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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

**Minutes of policy briefing
held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
- Members absent** : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP

Members attending: Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

Public officers attending : Agenda item I

Innovation and Technology Bureau

Mr Alfred SIT Wing-hang, JP
Secretary for Innovation and Technology

Ms Annie CHOI Suk-han, JP
Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology

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

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

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

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

Efficiency Office

Mrs Judy LI KWOK Chi-kit, BBS
Acting Commissioner for Efficiency

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Edward YAU, GBS, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

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

Ms Carol YUEN, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Creative
Industries)

Miss Grace KWOK
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Creative
Industries) (Special Services)

Office of the Communications Authority

Mr Chaucer LEUNG, JP
Director-General of Communications

Mr Tony LI
Deputy Director of Film, Newspaper and Article
Administration

Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr LEUNG Ka-wing, JP
Director of Broadcasting

Mr Eugene FUNG, JP
Deputy Director of Broadcasting

Create Hong Kong

Mr Victor TSANG
Head of Create Hong Kong

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

I. Briefings by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address

(LC Paper No. CB(1)277/20-21(01) -- Administration's paper on 2020 Policy Address ?? Policy initiatives of Innovation and Technology Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(1)277/20-21(02) Administration's paper on 2020 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Communications and Creative Industries Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Relevant papers

The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address
(issued on 25 November 2020)

The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address Supplement
(issued on 25 November 2020)

Briefing by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("S for IT") briefed members on the major initiatives of the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("I&TB") featured in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address ("Policy Address"). Details of the relevant policy initiatives were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)277/20-21(01)).

Discussion

Electronic wristbands

2. Members noted that the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") had been using bluetooth low energy electronic wristbands paired with the "StayHomeSafe" mobile application ("app") and geo-fencing technology to monitor those persons staying at designated premises during the quarantine period in order to reduce the risk of coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") infection. Mr Michael TIEN noted that some people had

removed their wristbands and were charged for breaching quarantine requirements. He queried whether the requirement to wear electronic wristbands was effective. Mr TIEN said that if a person under compulsory quarantine did not activate the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app immediately upon arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA"), the Administration would not be able to track his or her movement within Hong Kong. He suggested that persons entering Hong Kong should be subject to being summoned for violating quarantine orders if they failed to activate the "StayHomeSafe" mobile app within a specified period of time, say, three hours, after leaving HKIA.

3. S for IT responded that the Government had strengthened and improved the epidemic control measures continuously. Since the introduction of mandatory home quarantine measures in early February 2020, the Government had distributed more than 390 000 electronic wristbands to persons under quarantine. A person who cut off the wristband would be detected and relevant parties would be alerted to take follow-up actions. Nevertheless, S for IT agreed to consider Mr Michael TIEN's suggestion.

4. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") added that any anomaly detected would be referred to the Department of Health ("DH") for follow up as appropriate. DH would contact people under quarantine while the Police would conduct spot checks to ensure that they were staying at the designated places.

"LeaveHomeSafe" exposure notification mobile application

5. Mr Michael TIEN, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Ms Alice MAK expressed concerns that the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app was not widely used by the public, rendering the tracing of confirmed cases and their close contacts ineffective. In their view, the Administration should consider making it mandatory for members of the public to install and use the mobile app. Mr TIEN queried why the Administration did not make it mandatory for people to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app when all eateries and scheduled premises were required to display the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code at the entrance to the premises or at a conspicuous position under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). Ms MAK suggested that the Administration could adopt similar measures as Singapore to encourage the public to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app. In Singapore, the government pledged to relax the pandemic control measures if 70% of the public used the "TraceTogether" programme, Singapore's LeaveHomeSafe-equivalent of tracking app. Ms MAK also suggested that certain tracking functionalities could be added to Octopus cards so as to facilitate epidemiological investigation and make contact tracking and tracing more efficient.

6. Mr CHAN Chun-ying referred to his suggestion raised at the Council meeting of 18 November 2020 that the Administration should improve and enhance the operation of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app, such as setting up new functions to help users check out of a venue automatically, allowing people to review visit records. He then urged the Administration to expedite the enhancement of the app.

7. S for IT said that the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app was launched on 16 November 2020. It provided a convenient tool for the public to record their visits to different venues, including taxi rides. The "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app had more than 270 000 downloads so far, with more than 30 000 public and private venues participating in the scheme to display the "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code. Users could check into participating venues by scanning the venue's QR code to log their arrival time and clicking the "Leave" button in the app during departure. The Administration had been implementing the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app in an orderly manner and it might introduce further enhancements as necessary, having regard to the development of the epidemic situation.

