

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)1003/18-19  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/ITB

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 11 March 2019, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying  
Hon HUI Chi-fung
- Members absent** : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

**Public officers  
attending**

: Agenda item IV

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Clement LEUNG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Communications and Creative  
Industries)

Ms Julina CHAN, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Communications and Creative  
Industries)

Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr LEUNG Ka-wing, JP  
Director of Broadcasting

Mrs Sharon YIP, JP  
Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)

Agenda item V

Innovation and Technology Bureau

Mr Nicholas YANG Wei-hsiung, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Mr Davey CHUNG Pui-hong, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Technology (2)

Mr Victor LAM Wai-kiu, JP  
Government Chief Information Officer

Mr Tony WONG Chi-kwong, JP  
Assistant Government Chief Information Officer  
(Industry Development)

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Daniel SIN  
Chief Council Secretary (1)6

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Mandy LI  
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Mr Patrick CHOI  
Council Secretary (1)6

Miss Yolanda CHEUK  
Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

---

**I. Confirmation of minutes**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)668/18-19 -- Minutes of meeting held on  
14 January 2019)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 18 February 2019.

**III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(01) -- List of outstanding items  
for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 16 April 2019

3. The Chairman said that, at the request of the Administration, the discussion on the item "Update on Smart City Development", originally scheduled for today's meeting, had been deferred to the next regular meeting scheduled for 16 April 2019, while the item "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" had been included for discussion at the meeting. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Tuesday, 16 April 2019 at 10:30 am to discuss the following items:

- (a) Legislative Proposals for Strengthening Regulation of Person-to-Person Telemarketing Calls ("P2P Calls"); and

(b) Update on Smart City Development.

4. The Chairman said that as members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("CI Panel") had expressed concerns over the proposed regulation of P2P Calls, they would be invited to join the discussion of the item at the regular meeting scheduled for 16 April 2019. Members had no objection to the proposed arrangement.

*(Post-meeting note: As proposed by a member of CI Panel after the meeting and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the discussion on P2P Calls would be held as a joint meeting of this Panel and CI Panel at 10:30 am on 16 April 2019. The regular meeting would be held thereafter at 11:35 am on 16 April 2019 to discuss "Update on Smart City Development".)*

Discussion on the item "Assignment of spectrum for fifth generation mobile services"

5. The Chairman asked when the Administration would brief the Panel on the assignment of spectrum for the fifth generation mobile services, as the Administration would need to introduce the relevant subsidiary legislation and to conduct the auction of spectrum in around mid-2019. The Deputy Chairman raised a similar query. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) ("PS(CCI)") said the Administration targeted to complete the legislative process within the current legislative session and would follow up with the Secretariat on the Panel agenda as appropriate.

**IV. Proposed Creation of one Permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(03) -- Administration's paper on proposed creation of one permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(04) -- Paper on the post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief)

Briefing by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, PS(CCI) briefed members on the proposed creation of a permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B ("AOSGB") in Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK"), to be designated as Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Administration and Development) ("DD of B (A&D)"). He said that DD of B (A&D) would provide the necessary steer and supervision on matters relating to governance, strategic planning, resource deployment and development of the new Broadcasting House ("BH") project. Once created, the post would replace the incumbent DD of B (Developments) supernumerary AOSGB post which was due to lapse on 27 May 2019. Details of the briefing were given in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(03)).

Discussion

*Financial provision for RTHK and editorial independence*

7. Ms Claudia MO asked why RTHK's financial provision this year seemed to be reduced by 2% whereas that of the Information Services Department received an increase of 5% in the 2019-20 Estimates. PS(CCI) clarified that RTHK's original estimates in 2019-20 exceeded those of 2018-19 by \$8.6 million; and as for manpower, there was a net increase of 17 posts in terms of civil service establishment. The decrease in provision in the 2019-20 original estimates as compared with the 2018-19 revised estimates was mainly due to lower cost for transmission of analogue TV service. As a matter of fact, RTHK's financial provision in the past decade had increased by nearly 120%, higher than that for the overall average increase for the Government as a whole.

8. Ms Claudia MO also asked whether the proposed creation of a permanent post of DD of B (A&D), which was to be filled by an Administrative Officer, would intensify the Administration's interference with RTHK's editorial independence. Mr YIU Si-wing commented that it was legitimate for the Administration to monitor the operation of RTHK as a significant amount of resources was involved in keeping the department running.

