury	Payment of Government Bills Mobile Version	To facilitate members of the public to understand and provide links for payment of various Government bills with this mobile version.	In-house development	Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Project commencement: 8 November 2012 Official roll-out: 2 January 2013	Monthly average no. of page views: 1 315
Water Supplies Department	Water Supplies Department	Purpose: Public can browse the common and latest	Developed by contractor	Routine maintenance: Included in the	Project commencement:	Not available

Government Department	Name of Website	Content and Purpose	Mode of Development (in-house development or developed by contractors through tendering)	Expenditure in 2013-14 (including development and routine maintenance) (HKD)	Project commencement and official roll-out date	Usage as at 31 January 2014 (Monthly average number of visits)
	(Mobile Version)	<p>information of this Department via the mobile phone.</p> <p>The Mobile Version includes —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What's New - Temporary Water Suspension Notices and Enquiries - Tender Notices - Press Release - Events - Customer Services - Contact Us 	through tendering	maintenance cost of the whole website; no separate breakdown is available.	<p>10 October 2008</p> <p>Official roll-out: 18 May 2009</p>	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)172****(Question Serial No. 1366)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 12):

Regarding the support for the under-privileged groups on the use of information and communications technology, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Regarding the 7 mobile applications developed for the under-privileged groups under the support of the Administration in 2013-14, please provide the following information:

Applicants	Average number of downloads per month as at 28 February 2014	Total number of downloads as at 28 February 2014
Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service		
SAHK		
The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf		
Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth		
Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service		
Hong Kong Society for the Aged		
Hong Kong Blind Union		

- (b) It is also mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Administration will launch a new round of funding scheme in 2014-15 to support the development of mobile applications for needy groups. What are the specific plan and the expenditure involved?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plan to set a clear and specific indicator on the use of computers and Internet by the under-privileged groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and low-income families, and to increase the utilisation rate of mobile services by the under-privileged groups? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, we supported the development of 7 mobile applications for underprivileged groups. These mobile applications have been launched since November and December 2013. As at February 2014, the number of downloads of these mobile applications is as follows :

Applicant	Target group	Average number of downloads per month as at 28 February 2014	Total number of downloads as at 28 February 2014
Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service	Children with cognitive disabilities	143	428
SAHK	Children with autism spectrum disorder	972	2 917
Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	Children with hearing impairment	116	348
Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	Physically handicapped persons	396	1 189
Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	Ethnic minorities	143	430
Hong Kong Society for the Aged	Elderly	186	557
Hong Kong Blind Union	Visually impaired persons	183	550

- (b) In 2014-15, we will launch a new round of the support scheme. The open Invitation of Proposals closed on 10 March. We aim to select projects for funding support in May for the funded non-profit organisations to complete the development work by early 2015. The estimated expenditure involved is around \$3 million, similar to that in the previous year.
- (c) Through a wide range of digital inclusion measures, we hope to encourage and help the underprivileged to enjoy the benefits brought about by information and communication technologies to enhance their quality of life and integrate into the society. We have set the following targets for the 3 priority groups, namely the elderly, persons with disabilities and students from low-income families:

Target Group	Targets
Students from low-income families	Access to Internet at home among students from low-income families is on par with students in the mainstream community
Elderly	At least 25% of the elderly have used computer
Persons with disabilities	At least half of the top 50 non-government websites that are most frequently visited by persons with disabilities have incorporated key web accessibility features

In 2014-15, the estimated total expenditure for various digital inclusion initiatives is about \$40 million, of which \$31 million will be used for implementing the Internet Learning Support Programme. The required manpower will be deployed from existing resources and no additional headcounts are needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)173

(Question Serial No. 1367)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

Regarding the promotion of the Web Accessibility Campaign, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Regarding the 14 bureaux/departments (B/Ds) that had yet to make their websites conform to the Level AA standard of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 last year, what is their current progress? What is the number of B/Ds' websites that still have not conformed to the standard?
- (b) The new round of the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme will be extended to mobile applications. What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) As at March 2014, over 90% of government websites conform to the Level AA standard of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0. The remaining 45 websites of 10 bureaux/departments will achieve conformance in 2014 and 2015 to tie in with the progress of their website redevelopment. Although these websites have yet to conform to the latest web accessibility standard, they have already incorporated key web accessibility features to facilitate access to website content by all users, including persons with disabilities.
- (b) The total expenditure of the second round of the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme was around \$3.4 million, of which \$2.7 million was used for providing free accessibility assessment and advisory services to the participating organisations and conducting workshops for website administrators. The remaining \$0.7 million was used for publicity and promotional activities. The manpower for implementing the scheme was deployed internally from existing resources. No additional headcount was required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)174

(Question Serial No. 1369)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

It is mentioned in paragraph 101 of the Budget Speech that the Government will promote cloud computing applications among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and provide them with relevant training. What are the specific details as well as the manpower and expenditure required? Does the Administration have any plan to conduct thematic study on the adoption of information technology solutions by SMEs so as to understand the needs of SMEs and provide them with appropriate support?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services. The required staffing will be absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources is required. We are now formulating the detailed arrangements and performance indicators for the Campaign.

We regularly conduct survey to understand the use of information technology (IT) in various business sectors (including SMEs) in order to devise appropriate measures to facilitate IT adoption among SMEs. In late 2012, we commissioned the Hong Kong Productivity Council to conduct a study on the use of cloud computing among SMEs. In view of the study finding that SMEs lack understanding and have concerns on cloud computing, we plan to launch the above Campaign to address these issues.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)175

(Question Serial No. 1370)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

Regarding the facilitation of high-tier data centre development, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of cases involving the conversion of existing industrial buildings or the changing of land use of industrial lots for data centre development in 2013-14?
- (b) What are the specific work as well as the manpower and expenditure required for facilitating high-tier data centre development in Hong Kong in 2014-15?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plan to make available more sites designated for high-tier data centre development to attract investments from local or overseas enterprises? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved?
- (d) Does the Administration have any plan to conduct again a consultancy study on the facilitation of high-tier data centre development in Hong Kong to review the effectiveness of the current policy? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, the Government received a total of 3 applications for converting industrial buildings into data centres, and all of them were approved. In the same period, the Government received a total of 2 applications for developing data centres on industrial lots, which are being processed.
- (b) In July 2011, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) to provide one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU also works with relevant government departments to explore and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. In 2014-15, DCFU will continue its work in facilitating the development of high-tier data centres in Hong Kong. There will be 3 staff members in DCFU, incurring an estimated expenditure of around \$1.63 million.
- (c) The Government plans to make available the second site in Tseung Kwan O for data centre use, and relevant government departments are working together on the preparatory work, including application to the Town Planning Board for change of land use for the site. The target is to make available the site for sale by public tender in the second half of 2015. The expenditure involved is around \$1.29 million, which will be used for engaging a consultant to conduct a planning study on the change of land use.
- (d) With reference to the recommendations made in the consultancy report in 2011, the Government introduced 2 incentive measures in June 2012 to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. The first site for data centre use was sold in October 2013, and the Government is now planning to make available the second site for sale by public tender. Moreover, in July 2011, OGCIO established the DCFU to provide one-stop support services to

organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU also works with relevant government departments to devise and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. Response to these policies and measures are positive. At present, many renowned multinational data centres, such as NTT, Global Switch, Pacnet, China Mobile, DRT/SAVVIS, etc. have already set up their data centres in Hong Kong. From time to time, DCFU receives enquiries from global enterprises requesting assistance in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. On the other hand, we receive positive response from the market on the 2 incentive measures of encouraging the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. This reflects that the market has a strong demand for setting up data centres in Hong Kong. We will continue to implement these existing measures. At this stage, we have no plan for conducting another consultancy study.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)176

(Question Serial No. 1371)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 18):

Does the Administration have any plan to enhance support for local small and medium sized technology enterprises, such as breaking down a large-scale project into multiple small-scale projects, providing small and medium enterprises with more information on government procurement policy and application guidelines, etc.? If it has such a plan and other measures, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Government's procurement policy is to acquire good and services in a best-value-for-money manner through open, fair and competitive processes. Having regard to the Agreement on Government Procurement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO GPA), we have taken pragmatic measures to encourage local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to bid for government tenders. These measures include:

- (a) Breaking a large project down into smaller ones and awarding contracts in phases as far as possible so that SMEs can have more opportunities to participate in government tenders;
- (b) Setting up specific service groups under the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services for B/Ds to acquire IT professional services with contract value not exceeding HK\$1.43 million. About half of the contractors in these service groups are local SMEs;
- (c) Providing government IT project information to IT contractors (including SMEs) regularly through the "Government IT Business Window" and "Quarterly Catalogue of Opportunities for Private Sector Participation" on the websites of the OGCIO and Digital 21 Strategy respectively;
- (d) Facilitating IT contractors (including SMEs) to promote their products and services to B/Ds through the "Suppliers Community" service on the website of the OGCIO; and
- (e) Saving effort and time required by tenderers (including SMEs) to prepare tender submission through the GovProcurement service.

We will continue to actively explore other practical measures to encourage local SMEs to bid for government tenders having regard to WTOGPA.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)177

(Question Serial No. 1372)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 19):

Given there are many serious problems (including exploitation of wages and statutory benefits for employees) arising from a number of contracts (T-contracts) signed between the information technology contract staff within the Government and the contractors, will the Administration plan to review the standing offer agreements for T-contractors and examine the formulation of guidelines on the conditions of employment according to service/operational needs so as to enhance the treatment for T-contract staff?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

It is stipulated in the T-contracts that the contractors shall comply with the employment laws of Hong Kong. As responsible employers, the contractors should not include unreasonable terms and conditions in the employment contracts. Moreover, in order to ensure T-contract staff are given due employment protection and fair treatment by their employers, it is also stipulated in the T-contracts that the contractors shall offer to their employees remuneration packages which are not less favourable than the general level of remuneration packages offered by other employers in similar trade. Although the Government and the contract staff do not have employer-employee relationship, any reports of exploitation, if substantiated, could be regarded as a breach of contract which may lead to termination of the service contract.

The Government has all along monitored the performance of the contractors, evaluated their performance through periodic review meetings, and drawn up and reviewed relevant administrative measures and guidelines as necessary to ensure that the contractors fulfill their contractual obligations.

T-contract staff are professionals equipped with qualified information technology (IT) skills and experience. They have high degree of freedom in the choice of jobs, and may choose IT related jobs in the private sector of different trades, non-government organisations or under T-contracts. If they are interested in T-contract services, they may choose to work for the company they prefer among the existing 12 T-contractors and select a suitable job among different job categories in various government departments. In fact, the flourishing IT market and the pull factors from the private sector have helped ensure that reasonable and competitive remuneration packages are offered to T-contract staff.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)178

(Question Serial No. 1373)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

Regarding the information technology (IT) products and services procured by the Government, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective total values of IT products and services procured by the Government in 2013-14?
- (b) What was the total contract value of the IT projects awarded from January 2013 to February 2014?
- (c) What is the scale of the contractors and sub-contractors under the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services 3?

Contractors

Number of full-time employees	Number of companies
1-30	
31-50	
51-99	
100-200	
Above 200	

Sub-contractors

Number of full-time employees	Number of companies
1-30	
31-50	
51-99	
100-200	
Above 200	

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, the total values of information technology (IT) products and services procured by bureaux/departments through the standing offer agreements administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) are HK\$404 million and HK\$377 million respectively.
- (b) From January 2013 to February 2014, the total contract value of the IT projects awarded through the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services (SOA-QPS) administered by OGCIO is HK\$422 million.
- (c) There are 44 contractors and about 120 sub-contractors under SOA-QPS. The scale of the contractors is as follows:

Number of full-time employees	Number of companies
1-30	4
31-50	6
51-99	7
100-200	7
Above 200	20
Total	44

We do not have information on the scale of the sub-contractors.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)179****(Question Serial No. 1374)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Regarding the International IT Fest (IT Fest), please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the total expenditure and cost breakdown of the first IT Fest? What was the number of participants in each of the various activities of IT Fest? And what was the number of reports on IT Fest covered by local and international media?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure of the second IT Fest? (Please provide a breakdown)

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The total expenditure for organising the inaugural International IT Fest was around HK\$2.12 million, mainly used for publicity and promotion, with breakdown as follows:

- (i) Setting up a thematic website HK\$0.2 million
- (ii) Publicity and promotion HK\$1.92 million

Over 46 000 people participated in the International IT Fest 2013, with details as follows:

	Event	No. of Participants
1	Hong Kong ICT Awards 2013 Awards Presentation Ceremony	810
2	Broadband Asia 2013	750
3	Hong Kong Digital Heroes	80
4	Information Security Seminar	165
5	MoDev Hong Kong 2013	160
6	Smart Elderly Awards Presentation Ceremony	700
7	IT and Infrastructure Seminar	60
8	Startup Weekend HK	86
9	International ICT Expo	30 582
10	IET/MATE Hong Kong Underwater Robot Challenge 2013	210
11	iCity Opening Ceremony and Experience Sharing	110
12	BIP Asia Seminar Series – Latest Development on Software Copyrights	102
13	Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme Awards Presentation Ceremony	230
14	China Outstanding Software Product Awards - Hong Kong Region Presentation Ceremony	85
15	Seminar on Market Analysis for Social Media	107
16	HK-GD Cloud Industry Collaboration Forum	200
17	Hong Kong Internet of Things Symposium	306
18	Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum 2013	426

	Event	No. of Participants
19	ISACA China HK Chapter Annual Conference	80
20	Silicon Dragon Hong Kong 2013	257
21	“Top 10 .hk Website Competition” Award Presentation Ceremony	90
22	2013 Worldwide Cyber-security Landscape Forum	139
23	SME ICT & Cloud Experience Day	201
24	Seminar on Free and Open Source Software in Hong Kong	85
25	Launch of Mobility Experience Centre cum Exhibition	9 983
	Total	46 004

IT Fest 2013 was widely covered by different local and international media, including newspapers, magazines, websites, radios, etc., but we do not have the exact quantification.

- (b) The estimated expenditure for the second International IT Fest is around HK\$3 million, mainly used for publicity and promotion as well as organising IT exploration tours for students, with breakdown as follows:

(i)	Setting up a dedicated website	HK\$0.29 million
(ii)	Publicity and promotion	HK\$2.48 million
(iii)	IT exploration tours for secondary students	HK\$0.23 million

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)180

(Question Serial No. 1375)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 22):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that the Administration will “step up publicity about the contribution made by IT to our society and economy to enhance the profession’s image”. What are the specific content, timetable, manpower and estimated provision of the relevant publicity work?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is committed to fostering closer academia-industry collaboration, implementing measures to enhance public understanding of the contributions of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry to social and economic development, and projecting the professional image of ICT practitioners. For example, we organised the “iCity Project” and produced the TV programme 《今日 iCity》 in 2013, and worked with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a 7-episode TV series, entitled “IT Champions”, which was broadcast on the “RTHK TV 31” channel and the Internet from January to February 2014. The total expenditures for the “iCity Project” and the TV programme 《今日 iCity》 were HK\$1 million whereas the production cost of “IT Champions” was HK\$5 million.

In addition, we have been organising the “Hong Kong ICT Awards” every year since 2006 to recognise and promote outstanding ICT inventions and solutions as well as the ICT talents behind such remarkable achievements, with an aim of encouraging continuous pursuit for innovation and excellence by the local ICT industry.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)181

(Question Serial No. 1383)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 14):

It is mentioned in paragraph 61 of the Budget Speech that the Government will soon launch an interactive portal for startups to promote their inventions and innovations. What are the manpower and expenditure required for developing that portal? What is the targeted number of portal visitors? How much resources will be earmarked by the Administration for promotion and routine maintenance?

Does the Administration have any plan to earmark manpower and resources for attracting private equity funds, venture capital funds and angel investors to invest in startups? If yes, what are the work plan and timetable as well as the manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched an interactive portal known as iStartup@HK on 3 March 2014. Apart from providing practical information, the portal also serves as an online networking platform for tech startups to promote their companies and products, giving them an additional channel for reaching out to investors and other business partners. This facilitates them to attract investment funding and seek other kinds of support.

The development of the portal was outsourced to a contractor at a cost of around \$250,000. The routine maintenance cost is estimated to be \$20,000 per annum. We are now promoting the newly launched portal, and will further enrich its content and functionalities taking into account users' feedback. We have yet to set a usage target for the portal at this stage.

We assist startups in attracting investment funding mainly through the multifarious entrepreneurship events organised by Cyberport and Science Park. The Government renders full support as a facilitator and advocate on this front. The manpower involved will be absorbed by existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)182

(Question Serial No. 1395)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 47):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that the Administration will incorporate enrichment programmes in secondary schools which are outstanding in information technology education. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the specific content, timetable, manpower and estimated provision for the plan?
- (b) What are the criteria for selecting secondary schools to join the plan? What are the specific content of the programmes and the targeted number of participating students?
- (c) Will the Administration consider increasing the quota for secondary schools to join the programmes if the response is overwhelming? If yes, what are the details and expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

We are formulating the implementation details for the Enriched IT Class Programme, including mode of operation, class arrangement and curriculum content, criteria for selecting participating schools and resources required, etc. We plan to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submit funding proposal to LegCo later this year, with a view to openly inviting all secondary schools to submit proposals by the end of this year. We hope to kick off the Enriched IT Class Programme in the 2015/2016 school year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)183

(Question Serial No. 1396)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 48):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that the Administration will “seek closer collaboration with tertiary institutions and the industry to bring IT education more in line with the needs of the industry”. What are the specific content, timetable, manpower and estimated provision for the relevant measures? How will the Administration consult the industry on these measures?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

We participate actively in various advisory committees on information technology (IT)-related programmes of tertiary institutions to reflect the needs of the industry, so that these institutions can refine their curricula correspondingly. We have also from time to time conducted meetings, seminars and workshops with tertiary institutions and IT professional bodies to jointly explore and examine ways to achieve sustainable development of IT manpower in Hong Kong. For instances, we organised an “IT Manpower Workshop” in December 2012 and held a discussion session with the IT departments of tertiary institutions and continuing education institutions in September 2013.

The required staffing for formulating and implementing measures on IT manpower development will be absorbed through internal redeployment of resources. We will consult the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee, the Task Force on Industry Facilitation, industry organisations and tertiary institutions on manpower development issues.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)184****(Question Serial No. 6211)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 184):

Regarding the expenditure on the procurement of computer software and hardware by government departments, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Government developed standardised internal guidelines on procurement for all departments setting out the criteria for procuring or renewing computer software and hardware? If yes, what are the details? Are government departments required to renew their computer software and hardware in a timely manner according to the guidelines?
- (b) Given that Microsoft, a computer software and hardware provider, will terminate support services for its Windows XP operating system, please provide information on the respective numbers of computers that are using (i) Microsoft Windows XP operating system; (ii) other operating systems launched before 2001 by Microsoft; (iii) other operating systems (please state the version) in government departments, the respective percentages of the numbers of computers of the above 3 types against the total number of computers in government departments. Do government departments have any plan to renew the outdated version of the above operating systems?
- (c) What are the expenditure and criteria for procuring different kinds of tablet computers by government departments? What are the models and work purposes of these tablet computers? Is there any confidential information stored in these tablet computers? If yes, what are the details? Are the tablet computers used by government departments installed with information security software? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) According to the prevailing government guidelines, bureaux and departments (B/Ds) are required each year to formulate information technology (IT) project portfolio for the next 3 years and plan for the related IT projects so as to ensure these IT projects can practically and effectively meet the business needs and operational arrangements of the related B/Ds. With regard to the planning for IT replacement projects, B/Ds are required to examine and assess various potential risks and devise associated mitigation measures. From the technology perspective, the potential risks that should be taken into consideration include product compatibility, maintenance and support, replacement products for ensuring continuity and availability of market supply. In procuring or replacing computer hardware and software, B/Ds must follow the government procurement guidelines to make the most cost-effective purchase through open and fair competition, and take into account the importance and priority of the IT projects.
- (b) As of the end of March 2014, the number of computers using Microsoft Windows operating system in B/Ds is about 165 000, among which about $\frac{2}{3}$ is using Windows 7 or Windows 8, $\frac{1}{3}$ is using Windows XP, and $\frac{1}{100}$ is using other operating systems launched before 2001 by Microsoft.

B/Ds have all along been upgrading the obsolete operating system of their computers based on their business and operational needs. Given that Microsoft will terminate support services for the Windows XP operating system on 8 April 2014, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has earlier issued practical guidelines urging B/Ds to upgrade the operating system of their computers using Windows XP. In case the upgrade cannot be completed in time, B/Ds are required to implement appropriate IT security measures to strengthen the protection on the system, data, application and network, and devise corresponding contingency plan. B/Ds will complete the operating system upgrade or necessary security protection measures before the end-of-support date.

- (c) In 2013-14, the total value of tablet computers, including different operating platforms of Apple, Android and Windows, procured by B/Ds through the standing offer agreements administered by the OGCIO is about HK\$920,000. B/Ds can also procure the related items directly from the market according to their needs.

The tablet computers procured by B/Ds are mainly used to support and improve their internal operations including sending and receiving emails, short message service, calendaring and Internet browsing. In procuring or replacing tablet computers, B/Ds must follow the government procurement guidelines to make the most cost-effective purchase through open and fair competition.