8. Ms Elizabeth QUAT considered that contact tracing was fundamental to the efforts in preventing further spread of the virus, but the use of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app was ineffective in achieving that objective. She said that the industry had called for improving the efficiency of contact tracing operations through appropriate platforms. Ms QUAT asked when the platform(s) concerned would be launched.

9. GCIO responded that I&TB, together with the Food and Health Bureau and other relevant departments, were developing an internal information sharing platform specifically designed for contact tracing. The platform aimed to link up various relevant departments, agencies and existing information systems for collecting information needed for contact tracing. This would ensure timely release of information on confirmed cases to the public and help speed up DH's work in tracing contacts, as well as conducting testing and arranging quarantine or medical surveillance for such contacts. The platform would be launched in December 2020.

10. Mr Michael TIEN suggested that a joint meeting with relevant Panel(s) should be held with the presence of representatives from DH to further discuss the application of the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app. The Chairman said that, as advised by the President, Chairmen of Committees and Panels should minimize meetings at this stage in view of the severe outbreak of COVID-19 in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in Lok Ma Chau Loop

11. Noting that the Administration had been taking forward the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("the Park") located in the Lok Ma Chau Loop ("the Loop") in full swing, Mr Holden CHOW commented that the Administration should step up publicity and invite interested top-tier institutes and enterprises from the Mainland and overseas to establish a presence in the Loop. He said that other regional neighbours, such as the Singapore Government, had been actively engaging enterprises and institutions from all over the world in building up their technology strength.

12. S for IT said that the Administration would continue with its on-going efforts to promote the development of the Park among various sectors and universities. S for IT appealed to members for support of the funding proposals for the two public works items relating to the Loop development and the Batch 1 development of the Park when these proposals were submitted to the Finance Committee for approval.

13. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok commented that Hong Kong lagged behind Shenzhen in innovation and technology ("I&T") development. In particular, the progress of the Park development was slow. He pointed out that there were many youth innovation entrepreneurship bases in Shenzhen, offering young people of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao a wide range of support services to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Ir Dr LO said that the Administration should step up efforts in promoting the development of I&T among the next generation. He suggested that Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") should, for instance, produce more documentaries covering the achievements of Hong Kong people in relevant areas.

14. S for IT said that Hong Kong and Shenzhen were close partners and the two governments' collaboration had made remarkable progress in various areas over the years. In respect of I&T, Hong Kong had strong research and development ("R&D") capabilities. With five universities ranking among the world's top 100, Hong Kong could create synergy with other cities in the Greater Bay Area ("GBA"). Looking ahead, S for IT said that the Administration would continue to co-operate with the Mainland cities in GBA on I&T development through a series of initiatives with a view to widening Hong Kong's scope for further development. As regards promotion, Director of Broadcasting said that RTHK could produce more documentaries on the topic subject to availability of resources.

15. The Chairman mentioned that the National 14th Five-Year Plan set out the long-range objectives for the Year 2035, outlining the general direction of future social and economic development. He enquired about the completion date of the Park, which occupied 87 hectares of land, and the projected contribution the

Park could bring Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product growth. The Chairman added that the Administration had been investing more than \$100 billion in promoting the development of I&T, and asked what measures the Administration would take to complement the preparatory work for the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

16. S for IT responded that the Administration was pressing ahead with the establishment of the InnoHK research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park ("HKSP"), thereby developing Hong Kong into a hub for research collaboration. The first two InnoHK research clusters were *Health@InnoHK* and *AIR@InnoHK*, focusing on healthcare technologies as well as artificial intelligence and robotics technologies respectively. A total of over 60 proposals from world renowned universities and research institutes had been received. The first batch of R&D centres was expected to commence operation progressively by the first quarter of 2021. As regards the development of the Park, S for IT informed members that the scale of the Park would be approximately three times that of the current HKSP. The proposed Main Works Package 1 (part) and Batch 1 development of the superstructure were expected for completion by the third quarter of 2027. As initial estimates, the economic contribution of batch 1 development of the Park to Hong Kong could reach about \$5.1 billion per annum (including direct, indirect and induced impacts) and create about 4 500 local jobs. Upon completion of the whole Park, its economic contribution to Hong Kong (including direct, indirect and induced impacts) could reach about \$50 billion per annum and create about 50 000 local jobs.

