

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)717/19-20
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/ITB

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 20 April 2020, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (Chairman)
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
- Member absent** : Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
- Members attending** : Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

**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)

Mr Keith GIANG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Communications and
Creative Industries)A

Office of the Communications Authority

Mr Sanda CHEUK
Deputy Director-General
(Telecommunications)

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr CHUA Hoi-wai, JP
Chief Executive

Agenda item V

Innovation and Technology Bureau

Dr David CHUNG Wai-keung, JP
Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Ms Eva YAM Ya-ling
Principal Assistant Secretary for Innovation and
Technology (3)

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

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

Mr Daniel CHEUNG Yee-wai
Chief Systems Manager (Common Services)

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

Mr Bobby CHENG Kam-wing, JP
Deputy Director of Administration (1)

Miss Ruby LUK Yuk-shan
Government Records Service Director

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

Ms Yvonna HO
Clerical Assistant (1)6

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meetings

(LC Paper No. CB(1)361/19-20 -- Minutes of meeting held on
9 December 2019

LC Paper No. CB(1)480/19-20 -- Minutes of meeting held on
13 January 2020)

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 December 2019 and 13 January 2020 were confirmed.

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

(LC Paper No. CB(1)441/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 4 March 2020
(Chinese version only) from Hon KWONG Chun-yu
proposing the discussion of
the Communications
Authority's decision to
revoke the directions issued
to domestic free television
programme service licensees

- on the requirements to broadcast programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong
- LC Paper No. CB(1)451/19-20(01) (Chinese version only) -- Letter dated 5 March 2020 from Hon Alvin YEUNG suggesting that a special meeting be convened to discuss the Communications Authority's decision to revoke the directions issued to domestic free television programme service licensees on the requirements to broadcast programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong
- LC Paper No. CB(1)458/19-20(01) -- Administration's response to the letter dated 6 January 2020 from Hon Elizabeth QUAT regarding the overall strategy and the allocation of resources for promoting Hong Kong's innovation and technology development [LC Paper No. CB(1)305/19-20(01)]
- LC Paper No. CB(1)466/19-20(01) -- Administration's response to the two letters dated 4 March and 5 March 2020 from Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon Alvin YEUNG regarding the Communications Authority's decision to revoke the directions issued to domestic free television programme service licensees on the requirements to broadcast programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong [LC Paper Nos. CB(1)441/19-20(01) and CB(1)451/19-20(01)]

LC Paper No. CB(1)549/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 17 April 2020
(Chinese version only) from Hon Claudia MO requesting the Panel to discuss the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau's response to media enquiries regarding concerns arising from an interview with an official of the World Health Organization in a Radio Television Hong Kong programme (The Pulse))

2. Members noted that the above papers had been issued since the regular meeting held on 13 January 2020.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)389/19-20(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)389/19-20(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 11 May 2020

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on Monday, 11 May 2020 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items:

- (a) Smart Government Innovation Lab; and
- (b) Update on the implementation of the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the agenda for the above meeting was revised as follows:

- Item (b) above was deferred to the meeting in June 2020; and
- an item on "The governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong" was included in the agenda of the above meeting.

Members were informed of the above changes on 6 May 2020 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)594/19-20.)

Regular meeting on 8 June 2020

[Representatives from the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau joined the meeting at this juncture.]

4. Members noted that the Administration had proposed to discuss three items, including (a) "Update on smart city development"; (b) "Measures and technology applications to promote e-Government and iAM Smart" platform; and (c) "Report on the work of Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Design Centre", at the regular meeting scheduled for 8 June 2020. As regards the item on the work of Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") in taking forward some major recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 71 ("Report No. 71"), the Chairman said that the Administration had advised the matter was still in progress and was not certain whether it was ready for discussion with the Panel in June.

Radio Television Hong Kong

5. The Chairman said that three Members had separately written to him over a number of recent issues related to RTHK and requested for discussion with the Administration. Members noted that (a) two letters dated 4 March and 5 March 2020 from Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr Alvin YEUNG expressing concerns on the Communications Authority ("CA")'s decision to revoke the directions issued to domestic free television ("free TV") programme service licensees on the requirements to broadcast programmes of RTHK; and (b) a letter dated 17 April 2020 from Ms Claudia MO expressing concerns about the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau's response to media enquiries regarding concerns arising from an interview with an official of the World Health Organization ("WHO") in a RTHK programme, The Pulse. In the light of Members' concerns about RTHK, the Chairman suggested that an item should be scheduled for discussion before the end of the current Legislative Council ("LegCo") term.