In general, B/Ds will not store confidential information in their mobile devices (including tablet computers). If there is such an operational arrangement, the B/D must strictly follow the requirements of the Security Regulations, including applying encryption on confidential information during transmission and storage, and storing the encryption key and the mobile device separately. Where necessary, B/Ds will deploy mobile device management solutions and take appropriate security measures, such as enabling the password lock on mobile devices, wiping device data after a specific number of failed login attempts, and enabling the anti-virus and malicious code detection and repair engine. The expenditures for installing information security software in tablet computers are normally included in the procurement and maintenance costs. We do not have the breakdown on such expenditures.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)185****(Question Serial No. 2973)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 12):

Please provide information on the financial resources, working hours, manpower, grades and ranks of the civil servants involved for the formulation of the past and current Digital 21 Strategies.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The Government published the first Digital 21 Strategy (the Strategy) in 1998, and has since updated it thrice in 2001, 2004 and 2008. We have recently updated the Strategy for the fourth time. After completing the public consultation on the new Strategy at the end of 2013, we are now finalising the Strategy taking into consideration the comments received. We aim at promulgating the new Strategy by mid-2014. For the formulation and review of the Strategy in 1998, 2001 and 2014, we had commissioned a consultant on each occasion for the preparation of a detailed report with recommendations for the new version of the Strategy. As regards the 2008 Strategy, the consultant was only responsible for organising brainstorming sessions, facilitating discussions and preparing a summary on the views collected during the sessions. The expenditures for the formulation and review of various versions of the Strategy are as follows -

Digital 21 Strategy	Expenditure for Commissioning Consultancy
1998	Around \$3.28 million
2001	Around \$1.79 million
2004	Not applicable*
2008	Around \$170,000
2014	Around \$1.2 million

* The review of the 2004 Strategy did not involve external consultant.

Since the formulation and review of the Strategy is one of the priority tasks of the Office of the Government Chief information Officer, officers of various grades and ranks in the department were involved. Breakdown on the resources involved is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)186****(Question Serial No. 2974)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

What were the financial resources, working hours and manpower involved for providing Wi-Fi services at public places by the Government so far? Did the Government collaborate with private organisations in this regard? If yes, please provide information on its partner organisations, cost and specific collaboration details. If no, please explain why. Telecommunications operators may need to make use of government facilities (such as lampposts at public places, etc.) to set up Wi-Fi network in public space. What is the current number of Wi-Fi hotspots that are provided by mobile operators through this approach? What policies and supporting measures are implemented by the Government for this? Since when did the Government implement these policies and measures? What were the details as well as the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

The Government Wi-Fi Programme (*GovWiFi*) has installed 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots at 444 government premises for free use by citizens and visitors. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a total funding of \$286 million in 2007 and 2011 for the provision of *GovWiFi* service for 10 years up to 2017. As at February 2014, the total expenditure of *GovWiFi* was around \$212 million. In establishing the *GovWiFi* service, the Government has taken up the programme coordination, management and support of the service, as well as arranged hotspots and network setup, site preparation work, installation, daily operation and maintenance, security management, content filtering service, monthly Internet access service at the premises, 24-hour network monitoring and helpdesk hotline service, etc. The non-recurrent manpower for the *GovWiFi* service is 90 man-months. The recurrent manpower for daily operation including programme coordination and management is about 18 man-months each year. The *GovWiFi* service was outsourced to contractors through open tenders. Two contracts were awarded for the whole programme. The first contract was awarded to PCCW-HKT Network Services Ltd with a contract period of 5 years from December 2007 to December 2012, and with a contract value of around \$110 million. The second contract was awarded to Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited with the same contract period of 5 years from December 2012 to December 2017, and with a contract value of around \$97.7 million.

To facilitate operators' roll-out of Wi-Fi networks, the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (now the Office of the Communications Authority, hereinafter referred to as "OFCA") revised the "Guidance Note for Submission of Application for Installing Micro-cell Base Station on Highway Facilities or on Unleased and Unallocated Government Land" in March 2007. As a result of this revision, operators may apply for use of government facilities such as lamp posts and other highway facilities for installation of Wi-Fi equipment. The Guidance Note sets out in detail the procedure, requirements and coordination arrangements of relevant government departments concerning the installation of micro-cell base stations at the said locations to facilitate the submission of applications by operators. To assist the industry in resolving the technical and related problems of installing Wi-Fi equipment on lamp posts, OFCA and the Highways Department ("HyD") have since early 2013 conducted meetings with the operators regularly to review and streamline the approval process and installation requirements, so as to facilitate the operators to make use of

lamp posts for the installation of Wi-Fi equipment. To assist operators with the selection of suitable lamp posts, the HyD has provided the operators with a list of pre-approved lamp posts for their reference. The list contains information such as locations, capacity to support the weight of extra equipment, wind exposure areas and heights of lamp posts. Besides, the operators can, according to their needs, submit additional information to HyD to apply for using other lamp posts for installation of Wi-Fi equipment. The operators are coordinating among themselves to work out a standardised design for installing their Wi-Fi equipment as well as suggestions for field tests, and will submit the design and suggestions to OFCA and HyD for approval. The manpower and resources involved in the above-mentioned work of OFCA will be met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)187

(Question Serial No. 2975)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 14):

Please provide details on the current development of the Internet of Things, sensors and big data analytics in Hong Kong. How will the Government facilitate the development of the above 3 aspects? How much financial resources and manpower have been allocated by the Government for these 3 aspects so far?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

In Hong Kong, sensor technology is already adopted in various fields, including warehouse management, luggage handling, trade, logistics and livestock control, etc. For instance, the Hong Kong International Airport has been using RFID (radio frequency identification) tags since 2012 to handle 70 000 baggage from more than 60 airlines a day, the largest scale in the world. Transport Department has also installed sensors at some selected locations to collect real-time traffic data. As these initiatives are implemented by individual departments, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) does not have information on the financial resources and manpower involved.

Looking ahead, we propose in the new Digital 21 Strategy to establish a smarter city infrastructure by leveraging on the Internet of Things technology and explore the use of big data to provide better public services. In addition, we propose government departments to deploy sensors and share data, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of municipal management and making public services even more convenient. OGCIO is now drawing up plans and will report progress to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)188

(Question Serial No. 2982)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 15):

Please provide details on the development of digital identity certificates in Hong Kong, including the usage rate among enterprises and the public as well as the cost of the provision of digital identity certificates. How will the Government facilitate the development of digital identity certificates? How much financial resources and manpower have been allocated by the Government for the development of digital identity certificates?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap.553), the Postmaster General is a public certification authority who can issue digital certificates to individuals and organisations for the conduct of legally binding electronic transactions that require identity authentication. Apart from the Postmaster General, Digi-Sign Certification Services Limited is also a recognised certification authority that can issue digital certificates. As both recognised certification authorities operate their digital certificate services on a commercial basis, details of usage and business operation cannot be disclosed.

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)189

(Question Serial No. 2992)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Please provide details on the existing computer systems used by government bureaux and departments, including the brand names, standards and specifications of operating systems, word processing software and servers; the upgrading/replacement plan and timetable; and the costs of procurement, maintenance and management.

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

At present, government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) are running more than 1 500 computer systems to support their office automation, internal operation and provision of public services. As over 5 000 different brand names of hardware and software items are involved in the operating systems, office automation software and servers used by these computer systems, we are unable to provide an exhaustive list here. Notwithstanding this, these hardware and software items must comply with the standards and specifications set out in the Government's Interoperability Framework, such as the adoption of extensible markup language for data exchange, format of graphic/image files, specifications for emails transmission and files compression, transmission protocol for Local Area Network (LAN)/ Wide Area Network, and specifications for Internet Protocol network-level security and wireless LAN security, etc.

B/Ds will review their computer systems regularly and formulate the corresponding upgrading/replacement plan and related timetable as necessary. If needed, they will submit funding application to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council or the Administrative Computer Projects Committee of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) for carrying out the related upgrading/replacement project.

In 2013-14, the total value of information technology (IT) products and services purchased by B/Ds through the standing offer agreements administered by OGCIO amounted to HK\$781 million. These IT products and services were used for upgrading/replacing the components of their existing computer systems or implementing new computer systems. B/Ds can also procure IT products and services through open tender or direct purchase (if applicable) in accordance with the government procurement regulations.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)190

(Question Serial No. 2993)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

What are the number and value of government procurement items under information technology category in the past year? How many of these items were undertaken by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and what was the value of these items? What measures does the Government have to enhance government's adoption of SMEs' technology deliverables? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

In 2013-14, the number of procurement items on information technology (IT) products and services arranged by bureaux/departments (B/Ds) through the standing offer agreements administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is 5 861 with total value of HK\$781 million. Of these items, 321 of them were undertaken by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with total value of HK\$46 million. B/Ds can also procure the required items through open tender or direct purchase according to their needs. We have taken the following measures to encourage local SMEs to bid for government tenders so as to increase the opportunities for the adoption of their technology deliverables by the Government:

- (a) Breaking a large project down into smaller ones and awarding contracts in phases as far as possible so that SMEs can have more opportunities to participate in government tenders;
- (b) Setting up specific service groups under the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services for B/Ds to acquire IT professional services with contract value not exceeding HK\$1.43 million. About half of the contractors in these service groups are local SMEs;
- (c) Providing government IT project information to IT contractors (including SMEs) regularly through the "Government IT Business Window" and "Quarterly Catalogue of Opportunities for Private Sector Participation" on the websites of the OGCIO and Digital 21 Strategy respectively;
- (d) Facilitating IT contractors (including SMEs) to promote their products and services to B/Ds through the "Suppliers Community" service on the website of the OGCIO; and
- (e) Saving effort and time required by tenderers (including SMEs) to prepare tender submission through the GovProcurement service.

The OGCIO redeployed internal resources to meet the manpower and expenditure requirement for taking up the above measures.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)191

(Question Serial No. 2994)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Which government departments and relevant public organisations are currently responsible for ensuring the information security of the Government, enterprises and community? What security policies and measures are adopted? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Information security is an issue concerning the whole community. The Government, public organisations, enterprises and the general public all need to stay vigilant. In the Government, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Security Bureau have formulated comprehensive security regulations, policies and guidelines on information security for compliance by bureaux and departments (B/Ds). B/Ds should implement appropriate measures according to the requirements of the information technology (IT) security policies and their own business needs to protect their systems from security threats and network attacks. They are also required to conduct regular security risk assessments, audits and testing to ensure that government computer systems and networks are secure and reliable. For information security of critical infrastructures, the Hong Kong Police Force established the "Cyber Security Centre" in 2012 to strengthen communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and to undertake thematic research and perform network security audits to prevent and address more effectively possible cyber attacks. In the community, OGCIO collaborates with Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT) to provide the latest information security news and alerts, organise information security seminars and offer professional advice for public organisations, enterprises and the general public. OGCIO will also coordinate with the relevant parties to handle security incidents when necessary.

Information security is a mandatory requirement for all government information systems. B/Ds are required to comply with the government information security regulations and policies. All systems and networks must take appropriate security measures, including deploying advanced information security technology and implementing stringent security control, monitoring, detection and response procedures, in order to ensure normal operation of systems and prevent network attacks and intrusions. We have also published the government information security policies and guidelines for reference by public organisations, enterprises and the general public, so that they can take appropriate measures to protect their computer systems. OGCIO also collaborates with the Hong Kong Police Force and HKCERT to raise the awareness and knowledge of enterprises and the general public on information security, and organise promotional activities to publicise and promote the importance of protecting computer systems and network security to enterprises and the general public.

To ensure the security and reliability of government computer systems and networks, B/Ds install firewalls, anti-virus software as well as intrusion detection and prevention systems at Internet gateways to protect critical systems from security threats; and conduct regular security risk assessments, audits and testing. In general, the expenditure of these items has been included in the development and maintenance costs of the relevant systems. Hence, we do not have a separate breakdown for expenditure on information security.

With regard to manpower resources, there is an IT security team comprised of 9 OGCIO staff responsible for handling and coordinating the overall information security activities within the Government, and coordinating information security awareness and educational activities for both the Government and the community. The annual expenditure is about \$6.05 million. B/Ds will deploy their staff resources (such as appointing a staff member as the Departmental IT Security Officer) to handle their internal IT security matters. In 2014-15, OGCIO will collaborate with HKCERT to provide services on computer security incident responses, issue security threat alerts and organise educational activities for local enterprises, public organisations and the general public, by providing a funding support of about \$10 million to the Hong Kong Productivity Council for delivering the services. OGCIO has also earmarked about \$3 million to strengthen the educational activities on information and network security for enterprises and the general public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)192****(Question Serial No. 2995)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Has the Government used any existing financial resources and manpower to examine the specific situation of cloud computing businesses in Hong Kong? If yes, please provide details on the current total numbers of enterprises, small and medium enterprises as well as practitioners of the local cloud computing industry, output of the industry and its percentage share of the gross domestic product, brief description of the international competitiveness of the industry, the supporting measures taken by the Government for the industry, the financial resources and manpower required for the implementation of these supporting measures. Furthermore, what are the specific policies and measures taken by the Government to facilitate the development of data centre businesses in Hong Kong? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Cloud computing is an agile service model that provides on-demand information technology (IT) resources anytime and anywhere. It is adopted by IT service providers to provide solutions and services. Since cloud computing is only one of the various service models, service providers also offer other types of products and services apart from cloud computing services. The Government does not have specific statistical information on the cloud computing industry.

The Government, in collaboration with the industry and other stakeholders, promotes the development of cloud computing in Hong Kong through various means. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has developed a cloud platform and adopted cloud computing services. In December 2013, OGCIO launched the GovCloud and took the lead to adopt cloud computing for the provision of public services. We will invest over HK\$240 million in the next few years to continue the development of this platform to support more common e-government services.

To promote wider adoption of cloud computing services and technology in the community, we established the "Expert Group on Cloud Computing Services and Standards" in 2012, and compiled a "Practice Guide for Procuring Cloud Services" for reference by cloud computing service providers and users. In collaboration with the industry, academia and professional bodies, we will continue to organise technology collaboration and exchange as well as training and promotional activities to showcase successful use cases, and to drive the adoption of cloud service assessment or certification programmes by the industry, so as to raise awareness and confidence in using cloud services among enterprises, enhance service transparency and quality, and foster the development of cloud service industry. In 2014-15, we have earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises to adopt cloud computing services. The manpower required for these measures will be absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources will be required.

With regard to data centre development, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to facilitate the setting up of more high-tier data centres in Hong Kong. These measures include:

- (a) Providing land for data centre use: The Government plans to make available the second site in Tseung Kwan O for data centre use. We are working with relevant government departments on the preparations, including application to the Town Planning Board for change of land use for the site. The target is to make available the site for sale by public tender in the second half of 2015.
- (b) Encouraging the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centres: Since the launch of the 2 measures in June 2012 to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for high-tier data centre development, response from the industry is positive. We will continue to promote these 2 measures to encourage the industry to use existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development.
- (c) Providing one-stop support services: The Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) will continue to provide one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU will also work with relevant government departments to devise and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. Together with the Invest Hong Kong, DCFU will continue to promote to overseas and Mainland organisations that Hong Kong is the prime location for setting up data centres in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2014-15, the total estimated expenditure for facilitating the setting up of high-tier data centres is around HK\$2.92 million, among which HK\$1.63 million will be the staff cost for maintaining the day-to-day operation of DCFU and HK\$1.29 million will be used for conducting a planning study on the second data centre site in Tseung Kwan O.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)193****(Question Serial No. 5498)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 56):

The Financial Secretary stated that the number of Wi-Fi hotspots will be doubled to 20,000 by the end of this year. In this regard, will the Administration advise :

- details and schedule of installing about 10,000 new Wi-Fi hotspots; coverage as well as location of the these Wi-Fi hotspots broken down by District Council district;
- criteria of determining the location of these new Wi-Fi hotspots; whether it had estimated the average daily number of users for these new Wi-Fi hotspots; and
- whether it will enhance the privacy, stability of connection & data transmission speed of these new Wi-Fi hotspots ?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- To further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, the Government suggested in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) service to more government premises. It is expected that the number of GovWiFi hotspots will be increased from the current 2 506 to 2 700 by the end of 2014. The distribution of the existing 2 506 GovWiFi hotspots by districts is as follows:

District	No. of hotspots
Hong Kong	
Central and Western District	251
Eastern District	220
Southern District	95
Wan Chai District	263
Kowloon	
Kowloon City District	142
Yau Tsim Mong District	274
Sham Shui Po District	153
Wong Tai Sin District	98
Kwun Tong District	121
New Territories	
Tai Po District	74
Yuen Long District	150

District	No. of hotspots
Tuen Mun District	76
North District	78
Sai Kung District	155
Sha Tin District	98
Kwai Tsing District	82
Tsuen Wan District	131
Islands District	45
Total	2 506

The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. With the concerted efforts of service providers, private sector and the Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 18 districts covering government premises under the *GovWiFi* Programme and public areas, such as libraries, parks, museums, sports venues, public enquiry service centres, job centres, community halls, cooked food centres and markets, tourists spots, major transportation facilities (e.g. airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries), various coffee shops, restaurants and shopping centres, etc. The public and visitors can now use Wi-Fi services that are completely free or time-limited free of charge through some 10 000 hotspots at more than 5 400 locations. The Government will also continue to facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free public Wi-Fi services at their facilities. Besides, to facilitate the public and visitors to access free public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. With the concerted efforts of the Government and the industry, it is anticipated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots providing completely free or time-limited free of charge service will be doubled to 20 000 by 2014.

- (b) The main objective of the *GovWiFi* Programme is to provide free Wi-Fi services at government premises with high public patronage. To serve more citizens, one of our major considerations for selecting premises is the number of visitors. For certain types of premises including public libraries, public enquiry service centres of District Offices and job centres, they usually have higher patronage and can also serve as an additional channel for the delivery of e-government services due to their business nature. All these premises are fully covered by the Programme. In selecting other types of premises, apart from considering the number of daily visitors (no less than 300 and 5 000 daily visitors for indoor and outdoor premises respectively), we will also consider whether the premises can help promote Hong Kong's image and facilitate the delivery of e-government services by bureaux and departments. When adding new *GovWiFi* premises, we will consider its patronage and service demand, and accord priority to install Wi-Fi hotspots at locations which are convenient to public access with higher patronage. We will also monitor the usage of *GovWiFi* service and make adjustment as and when necessary, such as adjusting the overall bandwidth of the premises, to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the service facilities.
- (c) To reduce the security risks of using the *GovWiFi* service by the public, a number of security measures have been implemented including firewall system, peer-to-peer blocking, provision of encrypted channel and periodic security risk assessment and audit. Besides, we have taken a series of measures to enhance the *GovWiFi* service quality, including:
- (i) conducted thorough on-site service checks at all *GovWiFi* premises to ensure service quality and connectivity within hotspot coverage areas;
 - (ii) increased the bandwidth limit for each *GovWiFi* service user (from the previous 1 to 2 Mbps to a maximum of around 3 Mbps) starting from October 2013, and increased the transmission speed by suitably adjusting the overall bandwidth of individual premises based on service usage;
 - (iii) set up the *GovWiFi* Maintenance Board with members from major participating bureaux and departments to manage the development and maintenance of the *GovWiFi* service as well as monitor the service quality and the performance of the contractors. Under the supervision of the Maintenance Board, we perform monthly sample checks at *GovWiFi* premises to monitor the service performance, including transmission speed and connection stability; and

- (iv) convene service management meetings with the contractors on a regular basis to review the service level, and conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the *GovWiFi* service performance.

To ensure service quality, these measures also apply to all newly installed *GovWiFi* hotspots. Besides, through the common Wi-Fi branding, we will work with the participating organisations and industry associations to draw up the related service requirements for the provision of free public Wi-Fi hotspots, including connection stability, data transmission speed and privacy protection, with a view to providing quality Wi-Fi service to the public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)194

(Question Serial No. 5501)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 59):

Enrichment programmes are planned to be rolled out in secondary schools which are outstanding in IT education. In this connection, please provide details of the programmes, manpower deployed to launch the programmes, requirements to school for incorporating the programmes as well as the schedule for reviewing the programmes; whether the Administration will expand the scale of the programmes after review?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

We are formulating the implementation details for the Enriched IT Class Programme, including mode of operation, class arrangement and curriculum content, criteria for selecting participating schools and resources required, etc. We will consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submit funding proposal to LegCo later this year, with a view to openly inviting all secondary schools to submit proposals by the end of this year. We hope to kick off the Enriched IT Class Programme in 2015/2016 school year. We will review the Programme two to three years after its operation to chart out the way forward.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)195

(Question Serial No. 1662)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 37):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48(a) of the Budget Speech that the Administration will promote city-wide Wi-Fi for all through public-private partnership. What are the details? What is the expenditure involved? What is the existing ratio between Wi-Fi hotspots with complete free public access and those with time-limited free public access? And what are the estimated ratios between Wi-Fi hotspots with complete free public access and those with time-limited free public access in the next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

To further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, the Government proposed in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free Government Wi-Fi (GovWi-Fi) service to more government premises. At the same time, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. We have reserved \$1.3 million for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding. We have invited relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding, including arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand, developing a web site and mobile application as well as conducting related promotion activities. Besides, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities.

