

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Report of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
for submission to the Legislative Council**

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting during the 2014-2015 session of the Legislative Council. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 24 June 2015 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology ("IT"), telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 23 members. Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok were elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

Domestic free television programme service

Renewal of the domestic free television programme service licences

4. In view of the default in wage payments by Asia Television Limited ("ATV"), the Panel held a meeting to follow up issues relating to the

operation of ATV and its latest developments. Members noted that the Labour Department repeatedly appealed to the ATV's management to resolve the issue of wage payment promptly, and reminded ATV of its liability for wage payment under the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) as well as the criminal consequences for any breaches thereof.

5. Some Panel members queried whether ATV was a "fit and proper person" for its renewal of the domestic free television programme ("free TV") service licence under the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) ("BO"). These members urged the Chief Executive ("CE") in Council to consider the recent developments of ATV and the recommendations made by the Communications Authority ("CA") when deciding on ATV's licence renewal application. The Panel also passed a motion expressing regret at ATV's default on payments of employees' wages and urging that the CE in Council must consider the past performance of applicants when processing their applications for renewal of free TV service licences. The CE in Council subsequently announced on 1 April 2015 that, after considering the recommendations of the CA, the relevant representations and all relevant latest developments of ATV, the free TV service licence of ATV would not be renewed.

6. The Panel held a meeting to follow up issues relating to the non-renewal of ATV's free TV service licence. Members noted that pursuant to section 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4 to the BO, a notice period of 12 months had to be served on the licensee if the CE in Council decided that the free TV service licence of the licensee would not be renewed. In this regard, ATV had its current licence originally expiring on 30 November 2015 be extended to 1 April 2016. The CA also gave formal notice to ATV to withdraw all the frequencies assigned to it following expiry of its licence as from 2 April 2016. In this connection, some members expressed concern about the uncertainty on the provision of analogue TV service if ATV terminated its service before the expiry of its licence.

7. The Administration advised that the Government would set up a task force to ensure the resolution of various issues that might arise from the non-renewal of ATV's free TV service licence. The task force would coordinate implementation of necessary contingency measures during the transitional period from 1 April 2015 to 1 April 2016 to minimize any adverse impact that might occur and to monitor and facilitate the early roll-out of new free TV services should the CE in Council decide to grant any new free TV service licence in due course. In fact, the CE in Council already announced on 1 April 2015 the granting of free TV service licence to HK Television Entertainment Company Limited ("HKTVE") following the grant of approval-in-principle in October 2013. The programmes to be provided by

HKTVE would be delivered via fixed network within 12 months after the grant of its licence.

8. Noting that the Administration had announced its invitation to Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") to provide two analogue TV channels from 1 April 2016 to give viewers an alternative choice as part of the contingency measures, some Panel members enquired about the operation of RTHK after taking over from ATV on its termination of service. The Administration advised that RTHK would duplicate the programmes from its digital format for broadcasting in analogue format after taking over the vacated analogue spectrum from ATV. Taking into account the time required for a TV licensee to apply for the vacated analogue spectrum and to produce new programmes in analogue format, the Administration considered it more efficient to invite RTHK to take over the vacated analogue spectrum of ATV.

9. In view of members' concern about the allocation of spectrum vacated by ATV on expiry of its licence, the Panel passed a motion urging the authorities to handle properly the issues relating to the non-renewal of ATV's free TV service licence, including re-assigning expeditiously the broadcasting spectrum to be vacated in future to the applicants who intended to operate free TV service, so as to introduce new competition into the local free television market and optimize the use of airwaves.

Assignment of broadcasting spectrum

10. On 12 May 2015, the CE in Council approved the application for renewal of TVB's free TV service licence for a period of 12 years from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2027. The CA had administratively assigned to TVB the broadcasting spectrum it currently hold, comprising two sets of frequency channels, and one digital multiplex of the single frequency network coupled with half of the capacity of one digital multiplex of the multiple frequency network in 470-806 MHz of the Ultra High Frequency Band, for the provision of its licensed analogue TV and digital terrestrial television ("DTT") services during the validity of its renewed free TV service licence.