9. Director of Broadcasting ("D of B") said that there was no question of the proposed DD of B (A&D) interfering with RTHK's editorial independence. He explained that the DD of B (A&D) post would be responsible for ensuring that RTHK's operations were in compliance with the Government's rules and regulations. Programme content and editorial matters were under the purview of the other deputy director, DD of B (Programmes). PS(CCI) added that it was stipulated in RTHK's Charter that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") had policy purview and housekeeping oversight over RTHK.

*Progress of the new Broadcasting House project*

10. Mr Alvin YEUNG noted that the current supernumerary deputy director post was responsible for implementing the new BH project, but little progress had been made in the past five years. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed similar concerns. Mr Alvin YEUNG said members should be informed of the status of the new BH project before making their decision on whether or not to support the Administration's staffing proposal.

11. PS(CCI) said that DD of B (Developments) was responsible for a host of administrative duties other than the new BH project. In recounting past work being undertaken for the new BH project, DD of B (Developments) noted that considerable time had been spent to discuss with the Government Laboratory the prospect of developing the new BH as a joint user building, although consensus could not be ultimately reached over some major technical issues. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") were now exploring with several government departments which had indicated interest in sharing the use of the site for the new BH. Once a consensus on user requirements could be reached, ArchSD would work out a conceptual layout and conduct a technical feasibility study for the project. By then, RTHK would be able to work out a more concrete plan and proceed further according to the established mechanism. PS(CCI) said that it was difficult to commit to a definite timetable for the project as the intervening stages of development were inter-related and each might involve uncertain factors.

*Permanency of the post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B*

12. Mr WONG Ting-kwong asked why the Administration considered it necessary to create a permanent deputy director post rather than retaining the current supernumerary post. PS(CCI) advised that the Administration had been prudent in considering whether a permanent directorate post should be created, taking into account experience in the past eight years and the on-going nature of the work for this post. Over the years, RTHK had become a government department with a sizeable annual budget and provided territory-wide services.

There were also a number of major new initiatives in the pipeline. Compared with Government departments of similar set up, it was justifiable for RTHK to have a permanent deputy director post. Furthermore, RTHK would need to follow up on the recommendations in the Director of Audit's Report No. 71. The Administration therefore considered it reasonable to create a permanent deputy director post to strengthen RTHK's governance and to formulate strategies for its continuous development.

13. The Chairman asked how the conversion of the current supernumerary directorate post into a permanent post would help take forward the new BH project and improve the management of RTHK, and what key performance indicators would the Administration use to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the proposal. PS(CCI) responded that, without the proposed post, it might, for example, take even longer for RTHK to come up with a new plan to take forward the new BH project and to address the management issues as highlighted in the Director of Audit's report.

*Production of programmes similar to other market players'*

14. Mrs Regina IP commented that RTHK should ensure that its services were cost effective and should focus on those not being provided in the market. She suggested that RTHK should continue to broadcast cultural programmes and should start to broadcast more local sports events. She queried whether RTHK should terminate the news services and the Education Television ("ETV") programme. In particular, Mrs Regina IP asked the Administration to provide more information regarding the cost, staffing support, operating expenditure, scope of the programmes and the viewership in respect of ETV before the proposal was submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

15. PS(CCI) noted that it was one of RTHK's missions to provide services to cater for the needs of minority interest groups and they would continue to do so as the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong. In the past year, RTHK had been broadcasting more local sports events such as inter-school sports competitions. Besides, it produced a number of programmes for ethnic minorities and cultural programmes. As for ETV, PS(CCI) advised that the Education Bureau ("EDB"), which had the policy oversight of ETV and funded the programme, was reviewing its future direction in the light of the observations and recommendations made in the Director of Audit's report. EDB would report the findings of the review to the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") in due course. PS(CCI) undertook to convey Panel members' views to EDB, and invite the Bureau to provide the requested information to members for reference.

16. Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that he did not agree that RTHK should terminate its news service. Mr CHU said that public service broadcasters in many overseas jurisdictions provided news services and RTHK should maintain this function. D of B said that he took pride in RTHK's news services and would strive for excellence.