6. Ms Claudia MO referred to an interview in an RTHK programme, The Pulse, where one of the questions raised by an RTHK reporter to a WHO official was taken as having breached the purposes and mission of RTHK as a public service broadcaster as specified in the Charter of RTHK. She noted with concern that Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") later on commented that the Director of Broadcasting should be accountable for the matter. Ms MO criticized the Administration for turning a blind eye to the role of RTHK as a public service broadcaster, which should be immune from political interference and pressure from the Government. She suggested that the Panel should address this issue as soon as possible.

7. Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr Alvin YEUNG agreed that a special meeting should be convened to discuss the recent controversies related to RTHK. As regards CA's decision to lift the requirements of broadcasting RTHK programmes by licensees of free TV services, Mr KWONG and Mr YEUNG commented that free TV service licensees were exempt from payment of spectrum utilization fees ("SUF") as a quid pro quo for their airing of RTHK's programmes. They queried whether free TV licensees should now be required to pay SUF if they were no longer obliged to broadcast RTHK programmes. They suggested that the Panel should discuss this issue and the Administration should explain the relevant policy to members.

8. The Deputy Chairman mentioned that she had received public feedback accusing RTHK of abusing the freedom of press as they considered that some of the programmes produced by RTHK appeared to be partial and biased. The Deputy Chairman commented that RTHK should abide by the Charter of RTHK. The Deputy Chairman agreed that a meeting should be held before the end of the current term to address the issues.

9. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the issues relating to the work of RTHK had been the subject of debate in LegCo for many years. Members in general had divergent views on the subject matter. He agreed that a meeting should be held to discuss issues related to RTHK; the findings of Report No. 71, including the response from the Administration to the Report's recommendations would provide a basis for evaluating the work of RTHK and would facilitate Panel members' discussion at the meeting.

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) ("PS(CCI)") advised that the Director of Audit had completed a review to examine the provision of programmes by RTHK, and the relevant findings were published in Report No. 71. Report No. 71 had identified a number of areas for improvement by RTHK to, among other things, address the issue of low television ("TV") ratings, improve low awareness level of some TV programmes, rectify the irregularities in the procurement of services, and handle other management and governance matters. RTHK was following up the Report's recommendations where appropriate, but the Administration was not certain if the current progress would allow a substantial account to be presented to the Panel by June 2020. As regards other Members' concerns about SCED's statement on 2 April 2020 in relation to a RTHK programme, The Pulse, PS(CCI) said that there had already been quite lengthy discussion at the special meeting of the Finance Committee ("FC") held on 8 April 2020.

11. The Chairman expressed that taking into consideration members' views above, members agreed that the Panel should discuss with the Administration the issues relating to the work of RTHK at the earliest opportunity within the current LegCo term. He suggested that, for planning purpose, an item could be included in the agenda of the regular Panel meeting in June 2020. Even if the Administration was not ready to brief members on the progress of implementing the Director of Audit's recommendations by that time, other issues related to RTHK could still be discussed. To avoid overcrowding the Panel's business for that meeting, the Administration could be requested to provide an information paper on the work of the Create Hong Kong and Hong Kong Design Centre instead. PS(CCI) said the Administration took note of the Panel's views and would consider re-prioritizing the proposed agenda items for discussion with the Panel in the coming two Panel meetings.

12. Mr CHAN Chun-ying agreed that the Panel should discuss issues related to RTHK as early as practicable. He noted that members had raised queries on a broad range of issues relating to the work of RTHK. He suggested that the proposed item in the paper "List of outstanding issues for discussion" (LC Paper No. CB(1)389/19-20(01)), "Report on the work of Radio Television Hong Kong", should be amended in order to reflect a wider spectrum of issues to be covered. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to liaise with the Administration accordingly.

(Post-meeting note: On the subsequent advice of the Administration, the item "Report on the work of Radio Television Hong Kong" was retitled as "The governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong". The Administration had put the item for discussion with the Panel on 11 May 2020.)

Data centre development in Hong Kong

13. The Chairman informed members that the Administration would provide an information paper for the Panel by end of April 2020 in response to Mrs Regina IP's earlier suggestion that an item be put on the agenda of a Panel meeting to discuss the data centre development in Hong Kong. The Chairman said that members' views would then be sought on the need for a meeting to be held to discuss the issue in the light of the Administration's response. Members had no objection to the proposed arrangement.