11. Following the announcement of the CA on the administrative assignment of TVB's spectrum, the Panel further held a meeting to follow up the matter. Some members opined that the broadcasting spectrum was highly concentrated in the hands of TVB. These members also urged the CA to re-assign the spectrum to be vacated by ATV to the applicants who intended to operate free TV service. The CA advised that it would decide on the assignment arrangements for the spectrum vacated by ATV taking into account, inter-alia, the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) ("TO"),

the CA's statutory duties and the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework promulgated by the Government in April 2007. Given the CA's statutory duty to promote the efficient use and allocation of spectrum, the vacated spectrum would be assigned to those holding valid free TV licences and were in a ready position to use the spectrum effectively and efficiently for the provision of free TV services.

Digital terrestrial television – analogue switch-off

12. On 9 December 2014, the CE in Council announced that the target date for switching off analogue television services ("ASO") be deferred to 2020, and that the ASO working target be reviewed in 2017-2018. According to the Administration, the analogue TV and DTT services of Hong Kong were currently transmitted by using frequency spectrum at the Ultra High Frequency ("UHF") band in the range of 470-806 MHz, the spectrum band allocated by the International Telecommunications Union ("ITU") for TV broadcasting worldwide. In view of the increasing demand for spectrum for mobile telecommunications services, the ITU recommended that part of the spectrum in the UHF 470-806 MHz band (namely, UHF 698-806 MHz) was suitable for mobile telecommunications services. As such, ASO could vacate spectrum to relieve the ever-increasing demand for spectrum for high value-added mobile telecommunications services, such as mobile broadband services (the so-called "digital dividend").

13. While Panel members in general supported the deferral of the date for ASO, some members expressed concern about the measures taken by the Administration, including incentives such as subsidizing the families in need, to assist the low-income families utilizing analogue TV service to switch to DTT service. These members also urged the Administration to coordinate with the local District Offices and District Councils to cater for the needs of and provide support to the families and elderly people in need of assistance to replace their analogue TV sets or to install set-top boxes before conducting ASO. According to the Administration, subsidy schemes were available for families and individuals in need of assistance in certain overseas jurisdictions. The Administration would make reference to these measures when conducting the review of ASO working target in 2017-2018.

14. In view of the ASO timeframe of the Mainland authorities in 2020, some Panel members were of the view that efforts should be made by the Administration in coordinating with the Mainland authorities to expedite the yielding of usable digital dividend and speed up the DTT switching process in Hong Kong with a view to bringing forward the target date for ASO. The Administration advised that it had regular meetings with the Mainland authorities on their target date for ASO but cautioned that bringing forward

the date for ASO unilaterally would cause disturbance to existing viewers and would not yield any usable digital dividend.

Renewal of analogue sound broadcasting licences

15. The Panel followed up the progress of processing the applications for renewal of the analogue sound broadcasting licences received by the CA. The Panel noted that in support of their applications for licence renewal, Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited ("CRHK") and Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited ("Metro") had submitted to the CA their proposed six-year investment plans on capital and programming expenditure for 2016 to 2022. The CA would consider the proposed investment commitments of the licensees and assess inter-alia whether they had the financial capability to fulfill their commitments.

16. Noting the relatively low percentage of weekly average broadcast hours of programmes for young persons, senior citizens and children provided by CRHK and Metro, some Panel members urged the CA to review the requirements and the broadcast hours of such programmes in the renewal of their licences. In particular, these members expressed concern about the weekly broadcast hours of arts and culture programmes provided by CRHK and Metro, which only stood at about three hours for each licensee. They opined that the CA should consider requiring the licensees to increase the weekly broadcast hours of such programmes when renewing their licences.

17. Some Panel members expressed concern that some programme hosts banned speakers from presenting their views in full or quoted other people's views out of context in their absence when running programmes on current affairs and hot topics. These members were also of the view that the performance of the licensees should not be assessed solely by the nature and number of complaints received but also in terms of their social responsibilities and the impact of their programmes on the community. Objective surveys and consultation should be conducted on the performance of CRHK and Metro. Noting the rules of impartiality as set out in the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards, some other members urged the CA to consider the licence renewal applications in accordance with the established criteria and standards. As there were too few radio stations in Hong Kong, they also urged the CA to consider introducing competition among sound broadcasters to avoid media control.