*Performance monitoring and review*

17. Mr YIU Si-wing supported the proposed creation of the permanent directorate post. He asked how the permanent post could help improve the operation and management of RTHK in terms of cost control, programme quality and TV ratings. PS(CCI) said that, in view of the Audit recommendations, RTHK had already set up working groups and commenced reviews on areas including employment of non-civil service contract staff, procurement procedures and collection of cross-media TV ratings. DD of B (A&D) would be responsible for overseeing the reviews and the follow-up actions. PS(CCI) added that the Administration targeted to report its initial review findings to PAC in May 2019.

18. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether DD of B (A&D) would deputize D of B in the latter's absence and when DD of B (Programmes) was unable to do so. Mr CHAN also asked about the establishment of RTHK's Systems Review Unit, and whether it had enough manpower to perform its duty of re-aligning RTHK's resources with its organizational goals. He also asked whether the Unit would report to any advisory committee.

19. D of B advised that it was the prevailing arrangement for DD of B (Programmes) to act in the capacity of the Director in the latter's absence unless under very exceptional circumstances. PS(CCI) said that RTHK's Systems Review Unit took the role of internal audit and would select issues each year for conducting value for money studies. D of B added that the reports submitted by the Systems Review Unit would be studied by DD of B (Developments) and himself. In addition, RTHK was accountable to CEDB on matters related to the use of resources and would report to the RTHK Board of Advisors on matters under their purview.

Motion

20. Mrs Regina IP and Mr CHAN Chun-ying jointly proposed a motion under the agenda item. The Chairman ruled that the motion was related to the item under discussion. Members agreed that the motion should be proceeded with. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Regina IP introduced the motion:



*The motion proposed by Mrs Regina IP and Mr CHAN Chun-ying:*

鑒於香港電台("港台")每年開支超過10億港元，費用不菲，本會促請政府必須承諾，在港台開設一個常設乙級政務官職位以擔任副處署長之後，必須採取有效措施，提高港台運作的成本效益，包括檢討教育電視的存在價值，並確保港台能善用資訊科技，與時並進，加強對本港的體育活動的報道及廣播，以加強力度支持本港的體育發展。

(Translation)

Given that the Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") spends more than HK\$1 billion a year, this Panel urges the Government to undertake that, following the creation of a permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in RTHK, designated as Deputy Director of Broadcasting, it has to adopt effective measures to enhance the cost-effectiveness of the operation of RTHK, including reviewing whether it is worth maintaining the education television service, and ensuring that RTHK would make the best use of the most up-to-date information technologies to widen the coverage and broadcasting of local sports activities, so as to strengthen support to the local sports development.

21. D of B responded and explained RTHK's efforts in broadcasting more local sports programmes through its multimedia platforms.

22. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As a majority of members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried and requested the Administration to respond to the concerns raised by the Panel.

*(Post-meeting note: The wording of the motion passed was circulated to members by email on 15 March 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)696/18-19(01). The Administration's response to the motion and issues raised at the meeting was circulated to members on 10 April 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)877/18-19(01).)*

Conclusion

23. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the Administration's staffing proposal, and that it should be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") for consideration. The Chairman said that several members had expressed concerns about the management issues of RTHK and queried why the DD of B (A&D) post had to be a permanent establishment and should not remain a supernumerary position. She reminded the Administration to prepare more information regarding ETV and broadcasting of local sports programme by RTHK, as questions were likely to be raised on

these issues at ESC meeting.

## **V. IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(05) -- Administration's paper on IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools)

### Briefing by the Administration

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("S for IT") and Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to provide funding support for about 500 publicly-funded secondary schools to set up Information Technology ("IT") Innovation Labs. S for IT and GCIO said that the Financial Secretary announced in his 2019-2020 Budget Speech to set aside \$500 million to implement the "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" initiative in all publicly-funded secondary schools in the coming three school years from 2019/2020 to 2021/2022. The Administration tentatively planned to submit the funding proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval in April/May 2019. Subject to FC's approval, the Administration's target was to launch the initiative before end-2019. Details of the briefing were given in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(05)).

25. The Chairman referred to a submission from Mr IP Kin-yuen concerning the setting up of IT Innovation Labs in secondary schools, which was tabled at the meeting. She said that the Administration would be invited to provide a written response to the issues raised in the above submission.