(Post-meeting note: An information paper provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)644/19-20(01) on 18 May 2020.)

Promoting innovation and technology development in Hong Kong

14. The Chairman referred to a letter dated 6 January 2020 from the Deputy Chairman suggesting that the Panel should discuss Hong Kong's innovation and technology ("I&T") overall development strategy and consolidation of resources. Members noted that the Administration had provided a written response to the Deputy Chairman's letter.

15. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should take heed of the views expressed by the industry that the Administration should review existing legislations and regulations, and step up the promotion of I&T development of Hong Kong. She remained of the view that a discussion should be arranged either at a meeting of the Panel or in conjunction with members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("CI Panel"); representatives from the industry might be invited to present their views in that occasion.

16. The Chairman took note of the Deputy Chairman's views, and said that he would reflect her views to the Administration for consideration. The Chairman also said that CI Panel would hold a meeting on 21 April 2020 to discuss issues relating to the funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Fund. He suggested that the Deputy Chairman should make a similar request at the aforesaid meeting.

(Post-meeting note: CI Panel would discuss the innovation and technology development and the re-industrialization policy in Hong Kong at its regular meeting scheduled for 16 June 2020.)

Visit to Smart Government Innovation Lab and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute in February 2020

17. The Chairman said that in view of the latest situation of coronavirus disease-2019 ("COVID-19"), the visit to Smart Government Innovation Lab and Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute originally scheduled for 11 February 2020 be rescheduled to a later date. Members would be informed of the arrangement in due course.

IV. Update on the implementation of full digital television broadcast

(LC Paper No. CB(1)452/19-20(01) -- Administration's paper on the implementation of full digital television broadcast

LC Paper No. CB(1)452/19-20(02) -- Paper on the implementation of full digital television broadcast prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Background brief)

Briefing by the Administration

18. At the invitation of the Chairman, PS(CCI), Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries)A ("PAS(CCI)A") and Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("CE/HKCSS") briefed members on the implementation of full digital TV broadcast, including the latest position of the Community Care Fund Digital TV Assistance Programme ("the Assistance Programme").

(Post-meeting note: A soft copy of the powerpoint presentation materials (Chinese version only) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)453/19-20(01) by email on 20 April 2020.)

19. Upon the Chairman's order, the meeting was suspended at 3:05 pm and resumed at 3:28 pm.

Discussion

Reception of television broadcast

20. Mr Alvin YEUNG, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr HUI Chi-fung noted that despite having achieved digital terrestrial television ("DTT") coverage of 99% of Hong Kong's population,¹ there were still pockets of places in rural or even urban areas where digital TV signals were weak or not even accessible. Mr YEUNG and Mr HUI asked whether the Administration had a plan to achieve 100% DTT coverage in Hong Kong. Mr CHAN asked how the Administration would advise viewers who received strong signals from some broadcasters but unstable ones from others, including RTHK.

21. Deputy Director-General (Telecommunications), Office of the Communications Authority ("DDG(T)") said that in response to complaints or enquiries received from residents, the Office of the Communications Authority ("OFCA") would conduct on-site signal measurements having regard to the actual situation of each case and offer technical advice to residents concerned; or

¹ The coverage of Radio Television Hong Kong and two of the three domestic free TV licensees, namely Television Broadcasts Limited and HK Television Entertainment Company Limited, had reached 99%.

refer the cases to TV broadcasters for follow-up as necessary. Reception problems were often found to be arising from suboptimal performance of rooftop antennae and/or in-building communal aerial broadcast distribution systems/in-building coaxial cable distribution systems. They could be resolved or improved by using antennae with better TV reception characteristics; installing additional TV signal boosters; re-positioning the reception antenna to a suitable position/direction; using appropriate signal cables and connection arrangements and/or fine-tuning or resetting the in-building signal distribution systems.

22. As regards buildings with reception problems, DDG(T) explained that the quality of signals might vary according to the quality of reception system used in the buildings / premises concerned and other environmental factors. In some marginal cases, reception of relatively high transmit frequencies (such as those currently used by RTHK TV channels) might be less stable. PS(CCI) added that given the hilly terrain in Hong Kong, a 99% DTT coverage, which would cover most of the densely populated urban areas, should be a satisfactory attainment. He added that viewers experiencing TV broadcast signal problems should first report the issue to the building management office to arrange an inspection of the in-building apparatus. OFCA could also provide technical advice for specific cases where appropriate. According to records of signal measurements, nearly 90% of the cases of TV reception related problems could be resolved or improved through the means advised by DDG(T).