Currently, about half of the public Wi-Fi hotspots provided by service operators as well as the public and private organisations are offering services with free or time-limited free access, among which about $\frac{1}{3}$ (including 2 506 free GovWi-Fi hotspots) are completely free of charge. With the concerted efforts of the industry and the Government, it is estimated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots providing completely free or time-limited free of charge services will be doubled from the current 10 000 to 20 000 by 2014. As the public Wi-Fi hotspots are mainly provided by service operators and private organisations, the ratio between Wi-Fi hotspots with completely free public access and those with time-limited free public access will hinge on the public Wi-Fi development plans of relevant parties. At this stage, we do not have the estimated figures for the coming 3 years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)196

(Question Serial No. 1663)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48(c) of the Budget Speech that the Government will further digitalise government operations and implement paperless solutions. What is the estimated expenditure? What is the estimated percentage of paper consumption that could be reduced in five years? Will the Administration promote paperless solutions to large enterprises? What is the expenditure involved for the promotion work?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we propose that the Government should reduce paper consumption and automate business processes as far as possible through proactive adoption of paperless solutions for handling government records, statutory submissions (such as licence applications, building plans, etc.). This strategic initiative is conducive to protecting the environment and enhancing operational efficiency. Government departments will progressively implement suitable measures along this broad direction having regard to their operation. We do not have any estimation on the amount of expenditure involved. We envisage that the Government's practice will serve as an example to the community in the wider adoption of paperless solutions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)197

(Question Serial No. 1668)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 43):

What is the existing Wi-Fi coverage rate for government premises? What is the expected Wi-Fi coverage rate that can be achieved in the next 3 years? Under Head 47, the Administration mentioned that it would extend the GovWiFi service to more government premises and popular focal points. What is the expenditure involved? What locations are included as popular focal points?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

As at February 2014, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (*GovWiFi*) has installed 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots at 444 government premises across the 18 districts for free use by citizens and visitors, including all public libraries, public enquiry service centres of District Offices and job centres. The extent of coverage for community halls/centres, cooked food markets/centres, sports venues as well as cultural and recreational centres is about 60%. In the coming 2 years, *GovWiFi* service will be further extended to more government premises, including leisure locations and popular focal points, such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, as well as law court buildings and all community halls/centres. It is estimated that the total number of *GovWiFi* premises will reach 480 by the end of this year and the number of hotspots will be increased to 2 700 by the end of 2014, and 3 000 by the end of 2015. To ensure cost-effectiveness, *GovWiFi* service is provided in government premises with high patronage and high public demand as well as premises that can facilitate the delivery of e-government services or promote the image of Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure for extending the service in 2014-15 is around \$2.3 million, which will be funded by the *GovWiFi* Programme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)198

(Question Serial No. 1671)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 46):

According to the Administration, it will encourage the use of existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. What is the expenditure involved? Has the Administration assessed the existing obstacles and problems in relation to the power supply of the industrial buildings? What measures will be taken by the Administration to help resolve such problems?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In June 2012, the Government launched 2 incentive measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. The staffing for implementing these 2 measures is absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources is required.

In July 2011, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) to provide one-stop service to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. From time to time, DCFU discusses and follows up industry's concerns on power supply with the power companies. One of the power companies has also established a dedicated team to handle power supply matters for data centres.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)199

(Question Serial No. 1672)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 47):

In 2013-14, the Administration supported non-government organisations to embark schemes to encourage wider adoption of information and communications technology among the elderly. Please provide information on the project operation, expenditure involved and the number of elderly beneficiaries? Will the Administration provide such support in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched the “Smart Elderly IT Star Awards” with an aim of identifying exemplary stories of elders who benefit from active positive use of information and communications technology (ICT) in daily life, so as to inspire and drive wider ICT adoption in the silver-hair community. Through an open Invitation of Proposals exercise, we commissioned the Hong Kong Society for the Aged to implement and coordinate the scheme. We have received a total of 115 nominations across the territory, and selected 12 nominees to be Smart Elderly IT Stars. We are arranging a series of publicity to promote and share their appealing stories with other seniors, with a view to entice more elderly persons to use ICT. The total government expenditure incurred is HK\$0.74 million.

In 2014-15, we will launch a new round of the “Smart Elderly Recognition Scheme” with similar budget. On the other hand, in view of the fact that institutionalised or “hidden” elderly persons may not have the opportunity to appreciate the benefits of digital technology, OGCIO will launch “ICT Outreach Programmes for Elderly” to encourage them to use ICT to broaden their social circle and promote social inclusion. We have commissioned Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service–Hong Kong and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council to organise outreach activities to help them use tablet computers, with a view to arousing their interests in digital technology. Funding support for these programmes, which has commenced in March, total \$0.75 million. We expect that around 1 000 elderly will benefit from these activities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)200

(Question Serial No. 1673)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 48):

The Administration indicated that it organised the Smart Elderly Award Scheme in 2013-14. What were the details and expenditure? How did the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Scheme? Will relevant activities be organised in 2014-15? If yes, what are the expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched the first “Smart Elderly Awards” at the end of 2012 to recognize those elderly who made active use of information and communications technology (ICT) in daily life. The scheme received encouraging responses, with nearly 2 000 seniors achieving the recognition.

We launched a new round of the recognition scheme, namely the “Smart Elderly IT Star Awards”, in 2013-14. While the first one focused on encouraging the elderly to use ICT, the new edition aims to identify exemplary stories of seniors who benefit from the positive use of ICT, with a view to inspiring and driving wider ICT adoption in the silver-hair community. Through an open Invitation of Proposals exercise, we commissioned the Hong Kong Society for the Aged (SAGE) to coordinate the implementation of the scheme. We have received a total of 115 nominations across the territory, and selected 12 nominees to be Smart Elderly IT Stars. We are arranging a series of publicity to promote and share their appealing stories with other seniors, with a view to entice more elderly persons to use ICT. The total government expenditure incurred is HK\$0.74 million.

OGCIO has been closely monitoring the scheme to ensure its successful completion to meet the desired objectives. Upon completion, SAGE will report the effectiveness of the scheme to OGCIO.

In 2014-15, we will continue to organise the “Smart Elderly Awards” scheme with similar budget of the previous year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)201

(Question Serial No. 1760)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 49):

The Administration indicated that it implemented the Web Accessibility Campaign in 2013-14. What were the details and expenditure? How did the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Campaign? Will relevant activities be organised in 2014-15? If yes, what are the expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The Government has been implementing the Web Accessibility Campaign since end 2011 to promote the adoption of web accessibility design in public and private sectors, with a view to facilitating access to online information and services by persons with disabilities.

In 2013-14, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) organised more than 30 seminars and workshops for public organisations, enterprises, non-governmental organisations and tertiary students to foster awareness and share know-how on web accessibility. A total of over 2 000 participants attended these events. In addition, OGCIO has compiled a mobile application accessibility handbook for reference by application developers, and developed templates of accessible webpages to facilitate adoption of barrier-free design, in particular for non-governmental organisations as well as small and medium enterprises. In response to our appeal, the tertiary institutions have also incorporated web accessibility into their information and communications technology curricula. To further drive adoption, OGCIO organised the second round of the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme to show recognition to local enterprises and organisations who make their web content accessible, and extended the coverage from websites to mobile applications. We provided free assessment and advisory services for all participating organisations to help them enhance the accessibility of their websites or mobile applications. The results will be announced in April. These initiatives incurred a total expenditure of around \$3.5 million.

The entrants and awardees in the new round of recognition scheme, which exceeded that of last year in number, comprise organisations from different sectors and cover non-government websites which are most frequently used by persons with disabilities, such as public transport, news and media, banking, etc, indicating that the Campaign has led to increasing adoption of web accessibility design.

In 2014-15, we will continue with the Web Accessibility Campaign. In addition to organising a new round of the recognition scheme and sector specific workshops, we will produce an educational video to help instil know-how among practitioners, and follow up on the accessibility of those websites and mobile applications frequently used by persons with disabilities. The estimated total expenditure involved is around \$3.8 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)202****(Question Serial No. 1761)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 50):

The Administration indicated that it supported the development of 7 mobile applications for different underprivileged groups in 2013-14. What were the details and expenditure? How did the Administration assess the effectiveness of the initiative? Will relevant activities be organised in 2014-15? If yes, what are the expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched a funding scheme in 2012 to support the development of mobile applications for the underprivileged, with an aim of facilitating their adoption of mobile technology to enhance their quality of life and integrate into the society. We have received a total of 45 proposals, of which 7 were selected. All these applications, completed in end-2013, are available for free download and use. As at February 2014, the number of downloads of the applications is as follows:

Funded Organisation	Target Group	Average number of downloads per month as at 28 February 2014	Total number of downloads as at 28 February 2014
Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service	Children with cognitive disabilities	143	428
SAHK	Children with autism spectrum disorder	972	2 917
Hong Kong Society for the Deaf	Children with hearing impairment	116	348
Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	Physically handicapped persons	396	1 189
Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	Ethnic minorities	143	430
Hong Kong Society for the Aged	Elderly	186	557
Hong Kong Blind Union	Visually impaired persons	183	550

We will organise an exhibition in mid-April 2014 to showcase the 7 applications. The funded organisations will update the applications and its contents continuously in the coming 2 years. They will also report the application usage and user feedback to OGCIO regularly to facilitate our assessment on the effectiveness of the scheme. The total expenditure incurred was \$3 million.

In 2014-15, we will launch a new round of the support scheme. The open Invitation of Proposals closed on 10 March. We aim to select projects for funding support in May for the funded non-profit organisations to complete the development work by early 2015. The estimated expenditure involved is around \$3 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5176)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

It is mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech that the number of Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access will be increased to 20 000 by the end of this year. In this regard, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) location and distribution of the existing Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access, with a breakdown by District Council districts;
- (b) location and distribution of the additional Wi-Fi hotspots with complete or time-limited free public access, with a breakdown by District Council districts;
- (c) specific measures, work schedule and expenditure involved for the promotion of free Wi-Fi to tourists from all over the world;
- (d) average monthly utilisation rate of Wi-Fi with complete or time-limited free public access in each district in 2013, with a breakdown by District Council districts;
- (e) further to the above part of the question, the respective average monthly utilisation rates of Wi-Fi with complete or time-limited free public access by local citizens and tourists (including tourists from the Mainland and overseas).

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (a) The Government has all along been facilitating and encouraging the private sector to develop public Wi-Fi service. With the concerted efforts of service providers, private sector and the Government, public Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in all 18 districts covering government premises and public areas, such as libraries, parks, museums, sports venues, public enquiry service centres of District Offices, job centres, community halls, cooked food centres and markets, tourists spots, major transportation facilities (e.g. airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries), various coffee shops, restaurants and shopping centres, etc. The public and visitors can now use Wi-Fi services that are completely free or time-limited free of charge through some 10 000 hotspots at more than 5 400 locations. Specifically, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) currently provides free Wi-Fi service to the public and visitors through 2 506 hotspots at 444 government premises across all 18 districts. The distribution of the GovWiFi hotspots by districts is as follows:

District	No. of hotspots
Hong Kong	
Central and Western District	251
Eastern District	220
Southern District	95

District	No. of hotspots
Wan Chai District	263
Kowloon	
Kowloon City District	142
Yau Tsim Mong District	274
Sham Shui Po District	153
Wong Tai Sin District	98
Kwun Tong District	121
New Territories	
Tai Po District	74
Yuen Long District	150
Tuen Mun District	76
North District	78
Sai Kung District	155
Sha Tin District	98
Kwai Tsing District	82
Tsuen Wan District	131
Islands District	45
Total	2 506

- (b) The Government will continue to further extend the *GovWiFi* service to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points, such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. We anticipate the total number of *GovWiFi* hotspots will reach 2 700 by the end of this year. To facilitate the public and visitors to find and access free public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. Besides, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities. With the concerted efforts of the Government and the industry, it is anticipated that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots providing completely free or time-limited free of charge services will be doubled from 10 000 to 20 000 by the end of 2014.
- (c) We have reserved \$1.3 million in 2014-15 for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding. We have invited relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding, and plan to collect relevant information on the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots of the participating organisations and upload it to the Internet for reference by the public and visitors. We will also develop a mobile application to show the locations of these hotspots, thereby facilitating the public and visitors to find free public Wi-Fi service. The common Wi-Fi branding is planned to be launched in mid-2014.
- (d) The monthly average usage of the *GovWiFi* service by districts in 2013 is as follows:

District	Monthly average number of users	Monthly average number of connections
Hong Kong		
Central and Western District	104 279	128 417
Eastern District	50 212	68 097
Southern District	24 811	33 680
Wan Chai District	85 653	125 741
Kowloon		
Kowloon City District	28 419	41 190
Yau Tsim Mong District	101 714	129 599

District	Monthly average number of users	Monthly average number of connections
Sham Shui Po District	41 109	58 421
Wong Tai Sin District	24 853	37 503
Kwun Tong District	38 447	54 933
New Territories		
Tai Po District	24 439	34 299
Yuen Long District	38 322	56 465
Tuen Mun District	17 464	25 548
North District	36 242	48 577
Sai Kung District	20 985	30 877
Sha Tin District	39 001	57 449
Kwai Tsing District	25 723	39 605
Tsuen Wan District	25 544	38 291
Islands District	9 645	14 585
Total	736 862	1 023 277

- (e) As no registration is required in using the GovWiFi service and users are also not required to provide their personal information, the GovWiFi service cannot identify whether the user is a local citizen or a visitor. Relevant usage information is provided in the table in (d) above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)204

(Question Serial No. 5179)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 63):

In 2013-14, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer “provided comprehensive one-stop support to facilitate the setting up of high-tier data centres in Hong Kong”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and resources involved?
- (b) What was the effectiveness of this initiative?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (a) In July 2011, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) to provide one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU also works with relevant government departments to explore and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. In 2013-14, there were 3 staff members in DCFU, incurring an expenditure of around \$1.52 million.
- (b) Since its establishment, DCFU has been providing support and assistance to organisations for setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU has also worked with relevant government departments to formulate initiatives to provide sites for data centre development and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. It has also provided useful information on available sites and locations, power supply, water cooling and energy efficiency measures, etc. through its thematic website. In June 2012, the Government launched 2 incentive measures to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development. In 2013-14, the Government received a total of 3 applications for converting industrial buildings into data centres, and all of them were approved with the support from DCFU. In the same period, the Government received a total of 2 applications for developing data centres on industrial lots. DCFU is now assisting in processing these 2 applications. Besides, the first site for data centre use was sold through public tender in October 2013. At present, many renowned multinational data centres, such as NTT, Global Switch, Pacnet, China Mobile, DRT/SAVVIS, etc. have already set up their data centres in Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)205

(Question Serial No. 5180)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

In 2014-15, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will “continue to facilitate the setting up of high-tier data centres”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the estimated resources involved?
- (b) What are the specific measures?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (a) In July 2011, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) established the Data Centre Facilitation Unit (DCFU) to provide one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU also works with relevant government departments to explore and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. In 2014-15, there will be 3 staff members in DCFU, incurring an estimated expenditure of around \$1.63 million. The Government also plans to make available the second site in Tseung Kwan O for data centre use, and relevant government departments are working together on the preparations, including application to the Town Planning Board for change of land use for the site. The target is to make available the site for sale by public tender in the second half of 2015. The expenditure involved is around \$1.29 million.
- (b) In 2014-15, OGCIO will continue to implement the following measures to facilitate data centre development in Hong Kong:
 - (i) Providing land for data centre use: The Government plans to make available the second site in Tseung Kwan O for data centre use. We are working with relevant government departments on the preparations, including application to the Town Planning Board for change of land use for the site. The target is to make available the site for sale by public tender in the second half of 2015.
 - (ii) Encouraging the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centres: Since the launch of the 2 measures in June 2012 to encourage the use of industrial buildings and industrial lots for high-tier data centre development, response from the industry is positive. We will continue to promote these 2 measures to encourage the industry to use existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centre development.
 - (iii) Providing one-stop support services: DCFU will continue to provide one-stop support services to organisations interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong. DCFU will also work with relevant government departments to devise and implement appropriate measures to address the unique operational requirements of data centres. Together with the Invest Hong Kong, DCFU will continue to promote to overseas and Mainland organisations that Hong Kong is the prime location for setting up data centres in the Asia Pacific region.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)206

(Question Serial No. 5181)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 65):

In 2013-14, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer “organised the first International IT Fest to project Hong Kong’s image as a leading ICT hub”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and resources involved?
- (b) What was the effectiveness of this initiative?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

(a) The total expenditure for organising the inaugural International IT Fest (IT Fest) was around HK\$ 2.12 million, mainly used for publicity and promotion, with breakdown as follows:

- (i) Setting up a thematic website HK\$ 0.2 million
- (ii) Publicity and promotion HK\$ 1.92 million

The manpower required was absorbed through internal redeployment and no additional resources was required.

(b) Over 46 000 people participated in IT Fest 2013, and the number of participants of quite a number of events had exceeded expectation. IT Fest provides a platform for local industry players and overseas experts to exchange insights and foster collaboration. IT Fest 2013 was very well-received and highly appreciated by the industry. It showcased Hong Kong’s achievements and strengths in information and communications technology (ICT) and promoted Hong Kong’s image as an ICT hub in the region.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)207****(Question Serial No. 5182)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No.66):

In 2013-14, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer “supported the development of seven mobile applications for different under-privileged groups including the elderly, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and resources involved?
- (b) What are the penetration rate and usage of mobile applications?
- (c) Has the Administration assessed whether the public is aware of the launch of the above mobile applications?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (a) In 2012-13, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) launched a funding scheme to support non-profit organisations to develop mobile applications for the underprivileged, with a view to facilitating their adoption of mobile technology to enhance their quality of life and integrate into the society. The total expenditure incurred for application development and subsequent promotion was \$3 million. The manpower for implementing the scheme was deployed from internal resources.
- (b) The 7 mobile applications were launched between November and December 2013. As at February 2014, the number of downloads of the applications is as follows :

Description of Mobile Application	Accumulated No. of Downloads
Training kits and a publishing platform of educational resources for students with cognitive disabilities	428
Social skill educational kits for children with autism spectrum disorder	2 917
Cantonese speech recognition training kits for children with hearing impairment	348
A barrier-free travel guide on accessibility facilities at tourists spots in Hong Kong	1 189
Chinese vocabularies and Cantonese pronunciation service for ethnic minorities	430
A platform for the elderly to search and locate activities in local elderly centres	557
Speech augmented map information and indoor venue facility information for visually impaired persons	550

- (c) The non-profit organisations that develop the mobile applications will promote the applications to respective target user groups through their service networks. Besides, OGCIO together with individual organisations will organise a wide range of promotional activities to foster public awareness

of the 7 mobile applications, including press conferences, seminars and training classes, leaflets distribution, online promotions, etc. These applications have been well received since their launch. For example, the Social Skill Educational Kits for autistic children has recorded over 2 000 downloads within the first 2 months after its launch. Besides, according to user feedback, many parents of hearing impaired children considered that the “Cantonese Speech Recognition Training Kits” could effectively arouse the interest of their children in learning. In the coming 2 years, the organisations will keep updating the applications and their content, and report the usage and user feedback to OGCIO regularly.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)208

(Question Serial No. 5688)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 56):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that in the fourth update of the Digital 21 Strategy, the Administration will consider the provision of digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens in order to develop a common, shared and safe platform. When will the proposal be implemented? Will there be public consultation on the implementation plan of the platform? Are there any staff members dedicated to implement the plan? What are the posts and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

In the new Digital 21 Strategy, we proposed to consider the provision of free digital identity to Hong Kong citizens, thus enabling them to use online services requiring authentication and signature in a safe and secure manner. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is now considering possible implementation options, including the mode of operation, resources required, etc. We expect to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting by the end of this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)209

(Question Serial No. 5689)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 59):

It is mentioned that the Administration will encourage “hidden” elders and elderly with limited mobility to use information and communications technology to promote social inclusion in 2014-15. However, community centres for the elderly also provide such services. How can the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ensure that these services will not be overlapped and achieve their effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

Since institutionalised or “hidden” elderly may not have the opportunity to appreciate the benefits brought about by information and communications technology (ICT), we have commissioned 3 experienced elderly services organisations, namely Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council, to organise ICT outreach programmes across the territory for these elderly persons. Through visits and a variety of activities including ICT experience days, tablet computers on-loan services, exhibition, recognition scheme, sharing sessions, etc., the programmes aim at assisting and encouraging the seniors to adopt ICT to broaden their social circle and integrate into the society.