18. The CA advised that a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the licensees was being conducted in the context of the licence renewal applications, including their compliance with relevant statutory requirements, licence conditions and codes of practice, their

financial commitments and public views on the licensees' performance.

Review on regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls

19. On the Administration's review on the regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls ("P2P calls") and its effort to undertake a comprehensive landscaping exercise regarding P2P calls, some Panel members criticized that the issue was long overdue and that the Administration had all along adopted an approach of procrastination which had caused Hong Kong's regulatory regime to lag behind international practices. These members also opined that in the absence of legally binding legislative provisions governing P2P calls, the self-regulatory regime was ineffective and susceptible to abuse.

20. Noting the growing preponderance of P2P calls, with more people responding negatively to the calls and fewer people reporting any gains from the calls, the majority of members opined that P2P calls were ineffective in achieving sales and caused inconvenience to members of the public. As such, there was a genuine need to enhance the existing regulatory regime of such calls. However, a few members considered that a balance should be struck between the need to minimize the nuisance caused by P2P calls and the economic benefits brought by such calls through the creation of business and employment opportunities. These members hoped that the Administration would study the economic impact brought about by P2P calls to members of the public as well as the practices of overseas jurisdictions in handling such calls. Some other members suggested that Hong Kong should follow other countries such as Singapore, the United Kingdom and Canada in establishing do-not-call registers to regulate such calls.

21. Given the complexity of the issues involved, the Administration advised that the prudent way was to undertake a comprehensive landscaping exercise so as to find out the actual situation, including the manpower situation of the industry and profile of the industry practitioners using telemarketing calls, before contemplating the way forward. The Administration would report findings of the exercise to the Panel by end of 2015 or early 2016.

Implementation of the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme

22. The Panel was briefed on the findings of the review by the Office of the Communications Authority ("OFCA") of the two-year trial of the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme ("CCSS") and the way forward with the implementation of the CCSS on a long term basis. Members in general welcomed the on-going implementation of the CCSS. Noting that the TO did not confer on the CA the statutory power to intervene in individual billing

disputes between telecommunications service providers and their customers, some members urged the Administration to introduce legislative amendments as soon as possible to give the CA such power so that it could deal with billing disputes more effectively. In response, the Administration supported adopting a light-handed regulatory approach in general for the telecommunications industry and allowed the operators to put in place self-regulatory measures by issuing codes of practice. This approach had proven effective as evident from the declining statistics on customer complaints.

23. Some Panel members suggested that the scope of the CCSS should be extended to cover complaints about P2P calls from telecommunications service providers to residential/personal customers. Some other members suggested that the scope of the CCSS be extended to cover complaints about domestic pay television services. The setting-up of a referral mechanism for cases received by the Consumer Council to the CCSS was also proposed to avoid overlapping of resources in handling complaints.

24. The Administration advised that having obtained a clearer picture on the latest situation of P2P calls after the findings of the landscaping exercise as stated in paragraph 21 above, the Administration would then be in a better position to formulate appropriate measures to address the issue. Meanwhile, the Administration noted members' suggestion on extending the scope of the CCSS and would keep in view the situation, and consider the setting-up of a similar self-regulatory regime for broadcasting services if necessary. The Administration would also liaise with the Consumer Council to explore the possibilities of setting up a referral mechanism for such complaints.

Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

25. On the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance ("COIAO"), the Panel agreed with the proposed abolition of the administrative classification function of the Obscene Articles Tribunal ("OAT") while leaving the OAT to only deal with judicial determination on whether an article was obscene or indecent upon referral by the court or magistrate concerned in civil or criminal proceedings. However, some members expressed concern that the publication industry would be deprived of a classification avenue and would face greater risk of being prosecuted for articles that were likely to be indecent or obscene after the abolition of the classification avenue.

26. According to the Administration, a new repository under the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration ("OFNAA") would be established to replace the existing repository under the Judiciary. Members

of the public (including the publishing industry) might apply to OFNAA to inspect the indecent articles seized by OFNAA for convicted cases under the COIAO. Given the significant decrease in demand for administrative classification in recent years, the Administration was of the view that since most publishers were already familiar with the prevailing adjudication standards adopted by the OAT, they would not face a higher risk of prosecution after the abolition of the administrative classification function.

