

**Joint Meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs,  
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting and  
Panel on Security**

**The Incident of Leakage of Passengers' Personal Data by  
Cathay Pacific Airways and  
Issues relating to Protection of Personal Data and Cyber Security**

**Opening Remarks**

President,

The SAR Government is highly concerned about the incident of leakage of passenger's personal data by Cathay Pacific Airways. The relevant government departments and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") have immediately taken follow up and investigation actions in various aspects since the incident. Among these, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau ("CSTCB") of the HKPF have immediately started investigation work on the case upon receiving of the report, and have visited places such as the Cathay City of the Hong Kong International Airport to collect evidence. The PCPD have also commenced a compliance investigation of the case pursuant to section 38(b) of the PDPO. PCPD will endeavor to complete the compliance investigation as soon as possible and make a report with a view to deciding on the next step. The HKPF will investigate the case fully and in particular monitor all reports involving suspected cases of theft of personal data related to the leaking incident that lead to actual loss.

I note that there are views in the society that this incident reflects that there is room for amendment and improvement to the PDPO. I agree with those views in principle. As for how amendments are to be made specifically, the SAR Government maintain an open view, and have, in collaboration with the PCPD, started a review on the relevant stipulations and penalties under the PDPO, including the proposal of establishing a mandatory breach notification system.

President, looking back at history, the Government has conducted public consultation on the PDPO and relevant legislative amendments between 2009 and 2010. One of the issues for consultation was the personal data breach notification system. Of the views received, about half were in support of a voluntary notification system. Taking into consideration the possible impact of implementing a mandatory notification system, the Government decided to start with a voluntary notification system.

I note that in the light of rapid development and wide use of technology in recent years, the processing of personal data has become massive and digitalised, timely notification is even more important; but on the other hand, there are also views that the Government should take into account the compliance capabilities of the micro, small and medium enterprises and the costs involved. We will keep close watch on the PCPD's investigation results. At the same time, we will examine carefully how the regulation of data protection and the notification arrangements could be enhanced and liaise closely with stakeholders.

President, this concludes my opening remarks. My colleagues and I shall be happy to respond to questions from Members.

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