23. Mr CHAN Chun-ying questioned why Central and Western District was one of the districts from which OFCA received the most number of enquiry/complaint cases on poor TV reception in recent years. Mr HUI Chi-fung expressed a similar concern and said that there were many buildings with marginal or no DTT coverage in Wan Chai District and Central and Western District.

24. DDG(T) advised that in densely developed urban areas, high-rise buildings might block TV signals from reaching their neighbouring old buildings. In such case, OFCA would arrange for site checking of TV broadcast signals and assist the viewers to improve TV reception by providing technical advice or referring the cases to broadcasters for follow-up. OFCA and free TV licensees had been exploring feasible and cost-effective ways to extend the coverage of their DTT networks as far as possible and where circumstances permit.

25. Further to Mr HUI Chi-fung's question, the Chairman enquired whether the Administration would clear up the reception problem faced by residents of these old buildings by compiling a full list of buildings which required follow-up actions, or financially supporting them to install appropriate in-building

signal distribution systems. In response, PS(CCI) said that reception problems at the building level should be dealt with by the users or residents of the buildings concerned. He stressed that OFCA had provided practical assistance to viewers who experienced TV reception problems on a case-by-case basis.

The Community Care Fund Digital TV Assistance Programme

Latest position

26. Members noted that as at March 2020, over 4 700 applications for the Assistance Programme had been received. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether the Administration was confident that all eligible households in need would have applied for the Assistance Programme by the end of its application period, i.e. mid-July 2021. Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr MA Fung-kwok raised similar questions and expressed concerns about viewers' reaction to the switch-off of analogue TV services ("ASO") scheduled for end of November this year, such as whether the Administration could handle a possible surge of applications nearer to the ASO target date. Mr YIU and Mr MA suggested strengthening the support services for the application of the Assistance Programme closer to the ASO target date.

27. PS(CCI) commented that according to the latest survey in late 2019, the estimated number of eligible households of the Assistance Programme had dropped significantly from about 160 000 to about 80 000, and some of them might prefer to replace their analogue TV sets by their own means. While application might have slowed due to the spread of COVID-19, there was still ample time before ASO and the application period would not end until seven months thereafter.

28. CE/HKCSS added that the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") had approached target beneficiaries including the elderly through its community service networks, outreach visits and casework services. In response to the latest development of COVID-19, some of the publicity activities involving social contacts had been suspended. HKCSS would monitor the situation closely and resume publicity activities in a timely manner.

Expenditure

29. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether the estimated expenditure of the Assistance Programme could be lowered due to technological advancement or increase in supply of TV sets. Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired how the Administration would handle the remaining balance of the Assistance Programme after the end of the application period.

30. CE/HKCSS replied that the cost of digital TV receivers and relevant services had been fixed after a tender exercise last year in search for contractors. PS(CCI) added that the latest estimated expenditure of the Assistance Programme was less than \$200 million, and the actual expenditure would be determined by the unit price specified in the contract of the contractor and the total number of successful applying households. The unspent balance would return to the Community Care Fund.

Other issues

31. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired whether the Administration would bear the cost of relocating DTT frequency channels in the 600/700 MHz bands for the relevant TV broadcasters, as the trade was experiencing hard times under the spread of COVID-19, and the Administration could be able to receive a large sum of SUF from the new users of the vacated bands after ASO. The Chairman added that according to the trade, the cost of relocating channels was higher than expected.

32. PS(CCI) informed members that the Administration had received similar request from the trade and was considering the matter. He said that TV programme service licensees should as a matter of principle be responsible for providing and maintaining the transmitting facilities for the provision of broadcasting services and bearing the associated costs.