Although the 3 organisations pay regular visits to institutionalised elderly and engage “hidden” elderly, however, the ICT outreach programmes focus on helping seniors use tablet computers and appreciate the technologies, which are different from general visits to elderly homes or individuals. The staff members involved in the ICT outreaching programmes are very knowledgeable about ICT. All the 3 organisations understand the programme objectives very well and will strive to avoid overlapping with their existing services.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)210****(Question Serial No. 1040)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 77):

Regarding the GovWiFi services, will the Administration provide the following information:

- (a) A breakdown by type of premises of the number of government premises which continue to provide the services to the public at present. What is the operational expenditure? What is the number of government premises to which the services will be further extended this year? What is the expenditure for the relevant extension work?
- (b) Has the Administration compiled statistics on service utilisation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) As at February 2014, the Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) has installed 2 506 Wi-Fi hotspots in 444 government premises for free use by citizens and visitors. A breakdown by premises types on the number of premises and hotspots is provided below:

Premises types	No. of premises	No. of hotspots
Sports venues	111	554
Public libraries	67	506
Law court buildings, government buildings and offices	65	275
Community halls and centres/complexes	55	214
Parks, gardens and visitor centres	43	495
Cooked food markets/centres	37	110
Cultural and recreational centres	21	105
Public enquiry service centres of District Offices	20	41
Job centres	13	27
Others (beaches / harbourfront promenades / ferry terminals / holiday villages)	12	179
Total :	444	2 506

GovWiFi service will be further extended to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points, such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. We anticipate the total number of GovWiFi premises and hotspots will reach 480 and 2 700 respectively by the end of this year. The operational expenditure of GovWiFi in 2013-14 is around \$5.66 million and the estimated expenditure on service extension to more premises in 2014-15 will be around \$2.3 million.

- (b) There has been a steady growth in the usage of GovWiFi service. The average number of daily users and Internet connections have increased from around 3 700 and 6 700 in June 2009 to around 26 300 and 36 100 in January 2014 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)211

(Question Serial No. 4776)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 160):

It is mentioned in paragraph 108 of the Budget Speech that to identify gifted young people earlier, the Government plans to incorporate enrichment programmes in secondary schools which are outstanding in information technology (IT) education. By so doing, the Government hopes to cultivate young IT professionals and even entrepreneurs to meet the development needs of a digital society. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the specific details of the enrichment programmes mentioned in the Budget Speech? What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) Has the Administration assessed whether the participating schools need extra teachers and manpower to implement the above measure? If yes, will additional provision be allocated for these schools to employ sufficient staff?
- (c) What are those secondary schools which are outstanding in IT education? What mechanism and criteria are adopted by the Administration for the selection of schools? Why not support all the schools in Hong Kong to cultivate IT talents so that other schools can also identify IT talents?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

We are formulating the implementation details for the Enriched IT Class Programme, including mode of operation, class arrangement and curriculum content, criteria for selecting participating schools and resources required, etc. We plan to consult the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submit funding proposal to LegCo later this year, with a view to openly inviting all secondary schools to submit proposals by the end of this year. We hope to kick off the Enriched IT Class Programme in the 2015/2016 school year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)212

(Question Serial No. 1215)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 21):

One of the 7 measures for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is to promote cloud computing applications among SMEs and provide them with relevant training.

In this connection, how much resources will the Administration use for the promotion and how will it help SMEs adopt information technology solutions at low costs? SMEs may not understand thoroughly about cloud computing applications and may worry that they do not have enough technicians for such applications. On which area(s) will the Administration's promotional efforts be focused in order to attract SMEs to use the applications?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has earmarked \$3 million to launch a Cloud Promotion Campaign, which will comprise training and promotional activities, to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt cloud computing services.

According to a study conducted by the Hong Kong Productivity Council, SMEs' hesitation in adopting cloud services is mainly due to lack of understanding of cloud computing, information security and privacy protection concerns, insufficient technical knowledge, etc. To help them overcome these impediments, we would provide training and organise promotional activities to raise their awareness, address their concerns, and help them appreciate the benefits of cloud computing, in order to encourage them to adopt cloud computing services to enhance productivity and business opportunities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)213****(Question Serial No. 5208)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 138):

How much were spent on the development of Government Cloud Platform so far? When will its implementation be completed? What are the estimated annual manpower and financial resources allocated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer for the maintenance of this platform?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The implementation of the Government Cloud Platform (GovCloud) commenced in 2012-13 and GovCloud was rolled out in December 2013 as scheduled. GovCloud provides government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) with robust and reliable infrastructure services flexibly and cost-effectively for developing and supporting e-government services and common application systems, including electronic record-keeping, collaborative workspace and e-procurement, etc. As at early March 2014, the total expenditure of the project is about \$19 million. A major portion of the project expenditure will gradually increase with the roll out of various e-government services and common application systems on GovCloud.

GovCloud services are provided by the contractor. The computing resources and other related expenditure are paid in accordance with the actual usage of B/Ds' e-government services. The payment has already included the cost of the resources required for the implementation and expansion of GovCloud as well as the maintenance cost of GovCloud, such as computer hardware and software maintenance and data centre hosting services, etc. The breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the project is as follows:

Expenditure item	Expenditure (\$million)						Total
	Actual 2012-13	Estimate 2013-14	Estimate 2014-15	Estimate 2015-16	Estimate 2016-17	Estimate 2017-18	
Provision of on-demand cloud services to support e-government services	-	19.4	15.3	41.3	76.5	79.5	232.0
Project coordination, management and support	0.8	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10.0
Total:	0.8	21	17.2	43.2	78.4	81.4	242.0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)214****(Question Serial No. 5209)**

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No.139):

What is the estimate for providing GovWiFi service in 2014-15? What was the utilisation rate of the service in the past 3 years? Please list out the top 10 premises with the highest utilisation rate.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

To further advance Hong Kong's position as a highly connected city, the Government proposed in the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy to extend the free Government Wi-Fi Programme (GovWiFi) service to more government premises including leisure locations and popular focal points such as beaches, major district parks and harbourfront promenades, etc. We plan to increase the number of GovWiFi hotspots from the current 2 506 to 2 700 by the end of 2014. The estimated expenditure of the GovWiFi Programme in 2014-15 is around \$6.75 million.

Usage of the GovWiFi service in the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of users (million)	6	8.1	8.8
Number of connections (million)	10.6	13.5	12.3

Top 10 premises with the highest utilisation rate in 2013 are as follows:

By highest number of users	By highest number of connections
1. Hong Kong - Macau Ferry Terminal (Inner pier passenger departure waiting hall)	1. Hong Kong Central Library
2. Hong Kong Central Library	2. Hong Kong - Macau Ferry Terminal (Inner pier passenger departure waiting hall)
3. Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade	3. Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade
4. China Ferry Terminal	4. Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library
5. Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library	5. China Ferry Terminal
6. Sha Tin Public Library	6. Sha Tin Public Library
7. Tuen Mun Public Library	7. Tuen Mun Public Library
8. Tai Po Public Library	8. Tai Po Public Library
9. Tsuen Wan Public Library	9. Tsuen Wan Public Library
10. Kowloon Park	10. Ma On Shan Public Library

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)215

(Question Serial No. 5210)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 140):

Regarding the outreaching activities organised by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to encourage “hidden” elders and elderly with limited mobility to use information and communications technology (ICT), what are the specific work plans at present? Will these outreaching activities be organised by the Government itself or co-organised with non-government organisations? How will OGCIO support the elders who can hardly afford the cost of ICT devices?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Since institutionalised or “hidden” elderly persons may not have the opportunity to appreciate the benefits brought about by information and communications technology (ICT), we have commissioned 3 organisations with rich experience in elderly services in the community, namely Po Leung Kuk, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong and Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council to implement the “ICT Outreach Programmes for Elderly” across the territory. Through visits and a variety of activities, the Programmes aim at assisting and encouraging the seniors to adopt ICT to broaden their social circles and integrate into the society.

Funding support for these programmes, which have commenced in March for 9 months covering all districts across the territory, total \$0.75 million. We expect that around 1 000 elderly will benefit from these activities.

The programmes aim at arousing the interest of institutionalised or “hidden” elderly in adopting ICT, instead of granting direct subsidy to the seniors.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)216

(Question Serial No. 5262)

Head: (47) Government Secretariat : Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

What is the estimate for the Mainland duty visits or exchanges to be conducted by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in 2014-15? Please inform this Committee of the themes of the Mainland duty visits or exchanges to be conducted in 2014-15. For duty visits outside Hong Kong, how will the authorities concerned avoid the non-official activities? And how will the authorities concerned avoid relegating the application for change of locations to a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, the officers of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer will pay duty visits as and when necessary to meet operational needs, which include enhancing collaboration and exchange with the Mainland on information and communications technology, and attending the relevant meetings, etc. We do not have any specific plan of the visits for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted where there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements (including location), the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)217

(Question Serial No. 5126)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 198):

Regarding the strengthening of support to bureaux and departments in the development of mobile applications (apps) for e-government services, how many mobile applications were launched by the Government in the past 3 years? Please provide the following information: (a) name of applications, (b) user departments, (c) development cost, (d) annual cost of maintenance and system enhancement, and (e) number of downloads. What is the number of mobile applications to be launched by the Government in the coming year? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

Information on the mobile applications (apps) launched by Government bureaux and departments in the past 3 years is set out at Annex A, whereas information on the mobile apps to be launched in 2014-15 is at Annex B.

Government Mobile Applications Launched in the Past 3 Years

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong Geopark	Development: \$1,050,000 Routine maintenance: (One maintenance contract awarded through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester) Total maintenance cost for the 4 mobile apps is \$259,700 per year.	54 401
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Country Parks Tree Walks	Development: \$995,000 Routine maintenance: One maintenance contract awarded through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester. Total maintenance cost for the 4 apps is \$259,700 per year.	29 944
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Forester	Development:\$304,000 Routine maintenance: One maintenance contract through tendering for Enjoy Hiking, Hong Kong Geopark, Country Parks Tree Walks and Forester. Total maintenance cost for the 4 apps is \$259,700 per year.	2 460
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Journey to Geopark (Chinese version only)	Development:\$48,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 250
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Red Tide Information Network	Development and first-year maintenance:\$128,000	10
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Reef Check Hong Kong	Development: \$94,950 Routine maintenance: \$49,950 per year	3 689
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Development: \$237,300 Routine maintenance: Not applicable	12 641 (Not including the download figures for iOS platform)
Architectural Services Department	Architour	Development and first year routine maintenance: \$447,000	Around 2 200
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	《基本法》攻略 (An app on Basic Law)	Development and routine maintenance: \$1,251,000	4 847

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	《基本法》保衛戰 (An app on Basic Law)	Development and routine maintenance: \$918,000	16,416 (As at 23 February 2014)
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	精靈《基本法》 (An app on Basic Law)	Development and routine maintenance: \$925,750	Not applicable (Not yet officially launched)
Create Hong Kong	Inspiration Sparks HK	Development and routine maintenance: \$360,000	729
Department of Health (Chinese Medicine Division)	Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards	Development: \$100,000 Routine maintenance: \$100,000	9 320
Department of Health (Student Health Service)	Student Body Weight for Height Check	Development: \$148,000 (Including routine maintenance for the first 6 months)	2 776
Department of Health (Special Preventive Programme)	1069 試戴樂 (Chinese version only)	Development: \$148,230 Routine maintenance: \$60,000	20 013
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Primary Care Directory	Development: Around \$840,000 (Around \$140,000 was incurred by the Primary Care Office; whereas around \$700,000 was incurred by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)) Routine maintenance: \$90,000 (incurred by OGCI0)	5 097
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Frame-work @PC	Development: \$90,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	331 (As at 19 January 2014)
Department of Health (Infection Control Branch)	IMPACT	Development: \$146,250 Routine maintenance: \$15,000	Around 4 700
Department of Health (Central Health Education Unit)	Snack Nutritional Classification Wizard	iOS Development: \$20,000 Routine maintenance: \$3,600 Android Development: \$64,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	4 049
Department of Health (Tobacco Control Office)	Quit Smoking App	Development: \$294,700 Routine maintenance: \$84,000	29 751

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Development Bureau	Build Up Hero	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 413
Development Bureau (In collaboration with Construction Industry Council)	Working at height training	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 242
Development Bureau	Tree & Landscape Map	Development: iOS: \$207,000 Android: \$75,300 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 514
Drainage Services Department	DSD Connect	Development: iOS: \$130,000 Android: \$40,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 007
Drainage Services Department	R&D Forum	Development: \$206,800 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	356
Education Bureau (Applied Learning Section)	ApL app	Development: \$216,500 Routine maintenance: \$49,000	6 368
Education Bureau (Life-wide Learning and Library Section)	e-Navigator	Development: \$1,384,800 Routine maintenance: Under the e-Navigator contract, the total maintenance cost for both the mobile app and mobile website is \$497,400. No separate breakdown is available.	83 206
Education Bureau (Curriculum Resources Section)	ETV App	Development: \$45,000 Routine maintenance: No expenditure incurred in 2013-14	9 135
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Beyond Campus	Included in the operating expenditure.	327

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	悅文 (Chinese version only)	Ditto	797
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section)	Grouping Wizard	Ditto	880
Efficiency Unit	Tell me@1823 mobile app	Development: Around \$600,000 (Including contract staff wages) Routine maintenance: \$160,000 (Maintained together with related mobile website)	55 765
Efficiency Unit	Where is Dr Sun	Development: Around \$200,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	2 479
Efficiency Unit	Youth.gov.hk	Development: Around \$700,000 Routine maintenance: \$69,600	9 411
Environmental Protection Department	Hong Kong Air Quality Health Index	Development: \$160,000 Routine maintenance: \$8,000 per year	10 600
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department	Waste Less	Development: \$406,300 Routine maintenance: \$71,700 per year	The app was recently launched on 10 March 2014. Relevant information is not yet available.
Environment Bureau	Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), Municipal Solid Waste Charging - Online Views Collection Form Mobile Apps	Development and routine maintenance:\$65,300	42 (From 1 November 2013 to 24 January 2014) [Note: Municipal solid waste charging public engagement process - public involvement phase ended on 24 January 2014]
Financial Secretary's Office (Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit)	Business Consultation e-Platform mobile application	iOS Development: \$114,000 Routine maintenance: \$14,250 per year (including technical support, application system and content hosting services) Android Development: \$134,000 Routine maintenance: \$30,000 per year (including technical support, application system and content hosting services)	1 625

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety Charter	Development: \$130,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 164
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Nutrition Calculator	iOS Development: \$150,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved Android Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	69 466
Home Affairs Bureau	18 Handy Tips for Family Education	Development and first-year maintenance: \$21,200 Routine maintenance: \$2,600	2 590
Home Affairs Bureau	"M" Mark Events App	Development: \$70,000 Routine maintenance: \$14,400	531
Hong Kong Observatory	My Observatory	Developed and maintained internally; no additional expenditures were involved.	Around 3 847 000
Hong Kong Observatory	MyWorldWeather	Ditto	Around 117 000
Hong Kong Observatory	iCWeatherOS	Ditto	Around 3 000
Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Police Mobile Application	Development: \$750,000 Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost, including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS, was absorbed by the existing resources of the Hong Kong Police Force	Around 92 400
Hongkong Post	Hongkong Post	Development: \$328,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Around 157 000
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Hong Kong ImmD Mobile Application	Development: Around \$130,000 Routine maintenance: The routine maintenance cost, including the annual fee of HK\$770 for iOS, was absorbed by the existing resources of ImmD	68 676
Independent Commission Against Corruption	ICAC Smartphone App	Development: \$480,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$50,000 per year	Around 1 000

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Information Services Department	Government Bookstore	Development: \$650,726 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	Around 2 900
Information Services Department	“Hong Kong 2011” Yearbook iPad app	Development: \$150,000	2 697
Information Services Department	“Hong Kong 2012” Yearbook iPad/ Android Tablet app	Development: \$214,572 Routine maintenance: Developed together with the desktop version. No additional expenditures were involved.	835
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong (2011 version)	Development: \$100,000	Around 11 000
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong (2012 version)	Development: \$94,000	Around 8 500
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong (2013 version)	Development: \$94,000	Around 1 500 (From December 2013 to February 2014)
Innovation and Technology Commission	Mcmug X ITC	Development and routine maintenance: \$600,000	19 713
Innovation and Technology Commission	McMug on Green Technology	Development and routine maintenance: \$600,000	18 628
Intellectual Property Department	“No Fakes Pledge” Shop Search	Development and first-year maintenance: \$389,600 Production cost for additional features: \$35,400 Routine maintenance: \$84,040 (second-year routine maintenance)	6 242
Labour and Welfare Bureau (Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF))	Social Capital Winner	Development: \$113,625	317 [Note: This app is part of the CIIF brand-building exercise, of which the promotion work (including this app) was completed in July 2013.]
Labour Department	iES	Development and first-year maintenance: \$334,653 Routine maintenance: \$126,917	367 695
Labour Department	Work Safety Alert	Development and first-year maintenance: \$75,000 Routine maintenance: \$15,000 per year	7 870

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Fitness Walking	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: \$25,000	19 097
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	My Culture	Development: \$2,300,000 (Including cost for development and updating database, as well as contract staff wages) Development cost for new features in 2013: \$98,000 Routine maintenance: \$68,000	27 550
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	King Yin Lei (Android version)	Development: Subsumed in the "Generic platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for monuments" project; no separate breakdown is available. Routine maintenance: Free warranty up to April 2014	20
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Matching@ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	15
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Photo ME @ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	30
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Puzzle@ King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	20
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Restore King Yin Lei (Android version)	Ditto	8
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Jurassic World	Development: \$518,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the app was created for the Special Exhibition "Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs"	Around 15 000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Dino Raiser	Development: \$50,000 Routine maintenance: No routine maintenance cost required as the app was created for the Special Exhibition "Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs"	Around 15 000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Bruce Lee: Kung Fu • Art • Life	Development and first-year maintenance: \$102,400	11 760
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	MMIS Viewer	This mobile app is a plug-in application of the mobile website of MMIS. Its development cost was included in the implementation cost of the MMIS Major Upgrade Project. As this is not an individual project, no separate breakdown is available.	681

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	HKMA Outdoor Sculpture Guide	Development and first-year maintenance: \$52,800 Routine maintenance: \$50,670	4 652
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Enchanting Arts of Asia	\$40,770 (Including development and platform registration fee)	969 (The Arts Festival ended in November 2011)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Chinese Opera Festival 2012	Development and maintenance during promotion period (from January to August 2012): \$80,000	608 (From April to August 2012)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	New Vision Arts Festival 2012	\$65,964 (Including development and platform registration fee)	948
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor	\$120,000	Not available
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)	e-Auth	Developed in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	326
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	EventHK	Developed and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	19 039
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Notifications	Developed and maintained in-house by OGCIO. No additional resources were involved.	601 741
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	GovHK Apps	Development: \$600,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$35,000 per year	114 307
Planning Department	City Gallery	Development: \$262,500 Routine maintenance: \$97,500 per year	1 229
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Prime	Development: \$610,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	82 218
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK On The Go	Development (iOS and Android versions): \$200,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	1 291 771

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Radio Television Hong Kong	Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	Development: \$450,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	27 706
Radio Television Hong Kong	I want to be a LegCo Member	Development: \$91,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	12 282
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Thumb	Development: \$100,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	14 792
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Node	Development: \$100,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	22 410
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Cube	Development: \$174,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	22 982
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK LENS	Development: 60 working days Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	4 105
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK SCREEN	Development: \$250,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	47 357
Social Welfare Department (SWD)	Senior Citizen Card Scheme	Development: \$147,000 Routine maintenance: \$24,772 per year	12 323
Social Welfare Department	Let Them Shine Gourmet	Development: \$39,000	Not available
Transport Department	Hong Kong eTransport	Development: Around \$1,100,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$200,000 per year	1 100 000
Transport Department	Hong Kong eRouting	First-year development: Around \$1,930,000 Routine maintenance: Around \$100,000 per year	63 000
Water Supplies Department (WSD)	WSD Mobile App	Development: \$1,100,000 Routine maintenance: \$280,000 per year	Around 600

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost and Routine Maintenance Expenditure (HK\$)	Total Number of Downloads (As at 31 January 2014)
Yuen Long District Office	Heritage in Kam Tin	Development: \$269,000 Routine maintenance: Maintained internally and no additional expenditures were involved	Not available

Government Mobile Applications Planned to be Launched in 2014-15

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost (HK\$)
Civil Service Bureau	Government Vacancies	\$980,000
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	Mobile Application for Promotion of Children's Rights	\$448,000 (include first-year routine maintenance)
Correctional Services Department	Correctional Services Department	\$300,000
Customs and Excise Department	HK Car First Registration Tax	\$200,000
Department of Health (Primary Care Office)	Framework@PC (Android version)	\$106,000
Department of Health (Student Health Service)	Student Body Weight for Height Check (iOS English version and Android version)	\$140,000 (Estimated based on the iOS Chinese version that has been launched)
Development Bureau	Walk to Victoria Harbourfront (Tentative)	\$450,000
Education Bureau (Further Education Division)	Mobile App for Concourse and E-APP	\$274,750
Education Bureau (Information Technology in Education Section, Education Infrastructure Division)	TSS Technical Knowledge Channel	\$580,000
Education Bureau (Quality Education Fund)	QEF ebook	\$218,000 (2014-15)
Environmental Protection Department	Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign	\$220,000
Efficiency Unit	SIE Fund	Less than \$400,000 (Estimated)
Fire Services Department	Fire Services Department	\$1,118,000
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food Safety	\$132,000 (iOS version) \$132,000 (Android version)
Independent Commission Against Corruption	ICAC Smartphone App V2.0	Around \$300,000
Independent Commission Against Corruption	e-book App with Mini-games for Tablet	Around \$200,000
Information Services Department	"Hong Kong 2013" Yearbook iPad/ Android Tablet app	\$100,000
Information Services Department	This is Hong Kong	\$150,000
Labour Department	Youth Employment Start	\$149,000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	A Glimpse of Old Hong Kong	\$64,000 (This is an academic exchange project, for which the hardware development is supported by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong.)