*(Post-meeting note: The submission from Mr IP Kin-yuen was circulated to members vide (LC Paper No. CB(1)691/18-19(01)) (Chinese version only) by email on 11 March 2019.)*

### Discussion

#### *Funding support for secondary schools*

26. Mr CHAN Chun-ying expressed support for the Administration's proposal of providing funding support for secondary schools to set up IT Innovation Labs. He asked why the Administration did not incorporate IT Innovation Labs into the secondary school curriculum. He suggested that the Education Bureau ("EDB") should integrate IT elements into the "Other Learning Experiences" activities so that secondary school students could apply

IT knowledge and skills in other areas such as volunteering services.

27. S for IT advised that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") had launched the eight-year Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools ("EITP") since the 2015/2016 school year to identify and nurture IT talent in secondary schools. With the experience gained from EITP, the Administration decided to implement the "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" initiative in all publicly-funded secondary schools in the coming three school years. Each participating secondary school would receive a maximum funding of \$1 million for setting up an IT Innovation Lab as well as organizing IT-related extra-curricular activities ("ECA"). OGCIO would discuss with EDB timely on relevant measures to sustain efforts to promote popular science education in schools in the light of the outcome and effectiveness of the initiative, latest technology development and the needs of schools.

28. GCIO added that while EDB had made efforts to promote the development of IT in education through various funding schemes such as the Life-wide Learning Fund, the Composite Information Technology Fund and dedicated funding programme under the Quality Education Fund for publicly-funded schools, the proposed initiative would aim at enabling students to learn about IT in publicly-funded secondary schools through enhancing IT equipment and facilities in schools and organizing more IT-related ECA. S for IT and GCIO said that IT Innovation Labs were meant to provide activities to students outside the classroom; and participation by schools was voluntary. These activities were complementary to the "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" ("STEM") education being promoted by the Administration.

29. Mr YIU Si-wing supported the funding proposal. He said that the proposed initiative was conducive to grooming IT talent in secondary schools and the long-term development of IT in Hong Kong. Mr YIU suggested that the Administration should provide funding support to publicly-funded secondary schools on a matching basis so that the recipient schools would have to contribute and commit to the initiative. S for IT and GCIO said that the activities to be organized under the proposed initiative were ECA by nature and participation was voluntary. Even with government subsidies, schools would likely have to undertake certain amount of additional work to set up IT Innovation Labs and organize relevant activities. The Administration considered it appropriate to provide the initial set-up and maintenance cost, and to encourage the private sector to participate in organizing the relevant activities so that the initiative would not take up too much of the schools' manpower resources. S for IT said that the Administration would consider the way forward in the light of the operating experience.

30. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that a joint study conducted by One Country Two Systems Research Institute and the University of Oxford on the potential impact of artificial intelligence ("AI") technology on the Hong Kong employment market. The study revealed that 28% of the jobs in Hong Kong could be at high risk of being automated and the working population in Hong Kong would face high chance of being substituted by AI technology in the next couple of decades. He enquired whether and how the IT Innovation Labs would help secondary school students learn about AI technology and pursue a future career that would not be easily replaced by AI. S for IT responded that in the new digital age, students should learn to make use of AI to build up their capability to embrace the challenges of automation.

31. Mr YIU Si-wing pointed out that Hong Kong lagged behind some other places such as the Mainland in the development of robots and drone technologies. He asked whether the funding could be used for organizing ECA outside Hong Kong. S for IT responded that publicly-funded secondary schools benefited from the initiative could use the subsidies for participating in local and international competitions.

32. Mr WONG Ting-kwong supported the proposed initiative to set up IT Innovation Labs in publicly-funded secondary schools. Mr WONG queried whether the funding was sufficient to cover hardware maintenance and upgrades in the long term.

33. S for IT explained that the objective of the IT Innovation Lab initiative was to strengthen popular science education in secondary schools. Each publicly-funded secondary school could receive up to \$1 million to procure the IT equipment and professional services, and organize ECA to deepen students' knowledge in cutting-edge IT. OGCI would set up a one-stop support centre to provide professional advice and technical support to secondary schools in implementing the IT Innovation Labs and organizing relevant ECAs.

34. Mr WONG Ting-kwong suggested that the proposed IT Innovation Lab initiative should cover primary schools so as to broaden students' learning experiences in IT-related areas from an early age. The Chairman made a similar comment. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should expeditiously expand the scheme to all primary schools. Citing the primary education in Mainland as an example, the Chairman held the view that EDB should support primary schools in implementing coding and AI education for students from an early age. Mrs Regina IP made a similar suggestion.