GBA Youth Employment Scheme (I&T sector)

17. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan noted that the proposed GBA Youth Employment Scheme ("the Scheme") would set aside 400 quotas for the I&T sector to help local young people deepen their understanding of the I&T development in the GBA, encourage them to work in the GBA cities and seize the opportunities therein to pursue a career in I&T. She sought details about the Administration's plan to promote the Scheme, and the incentives in place to attract and encourage young people in Hong Kong to work and pursue their career in the GBA Mainland cities. Ms YUNG asked the Administration to step up promotion of the Scheme through various publicity activities for overseas university graduates.

18. As regards the quotas for the I&T sector under the Scheme, S for IT advised that about a dozen enterprises with operation in both Hong Kong and GBA, including partner companies of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTPC"), had already agreed to recruit and deploy local university graduates to work in Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of GBA. The Administration would provide subsidies for technology companies to

provide such jobs.

19. While commending the Scheme, Mr Christopher CHEUNG expressed concerns about the restrictions in the Scheme under which technology companies were required to have business operations in both Hong Kong and GBA cities. Young people from Hong Kong receiving support under the Scheme would then have to spend approximately half of their time working in Hong Kong and in GBA cities. He asked whether the Administration could consider relaxing such restrictions. Mr CHEUNG further suggested that, apart from the I&T sector, the scope of the Scheme should be extended to cover other industries such as financial technology and insurance, thus creating more job opportunities for Hong Kong young people to ascend their career ladder in the GBA.

20. S for IT explained that the Scheme would enable local young people to deepen their understanding of the development of I&T in the GBA, in particular the complementary advantages of Hong Kong and other GBA cities. For example, Hong Kong had solid R&D strengths whereas Shenzhen had stronger capability in advanced manufacturing. Hong Kong had also established its competitive edge in professional services among the GBA cities. S for IT further said that the Administration would keep an open mind regarding the design of the Scheme.

21. Mr CHAN Chun-ying pointed out that in the third quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate of young people aged 20 to 24 stood as high as 20%, the highest level in the past 35 years. Moreover, the total number of unemployed persons with post-secondary education had reached 107 700. He enquired about the concrete timetable for implementing the proposed GBA Youth Employment Scheme and the number of enterprises that had joined the Scheme to recruit local university graduates. Mr CHAN also asked whether and how the Administration would remove obstacles arising from the different practices in areas such as social security insurance, namely pension, medical, work-related injury, unemployment and maternity insurances among Mainland cities and Hong Kong. He further enquired about the Administration's measures to help local graduates solve accommodation problems in the Mainland cities while the Scheme did not provide short-term accommodation for these young people.

22. S for IT said that the Administration sought to provide facilitation to Hong Kong's young people to develop their careers in the GBA. Indeed, there were already quite a number of Hong Kong's youth working in other GBA cities. HKSTPC and Cyberport had launched corresponding measures and schemes to facilitate the expansion of business of local enterprises in the GBA market. The Administration would continue to collaborate with enterprises operating business in both Hong Kong and GBA to support Hong Kong's youth in entrepreneurship and employment in GBA.

Global STEM Professorship Scheme

23. Pointing out that the world was competing intensely for technology talent, Mr CHAN Chun-ying enquired about the supporting measures to attract technology talent from outside Hong Kong, such as whether the Administration would incentivize overseas talent by, for example, providing international school places for their children. Mr CHAN suggested that I&TB should set up a task force and examine, in collaboration with the Education Bureau ("EDB") and universities, one-stop support services and measures to facilitate entry of overseas talent into Hong Kong. Mr Martin LIAO raised a similar query, and asked if the Administration would consider providing accommodation support and education allowance for children of those talent.

24. S for IT said that the Global STEM Professorship Scheme would strengthen support for the universities to attract world-renowned scholars as well as their teams to work in Hong Kong, thereby enabling local universities to scale new heights in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (i.e. STEM) teaching and research. I&TB, together with EDB, would discuss the details with relevant universities in due course. S for IT added that the facilitation measures available in Hong Kong were conducive to attracting talent. As regards education for the children of non-local talent, the Government was committed to developing a vibrant international school system through various measures.

25. Mr Martin LIAO sought elaboration on the definition of "world-renowned I&T scholars as well as their teams". He pointed out that some local tertiary universities planned to establish/had established campuses in the GBA, and asked whether the scholars recruited under the Global STEM Professorship Scheme would be allowed to work in university campuses of Hong Kong and the GBA cities. Mr LIAO also asked how the Global STEM Professorship Scheme compared with the tax measures adopted by the Shenzhen government in attracting talent. In Shenzhen, the government provided tax relief to alleviate the tax burden of high-end talent working in the Mainland. He further queried whether Hong Kong would join hands with other GBA cities in implementing the talent attraction measures with a view to attracting talent from overseas.