Government Department	Name of Mobile Application	Development Cost (HK\$)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Hong Kong Space Museum (To be confirmed)	\$700,000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Mobile App for Promotion of Museum Exhibition (To be confirmed)	\$90,000
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Development cost is subsumed in the “Generic platform for Virtual Reality Touring Programme for monuments” project. No separate breakdown is available.
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Matching@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Photo ME@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Puzzle@King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Restore King Yin Lei (iOS version)	Ditto
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Provision of Mobile Application of Public Library Services for the Public	\$3,500,000
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Government Wi-Fi Programme	\$295,000
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Common Wi-Fi Branding	\$340,000
Office of the Licensing Authority	Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses	\$252,000
Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)	RTHK Mine	\$400,000
Radio Television Hong Kong	RTHK Memory	\$280,000
Radio Television Hong Kong	A mobile app for facilitating collective creation (To be confirmed)	\$200,000
Security Bureau	Security Bureau	\$100,000
Social Welfare Department	Social enterprises funded by 3E Project	\$47,016

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)218

(Question Serial No. 3114)

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 (Daniel LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Most of the citizens and visitors are unclear about the locations and effective coverage of the Wi-Fi hotspots in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How much resources will be allocated by the Administration for promoting the Wi-Fi hotspots across the territory in the coming year so as to let more Hong Kong citizens and visitors know about and search for these hotspots easily?
- (b) Please provide information on the number and coverage rate of Wi-Fi hotspots in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2011, 2012 and 2013).
- (c) Will the Administration consider collaborating with commercial organisations to expedite the extension of coverage of Wi-Fi hotspots in the future?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply:

- (a) At present, the Government Wi-Fi (GovWi-Fi) website provides a Locator function to facilitate the public and visitors to locate GovWi-Fi premises, and provides detailed information of the premises. The GeoInfo Map website of the Lands Department also provides information on the locations of the registered Wi-Fi hotspots provided by the public and private organisations. Moreover, the Hong Kong Tourism Board promotes the free Wi-Fi services in Hong Kong through its website. To further facilitate the public and visitors to search and access completely free or time-limited free of charge public Wi-Fi services, we are collaborating with the industry to promote a common Wi-Fi branding for Wi-Fi services which are offered by the public and private sectors completely free or time-limited free of charge. We have reserved \$1.3 million for the establishment and promotion of the common Wi-Fi branding, including the development of a mobile application to facilitate the public and visitors to search Wi-Fi hotspots. Besides, we have invited relevant organisations in the industry to participate in promoting the common Wi-Fi branding, arranging an online voting for the public to select their preferred brand and developing a web site as well as conducting related promotion activities.
- (b) The numbers of public Wi-Fi hotspots in Hong Kong as of December 2011, 2012 and 2013 were 9 173, 15 715 and 20 307 respectively. About 10 000 of them provide public Wi-Fi services which are completely or time-limited free of charge. Wi-Fi hotspots are widely available at over 5 400 locations across the 18 districts in Hong Kong, including government premises and public areas such as libraries, parks, museums, sports venues, public enquiry service centres, job centres, community halls, cooked food centres and markets, tourists spots and major transport facilities (e.g. airport, MTR stations, ferry terminals, buses and ferries) as well as various coffee shops, restaurants and shopping centres, etc.
- (c) Apart from collaborating with the industry to promote the common Wi-Fi branding, the Government will facilitate other government-related organisations to partner with Wi-Fi service operators to provide time-limited free access of public Wi-Fi services at their facilities so as to extend the coverage of public Wi-Fi hotspots. With the concerted efforts of the Government and the industry, it is estimated

that the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots providing completely free or time-limited free of charge service will be doubled to 20 000 by the end of 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)219****(Question Serial No. 4370)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 69):

The Administration stated that a new indicator will be applied as from 2014. In this connection, TV Division has started to acquire programmes produced locally and overseas, in addition to its in-house production, to enrich the programming by offering Hong Kong audience other alternatives. A new section "Acquisition Section" was thus formed by TV Division in April 2013 to cater for this purpose. Would the Administration please advise the scheme details, acquisition criteria, distribution of programme genres (in percentage) and the projected hours of output?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

As the public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) aims to inform, educate and entertain the general public through provision of high quality television (TV) programmes that are not adequately provided for by commercial broadcasters. The programmes mainly covered news, education, information, arts and culture, youth, children, the elderly and the underprivileged. In acquiring local and overseas programmes, creativity, production standard, consistency with RTHK's mission will be taken into account. We expect the acquired programmes to meet the three main objectives of informing, educating and entertaining the local audience and widening their perspectives and choices.

In 2014-15, programmes acquired will mainly cover news and information, arts and culture and children's programmes in areas not adequately met by commercial broadcasters. It is expected that about 247 hours of programmes will be acquired with distribution of programme genres (in percentage) as follows:

Public Affairs Programmes	21.9%
Specific Target Audience (including the elderly, minorities and underprivileged)	8.4%
Youth and Children	17.7%
Culture and Arts	24.0%
Continuing Education	28.0%

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)220

(Question Serial No. 4374)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) New Media
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 73):

The Administration has stated that it will continue to explore and develop the methodology of producing content through crowd-sourcing, and that users will be involved in the process of producing Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) products by using IP connected devices and social platforms. It has also indicated that the targeted development for the year will be on smartphones, "wearable computers" and cooperation with YouTube. Will the Administration please give details of such projects? Does the Administration plan to streamline the organisational structure so as to save expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will develop crowd-sourcing content production based mainly on mobile applications and "wearable computers".

In the first pilot project, a mobile application will be rolled out in mid-2014 which will enable smartphone users throughout the world to produce video content with the application and upload their work to the television (TV) programme designated by RTHK. The said TV programme will be broadcast on RTHK TV 31 and RTHK website as its main broadcasting platforms, supplemented by Facebook and YouTube where the programme content will be posted on other websites and social media platform.

As crowd-sourcing content production is a new attempt, programme quality and quantity will be subject to great uncertainty. Its influence on RTHK's organisational structure remains to be seen.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)221****(Question Serial No. 3664)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 551):

Would the Administration list the actual no. of listeners and the audience reach in percentage of respective AM / FM and Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Channels of RTHK in the past three years?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The actual number of listeners and audience reach in percentage (in the past seven days) of respective AM / FM Channels of RTHK in the past three years are shown in the below table:

	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14 (Revised Estimate)	
	In percentage	Listeners/ \$million	In percentage	Listeners/ \$million	In percentage	Listeners/ \$million
Radio 1 (FM)	26%	1.760	27%	1.832	27%	1.785
Radio 2 (FM)	26%	1.723	25%	1.648	25%	1.665
Radio 3 (AM)	4%	0.235	4%	0.285	4%	0.252
Radio 4 (FM)	4%	0.276	5%	0.305	5%	0.344
Radio 5 (AM)	7%	0.460	6%	0.413	7%	0.468
Radio 6 (AM)	2%	0.112	3%	0.165	3%	0.181
Radio 7 (AM)	4%	0.266	4%	0.239	3%	0.232

Based on the audience survey on Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) conducted between August and September 2013, among the total listeners who were certain of which DAB channels they listened, the listenership (in the past seven days) of the five RTHK DAB Channels was as follows:

DAB 31	RTHK Community Channel/Putonghua Channel	15.4%
DAB 32	China National Radio "Hong Kong Edition"	10.5%
DAB 33	RTHK Radio 3	4.9%
DAB 34	BBC World Service	4.7%
DAB 35	RTHK Live Relay Channel/Radio 5	22.2%

Since the Digital Audio Broadcasting service is still in the initial set-up stage, RTHK will discuss with the sectors concerned regarding the means to conduct an accurate survey on DAB listenership.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)222****(Question Serial No. 3665)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 552):

Would the Administration please list out the actual numbers of viewers and viewing rates of all public affairs and general television programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the average viewership of all public affairs and general television programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) broadcast in prime time slots through television sets is as follows:

	2011-12 (Actual)	2012-13 (Actual)	2013-14 (Revised Estimate)
On ATV	229 000	133 000	130 000
On TVB	956 000	866 000	843 000

RTHK upholds its principle of serving the public and caring for the needs of the minorities. Viewership is not a key consideration in programme production. To facilitate access to RTHK's television programmes through more channels, RTHK is committed to developing a variety of broadcasting platforms, including RTHK's digital terrestrial television channel RTHK TV 31, pay TV channels, the Internet, and various types of smartphones or tablets.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)223

(Question Serial No. 3666)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Radio
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 553):

Would the Administration please provide the expenditures, dates and estimated expenditures of the project activities in the coming year? Furthermore, would the Administration also tell which former project activities will be retained and the reasons? For those to be retained, will changes be made to their contents or expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The radio programmes, project direction and expenditures in the coming year will not differ much from the previous years. The highlights and arrangements will be published in the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Annual Plan for 2014-15. Each channel has its own role and identity, including Radio 1 (news, current affairs and knowledge channel), Radio 2 (youth, family and community activities channel), Radio 3 (news, information and general programming channel), Radio 4 (fine music and arts programming channel), Radio 5 (the elderly, cultural and education channel), and Radio 7 (Putonghua news, finance and general programming channel). Taking into account the characteristics of each channel, RTHK will produce a wide range of programmes and organise different activities in a timely manner according to public interest and social development, so as to meet the need for information among the community.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)224

(Question Serial No. 3667)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Radio
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 554):

The Administration obtains actual numbers of radio listeners from the survey data collected by independent market research companies. What are the fees involved? Furthermore, does the Administration adopt or explore more comprehensive methodology to obtain more accurate survey findings on listenership or other details (such as the proportion of ethnic minorities involved)?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Every year, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), in accordance with government procurement procedures, commissions independent market research companies to conduct radio audience surveys. The annual provision is about \$800,000. Market research is a specialist profession in which the commissioned company is responsible for providing professional advice and methodology for conducting the surveys. Each year the surveys cover a sample of over 4,500 respondents, including the English-speaking community, to ensure the reliability of the sampling size and representativeness of data.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)225

(Question Serial No. 3668)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Radio
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 555):

Would the Administration advise the projected target(s), related expenditures, manpower, review mechanism and effectiveness of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) in the past year and the coming year? This year, the CIBS will continue to be launched on a pilot scheme basis, will there be any changes on the programme content? What measure(s) will be taken to enhance publicity of CIBS?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) aims at providing a platform for the community, non-governmental organisations and the underprivileged to participate in broadcasting. Funding will be provided to groups or individuals interested in producing radio programmes under the CIBS. Last year, CIBS received 164 group and 62 individual applications. The total number of applications received increased from 59 in the first round to 94 in the third round. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will strengthen publicity in this aspect.

In 2012, the LegCo Finance Committee approved an allocation of \$45 million for setting up a Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) for a period of three years to subsidize public participation in programme production. Since CIBS is a pilot project, expenditure on manpower, administrative work and publicity is, at this stage mainly absorbed through internal deployment. Expenditure in 2013-14 was more than \$5 million. In 2014-15, it is estimated at more than \$6 million.

CIBS will conduct the first review within this financial year by way of a Focus Group meeting. Comments given by scholars, experts, social service bodies, the applicants and the public at the meeting will be compiled into a report.

In addition to open topics, new themes on "Philosophy" and "Technology" will be introduced. The public may continue to apply under the theme of "Ethnic Minorities".

To enhance public awareness of the CIBS, RTHK will hold a full-range of publicity activities in the application period to attract more listeners and applicants. These will include advertisements on TV, radio and newspapers, launch of a dedicated website, briefing sessions, leaflets and posters as well as a hotline. The expenditure is estimated at about \$1.6 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)226

(Question Serial No. 3669)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Radio
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 556):

The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting originally scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in this September will be relocated to Beijing. Will Radio Television Hong Kong still produce specials on the meeting as scheduled? If yes, will any changes be made to the estimates of expenditure or content?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Despite the relocation of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting from Hong Kong, the importance of China as the host country of the APEC meeting remains. According to the established practice for covering major international events, Radio Television Hong Kong will continue to provide news coverage of the event and produce relevant specials. The programme expenditures will basically be met by internal resource deployment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)227

(Question Serial No. 3670)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 557):

Regarding public affairs and general television programme, would the Administration please explain why the revised estimate for 2013-14 financial provision is lower than the original estimate by 8.3%?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The 2013-14 revised estimate is lower than the original estimate by 8.3%. This is mainly due to the fact that some posts have yet to be filled, decrease in other operating expenses; and reduction in capital expenditure on plant, vehicles and equipment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)228

(Question Serial No. 3671)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Radio
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 558):

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15", it is stated that RTHK will enhance the overnight programmes. Would the Administration advise the exact broadcasting time of overnight programmes? Besides, what can be done by the Administration to enhance these programmes and please give a breakdown of the estimated expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) plans to enhance overnight programmes in 2014-15. Radio 1 will present "Audio Book", an overnight programme on Fridays, i.e. from 2:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Books written by Nobel Prize winners and local writers will be given audio interpretation. Also, Radio 5 will broadcast Cantonese Opera from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily, starting from September 2014. Expenditure for the aforesaid programmes is estimated at about \$400,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)229

(Question Serial No. 3672)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 559):

Please list the scheduled public affairs programmes and the content of new programmes to be broadcast this year. Please give reason(s) in case of programme cancellation(s) and the expenses incurred?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) produces different genres of public affairs television programmes annually. They are "Hong Kong Connection", "LegCo Review", "Headliner", "Stories of Chinese Emigrants", "News Review", "Pentaprism", "Face to Face", "The Pulse" and "This Week". In 2014-15, RTHK will introduce a new English talk-show "In Conversation".

At present, there is no plan to terminate any of these public affairs television programmes.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)230

(Question Serial No. 3673)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 560):

RTHK will continue to maximize the audience reach. Selected programmes will be arranged to broadcast on other TV broadcasting platforms. Please advise the criteria applied by RTHK in determining the types of programmes that should be broadcast on other platforms.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is dedicated to expanding the audience reach of our programmes. We will consider transmission coverage and target audience of respective platforms (e.g. Cable TV, NOW TV, Hong Kong Broadband and TVB Pay Vision) in our selection of platforms.

Besides, efforts will be taken to develop internet platforms, which include a mobile application RTHK SCREEN on smart phones and tablet computers that allows access to RTHK programmes. RTHK school educational television (ETV) programmes will also be delivered on Education Bureau's mobile application. Apart from those first-runs on free television stations, RTHK will discuss with various platform providers for the programmes to be scheduled to deliver on their platforms. We aim at meeting the objective of maximizing audience reach in this regard.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)231

(Question Serial No. 3674)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 561):

Radio Television Hong Kong commenced programme transmission trials on the 3 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels in January 2014. Please inform this Committee of all relevant expenditures, distribution of manpower and estimated viewership of the 3 channels.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2013-2014, the direct expenditures of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) on the services of digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels are as follows:

- (a) The direct expenditure of RTHK TV 31 is around \$43.83 million. It mainly includes the production fee of new programmes for the DTT channel, expenditure on programme acquisition, administrative expenses on channel management and publicity and promotion fees; and
- (b) RTHK TV 32 and RTHK TV 33 are mainly run as relay channels. The direct expenditure incurred is about \$4.82 million, including the cost on engineering staff operating the 2 channels round-the-clock in shifts, expenses on live feeding press conferences and charges on hiring optical fibers.

As at 31 December 2013, the Television Division of RTHK had a total of 310 staff. We do not have separate staff establishment for RTHK TV 31, RTHK TV 32 and RTHK TV 33.

RTHK's DTT channels are in trial run. Signal coverage has only reached about 75 percent of the Hong Kong population. Therefore, the estimated viewership is not available for the time being.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)232

(Question Serial No. 3675)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 562):

Would the Administration please advise the types of high quality local and overseas programmes acquired by RTHK? In view of overseas programmes, are there any stipulations set for programmes acquisition from a particular country or region?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In line with our mission to serve both the majority and the minority, RTHK is pledged to deliver a careful selection of high quality local and overseas programmes for our audience. Creativity, production standard, consistency of programme content with RTHK's mission will be taken into account in our selection of local and overseas productions. As a public service broadcaster, RTHK is dedicated to explore news and information, arts and culture and children's programmes in areas not adequately served by the existing commercial TV broadcasters.

RTHK does not specify countries or places when acquiring programmes. We have currently acquired an array of programmes produced by countries worldwide including the Mainland the U.K., France, Spain, the U.S., Australia and Japan with a view to widening our local audience's perspectives.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)233

(Question Serial No. 3676)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 563):

Among matters requiring special attention in 2014-15, Radio Television Hong Kong will continue to plan for the construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to television services. Would the Administration please provide details on the current work progress, and all estimated expenditures and manpower involved in the planning?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

During discussion on the proposal of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to develop the New Broadcasting House (New BH), most Members of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) agreed in principle the need to construct a New BH. Therefore, RTHK and Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will re-plan the New BH project. To address PWSC Members' concerns, RTHK will critically review the facilities proposed in the original scheme, and explore whether there are means to adjust the scope of the project and reduce cost. RTHK will also review with ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "design-and-build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "consultancy" approach. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review.

In 2011-12, RTHK created 35 civil service (CS) posts and non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions to meet the manpower required for the development of new projects, including the planning of the New BH, Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Service and Media Asset Management. In 2014-15, these posts will continue to be responsible for the work mentioned above. Besides, in 2014-15, RTHK will create 2 new CS posts (including 1 Senior Technical Officer and 1 Technical Officer), and 1 CS post (Building Services Engineer) to replace one of the NCSC positions created in 2011-12 to strengthen supports in the maintenance and repair of the existing facilities, and assist in New BH-related work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)234

(Question Serial No. 3678)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 565):

Among matters requiring special attention in 2014-15, it is stated that Radio Television Hong Kong will support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's official events. Please inform this Committee of the specific details, the estimated expenditures and manpower involved in all such activities.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2014-15, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to provide technical support, coverage and pool signal for major events held in Hong Kong, including the Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the National Day, the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year and the relay of the Chief Executive's Policy Address, the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech, the Legislative Council meetings every Wednesday and other panels meetings.

RTHK will meet the requirement with existing resources. It will also adopt various measures, including more flexible manpower deployment and improved work flow, to enhance resource efficiency. The estimated expenditures and manpower involved in all such activities will be comparable to those in previous years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)235

(Question Serial No. 3679)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) New Media
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 566):

Please provide the details of activities organised by eTVonline, including the number of participants and related expenditures in the first three quarters of 2013.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

eTVonline held various series of activities in the first three quarters of 2013. They are “Point@Media - Children's Rights Project”, of about 1 300 attendances at the two workshops, a mock-up reporting event and an awards presentation ceremony; “The Joint School Liberal Studies Forum–Environmental Protection Forum”, of about 1 100 attendances at the four workshops; the two wetland guided-tours in spring and autumn which involved 35 teachers, and “PressTeen” has arranged liberal studies related interviews with four schools. In addition, the “LENS Photo Competition” organised by eTVonline received a total of 1808 entries, with about 100 participants attending the awards presentation ceremony and the sharing session. Over 2 500 teachers and students participated in the aforesaid 15 activities with a total expenditure of about \$500,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)236****(Question Serial No. 2829)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No.18):

There will be an increase of 13 posts and 17 posts respectively for Programmes (1) and (2) in the coming year. Please inform this Committee of the reason for the increase in manpower and the ranks and work arrangement involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

In 2014-15, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will have a net increase of 35 non-directorate civil service (CS) posts (create 36 new posts and delete 1 time-limited post). Among the 36 posts to be created, 13 posts and 17 posts are included under Programme (1) Radio and Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme respectively.

Among the 36 posts to be created, 7 are additional posts mainly for strengthening support services (including engineering works, repair and maintenance of buildings and facilities, administration, translation and accounting matters, etc.) to meet the needs arising from the launch of new services. The ranks and salaries of the 7 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks (per month)
Building Services Engineer	1	\$54,265 - \$86,440
Senior Technical Officer	1	\$35,930 - \$47,290
Technical Officer	1	\$17,485 - \$34,315
Executive Officer I	1	\$45,155 - \$56,810
Clerical Officer	1	\$25,685 - \$32,760
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	\$11,975 - \$24,450
Official Languages Officer I	1	\$45,155 - \$56,810
Total	7	

The remaining 29 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 services. The ranks and salaries of the 29 posts are as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts	Salaries of the ranks (per month)
Senior Programme Officer	1	\$57,275 - \$70,490
Programme Officer	7	\$45,155 - \$56,810
Assistant Programme Officer	18	\$23,285 - \$43,120
Programme Assistant	1	\$11,975 - \$22,165
Senior Technical Officer	1	\$35,930 - \$47,290
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	\$11,975 - \$24,450
Total	29	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)237

(Question Serial No. 2834)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

RTHK's "cost per listener" increased by 23% from \$88.9 in 2012-13 to \$109.5 in 2014-15. Please give reason(s) for the significant increase in the production cost.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

In 2014-15, RTHK's "cost per listener" increases is due to the combined effect of the decrease in total number of radio listeners and the rise of operational expenses. The increase in operational expenses included the overall civil service pay adjustment, increase of staff provision (involving engineering and administrative staff), Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), expenditure of the News Sections, DAB engineering and equipment expenses.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)238

(Question Serial No. 2835)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Among matters requiring special attention in 2014-15, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has set aside funds for the production of specials to cover the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Finance Ministers' Meeting and the plan for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) in Tseung Kwan O. At present, the former will not be held in Hong Kong while the New BH project has not been approved funding and may need to be re-tendered. Please inform the Committee what respective impacts the above situations will have on the estimates of expenditure of RTHK.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

Despite the relocation of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting from Hong Kong, the importance of China as the host country of the APEC meeting remains. According to the established practice for covering major international events, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will provide news coverage of the event and produce specials. The programme expenditures will basically be met by internal resources.