35. S for IT explained that the proposed initiative was designed for secondary school students and was not suitable to be applied in primary schools directly. The Administration would, however, consider whether another

initiative could be introduced in primary schools at a later stage. S for IT added that some non-governmental organizations were developing coding education for primary schools. For example, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust ("the Trust") had initiated the CoolThink@JC programme in 2016 with the aim of equipping upper primary students in 32 schools with the basic coding capabilities to strengthen their computational thinking, as well as helping teachers master the necessary professional skills. He added that the programme, which was funded with a donation of HK\$216 million, had been co-created by the Trust, two local universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of the United States.

*Support for schools and teachers*

36. The Chairman asked whether and when the Administration would have a long-term and holistic planning on promoting STEM and IT education, not just for developing popular science education, but to nurture innovation and technology ("I&T") talent from an early age. The Chairman pointed out that there was a shortage of qualified teachers, and the Administration should put in place measures to strengthen professional support for schools and teachers, including enhancing the quality of teacher training and relieving their workload and pressure.

37. S for IT responded that OGCIO had been implementing EITP since the 2015/2016 school year with positive response. Riding on the experience of various funding schemes, the Administration would continue to provide adequate resources for schools to facilitate the sustainable development of I&T education. He assured members that Innovation and Technology Bureau ("I&TB") would continue to maintain a close dialogue with EDB in strengthening the promotion of popular science education and consider ways to alleviate unnecessary pressure on teachers.

38. Mrs Regina IP expressed concerns that implementing IT Innovation Labs in schools might increase teachers' workload. She asked whether participating secondary schools would enhance IT manpower support to meet the likely increase in workload arising from the setting up of IT Innovation Labs, or whether ECAs would be outsourced to service providers so as to alleviate the pressure faced by teachers. Mrs IP also queried how the Administration would monitor the standard of service providers to ensure the efficacy of the proposed initiative.

39. GCIO responded that when mapping out the implementation details of the IT Innovation Lab initiative, reference had been made to relevant guidelines on ECA issued by EDB. Under the proposed scheme, secondary schools could flexibly deploy resources as appropriate to procure the necessary technical

support and services according to their specific needs. Meanwhile, a one-stop support centre would be established to provide professional advice and technical support to schools. S for IT said that EITP had provided funding to 142 secondary schools to organize different types of IT activities in the past few years. He said that he had had exchanges with some teachers and students during his district visits and had not received any feedback on any major difficulties in organizing such activities for students.

40. The Chairman expressed concerns about possible digital divide as some schools were resourceful and knowledgeable in promoting IT in education as others. She asked how the Administration would promote digital inclusion among schools. S for IT shared the Chairman's concerns and said that funding support would be available under the IT Innovation Lab initiative to all the 500 publicly-funded secondary schools. They could use the funding flexibly according to their own needs and circumstances. Furthermore, OGCIO would foster information and experience sharing among schools of different background and proficiency in IT matters. GCIO said that OGCIO would also assist schools in planning for IT activities that suited their needs.

41. Mr WONG Ting-kwong said that some virtual reality/augmented reality ("VR/AR") arena had encountered problems, and some had even been prosecuted for not having obtained the relevant licences. He enquired whether secondary schools might face the same problem if they organized activities in the proposed IT Innovation Labs that included VR/AR elements. S for IT replied that the guidelines on the licensing issues relating to e-sports venues were expected to be published around end March 2019. The Administration would review the relevant regulations from time to time and introduce amendments as necessary.

*Manpower situation of one-stop support centre*

42. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that OGCIO would set up a one-stop support centre to render professional support to about 500 publicly-funded secondary schools. Expressing concerns on whether manpower of the centre was sufficient to cope with the additional workload arising from the new initiative, Mr CHAN enquired about the manpower resources that would be deployed for operating the centre. GCIO advised that seven civil service posts would be created to support the operation of the one-stop support centre. OGCIO might deploy additional internal resources to meet operational needs where necessary.

43. Noting that the estimated recurrent expenditure of the "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" initiative was \$11.6 million per annum, Mr YIU Si-wing questioned the justifications for creating additional permanent posts in

OGCIO when the funding scheme would lapse after three years. GCIO responded that additional manpower was required to take forward the initiative and implement various measures to support publicly-funded secondary schools in setting up IT Innovation Labs and organizing relevant activities. He added that the proposed seven additional posts would be created on a time-limited basis for three years.