27. Noting that there had been precedent cases where work of art were classified as indecent articles by the OAT, some Panel members opined that the OAT adjudicators should be drawn from a cross-section of the community to ensure its representativeness and avoid such controversies in future. Some other members opined that the existing self-nomination system of OAT adjudicators would inevitably lead to bias, as people who nominated themselves were likely to adopt strict moral standards with regard to obscenity and indecency. To enhance the diversity of members of the OAT, these members suggested that the Judiciary should consider reforming the OAT system from one based on self-nomination to one based on nomination by the authorities. The Administration would relay members' suggestion to the Judiciary.

28. Some Panel members opined that under the existing self-nomination system, the panel of adjudicators would not be representative of the community standard, and the decisions of the OAT would be left to a limited group of adjudicators who did not fully reflect the prevailing community standard. These members proposed that the term of appointment of the adjudicators should be shortened from the existing 12 years to six years to speed up turnover and increase the representativeness of the OAT. The administration undertook to relay members' views to the Judiciary for consideration.

29. Noting the Administration's proposal to establish a liaison group consisting of IT professionals, representatives of Internet service providers and government representatives to review and enhance the existing co-regulatory framework and update the existing Code of Practice for the control of indecent and obscene articles on the Internet, some Panel members opined that apart from industry representatives, the liaison group should also comprise representatives of Internet users. These members also suggested that the Administration should introduce a safe harbour mechanism in the COIAO to protect the interests of the Internet service providers, with reference to the one proposed in the Copyright (Amendments) Bill 2014. The Administration undertook to consider members' views and suggestions during the review of the co-regulatory framework.

Government Data Centre Complex

30. In December 2014, the Administration consulted the Panel on the funding proposal to conduct pre-construction consultancy services for carrying out the design and site investigation for the construction works of a new Government Data Centre Complex ("the Complex"). The Panel supported in principle the funding proposal amounting to \$52.6 million in money-of-the-day prices, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee in mid 2015.

31. Noting that some Government Bureau/Departments ("B/Ds") would continue to use existing government data centres and outsourced data centre services upon completion of the Complex, some Panel members expressed concern whether the Government's objectives in building the Complex could be met. Some other members queried whether the site in Cheung Sha Wan was suitable for building the Complex and whether there was genuine need to pursue the project. These members also expressed concern that building the Complex in a densely populated area with factories nearby might increase the risk of fire hazard.

32. The Administration advised that the Complex would replace existing government data centres with relocation needs, accommodate new service requirements that could not be handled by existing data centres and accommodate data centre services for B/Ds which needed to switch their IT operations from outsourced data centres to government data centres. The Administration would co-ordinate the data centre needs of B/Ds and encourage them to join the Complex.

33. The Administration further advised that it would be a reasonable investment for building the Complex at the selected site in view of the available power supply infrastructure at the location that could meet the operational needs of the Complex without significant infrastructure enhancements, e.g. building new power substations. The location and area of the site were suitable for building the Complex, and the project had complied with the relevant planning and zoning requirements. The Complex was intended to be a 13-level building according to the permissible plot ratio. Moreover, the site could provide sufficient construction floor area for the Complex to accommodate the anticipated demands.

E-Government

34. The Panel discussed and supported in principle the proposed block allocation of \$940 million for the implementation of computerization projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead

A007GX – New Administrative computer systems. This would enable the Government to keep pace with the increasing use of information and communications technology ("ICT") for service transformation, improve customer services and enhance system security. In view of the decrease in contract value of IT projects awarded through the Standing Offer Agreement for the procurement of Quality Professional Services ("SOA-QPS"), some members expressed concern about the intense competition among small and medium sized enterprises ("SMEs") in the ICT sector and their difficulties in bidding for Government IT contracts and tenders.

35. As advised by the Administration, the Government aimed to break large IT projects down into smaller ones and award contracts in phases as far as possible so that SMEs could have more opportunities to participate in Government IT contracts and tenders. According to the figures, out of the current 43 service providers under SOA-QPS, 10 of them were SMEs representing about 23% of the total number of service providers. Out of the total number of IT contracts being awarded, about 26% were awarded to SMEs.