The funding application of the New Broadcasting House project has failed to obtain support from the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. RTHK will re-plan and re-tender the project. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review. RTHK has not earmarked any provision in the 2014-15 Estimate for this situation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)239

(Question Serial No. 2836)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Radio Television Hong Kong will acquire a substantial number of local and overseas programmes during 2014-15. Would the Administration advise:

- (a) The selection criteria for acquiring programmes
- (b) The programme genres
- (c) The channels for broadcasting programmes and audience coverage
- (d) The staffing and expenditures involved

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

- (a) As the public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) aims to inform, educate and entertain the general public through the provision of high quality television (TV) programmes that are not adequately provided for by commercial broadcasters. The programmes mainly covered contents related to news, education, information, arts and culture, youth, children, the elderly and the underprivileged. Creativity, production standard, consistency of programme content with RTHK's mission will be taken into account when we are acquiring high quality local and overseas programmes. We expect the programmes acquired to have met the three main objectives of informing, educating and entertaining the local audience by widening their perspectives and choices.
- (b) In 2014-15, programmes acquired are mainly related to news and information, arts and culture and children's programmes to cover areas not adequately met by commercial broadcasters.
- (c) All acquired local and overseas programmes will be mainly broadcast on RTHK TV Channel 31. At present, RTHK's Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) network coverage has reached only up to 75% of Hong Kong's population, and it is still at an early stage of development. Upon LegCo Finance Committee's funding approval, RTHK will establish 22 fill-in stations to enhance coverage of our DTT service to around 99% of Hong Kong's population.
- (d) The "Acquisition Section" has a total of 12 staff, including 11 civil servants and 1 non-civil service contract staff. The estimated expenditure of which is about \$58.84 million in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0855)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

Earlier on, the New Broadcasting House (New BH) Project proposed by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was vetoed by the Legislative Council due to a high construction cost. The Government advised that if the project was not endorsed before expiry of the tender validity period in March of this year, the project would be delayed for at least 2 further years, which would have a huge impact on the full launch of RTHK's digital broadcasting services. Would the Administration please illustrate in detail what new services proposed by RTHK will be delayed due to the deferred commissioning of the New BH?

To start providing digital broadcasting services, has the Administration earmarked additional provision in this year to cover expenditure on necessary enhancement of hardware facilities in the old buildings on Broadcast Drive arising from the deferred completion of the New BH?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

During the discussion on the proposal of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to develop the New Broadcasting House (New BH), most Members of the Public Works Subcommittee agreed in principle the need to construct a New BH. Therefore, RTHK and the Architectural Services Department will re-plan the New BH project. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review.

As the facilities on Broadcast Drive have been in use since the 1960s and 1970s, the premises have become extremely crowded with obsolete facilities, and building services, electrical and mechanical infrastructure compatibility is outdated. They can hardly meet all working needs of the staff and keep abreast with the recent development in digital audio broadcasting (DAB) as well as digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services even if alterations and repairs are carried out. RTHK has launched new services in phases under the "Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong" and is in great need of a new building to meet the basic operational requirements. The deferred commissioning of the New BH will restrict hardware and software development owing to inadequate space and facilities. It will compromise the quality and quantity of radio, television and new media productions, and hamper effective discharge of public service broadcaster's functions. For radio services, RTHK will have difficulty in forging ahead DAB service owing to inadequate space and facilities. For DTT services, we may only be able to provide limited television broadcasting service as provided in the current transmission trials, that is 8.5-hour daily broadcasts from Mondays to Fridays and 13.5-hour daily broadcasts on Saturdays and Sundays. For new media services, it will be difficult for us to increase production and develop more interactive mode of service and platforms so as to cater for the needs of society. Without the support of a new media production centre, we can hardly ensure an effective realisation of the full synergy with television and radio services. Under the constraint of inadequate space and facilities, we will have difficulty in further taking forward the restoration and digitisation work on RTHK programme archives. Furthermore, with congested working condition and inadequate facilities, RTHK staff have to work at offices and production facilities at various locations during a tight production schedule. It causes great inconvenience, a waste of manpower and time, and inefficiency.

In the light of the above situation, RTHK will re-examine the condition of all existing facilities before drawing up proposals on the repair, maintenance and enhancement work of existing facilities and acquisition of new facilities with a view to minimising the impact of the delayed New BH project on RTHK's service provision and maintaining the current level of public service broadcasting service. RTHK has not earmarked any provision in the 2014-15 Estimate for any of these proposals.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)241****(Question Serial No. 2265)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General Non-current

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 53):

With regard to the revised estimate \$5.626 million in 2013-14 for item 837 Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) under Sub-head 700 of the RTHK estimates, please list the groups or individuals who have successfully applied to the CIBF in 2013-14 and the total subsidies granted to them.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Selection Committee of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service conducted two meetings in April and October 2013 respectively to assess Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) applications submitted in the first four quarters. The results were submitted to Director of Broadcasting for approval. The amount of grant approved thus far is about \$5.73 million. Details of total funds granted to the relevant groups or individuals are listed below:

Quarter applied	Approved communities/individuals	Approved CIBF (\$)
1	HKSKH Lady Maclehole Centre	98,000
	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	45,200
	Amnesty International Hong Kong	69,300
	Tai Po Environmental Association	82,700
	The Japan Society of Hong Kong	41,100
	TREATS	127,350
	Serving Islam Team (Hong Kong)	2,750
	Sky Athletic Association	76,200
	Little Trout Children's Choir	138,900
	駱廣豪先生	73,412
	Dramusica	81,800
	姚運茵女士	102,630
	Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society	124,200
	Everest Media Limited	91,900
	Great Perfect Limited	59,100
	LOK SIN TONG	100,200
Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	94,000	
2	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	45,480
	Caritas Community Centre –Tsuen Wan	38,000
	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention (HK)	152,200
	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	149,200
	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	135,400
	Fun Channel Limited	79,600
	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	95,400

Quarter applied	Approved communities/individuals	Approved CIBF (\$)
	Civic Party Limited	84,300
	Community Development Initiative	69,200
	The Association of HK Professionals	48,300
	Roundtable Community	68,500
	HK Chinese Culture Development Association Limited	137,700
	Dramusica	74,900
	鍾雅欣女士	104,200
3	HK Chinese Culture Development Association Limited	144,200
	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	89,100
	Environmental Association Limited	102,400
	Victoria City Social Service Centre Limited	102,400
	HK PHAB Association	117,750
	The Japan Society of HK	41,360
	HK Federation of the Blind	104,250
	Architectural Project Unit Limited	99,800
	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of HK	70,850
	彭錫揚先生	89,000
	駱廣豪先生	84,200
	Everest Media Limited	111,550
	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon	106,200
	Great Perfect Limited	117,250
姚運茵女士	85,500	
4	Green Sense HK Limited	79,450
	Environmental Association Limited	102,400
	HK Women Teachers' Organization	123,200
	Distinctive Learning Society	99,300
	Fun Channel Limited	66,900
	The HK Federation of Youth Groups	93,200
	Joyfull Management Limited	99,800
	Civic Party Limited	107,900
	Lok Chi Association Limited	80,600
	梁慧中女士	90,000
	HK Community Network Limited	134,900
	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of HK	149,200
	鍾雅欣女士	149,590
	Everest Media Limited	111,550
	Link of Volunteers	83,200
	Total Grant	5,728,122

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4666)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 162):

- (a) Upon the commencement of RTHK Digital TV, has the Administration assessed the public information required by non-Chinese and non-English speaking locals? To facilitate social inclusion, will the Administration provide RTHK with necessary resources and manpower to cater to the said needs for non-Chinese and non-English speaking locals, so much as to ensure that different language speakers shall be able to obtain the necessary information and public information? If yes, how much resources and manpower will be given to RTHK this year? If no, what are the reason(s)?
- (b) How many hours of minority language programmes (per week) are currently produced by RTHK Radio Division? (Please provide the number of hours for each language)
- (c) What are the channel(s) and airtime for minority language programmes arranged by RTHK Radio Division? (Please also indicates whether it is a AM or FM channel)
- (d) Will the number of hours of minority language programmes increase accordingly in light of budget increases?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) Launched on 12 January 2014, the three Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) channels are still in the initial set-up stage. Programme genres, production and schedules, provision of round-the-clock broadcasting service are still limited owing to the constrains of existing facilities, space and resources. In terms of coverage, the current RTHK DTT network coverage has reached only up to 75% of Hong Kong's population. Extra effort is needed to cover private tenement blocks. Subject to funding approval, RTHK will construct additional fill-in stations to enhance coverage to around 99% of Hong Kong's population. Hence, RTHK TV will not provide the news and public information required by non-Chinese and non-English speaking population for the time being. However, as a public service broadcaster, RTHK is pledged to produce regular programmes for the elderly, disabled and ethnic minorities with a mission to serve both the majority and the minority. Programmes like "Golden Age", "A Wall-less World" and "A Mission for Equal Opportunities" have portrayed situations faced by different social classes and ethnic groups to enhance better understanding of their situations among the community and facilitate social inclusion.
- (b), (c) and (d)

RTHK Radio Division broadcasts at least 10 hours of minority language programmes per week. Details are as follows:

Channel	Programme Title/Content	Broadcast Day	Airtime (Weekly)
RTHK Radio 2 (FM)	Beautiful Sunday (Indonesian and Cantonese)	Sundays	6 a.m. - 8 a.m. (Total 2 hours)
RTHK Radio 3 (AM/DAB)	Pinoy Life (Tagalog and English)	Sundays	4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Total 2 hours)
RTHK Radio 3 (AM/DAB)	Saptakhik Sandesh (Nepali)	Sundays	7 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Total 1 hour)
RTHK Radio 3 (AM/DAB)	Hong Kong Ki Shaam (Urdu)	Sundays	8 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Total 1 hour)
RTHK DAB 31 (DAB)	Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) – On ethnic minorities (Thai, Japanese and Nepali languages were broadcast over the past year)	Saturdays and Sundays	8 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Total 4 hours)

In the coming year, RTHK will increase resources to promote the CIBS Scheme to local non-Chinese and non-English speaking residents.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)243****(Question Serial No. 2341)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title):Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 23):

In 2014-2015, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to expand its services, including 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 2014-15? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2013-14? How much expenditure will be incurred?
- (b) How many additional non-civil service contract staff will the Administration recruit in 2014-15? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2013-14? How much expenditure will be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) In 2014-15, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will have a net increase of 35 non-directorate civil service (CS) posts (create 36 new posts and delete 1 time-limited post). Among the 36 posts to be created, 7 are additional posts while the remaining 29 are newly created posts to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. Compared to the increase of 85 posts in 2013-14, the 7 additional posts represent a decrease of 78 posts. The cost of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$3.47 million. The breakdown of the 7 posts by rank is as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts
Building Services Engineer	1
Senior Technical Officer	1
Technical Officer	1
Executive Officer I	1
Clerical Officer	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Official Languages Officer I	1
Total	7

For the 29 CS posts to be converted from NCSC positions, they represent an increase of 9 posts over that in 2013-14 (20 posts). The cost of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$13.13 million. The breakdown of the 29 posts by rank is as follows:

Ranks	Number of additional posts
Senior Programme Officer	1
Programme Officer	7
Assistant Programme Officer	18
Programme Assistant	1
Senior Technical Officer	1

Ranks	Number of additional posts
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Total	29

- (b) RTHK will re-deploy internal resources for employment of additional NCSC staff to meet any operational needs in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)244****(Question Serial No. 1856)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title):Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 26):

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, EmilyReply:

As at 31 December 2013, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had a total strength of 808 staff, including 535 civil servants (CS) (66.2% of the total staff) and 266 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (33.0% 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	Monthly Salaries of the Ranks	Staff Numbers
Programme Director of Broadcasting Officer Grade:	\$201,950 - \$207,950	1
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$158,850 - \$173,350	1
Assistant Director of Broadcasting	\$136,550 - \$149,350	2
Controller (Broadcasting Services)	\$115,050 - \$125,800	3
Chief Programme Officer	\$89,565 - \$103,190	11
Principal Programme Officer	\$73,525 - \$86,440	19
Senior Programme Officer	\$57,275 - \$70,490	55
Programme Officer	\$45,155 - \$56,810	114
Assistant Programme Officer	\$23,285 - \$43,120	150
Programme Assistant	\$11,975 - \$22,165	22
Ranks in other grades:	\$10,560 - \$173,350	157
Total		535

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions Comparable to Civil Service Ranks		Monthly Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade	Principal Programme Officer	\$76,690 - \$80,000	4
	Senior Programme Officer	\$43,120 - \$64,410	10
	Programme Officer	\$26,000 - \$45,155	25
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$14,010 - \$28,315	135
	Programme Assistant	\$9,980 - \$16,425	13
Ranks in other grades:		\$8,350 - \$64,410	79
Total			266

In 2013-14, as at 31 December 2013, a total of 24 CS were recruited. Among them, 9 were former NCSC staff of RTHK. The ranks and salaries of the 24 CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		Monthly Salaries of the Ranks	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Senior Programme Officer	\$57,275 - \$70,490	4
	Programme Officer	\$45,155 - \$56,810	2
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$23,285 - \$43,120	12
	Programme Assistant	\$11,975 - \$22,165	3
Ranks in other grades: Senior Telecommunications Engineer		\$89,565 - \$103,190	1
	Works Supervisor II	\$17,485 - \$20,905	1
	Senior Artisan	\$16,425 - \$18,535	1
Total			24

Meanwhile, a total of 70 persons were recruited as NCSC staff. Their comparable civil service ranks and salaries are as follows:

NCSC Positions Comparable to Civil Service Ranks		Monthly Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Senior Programme Officer	\$43,450 - \$54,665	2
	Programme Officer	\$26,000 - \$36,205	6
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$14,010 - \$17,895	40
Ranks in other grades:		\$8,350 - \$51,825	22
Total			70

When determining the pay level of NCSC staff, RTHK would follow the guidelines of the Civil Service Bureau and take into consideration the prevailing employment market, recruitment situation of relevant job categories and pay level of newly recruited civil servants of comparable civil service ranks. These factors would change from time to time, and the experiences as well as qualifications required for individual NCSC positions may differ. Hence, the salaries of serving and newly recruited NCSC staff may not be the same. However, RTHK would take into account the principle of internal parity when considering the offer of higher pay level to new NCSC staff of the same ranks.

Furthermore, RTHK would regularly review the pay of serving NCSC staff under the established mechanism. As some of the serving NCSC staff have longer service in RTHK, their salaries will be higher than the newly recruited NCSC staff.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)245

(Question Serial No. 1857)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Please advise the estimates for Radio Television Hong Kong Board of Advisors in 2013-14. What are the work plans of the Board in 2014-15? What were the expenditures and work completed in the past year? Is there any plan of opening the meetings to the public so as to enhance transparency?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has all along provided secretariat support service through internal deployment of staff for the RTHK Board of Advisors (the Board) since its establishment in 2010. RTHK has not drawn up a separate estimate for the Board.

For the past year, the Board received briefings and provided its views on various RTHK development projects, including the projects on Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), directing programmes schedules during soft launch of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Channels, a online database "RTHK Memory", programming directions of english radio programmes, music programmes of Radio 4 as well as joint projects between Putonghua Channel and Mainland parties. The Board also received quarterly updates on programmes and complaints as well as the annual plan from RTHK. In addition, the Board members also attended functions and events staged by RTHK so as to enhance their understanding of RTHK's operation.

In 2014-15, the Board will continue to invoke the powers conferred upon it by the Charter of RTHK to offer comments to various new development initiatives of RTHK.

The Board attaches great importance to enhancing the transparency of its work. The agenda, discussion papers, minutes of meetings and annual reports of the Board are all uploaded onto the RTHK website to inform the public about its work. The Board has no plan of opening up its meetings.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)246

(Question Serial No. 1858)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

The Administration has indicated that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will produce specials to cover Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Finance Ministers' Meeting to be held in September 2014 in Hong Kong. What is the estimate involved? As the meeting has been relocated to Beijing, what corresponding measures will be taken by the Administration? What programmes will be broadcast to replace the specials during the time slots?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Despite the relocation of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting from Hong Kong, the importance of China as the host country of the APEC meeting remains. Apart from regular news coverage, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will produce specials as scheduled to cover the meeting to be held this September and broadcast the specials in "Hong Kong Today" and "The World In A Nutshell" on Chinese Programme Service and "Money For Nothing" and "Hong Kong Today" on English Programme Service respectively. The specials will enable the public to gain a better understanding of APEC (especially those economies having a close tie with Hong Kong and China), broaden the public's international horizon and identify the position of Hong Kong and China in the global economy as well as the challenges ahead. The programme expenditures will be met by internal resource deployment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)247

(Question Serial No. 1859)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

The Administration has stated that they will continue to plan for construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to radio services. What will be the estimated expenditure involved and the details? Does it mean that the Government will re-submit the funding proposal of the project to the Legislative Council? If not, what measure(s) will be taken by the Administration to forge ahead the said project?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

During the discussions of the funding proposal of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) project, the majority of the Members of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) agreed in principle the need to construct a New BH. Therefore, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), which is the works agent, will re-plan the project. In order to address PWSC Members' concerns, RTHK will critically review the facilities proposed in the original proposal, and explore whether there are means to adjust the scope of the project and reduce cost. RTHK will also review with ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "design-and-build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "consultancy" approach. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review.

In 2011-12, RTHK created 35 civil service (CS) posts and non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions to meet the manpower required for the development of new projects, including the planning of the New BH, Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Service and Media Asset Management. In 2014-15, these posts will continue to be responsible for the work mentioned above. Besides, in 2014-15, RTHK will create 2 new CS posts (including 1 Senior Technical Officer and 1 Technical Officer), and 1 CS post (Building Services Engineer) to replace one of the NCSC positions created in 2011-12 to strengthen supports in the maintenance and repair of the existing facilities, and assist in New BH-related work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)248

(Question Serial No. 1860)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 30):

The Administration stated that it will continue to work on the preservation and digitisation of analogue programme archives in the coming year. How much expenditure will be incurred? Since the RTHK New Broadcasting House project has been turned down, will the progress of digitisation and its related work be affected? If yes, what measure(s) will be taken by the Administration to take forward the aforesaid work?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Starting from 2011-12, a provision of about \$99 million, to be spent over a five year period, has been allocated to Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to embark on a Media Asset Management (MAM) project to restore archive materials at risk and digitise the most valuable portion (about 25%) of RTHK archives. The objective of MAM is to establish a digitised RTHK archive to support programme production and preserve public media assets of Hong Kong.

The said MAM five-year funding plan is scheduled for completion in 2015-16. Hence, it will not be affected by the construction progress of the New Broadcasting House (BH). However, in the absence of New BH, the lack of space and facilities will make it difficult for RTHK to take the restoration and digitisation of RTHK programme archives any further thereafter.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)249

(Question Serial No. 1861)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 31):

The Administration has indicated that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will continue to produce programmes to reflect the daily life of the community, including the stories of the underprivileged and minorities; what are the respective programmes on the underprivileged and minorities in 2013-14? What are the audience ratings? Will RTHK increase programmes on the underprivileged and minorities in 2014-15? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Every year, the Television (TV) Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) produces information programmes such as "News Review" and "Look and Learn" with sign language and subtitles for people with impaired hearing.

In addition, in 2013-14, RTHK has produced 2 TV series, "World of Love" and "A Wall-less World". Through dramas and stories of people with disabilities, the programmes aim to shed light on the thoughts and needs of people with disabilities, inspire the passion for life and encourage one to face his own handicap and live a meaningful life.

Furthermore, RTHK has worked with Labour and Welfare Bureau to produce TV programmes "Sign Language Mini-series" and "Talent-Wise Employment". "Sign Language Mini-series" introduces some sign language vocabulary in a lively manner with a view to striking a better balance between entertainment and learning as well as arousing public interest in learning sign language. "Talent-Wise Employment" features real-life stories to reflect difficulties faced by the disabled when seeking employment in the hope that various community sectors will invest more resources to assist the disabled in resolving employment problems.

In 2013-14, the TV drama under RTHK's Programme Commissioning "The Critical Moment" delves into social dilemmas which reflect problems in society. In "Hong Kong Connection" and "This Week", the current affairs programmes of RTHK's TV Division, we will closely follow up hot contemporary issues and explore topics on the underprivileged in response to social sentiment to arouse public concern. "Rich Mate Poor Mate", a reality series produced at the end of 2013, explores the wealth gap problem in Hong Kong and is well received by the public.