V. Full implementation of Electronic Recordkeeping System

(LC Paper No. CB(1)389/19-20(05) -- Administration's paper on full implementation of Electronic Recordkeeping System)

Briefing by the Administration

33. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("US for IT") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to fully implement the Electronic Recordkeeping System ("ERKS") in the Government. US for IT said that the Government had promulgated the Electronic Information Management Strategy and Framework in 2011 which recommended government bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") to adopt ERKS. A total of 11 B/Ds piloted to develop their departmental ERKS since then. Among them, five B/Ds were early pilot B/Ds, and the Administration extended the pilot to six other B/Ds starting from 2014 to further test whether the capabilities and performance of the different systems could meet B/Ds' records management

requirements. Against this background, the Administration proposed to develop a new central ERKS on the Government's private cloud platform to support full implementation of ERKS in the remaining 75 B/Ds in phases by end-2025. The implementation of a central ERKS would incur an estimated cost of \$1,233.728 million. Details of the funding proposal were set out in the paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)389/19-20(05)).

34. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of LegCo, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subjects. He further drew members' attention to Rule 84 of the RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Discussion

Project cost

35. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted that the Administration had implemented the ERKS pilot programme since 2011 and extended the programme to other B/Ds in 2014. Mr CHAN asked whether the Administration had developed its own dedicated system of software after it had been piloting the programme over all these years. Noting that an estimated cost of \$147.83 million was earmarked for hiring contract information technology staff with relevant skills and experience to assist in system design, development, testing and rollout, Mr CHAN asked whether the funding sought was to be used to develop a new system or to improve on the existing system.

36. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") elaborated that the Administration had used different market solutions for the ERKS pilot programme. In general, the licenses of the software involved were expected to be costly. The estimated cost would also cover the procurement of computer hardware, software, and implementation services. Riding on the results and experience of the ERKS pilot programme, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") would select and purchase the most suitable market solution for customization to suit the government's needs in accordance with the established procurement procedures of the Government. Specifically, the Administration would clearly stipulate the requirements in the tender document.

37. Noting that the ERKS pilot programme had been operating for almost a decade and the Administration would roll out the proposed ERKS to all B/Ds by 2025, Mr MA Fung-kwok believed that the systems had evolved over time, and he asked whether the Administration would update the relevant computer hardware and software on a regular basis so as to keep pace with the changing technology, and whether that would incur recurrent operational overheads.

Mr MA also asked how the emergence of blockchain technology would affect the development and implementation of ERKS.

38. GCIO advised that the Administration would set aside funding for regular system updating and maintenance. GCIO added that, while blockchain technology would revolutionize the way records and documents were generated and exchanged, it would not obviate the need for an ERKS as certain information would be collected from conventional means, including electronic mails, social media, etc. and needed to be captured, processed and retrieved using ERKS.

39. Pointing out that there were a substantial number of agenda items still awaiting scrutiny by FC, Mr CHAN Chun-ying was concerned as to whether the funding proposal could be approved by FC in the current legislative session. He was of the view that the Administration should deploy its internal resources to take forward part of the preparatory work, including conducting relevant training before the implementation of ERKS. The Chairman expressed similar views and asked whether there was anything the Administration would start doing in the event that funding approval could not be secured from FC before the end of this LegCo term.

40. GCIO informed members that the Next Generation GovCloud ("GovCloud") was expected to be launched in the third quarter of 2020. The Administration would have time to set up the infrastructure of the central ERKS to be hosted on this Government's private cloud platform. In the meantime, OGCI would prepare the relevant tender documents for the tendering exercise.

41. The Chairman commented that the cost estimates of each component of the project were high, in particular the estimates for "software" and "system implementation" were 350.9 million and 447.154 million respectively. He asked whether the Administration would conduct one tendering exercise, or tender off each component, or implement the project by phases. The Chairman was also aware that the new system would incur an annual recurrent cost of \$270 million, which included, among others, the estimated cost of 192.2 million for "Cloud Service". The Chairman sought details of the annual recurrent cost, especially whether the funding would only be spent on the cloud service provided by OGCI.

42. GCIO explained that while OGCI was operating a cloud service, additional computing resources were needed to implement and support ERKS given that its scale was large. Furthermore, although OGCI owned the GovCloud, it had to pay contractors for the required hardware, software and the services. In this regard, an annual recurrent cost of \$270 million would be required to cover the work of OGCI. GCIO added that one tendering exercise

would likely be conducted, but OGCIO had not determined how many contractors should be involved as it would not be possible for one contractor to serve all B/Ds in the implementation of ERKS.

43. In reply to a further question of the Chairman, GCIO advised that in preparing the tender documents of the project concerned, OGCIO would examine whether and how the contractor(s) would ensure the smooth implementation of ERKS. For example, email systems and computer workstations might differ among B/Ds. The contractor(s) would be required to help B/Ds conduct the necessary system integration works so as to ensure compliance with the requirements of ERKS.