36. Panel members opined that the Administration should review the extent of e-Government adoption in the provision of different public services, and formulate measures to encourage and promote the adoption of e-Government services. In order to provide further convenience to members of the public, some members suggested that the Administration should explore the feasibility of developing an online voting system for elections in Hong Kong, and mobile applications for the payment of miscellaneous government fees such as water charges, rates, government rent and fixed penalty for illegal parking. Some other members also urged the Administration to make more productive use of Big Data analytics to enhance the sharing of datasets among different B/Ds for strategic planning purposes.

37. The Administration noted members' views and suggestions, and undertook to provide more data and statistics on the extent of e-Government adoption in the provision of different public services in its future reports to the Panel. Regarding the development of mobile applications for payment of government fees, the Administration agreed to explore the suggestion. Nevertheless, the preference of members of the public and security issues on using mobile applications for payment purpose would need to be considered. The feasibility of developing an online voting system would also be explored having regard to the international trend to adopt such system.

Digital inclusion

38. On the Government's digital inclusion initiatives, the Panel noted that in the past three years, the Administration had launched two rounds of the "Funding Scheme for the Development of Digital Inclusion Mobile Applications" ("the Funding Scheme") to support the development of assistive tools for persons with special needs. The developers for the mobile applications ("apps") were selected by the relevant service organizations in accordance with an open tendering process. The organizations receiving the funding were required to provide the Administration with post implementation reports after the launch of such apps. Members urged the Administration to step up promotional efforts to increase download counts of the mobile apps and to monitor the selection process of the developers. Some other members raised concern whether measures had been taken to assist the recipients, in particular the hidden elderly, in using the apps and to ensure information security for such recipients.

39. The Administration advised that with relevant expertise and service networks, the three organizations selected by the Administration would reach out to these seniors with tailor-made activities to help them use tablets and arouse their interests in ICT. The developers and the service organizations were reminded of information security and privacy issues in designing the mobile apps and conducting seminars on using the apps for the recipients.

40. As regards the Internal Learning Support Programme ("ILSP"), the Panel noted the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the ILSP in the past few years. Some members expressed concern about the way forward for the ILSP, in particular the handling of cumulative doubtful debts and bad debts resulting from delinquent instalment payments for computer equipment and broadband services. According to the Administration, the Implementers of the ILSP would review all the delinquent cases on an individual basis. Families with genuine financial problems would be followed up by social workers, and their debts could be written off if deemed necessary. Appropriate measures and processes to handle such cases had also been put in place to minimize similar occurrences.

Cyberport Project

41. The Panel followed up closely the progress of the Cyberport Project which was launched since 2004. Members noted that as at March 2015, the Government had received a total of about \$19.2 billion in surplus proceeds. This exceeded the Government's capital contribution of \$7.9 billion to the Project in the form of land grant for the residential development and the associated essential infrastructure development. Although the sale of the

Cyberport residential portion had already been completed, there was still project income of \$252 million for 2013-2014 arising from sale of residual carpark spaces and reserves for unused maintenance works. Upon exhaustion of project income from the residential portion, no further dividends would be payable to the Government.

42. Panel members called for the Administration to fully utilize the plot ratio of the lettable office space of Cyberport to further support new ICT startups. The Administration advised that the occupancy rate of Cyberport's lettable office space was around 90% and there was still some room for accommodating new ICT companies. The Administration would keep in view changes in the mode of operation of ICT startups and review the provision of necessary supporting facilities in due course.

43. Some Panel members expressed concern whether under the Cyberport Incubation Programme ("CIP"), startup companies were advised on solutions in resolving financial difficulties, including the option of terminating the business, and whether platforms were available for ICT startups to raise capital for their operation. The Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited ("the Cyberport management") advised that under the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund ("CCMF") programme, Cyberport provided \$100,000 as seed funding for each selected project to turn innovative ideas into prototypes. Apart from the support provided by CCMF, CIP provided comprehensive financial, technical and business advisory supports to ICT startups. Due to the differences in the nature of their businesses and stages of development, there was no "one-size fits all" solution for resolving financial difficulties of these startups. The Cyberport management had also launched the Cyberport Accelerator Support Programme to support its incubatees and alumni to participate in local and overseas accelerator programmes which offered valuable opportunities for overseas expansion and fundraising. In addition, promotional activities had been organized to introduce ICT startups to local and overseas investors to raise capital for their further development.