*Promotion of STEM education*

44. Mrs Regina IP noted with concern the decline in the number of students sitting for examinations on STEM-related subjects (such as Module 1 ("M1") (Calculus and Statistics) and Module 2 ("M2") (Algebra and Calculus) in the extended part of Mathematics) in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education ("HKDSE") Examination in 2018 as compared with 2012. She asked what measures the Administration would take to stimulate students' interest in STEM education in addition to nurturing students' abilities to learn STEM subjects and emerging technologies such as AI and big data analytics. She further sought details on the key performance indicators that would be adopted, including the number of students enrolled in extended modules (viz. M1 and M2) of Mathematics, and whether it would help raise Hong Kong students' overall competitiveness in international competitions.

45. S for IT reiterated that the "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" initiative would be implemented on a voluntary basis even though the Administration would make every effort to invite more secondary schools to join. The Administration would encourage students to enrol in technology-related tertiary programmes and pursue a career in I&T. GCIO added that Hong Kong students in general performed well in international competitions. For example, Hong Kong achieved a remarkable result at the 18th Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance Awards. For senior secondary level, Information and Communication Technology ("ICT") had been included as an elective subject in HKDSE. GCIO observed that there was a slight increase in the percentage of students taking the ICT subject in the HKDSE Examination since the launch of EITP.

46. While commending the Administration for its efforts in promoting STEM education in recent years, the Chairman pointed out that members in general were very concerned about the division of work and responsibilities between I&TB and EDB in the promotion of popular science education. She asked the Administration to clarify whether EDB was responsible for monitoring the local primary and secondary school curricula whereas I&TB merely helped schools organize IT activities beyond the school curriculum through the provision of hardware and software support.

47. S for IT said that promoting popular science education was not the responsibility of just one bureau but required collaborative efforts within the Administration. I&TB had been working closely with EDB in promoting popular science education, and their efforts were complementary to each other in achieving the objective.

*Application of blockchain technology*

48. Mrs Regina IP commented that departments seemed sluggish in the application of blockchain technology in improving their operations and services. GCIO responded that OGCI was working closely with a number of bureaux and departments in applying blockchain technology in e-government.

*Administration's representatives to answer members' queries*

49. Mr Alvin YEUNG supported the funding proposal as he considered the initiative was in the right direction in nurturing secondary school students' interest in IT. He commented that representatives from EDB should be present at the meeting to answer members' queries on matters related to the role and workload of teachers, or education policies in general. Mr YEUNG commented that representatives from EDB should be invited to attend the FC meeting on which funding approval for the proposed IT Innovation Lab initiative was sought. The Chairman and Mrs Regina IP echoed Mr YEUNG's views. S for IT undertook to follow up with EDB on the attendance at the FC meeting.

Motion

50. Mr WONG Ting-kwong proposed the following motion to be moved without notice for a decision by the Panel:

"為加強本港的科普教育及"科學、科技、工程和數學"(STEM)教育，本會支持"IT 創新實驗室"計劃，並促請特區政府在中學以外，盡快擴展服務對象至全港小學。"

(Translation)

"This Panel supports the Information Technology Innovation Labs scheme as a means to strengthening popular science education and "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" education, and calls on the Special Administration Region Government to expeditiously expand the scheme to all primary schools in the territory, in addition to secondary schools."



51. The Chairman ruled that the motion was directly related to the agenda item under discussion. Panel members agreed to proceed with dealing with the motion. As a quorum was not present at the meeting, the Chairman ordered that the voting bell be rung to summon members to vote on the motion. The voting bell was rung for five minutes.

52. Mr WONG Ting-kwong queried whether the motion could be passed by a majority of the members present at the meeting at that time since a division was not ordered. He queried whether it was necessary for the meeting to be quorate in order to proceed to a vote. The Chairman said that it was an established practice that the Chairman of a committee, including a Panel, should ensure the presence of a quorum before putting a matter to vote.

53. When a quorum was present, the Chairman invited Mr WONG Ting-kwong to move the motion. The Chairman then put the question on the motion to the Panel. The Chairman announced that three members voted for the motion, no member voted against it, and two members abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

*(Post-meeting note: The wording of the motion passed was circulated to members by email on 15 March 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)696/18-19(02).)*

### Conclusion

54. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's funding proposal and agreed that it should be submitted to FC for funding approval.

### **VI. Any other business**

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:27 pm.