44. The Chairman queried about the implications if the Administration could not receive funding approval before the end of the current LegCo term. GCIO replied that the Administration would re-submit the funding proposal to this Panel and FC in the new term of LegCo if the Administration had yet to obtain FC's approval for the funding proposal concerned in this legislative session. It was inevitable that the implementation of ERKS would be delayed by about one year.

Recordkeeping requirements

45. Mr CHAN Chun-ying sought elaboration from the Administration on the previous pilot experiences, including records classification, records management practices of B/Ds, and asked how the Administration would apply the experience and best practices to the proposed ERKS where appropriate.

46. GCIO advised that the implementation of ERKS would dramatically change B/Ds' conventional operations and practices. At present, B/Ds' staff would print out emails and electronic documents and file them physically and manually. With the implementation of the proposed ERKS, emails and electronic documents received could be filed into ERKS direct. To facilitate B/Ds' preparation and implementation work, the Administration had conducted briefings and trainings for B/Ds on government records management and the procedures for reviewing the records classification scheme.

47. The Chairman queried whether the Administration would make it mandatory for all B/Ds to use ERKS for managing their records. GCIO advised that the Administration would roll out ERKS to all B/Ds by end-2025 to enhance efficiency in preserving and managing government records.

48. The Chairman further enquired about the number of B/Ds which would convert their existing paper-based file records to electronic format and keep in the proposed ERKS, and what measures would be taken if those files were not

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convertible. GCIO responded that B/Ds might, depending on the operational needs, convert their paper records and keep them in ERKS, whereas most B/Ds would adopt electronic record keeping after the full rollout of ERKS across the Government. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide supplementary information in this regard after the meeting.

49. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked about the Administration's measures to provide backup for the electronic records. GCIO replied that the backup process of the proposed ERKS was similar to that of the ordinary electronic system. B/Ds would carry out backups at regular intervals (i.e. on daily, weekly and monthly basis) to mitigate the risk of data loss, while the backups would be stored in several government data centre facilities. Data could be restored from other data centres in case of any disaster which destroyed the system. Mr MA further sought information on the respective locations of data centres at which the backups were stored. GCIO indicated that three government data centres were located in Wan Chai, Tsuen Wan and Sai Kung while the construction of a new government data centre complex in Cheung Sha Wan was expected for completion in 2022 at the earliest. The data centre in Wan Chai would shut down when the new government data complex in Cheung Sha Wan came into operation. Mr MA also enquired whether the Administration had any plan to develop a data centre outside Hong Kong in the long run. GCIO replied in the negative.

Legislative amendments

50. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether and when the Administration would introduce any legislative amendments to ensure that relevant statutory requirements, such as presenting the original conveyancing document of property transaction to the Land Registry, would be suitably revised upon the implementation of ERKS. GCIO explained that the proposed ERKS was intended to enhance the management of electronic records and dispense with the print-and-file practice. GCIO and Deputy Director of Administration (1) ("DDA(1)") affirmed that there would be no change to the principle of record-keeping in nature, and hence no legislative amendment was required in this regard.

51. The Chairman noted that the Archives Law Sub-committee of the Law Reform Commission had released a consultation paper to invite public views on whether reform of the current public records management regime was needed. He was particularly concerned whether the framework and requirements of the proposed ERKS should be revised if there was a case for introducing an archives law in Hong Kong or proposing legislative amendments to current public records management regime before the full implementation of ERKS in B/Ds by end-2025. The Chairman also pointed out that Hong Kong had not implemented an archives law at present. He queried, in the absence of legal backing, how the

Administration would ensure effective compliance by B/Ds with the records management requirements under the proposed ERKS.

52. GCIO responded that, before the full implementation of ERKS, it was government policy that each B/D should establish a records management mechanism for proper management of government records. DDA(1) said that a record was any recorded information or data in any physical format or media created or received by an organization during its course of official business. The implementation of ERKS would not change the definition of records per se. Moreover, given that the definition of records was not contingent upon the records storage and preservation, there would be no contradiction between the implementation of the proposed ERKS and the introduction of an archives law in future. DDA(1) believed that due consideration would be given to the implementation of ERKS before enacting an archives law in Hong Kong.

Conclusion

53. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the funding proposal.

V. Any other business

54. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:29 pm