Creative industries

Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Design Centre

44. On the work of Create Hong Kong ("Create HK"), the Panel noted that over 2 900 job opportunities had been created through the promotional and internship programmes funded by CreateHK in 2014, and over 9 700 other job opportunities had been indirectly created as a result of the implementation of these programmes. Some members opined that while nurturing talents was important for the long-term development of the creative

industries, there should be coordination of effort among various organizations and institutions in this regard.

45. As regards Hong Kong Design Centre ("HKDC"), the majority of Panel members expressed support for the proposal to continue providing funding support of \$80 million to the HKDC to support its basic operation from July 2015 to March 2019. Some members were of the view that the Administration should step up measures to promote the integration of innovation and technology into the design industry, such as the use of "Internet of Things" and wearable technologies, and to keep the industry abreast of the new developments in the relevant fields. Some other members urged the Administration to integrate the projects in the design sector into the Government-funded research and development projects undertaken by small technology-based companies, as well as the projects funded under the incubation programmes operated by the Cyberport management and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

46. On nurturing design-entrepreneurs, some Panel members urged the Administration to support HKDC in collaboration with the commercial sector. Noting the small number of factories currently operating in Hong Kong, these members expressed concern about the lack of support for developing prototype products by local designers. They urged the Administration to step up measures to support designers in transforming their design activity into tradable deliverables. More venues should also be provided for display of works and products by young talents in the fashion-design industry.

47. As advised by the Administration, some fashion companies had provided workshops to design talents for manufacturing their fashion prototypes. In this regard, the Administration was in consultation with the Expert Group on Fashion Industry on finding ways to provide more workshops for producing their prototype products. The Administration would continue to explore opportunities to nurture young design-entrepreneurs and to increase their overseas exposure and to showcase their designed products and establish contacts with overseas buyers.

Film industry

48. In March 2015, the Panel discussed and supported in principle the Administration's proposal to inject \$200 million into the Film Development Fund ("FDF") to promote the long-term and healthy development of the film industry, including enhancement of the operation of the Film Production Financing Scheme ("FPFS") and the introduction of the Film Production Grant Scheme ("FPGS").

49. Some Panel members expressed concern about foreseeable difficulties in the enhancement of FPFs and the implementation of FPGS. In view that some film productions supported by FDF turned out to have low box office receipts, these members urged the Administration to review the reasons for the low return and consider implementing measures to increase the effectiveness of the film supporting schemes. Some other members opined that despite the increasing number of Hong Kong-Mainland co-production titles in recent years, the Government should continue to provide funding support under FDF for local film makers to produce more films of new genres catering to the taste of the local audience. These members also opined that encouraging more local film production was vital for the creation of local job opportunities.

50. The Panel noted that the Administration had proposed to facilitate cinema development and to reserve space for cinemas in major cultural and entertainment development areas. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau would work in consultation with the Development Bureau to explore ways to facilitate cinema development through land sale and planning. Some members urged the Administration to provide subsidies to support cinemas' operations. The Administration should also consider including new terms in the assignment of land to developers by requiring a certain percentage of land be used for building cinemas. However, some members did not consider the proposal commercially viable to facilitate cinema development given the changes in the film market where audience had turned to watch films on digital video discs and the web.

51. According to the Administration, building more cinemas could help nurture the development of local film talent as there would be more venues for showing films. Funding support would also be provided to the Hong Kong International Film Festival for continuing to host the Cine Fan Club Programme, which sought to attract more young audience to patronize cinema and watch local and foreign classic films so as to groom their knowledge and interest in film.

Other work

52. During the 2014-2015 legislative session, the Panel also discussed the legislative proposal to amend Schedule 1 to the Electronics Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553) to give e-cheque the same legal status as paper cheque.

53. From October 2014 to June 2015, the Panel held a total of 10 meetings. Another meeting has been scheduled for July 2015.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 June 2015

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**Membership list for 2014-2015 session**

Chairman	Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Deputy Chairman	Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
Members	Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
	Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
	Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
	Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
	Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
	Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
	Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
	Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
	Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
	Hon WONG Yuk-man
	Hon Claudia MO
	Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
	Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
	Hon YIU Si-wing
	Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
	Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
	Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
	Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
	Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
	Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
	Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
	(Total: 23 members)
Clerk	Ms YUE Tin-po
Legal Adviser	Ms Vanessa CHENG