In 2013-14, the audience ratings of RTHK's TV programmes are more or less the same as before. The average viewership of RTHK programmes during prime time on TVB channel is 843 000 while that on ATV channel is 130 000. Apart from this, RTHK's TV programmes are available for archive viewing on RTHK's new media platform so that more people can access the programmes through various platforms.

In 2014-15, RTHK's TV Division will continue to produce programmes on the stories of the underprivileged and minorities. The quantity and contents will remain approximately the same as those in the previous year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)250

(Question Serial No. 6653)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio, (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 543):

- (a) How to count the daily page-view as stated under Programme (4) in the Government Budget for 2014-15 financial year? Is it counted by every new login or new view-page after logging in, or counted by every mouse-click rate ?
- (b) What is the average time spent on daily page-view of rthk.hk, TeenPower and eTVonline under Programme (4) in the Government Budget for 2014-15 financial year?
- (c) In 2013-14, what are the respective counts of media access “on issues of local concerns” regarding topics of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and freedom of press presented on rthk.hk, TeenPower, eTVonline and the Liberal Studies website? In connection with the above, what are the respective numbers of daily media access?
- (d) Regarding the “7 AM/FM channels and 5 DAB channels” (apart from Radio 4, Radio 6, DAB 32 and DAB 34) operated by RTHK Radio Division in 2013-14, what are the respective numbers of programmes “on issues of local concerns” in relation to topics of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and freedom of press? What are the respective “numbers of listeners in the past seven days (in million)”?
- (e) What are the item(s) covered by “700 General non-recurrent” in the Government Budget for 2014-15 financial year?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (a) For the website of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), the daily page-view is counted by the number of new page after logging in the website.
- (b) In 2013-14, the average time spent on daily page-view of rthk.hk: 33 minutes, TeenPower: 15 minutes and eTVonline: 5 minutes.
- (c) RTHK’s number of media access is counted on per episode instead of on classification of media content. In 2013-14, the daily media access of rthk.hk: 520 000 times, TeenPower: 1 500 times and eTVonline: 1 800 times.
- (d) Regarding RTHK’s 7 AM/FM and 5 DAB channels, the BBC World Service will be relayed on Radio 6/DAB 34 whereas Hong Kong Edition of China National Radio (CNR) on DAB 32. Apart from the aforesaid, RTHK will provide timely and impartial coverage on issues of local concerns, deliver programmes that contribute to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong and provide a platform for free and unfettered expression of views. RTHK do not have the breakdown of the number of programmes “on issues of local concerns”.

Based on the latest audience survey conducted in 2013, the listenership in the past seven days of respective RTHK radio channels was as follows:

(i)	RTHK Radio 1	1 785 000
(ii)	RTHK Radio 2	1 665 000
(iii)	RTHK Radio 3	252 000
(iv)	RTHK Radio 4	344 000
(v)	RTHK Radio 5	468 000
(vi)	RTHK Radio 6 (BBC)	181 000
(vii)	RTHK Radio 7 (Putonghua Channel)	232 000

For the listenership of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), RTHK conducted a survey between August and September 2013. Among the total listeners who were certain of which DAB channels they listened, the listenership (in the past seven days) of the five RTHK DAB Channels was as follows:

DAB 31	RTHK Community Channel/Putonghua Channel	15.4%
DAB 32	China National Radio “Hong Kong Edition”	10.5%
DAB 33	RTHK Radio 3	4.9%
DAB 34	BBC World Service	4.7%
DAB 35	RTHK Live Relay Channel/Radio 5	22.2%

Since the Digital Audio Broadcasting service is still in the initial set-up stage, RTHK will discuss with the sectors concerned regarding the means to conduct an accurate survey on DAB listenership.

- (e) “837 - Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund” has been covered by “700 General non-recurrent” in the Government Budget for 2014-15 financial year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)251

(Question Serial No. 1866)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has indicated that it will continue to plan for the construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O with regard to radio and television services in the coming year. What are the resources and manpower involved? What are the work details and timetables?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

In 2011-12, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) created 35 civil service (CS) posts and non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions to meet the manpower required for the development of new projects, including the planning of the New Broadcasting House (New BH), Digital Audio Broadcasting, Digital Terrestrial Television Service and Media Asset Management. In 2014-15, these posts will continue to be responsible for the work mentioned above.

Besides, in 2014-15, RTHK will create 2 new CS posts (including 1 Senior Technical Officer and 1 Technical Officer), and 1 CS post (Building Services Engineer) to replace one of the NCSC positions created in 2011-12 to strengthen supports in the maintenance and repair of the existing facilities, and assist in New BH-related work.

During discussion on RTHK's proposal to develop the New BH, most Members of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) agreed in principle the need to construct a New BH. Therefore, RTHK and Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will re-plan the New BH project. To address PWSC Members' concerns, RTHK will critically review the facilities proposed in the original scheme, and explore whether there are means to adjust the scope of the project and reduce cost. RTHK will also review with ArchSD the delivery mode of the project and re-examine the pros and cons of the "design-and-build" approach vis-à-vis the conventional "consultancy" approach. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)252****(Question Serial No. 5196)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 65):

Please list out 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 year and what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. MO, ClaudiaReply:

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 2013, were as follows:

	CS	NCSC Staff
Staff numbers	535	266
Distribution of ranks		
Programme Officer Grade:		
Director of Broadcasting	1	0
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	1	0
Assistant Director of Broadcasting	2	0
Controller (Broadcasting Services)	3	0
Chief Programme Officer	11	0
Principal Programme Officer	19	4
Senior Programme Officer	55	10
Programme Officer	114	25
Assistant Programme Officer	150	135
Programme Assistant	22	13
Other grades	157	79
Length of employment		
5 years or above	366	113
From 3 years to 5 years	14	32
From 1 year to 3 years	116	53
Less than 1 year	39	68
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

	CS	NCSC Staff
		Employment Ordinance and Employees' Compensation Ordinance. Paternity leave will also be provided to eligible male employees.

As at 31 December 2013, the distribution of monthly salary of CS and NCSC staff was as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		Salaries of the Ranks	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Director of Broadcasting	\$201,950 - \$207,950	1
	Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$158,850 - \$173,350	1
	Assistant Director of Broadcasting	\$136,550 - \$149,350	2
	Controller (Broadcasting Services)	\$115,050 - \$125,800	3
	Chief Programme Officer	\$89,565 - \$103,190	11
	Principal Programme Officer	\$73,525 - \$86,440	19
	Senior Programme Officer	\$57,275 - \$70,490	55
	Programme Officer	\$45,155 - \$56,810	114
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$23,285 - \$43,120	150
	Programme Assistant	\$11,975 - \$22,165	22
	Ranks in other grades	\$10,560 - \$173,350	157
	Total		535

NCSC Positions Comparable to Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Staff Numbers
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	\$76,690 - \$80,000	4
	Senior Programme Officer	\$43,120 - \$64,410	10
	Programme Officer	\$26,000 - \$45,155	25
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$14,010 - \$28,315	135
	Programme Assistant	\$9,980 - \$16,425	13
	Ranks in other grades	\$8,350 - \$64,410	79
	Total		266

In 2014-15, the estimated ratio of CS to NCSC posts is 2.7:1.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1394)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 59):

It is reported that RTHK will conduct a re-tender for the New Broadcasting House project, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) What is the current staff establishment of RTHK? Whether the existing facilities could meet the operational needs of staffing and DTT channels or not? If yes, what are the output indicator(s)? If no, what are the reason(s) for not constructing a New Broadcasting House?
- (b) In the next few years, would the Administration recruit additional staff to cope with the broadcasting service? What are the details?
- (c) Without the construction of a New Broadcasting House, how staff members could be ensured that they are provided with a comfortable and safe working environment in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety requirements. What are the specific measure(s) and expenditures involved?
- (d) At present, what would the Administration do to enhance RTHK programme qualities and output hours? What are the output indicator(s) and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2013, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had a total strength of 808 staff, including 535 civil servants (CS) (66.2% of the total staff) and 266 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (33.0% of the total staff). The remaining 7 are staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The premises of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) along the Broadcast Drive, commissioned in the 1960s and 1970s, are extremely crowded with aging and obsolete facilities. The building and electrical as well as the mechanical infrastructure do not meet present standards. Even after alterations and renovations, they can hardly meet the operational requirement of staff and the recent development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services. As RTHK has gradually launched new services in accordance with the "Charter of RTHK", it is in dire need of a new Broadcasting House (New BH) to cope with its basic operational needs. With the delay in the commissioning of the New BH, the constraints on space and facilities would limit the development of both hardware and software, which in turn would greatly affect the quality and quantity of radio, television (TV) and new media productions. RTHK will not be able to fully discharge the role as the public service broadcaster. For radio service, RTHK will have difficulties in forging ahead DAB service given the lack of necessary space and facilities. For DTT, RTHK would only be able to provide limited TV broadcasting service at the current level of channel trial run, namely RTHK TV 31 will broadcast 8.5-hour daily from Monday to Friday and 13.5-hour daily on Saturdays and Sundays. Furthermore, since RTHK staff are working under crowded conditions with inadequate facilities, they are often required to travel between various offices and production facilities amidst a tight work schedule. This will cause inconvenience to productions, lead to a waste in time and manpower resources, and lower efficiency. Hence, we are in dire need of a New BH.

- (b) In 2014-15, 35 additional non-directorate posts (of which 36 are newly-created posts and 1 time-limited post) will be created for RTHK. Among the 36 additional non-directorate posts for RTHK, 7 posts are newly-created to mainly strengthen the support services (which include engineering, building repair and maintenance, administration, translation and accounting work, etc) catered for launching of the new services. The remaining 29 CS posts are newly-created to absorb corresponding NCSC positions which have established for a long-term need. These posts are mainly responsible for assisting in the production of radio, TV, new media programmes and rendering miscellaneous support services.
- (c) RTHK will conduct a thorough review of existing facilities and work out a proposal for repair, maintenance, improvement of the existing facilities, as well as addition of new facilities so as to minimize the impacts of the delay in construction of the New BH on RTHK's services and to maintain the existing service level. RTHK has not earmarked any provision in this respect for 2014-15 Estimate.
- (d) RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, will continue to uphold the highest standard of quality programming, underlined with creativity and social responsibility in content development. To gauge public needs and expectation towards our constantly high quality programmes, RTHK will conduct a series of consultations with the RTHK Programme Advisory Panel, hold focus group discussions, and collect public views through RTHK public feedback hotlines. For audio broadcasting, simulcast will be reduced as audience behavior has changed after mid-night. At the same time, news brief will be added every half an hour after mid-night on a daily basis. The programme output will be increased by approximately 910 hours per annum under the new arrangement. For DTT service, subject to the progress of channel trial run and progress of the New BH project, RTHK may increase TV channels' output hours progressively in light of additional resources.

As in the past, RTHK will continue to take part in and make reference to the survey results from Audience Measurement and Appreciation Index for TV programmes as indicators in measuring the quality of RTHK programmes.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)254****(Question Serial No. 6176)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 74):

Regarding the programmes jointly produced by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and various government bureaux and departments as well as non-governmental organisations, please inform this Committee:

- (a) Of the total number of the said type of programmes produced by RTHK for the past 3 years;
- (b) Of the details as set out in the following table:

Years	Names of the institutions commissioning the productions	Programme names	Programme contents	Output hours	Broadcast channels & time slots	Fees paid to RTHK by the institutions (please provide a breakdown on the production, broadcast and publicity fees)

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

To provide pluralistic programmes, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) often partners with various government bureaux and departments as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or statutory bodies to produce a variety of programmes in public interest.

For the past 3 years, RTHK worked with various government bureaux and departments to produce a variety of programmes in public interest and for publicity and promotion, including Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education's "Cultural Heritage" series, Major Sports Events Committee's "Glamour of Sports" series, Labour and Welfare Bureau's "A Wall-less World" series, "Sign Language Mini-series" and "Talent-Wise Employment" series, Social Welfare Department's "The Moment", Education Bureau's "Excellent Classrooms", Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's "Children's Rights" and "Children's Rights Project of Point@Media", Development Bureau and Construction Industry Council's "A Dream Comes True", Office of the Government Chief Information Officer's "IT Champions", Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's "Engineering, Life & Dreams", Fire Services Department's "Elite Brigade", Commission on the Elderly and Labour and Welfare Department's "Golden Age", Women's Commission's "Women with Dreams" and "Lady King", Department of Health's "Project Live Healthy", Commission on the Elderly's "Pilot Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project", Home Affairs Department's "The SE Way", "Flag-raising Ceremony and Reception on the Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)" and "Flag-raising Ceremony and Reception on the National Day", Leisure and Cultural Services Department's "Discovering Museums", Protocol Division of the Government Secretariat's "HKSAR Honours and Awards Presentation Ceremony", The Hong Kong Judiciary's "Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year", Registration and Electoral Office's "2011 District Council Election (Documentary)", "District Council Election Forum", "Kicking Off Ceremony of the 2012 Legislative Council Election Forums", "Geographical Direct Election Forums", "Functional Constituency

Election Forums: District Council (2)", "Legco Elections Special 2012: Election Platform" and "Legco Elections Special 2012". The expenditure involved was about \$97.33 million.

Furthermore, for the past 3 years, RTHK received a total of about \$51.53 million in sponsorship from NGOs or statutory bodies for the production of various programmes, including the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's "Artspirations" and "Hong Kong Arts Development Awards Presentation Ceremony", Hong Kong Design Centre's "DIY2K", Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award's "Compassion For All - The Cartoons of Feng Zikai", Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust's "Nature and Man In One", Ping Wo Fund's "A House of Gamblers", Organising Committee of 2012 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Robocon Contest - Hong Kong's "2012 ABU Robocon Contest", Independent Police Complaints Council's "IPCC Files", Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data's "Privacy Beyond Price", Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and Wai Yin Association's "Drug Battle", Hong Kong Institution of Engineers' "Hong Kong Engineering and Dreams", Hong Kong Medical Specialists Association's "Cancer Series", Psychology Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's "Psychological Resilience", Equal Opportunities Commission's "A Mission for Equal Opportunities", Office of the Ombudsman's "Ombudsman Special", Securities and Futures of Hong Kong's "SFC in Action 2", and Hong Kong Productivity Council's "Hong Kong Industries".

Apart from prime-time slots on TVB and ATV channels, the television programmes jointly produced by RTHK and other parties were broadcast on other platforms, including Cable TV, Hong Kong Broadband, Now TV and TVB Network Vision, RTHK website and the application platforms of smartphones and tablets. RTHK TV 31 also broadcast the television programmes since January 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)255

(Question Serial No. 1660)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 34):

The Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) service with 5 channels was launched starting in November 2011. One of the channels relays programmes especially produced for the Hong Kong audience by the China National Radio (CNR). What are the expenditures involved for the relay? Please provide a breakdown on the expenditures. Since the soft launch of the DAB Service, what are the weekly numbers of listeners of CNR as compared with those of the other programmes? So far, what are the feedbacks of the said channel?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) incurred an annual expenditure of about \$350,000 for relaying "Hong Kong Edition" from China National Radio (CNR). It mainly covered service fees of technical staff and maintenance costs for broadcasting equipment.

Based on a survey conducted between August and September 2013, among the total listeners who were certain of which DAB channels they listened to in the past seven days, an approximately 10.5% out of the total were listening to CNR's "Hong Kong Edition". RTHK's Live Relay Channel/Radio 5 had recorded a larger listenership of approximately 22.2%.

RTHK has no relevant information regarding listeners' feedbacks on the "Hong Kong Edition" of CNR.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)256

(Question Serial No. 1664)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 39):

With respect to the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) on item 27 of Head 160, what is its coverage percentage at present? How far is the percentage expected to increase in the coming year? How much expenditure will be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

At present, RTHK's Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) network coverage has reached about 75% of Hong Kong's population. RTHK plans to seek funding approval from Finance Committee (FC) in the second quarter of 2014 for establishing 22 fill-in stations to enhance coverage of RTHK's DTT service from about 75% to around 99% of Hong Kong's population, matching that of the other commercial DTT broadcasters.

Subject to the funding approval of FC, the proposed fill-in station networks will be established by phases. The project is expected for completion in the first quarter of 2019. Five fill-in stations having been scheduled for the first phase which are expected to complete in March 2016, and the estimated expenditure of which is \$17 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)257

(Question Serial No. 4708)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 81):

Regarding digital terrestrial television (DTT) service, will the Government please provide the following information:

- (a) The current progress of the programme transmission trials on the 3 DTT channels; the signal coverage areas for the time being; the estimated date for the official launch of the 3 DTT channels; the manpower and expenditures involved;
- (b) The current progress of the planning for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) in Tseung Kwan O; what have been revised in the plan as compared with that vetoed by the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council on 3 January 2014?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) commenced programme transmission trials on its 3 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels on 12 January 2014. The channel names are RTHK TV 31, RTHK TV 32 and RTHK TV 33. They all provide television broadcasting in high definition. RTHK TV 31 (Flagship Channel) is a channel offering general programmes on current affairs, education, information, culture and arts, and drama. They include newly produced programmes for the DTT channel, acquired programmes, a selection of RTHK's programmes, classic archive programmes, education television programmes, weather reports and RTHK programmes simulcast in prime time slots on the 2 free-to-air television stations. There are 8.5-hour daily broadcasts from 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. from Mondays to Fridays and 13.5-hour daily broadcasts from noon to 1:30 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. RTHK TV 32 broadcasts live feed programme of the Legislative Council meetings every Wednesday and other important press conferences as well as warnings or signals issued to the public. RTHK TV 33 relays programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary Channel.

RTHK will have difficulty in increasing DTT service output owing to inadequate space and facilities. We may only be able to provide limited television broadcasting service as provided in the current transmission trials, that is 8.5-hour daily broadcasts from Mondays to Fridays and 13.5-hour daily broadcasts on Saturdays and Sundays. RTHK provides television broadcasting service through 7 transmission stations located at Temple Hill, Golden Hill, Castle Peak, Kowloon Peak, Cloudy Hill, Lamma Island and Mount Nicholson to most of the television households in the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula and New Territories; signal coverage has reached about 75% of the Hong Kong population. Subject to funding approval, RTHK will set up additional fill-in transmission stations to expand the signal coverage to about 99% of the Hong Kong population.

In 2013-2014, the direct expenditures of RTHK on the services of DTT channels are as follows:

- (i) The direct expenditure of RTHK TV 31 is around \$43.83 million. It mainly includes the production fee of new programmes for the DTT channel, expenditure on programme acquisition, administrative expenses on channel management and publicity and promotion fees; and

- (ii) RTHK TV 32 and RTHK TV 33 are mainly run as relay channels. The direct expenditure incurred is about \$4.82 million, including the cost on engineering staff operating the 2 channels round-the-clock in shifts, expenses on live feeding press conferences and charges on hiring optical fibers.

As at 31 December 2013, the Television Division of RTHK has a total of 310 staff. We do not have separate staff establishment for RTHK TV 31, RTHK TV 32 and RTHK TV 33.

- (b) During the discussion on RTHK's proposal to develop the New Broadcasting House (New BH), most Members of the Public Works Subcommittee agreed in principle the need to construct a New BH. Therefore, RTHK and the Architectural Services Department will re-plan the New BH project. It is expected that the new tender exercise will take at least 2 years to complete after the review.

As the facilities on Broadcast Drive have been in use since the 1960s and 1970s, the premises have become extremely crowded with obsolete facilities, and building services, electrical and mechanical infrastructure compatibility is outdated. RTHK has launched new services in phases under the "Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong" and is in great need of a new building to meet the basic operational requirements. The deferred commissioning of the New BH will limit opportunities for hardware and software development owing to inadequate space and facilities. It will also lead to compromised quality and quantity of radio, television and new media productions, and hamper effective discharge of public service broadcaster's functions. Furthermore, with congested working condition and inadequate facilities, RTHK staff have to work at offices and production facilities at various locations during a tight production schedule. It causes great inconvenience, a waste of manpower and time, and inefficiency.

In this regard, RTHK will re-examine the condition of all existing facilities before drawing up proposals on the repair, maintenance and enhancement work of existing facilities and acquisition of new facilities with a view to minimising the impact of the delayed New BH project on RTHK's service provision, improving the working environment and maintaining the current level of public service broadcasting service.

RTHK has not earmarked any provision in the 2014-15 Estimate for any of these proposals.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)258****(Question Serial No. 4731)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 136):

Please provide information regarding the hiring of "agency staff" as follows:

	2013-14 (the latest situation)
The number of contracts on agencies	()
Total contract value with 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 against the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	()
The total sum paid to agencies against the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2013-14 (As at 31 December 2013)
The number of contracts on agencies	No
Total contract value with 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 against the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
The total sum paid to agencies against the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
The number of employees with paid meal break	N.A.
The number of employees without paid meal break	N.A.
The number of employees working 5 days a week	N.A.
The number of employees working 6 days a week	N.A.

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).

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)259****(Question Serial No. 4732)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 137):

Please provide the following information on the hiring of "outsourced staff":

	2013-14 (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	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
The number of employees with paid meal break	()
The number of employees without paid meal break	()

	2013-14 (the latest situation)
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 2012-13

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 systems in the property as well as cleansing service. Information required is as follows:

	2013-14 (the latest situation)
Total number of outsourcing contracts	4 (same as last year)
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	Around \$74.02 million (+6.5%)
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	2 x 2 years 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$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 27 full-time posts are between \$8,001 and \$16,000.
The outsourced staff's length of employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 23.5% (-0.5%)
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	Around 20.4% (-0.6%)
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
The number of employees with paid meal break	No information

	2013-14 (the latest situation)
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	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 2012-13

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)260

(Question Serial No. 4733)Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 138):

Please provide the following information on the employment of "non-civil service contract" (NCSC) staff:

	2013-14 (the latest situation)
Total number of NCSC staff	()
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	
Total amount 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 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	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in 2013-14 are as follows:

	2013-14 (As at 31 December 2013)
Total number of NCSC staff	266 (+0.8%)
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	Various posts
Total amount of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	Around \$64m (-14.7%)
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	
● \$30,001 or above	53 (+6%)
● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	124 (+5.1%)
● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	89 (-7.3%)
● 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	48 (+11.6%)
● From 5 to 10 years	65 (+3.2%)
● From 3 to 5 years	32 (-34.7%)
● From 1 to 3 years	53 (-7.0%)
● Less than 1 year	68 (+30.8%)
The number of NCSC staff successfully converted to civil servants	9 ^{Note} (-87.1%)
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	33% (0%)
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	24% (-5%)
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	158 (-39.2%)
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	Around \$4.6m (-34.3%)
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	0 (0%)
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	0 (0%)
The number of employees with paid meal break	Around 251 (+1.2%)
The number of employees without paid meal break	Around 15 (-6.3%)
The number of employees working 5 days a week	Around 228 (+17.5%)
The number of employees working 6 days a week	Around 38 (-45.7%)

() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Note : These former Radio Television Hong Kong's NCSC staff have been appointed as Radio Television Hong Kong's civil servants through open recruitment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**(Question Serial No. 5205)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 135):

What community organisations had been accepted by Radio Television Hong Kong to the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS)? It is projected that themes of CIBS programmes are mostly those being ignored by mainstream audience, are there any concrete publicity plan(s) as to enhance audience reach in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, the Selection Committee of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) conducted two meetings in April and October 2013 respectively, to assess Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) applications submitted in the initial four quarters (13 weeks for each quarter). A list of the successful applicants is set out below:

1	Architectural Project Unit Limited
2	Everest Media Limited
3	Great Perfect Limited
4	Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society
5	Serving Islam Team (Hong Kong)
6	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society (Kowloon)
7	Tai Po Environmental Association
8	Little Trout Children's Choir
9	Civic Party Limited
10	Sky Athletic Association
11	Victoria City Social Service Centre Limited
12	Joyfull Management Limited
13	Caritas Community Centre – Tsuen Wan
14	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
15	Community Development Initiative
16	HK Women Teachers' Organization
17	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of HK
18	HK Chinese Culture Development Association Limited
19	Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of HK
20	The Japan Society of HK
21	HK Federation of the Blind
22	Distinctive Learning Society
23	HK Community Network Limited
24	The HK Federation of Youth Groups
25	The Association of HK Professionals
26	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention (HK)
27	HK PHAB Association

28	HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre
29	Amnesty International HK
30	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
31	Fun Channel Limited
32	Roundtable Community
33	Link of Volunteers
34	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
35	Lok Chi Association Limited
36	Dramusica
37	TREATS (A Registered Charity)
38	Environmental Association Limited
39	Green Sense HK Limited

- (b) Themes on mainstream and minority issues are both covered under CIBS. To enhance public awareness of the CIBS, RTHK will hold a full-range of publicity activities in the application or broadcasting period to attract more listeners and applicants. These include advertisements on TV, radio and newspapers, launch of a dedicated website, briefing sessions, leaflets and posters as well as setting up a hotline.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)262

(Question Serial No. 5206)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme:
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 136):

In the coming year, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) cannot construct the New Broadcasting House (New BH) in Tseung Kwan O. What will RTHK do to continue with the work for preserving archives, Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) and Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT)? If the New BH is not constructed, what will RTHK do to attain a greater variety of programmes?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The premises of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) along the Broadcast Drive, commissioned in the 1960s and 1970s, are extremely crowded with aging and obsolete facilities. The building and electrical and mechanical infrastructure do not meet present standards. Even after alterations and renovations, they can hardly meet the operational requirement of staff and the recent development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) and digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting services. As RTHK has gradually launched new services in accordance with the Charter of RTHK, it is in dire need of a new Broadcasting House (New BH) to cope with its basic operational needs. With the delay in completion of the New BH, the constraints on space and facilities would limit the development of both hardware and software, which in turn would greatly affect the quality and quantity of radio, television (TV) and new media productions. RTHK will not be able to fully discharge the role as the public service broadcaster. For radio service, RTHK will have difficulties in forging ahead DAB service given the lack of necessary space and facilities. For DTT, RTHK would only be able to provide limited TV broadcasting service at the current level of channel trial run, namely 8.5-hour daily from Monday to Friday and 13.5-hour daily on Saturdays and Sundays. For New Media services, we would have difficulties increasing the production and development of more interactive schemes or platforms for the public so as to cater for community needs. We are also unable to achieve full synergy with radio and TV without the support of a new media production center. Limited by inadequate space and facilities, we can hardly proceed with further restoration and digitization of RTHK archives. Besides, working under crowded conditions with inadequate facilities, RTHK staff are often required to travel between various offices and production facilities amidst a tight work schedule. This will cause inconvenience to productions, lead to a waste in time and manpower resources, and lower efficiency.

In view of the above, RTHK will conduct a thorough review of existing facilities and work out a proposal on repair, maintenance, improvement of the existing facilities, as well as addition of new facilities so as to minimize the impacts of the delay in construction of the New BH on RTHK's services and to maintain the existing service level.

If the New BH is not materialized, RTHK will encounter much difficulty in having a comprehensive development of DAB and DTT services. In the meantime, the major genres of RTHK's programmes will continue to focus on current affairs, education, information, culture and arts, youth and children, the elderly and the underprivileged.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)263****(Question Serial No. 5207)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme:Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 137):

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?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-manReply:

As at 31 December 2013, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had a total of 266 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. The salaries of the NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions Comparable to Civil Service Ranks	Salaries (per month)	Staff Numbers
Programme Principal Programme Officer Officer Grade:	\$76,690 - \$80,000	4
Senior Programme Officer	\$43,120 - \$64,410	10
Programme Officer	\$26,000 - \$45,155	25
Assistant Programme Officer	\$14,010 - \$28,315	135
Programme Assistant	\$9,980 - \$16,425	13
Ranks in other grades	\$8,350 - \$64,410	79
Total		266

In 2013-14, as at 31 December 2013, the expenditure on RTHK's NCSC staff emoluments was around \$64 million.

In 2013-14, as at 31 December 2013, a total of 24 civil servants were recruited through open recruitment. Among them, 9 were former NCSC staff of RTHK.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)264

(Question Serial No. 5289)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Roy TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 65):

What is the budget of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for Mainland duty visits or exchanges in 2014-15? Please advise the theme(s) scheduled for the said Mainland duty visits or exchanges in 2014-15. What would the Administration do to avoid activities not pertaining to official business during duty visits? How would the Administration prevent the application(s) for change of places to be visited from being a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, RTHK officers would conduct duty visits outside Hong Kong when there are working needs. These include enhancing collaborations with Mainland media organizations and attending meetings and exhibitions related to the broadcast industry. No specific plan has been drawn up for the time being.

Expenses of duty visits that are met by public funds are governed by relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure that public money is spent properly. All duty visits must be fully justified by operational needs. Prior approval should be obtained for such visits. Activities not pertaining to official business should be avoided. At the time of application, the officer concerned is required to provide all necessary information relating to the proposed duty visit as far as possible. In case of any subsequent changes to the places to be visited, the officer concerned has to inform the approving officer as soon as possible, whereas the approving officer should assess if there is a need to re-consider the application.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)265

(Question Serial No. 4358)

Head: (180) Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 57):

Regarding the implementation of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration is responsible for “gauging the prevailing moral standards of the community periodically”. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following -

- (a) In the past year, how many such opinion-gauging exercises have been conducted? What were the expenses and how such exercises were carried out? How many people were involved from whom opinions were gauged without repetition?
- (b) Did the Administration make corresponding amendments according to the opinions gauged? If yes, what were the amendments? If no, why not?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) periodically gauges the prevailing moral standards of the community in relation to the implementation of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). The last time OFNAA gauged public opinion on this subject was in 2012 and no such exercise was conducted last year. In 2012, OFNAA assisted the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in conducting the second round of public consultation on the review of the COIAO, during which public views were collected on whether the definitions of “obscurity” and “indecent” needed to be amended.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)266

(Question Serial No. 4359)

Head: (180) Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

During 2014-15, the Office will conduct a public opinion survey on the awareness and standards of the three-tier film classification system. How would the Administration conduct the survey? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) conducts public opinion surveys to gauge public views on the film classification system and film censorship standards periodically. OFNAA has commissioned an independent consultant to conduct a new round of public opinion survey in 2014-15. The survey will gauge public views by way of questionnaire through random sampling and focus group discussion. The expenditure involved for the entire project is estimated to be \$850,000, The survey will be carried out by existing officers of OFNAA with no additional manpower involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)267

(Question Serial No. 6300)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No.707):

A public opinion survey on the awareness and standards of the three-tier film classification system will be conducted in 2014-15. What are the work plan and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) has commissioned an independent consultant to launch a new round of public opinion survey on the film classification system in 2014-15. The survey will gauge public views by way of questionnaire through random sampling and focus group discussion. The expenditure involved for the entire project is estimated to be \$850,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)268

(Question Serial No. 6301)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 709):

How many cinema inspections were conducted in each of the past 3 years to enforce the age restriction for audience admission and other provisions under the Film Censorship Ordinance? What is the number of prosecution cases?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In the past three years, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) conducted about 1 300 cinema inspections each year to examine whether cinemas had complied with the age restriction for audience admission and other provisions under the Film Censorship Ordinance. There have been no prosecution cases relating to the Film Censorship Ordinance in the past three years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)269

(Question Serial No. 6302)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 710):

What is the number of inspections conducted on video shops and other retail outlets to regulate the publication of films in the form of video tape and laser disc in the past 3 years? What are the number of prosecution cases and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In the past three years, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) conducted about 72 600 inspections on newspaper stalls, video and computer shops and other retail outlets each year to examine whether the distribution and publication of articles (including the publication of films in the form of video tape and laser disc) had been in compliance with the provisions of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) and the Film Censorship Ordinance. The number of summonses issued by OFNAA in 2011, 2012 and 2013 with regard to cases in breach of the COIAO were 110, 84 and 43 respectively. As conducting inspections and instituting prosecutions only form part of the concerned officers' duties, we do not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved in carrying out these duties.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)270

(Question Serial No. 6304)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 711):

How many complaints about obscene and indecent articles did the Office receive from members of the public in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration received 489, 228 and 238 complaints about obscene and indecent articles respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)271

(Question Serial No. 6305)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 712):

- (a) In 2013-14, what were the details and expenditure involved in the Office's maintaining a panel of advisers to allow public participation in the film classification process?
- (b) In 2014-15, what are the work plan details and estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Under the Film Censorship Ordinance, the Film Censorship Authority shall (i.e. the Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration) appoint members of the public as members of the Panel of Advisers on film censorship to participate in the film classification process. The Panel now consists of about 300 members who regularly come to the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) to tender their advice on the appropriate classifications of films intended to be exhibited shortly.. Any members of the public over the age of 18 and interested in joining the Panel may submit applications to OFNAA. Application forms may be downloaded from the OFNAA's website. In 2013-14, the administrative expenditure involved in maintaining the Panel was about \$10,000.

In 2014-15, OFNAA will continue to arrange members of the Panel of Advisers on film censorship to participate in the film classification process in accordance with the Film Censorship Ordinance. The estimated administrative expenditure is about \$10,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)272****(Question Serial No. 6307)**Head: (180) Office for Film, Newspaper and Article AdministrationSubhead (No. & title):Programme: Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper RegistrationControlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (Miss Eliza LEE)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 713):

How many films were classified for public exhibition and publication in each of the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by year and film classification.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, KennethReply:

In the past three years, the number of films classified for public exhibition and publication under the Film Censorship Ordinance and their respective classifications were as follows-

Films for public exhibition and publication	2011	2012	2013
Category I	112	157	142
Category IIA	164	169	162
Category IIB	144	204	215
Category III	43	80	63
Total	463	610	582

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)273

(Question Serial No. 6631)

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 (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 708):

What were the details of the work and activities relating to “promoting the three-tier film classification system to the public” in the past 3 years? What was the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

To enhance public's understanding of the three-tier film classification system, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) organises talks on the film classification system and standards from time to time. In the past three years, OFNAA has organised 22 talks. The related expenditure for organising these talks was absorbed within OFNAA's existing resources and no additional manpower or expenditure was required.

In addition, OFNAA printed new posters and information leaflets to promote the three-tier film classification system in 2012. The expenditure involved was about \$50,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)274

(Question Serial No. 5285)

Head: (180) Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 61):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration's duty visits or exchange tours to the Mainland? Please advise on the themes of such duty visits or exchange tours to the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration has no plan for duty visits or exchange tours to the Mainland.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on different aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)275

(Question Serial No. 2401)

Head: (111) Innovation and Technology Fund : Innovation and Technology

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) has all along been supporting innovation projects but has made no significant achievements over the years. In this connection, would the Administration inform us:

- (a) of the constraints and problems of the current supporting mechanism;
- (b) of other improvement plans that the Administration has considered, besides expanding the funding amount and scope; and
- (c) whether the Administration will consider introducing more private angel investment networks from the Mainland and overseas through negotiation and funding mechanisms, as well as providing a more comprehensive development platform for start-ups through these organised and one-stop investment networks?

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

Reply:

- (a) Since the establishment of the ITF in 1999, the Government has been regularly reviewing and improving the ITF to overcome various constraints as well as problems which were unanticipated when the ITF was set up. This is an ongoing effort. Some major examples include:
 - (i) The Government set up 5 Research and Development (R&D) centres in 2006 to drive and co-ordinate applied R&D in selected focus areas and promote commercialisation of R&D results. We are delighted that after some 8 years of operation, the R&D centres have gradually become more mature;
 - (ii) In order to promote real world application of R&D results, we launched the Public Sector Trial Scheme in 2011, whereby additional funding is provided to completed R&D projects funded by the ITF for the production of tools/prototypes/samples and the conducting of trials in the public sector. Through these measures, R&D personnel can apply their R&D results in the real world, collect user feedback and then fine-tune the research results so that the products can better meet market needs. Examples include the collaboration of the R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department to apply the "E-Lock-Based Enabling Technology" at the boundary control points. This technology has helped reduce the number of repeated customs inspection for cargos at the control points and facilitate logistics flow between Hong Kong and the Mainland; and
 - (iii) In the same year, we also refined the vetting criteria for ITF applications by emphasising not only the scientific/technical component when assessing a project proposal, but also giving consideration to the holistic plan for realisation/commercialisation.

As announced by the Financial Secretary in his Speech on the 2014-15 Budget, we will introduce 2 more proactive measures which will overcome existing constraints in order to promote private sector investment in R&D and render stronger support to downstream R&D and commercialisation activities. These include setting up an Enterprise Support Scheme to overcome the various constraints that the

existing Small Entrepreneur Research Assistance Programme is facing (e.g. amount of funding and company size); and extending the existing funding scope of ITF to cover development work and system integration, industrial design, compliance testing and clinical trials, etc.

- (b) In addition to extending the funding amount and scope, the Government will also consider other options, for example:
 - (i) how to foster closer collaboration with venture capital firms, angel investors, private incubators, etc. to encourage more private sector investment in innovation and technology (I&T);
 - (ii) how to step up efforts to promote application of R&D results in the public sector to create a demonstration effect and enhance efficiency of these organisations; and
 - (iii) how to collaborate with various parties (e.g. industry associations and schools) to cultivate a more positive I&T culture in Hong Kong.
- (c) The Government has been providing investment capital support services to technology companies through the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), including establishment of the Hong Kong Business Angel Network (HKBAN) in collaboration with local and overseas investors to regularly organise investment matching activities, so as to provide technology start-ups with financing opportunities. Since its official registration in 2011, HKBAN has recruited over 70 members. Moreover, HKSTPC launched the Hong Kong Science Park Venture Capital Partnership Programme in December 2013 to provide a matching platform to bridge investment-ready technology enterprises and venture capital funds interested in investing in technology enterprises. As at March 2014, 24 renowned venture capital firms from Hong Kong, the Mainland, the United States and Japan have confirmed their participation in this Programme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CT)276

(Question Serial No. 2467)

Head: (111) Innovation and Technology Fund: Innovation and Technology

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Miss Janet WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question (Member Question No. 508):

Regarding “the proceeds of the sale of any investment made from the Fund” mentioned in the Memorandum Note to the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) in the Government Budget for the financial year 2014-15, please explain how the ITF has made use of “the proceeds of the sale of any investment made from the Fund” to carry out the work of the following:

- (a) Nano and Advanced Materials Institute;
- (b) Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel;
- (c) Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre; and
- (d) R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies.

What were the amount of the annual “proceeds” in the past years?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The reference to “the proceeds of the sale of any investment made from the Fund” in item (b)(iv) of paragraph 2 of the Memorandum Note to the ITF means such proceeds shall be credited to the Fund in accordance with the Resolution of the Legislative Council to establish the ITF in 1999. Since the establishment of the ITF, there have not been any such proceeds under this item (Note).

[Note: However, there has been other income (e.g. investment return from the ITF balance held with the Exchange Fund, and contract service/royalty income generated from ITF funded projects) received under other items of the same paragraph of the Memorandum Note and credited to the Fund.]

The operating expenditure of the 4 R&D Centres is met from other Subheads of the ITF, which are separately approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

CEDB(CT)277

(Question Serial No. 0096)

Head: (703) Buildings

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

This question originates from :

Question (Member Question No. 1):

Regarding the preparation work of the new Broadcasting House of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), please advise:

- (a) what has the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) done to prepare for the tender exercise (such as the technical feasibility study)?
- (b) what is the amount of expenditure for the ArchSD to undertake such advance preparation work?
- (c) as the RTHK needs to initiate a re-tendering procedure, it is expected that the original plan needs to be changed and the ArchSD will be consulted. Regarding the preparation work to be done again, what is the additional number of studies that need to be conducted by the ArchSD? How much resources are expected in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (a) For the preparation of tendering for the New Broadcasting House of RTHK, ArchSD has employed consultants and contractors to carry out the necessary surveys, studies and investigation works, including topographical and tree survey, traffic impact assessment, utility mapping, preliminary environmental review, landfill gas hazard and preliminary land contamination assessment, site investigations, micro-climate and landfill odour study, value management workshop, studies on acoustic and vibration, and electronic and telecommunication equipment installations, as well as a quantity surveying consultant for the preparation of tender documents.
- (b) The total cost for the surveys, studies and investigation works mentioned above is approximately \$9 million.
- (c) The need for additional surveys/studies/investigations and the resources required would depend on the extent of revision of the project scope, which is now under review by RTHK and CEDB. Provided that the changes are not substantial and confirmed within a short time, the surveys/studies/investigations already carried out may still be valid for reference for the purpose of the new tendering exercise.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CT)278****(Question Serial No. 3002)**Head: (710) ComputerisationSubhead (No. & title): A083XV Implementation of a Government Cloud PlatformProgramme:Controlling Officer: Government Chief Information Officer (Daniel LAI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 41):

The approved estimate for "Implementation of a Government Cloud Platform" is \$242 million and the actual expenditure as at 31 March 2013 is only \$790,000 plus. While the balance of the approved estimate is \$241 million plus, the revised estimate of 2013-14 is only \$21 million and the estimate of 2014-15 is \$17 million plus.

What is pay-out schedule of the remaining part of the approved estimate? How can the progress of the project be expedited? Could the Administration provide the details of resources allocated for each of the facilities included in the project? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, ElizabethReply:

The implementation of the Government Cloud Platform (GovCloud) commenced in 2012-13 and GovCloud was rolled out in December 2013 as scheduled. GovCloud provides government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) with robust and reliable infrastructure services flexibly and cost-effectively in accordance with actual usage for developing and supporting e-government services and common application systems, including electronic record-keeping, collaborative workspace and e-procurement, etc. A major portion of the project expenditure will gradually increase with the roll out of various e-government services and common application systems on GovCloud. The estimated total expenditure of the project for 6 years is \$242 million with breakdown shown as follows:

Expenditure item	Expenditure (\$million)						Total
	Actual 2012-13	Estimate 2013-14	Estimate 2014-15	Estimate 2015-16	Estimate 2016-17	Estimate 2017-18	
Provision of on-demand cloud services to support e-government services	-	19.4	15.3	41.3	76.5	79.5	232.0
Project coordination, management and support	0.8	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10.0
Total:	0.8	21	17.2	43.2	78.4	81.4	242.0

To ensure that the business processes of B/Ds are being changed in tandem with technological advancements, we will progressively roll out various e-government services and common application systems on GovCloud for maximising the benefits brought to the Government.