26. S for IT said that the Global STEM Professorship Scheme sought to attract up to 100 overseas renowned scholars in the relevant fields to take part in research and/or teaching in local universities. He added that the eligibility requirements might vary across different subject areas. An assessment committee would be established to vet the applications and oversee the implementation of the Scheme. S for IT reiterated that Hong Kong had complementary strengths with other GBA cities. While Hong Kong had tremendous strength in scientific research, other GBA cities had stronger capability in commercializing research results. The Administration maintained

an open mind on the talent attraction measures. On the other hand, the Administration would strengthen interconnectivity among GBA cities and explore facilitation measures for the scholars to travel to the GBA. The Administration would also continue to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's competitive advantages with a view to stepping towards the goal of becoming an international I&T hub.

Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0

27. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan noted that the Administration would release the *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0* ("Blueprint 2.0") in December 2020. The Blueprint 2.0 included a smart public toilets trial scheme which would improve the environment and services of public toilets. She held the view that it was crucial to promote the application of technology in many issues that were closely related to daily lives, such as rodent control and water seepage problems. Ms YUNG sought the Administration's elaboration on how Blueprint 2.0 would help foster the development of I&T in Hong Kong.

28. S for IT indicated that of the 76 initiatives set out in the *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong* released in 2017, some of the major ones had been gradually rolled out in the past two years, and more than 130 smart city initiatives would be set out in Blueprint 2.0. He added that many of these initiatives were closely related to people's livelihood. For example, the smart public toilets trial scheme was targeted to improve the hygiene conditions in public toilets for Hong Kong people and tourists.

Opening up government data

29. Mr SHIU Ka-fai noted that new datasets were released in 2019, which included the real-time arrival data of three bus companies and the Mass Transit Railway. He queried how the Administration was certain that the three bus companies had released their real-time arrival data to facilitate commuting and trip planning.

30. S for IT advised that currently about 4 000 datasets in machine-readable formats were provided to the public via the Public Sector Information ("PSI") portal which recorded more than 5 billion of downloads in 2019. Regarding real-time data related to public transport, the three franchised bus companies (viz. New World First Bus Services Limited, Citybus Limited and New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited) had released their real-time arrival data via the PSI portal. Meanwhile, Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited and Long Win Bus Company Limited had agreed to open up their real-time arrival information soon. The Administration expected that real-time arrival data of all public transport operators would be made available for use by the public in 2021.

Art Technology

31. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that the Secretary for Home Affairs would take the lead in setting up a task force to formulate strategies and measures to develop and promote Art Tech. As he understood it, "Art Tech" was still an uncharted territory for many in the trade. In view that the integration of arts and I&T was a new trend in arts development, and there had already been a wide application of technologies such as digital entertainment, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, Mr MA asked about the Administration's policy direction and measures to promote Art Tech, especially how the Administration would support practitioners developing in this new area.

32. Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") responded that part of the new injection into the CreateSmart Initiative ("CSI") would be used to assist the design and other creative sectors to adapt to the digitization trend and the challenges arising from the use of various non-physical means to carry out exchanges and business activities online. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") would, in collaboration with I&TB and EDB, participate in the task force to be set up under leadership of the Secretary for Home Affairs, and put in effort in formulating strategies and measures under its purview to develop and promote Art Tech. A total of \$100 million under the Arts and Sport Development Fund, the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Film Development Fund ("FDF") and CSI had been set aside to implement projects that integrate technology and arts.

33. S for IT advised that the Administration would continue to proactively strengthen the ties with various stakeholders, including local universities and arts groups, so as to foster the development of Art Tech. Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Technology added that a number of government funding schemes were available in this regard: (a) the Technology Voucher Programme to support enterprises, including arts groups, in using technology to enhance their operational efficiency; (b) the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund to promote the use of technological solutions for art presentation and other new art forms; and (c) the TechConnect (block vote) to promote the use of technology by government departments to improve public services, such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, for improving art venues and installations. All in all, IT&B would step up efforts to encourage the related sectors to apply for funding to implement projects that integrated technology and arts. It would also work closely with relevant bureaux to drive the development of Art Tech.

Contactless payment in public markets

34. Pointing out that e-payment services such as WeChat Pay and Alipay,

were widely adopted for retail payments in Shenzhen, Mr Michael TIEN asked the Administration to consider promoting contactless payment, such as Octopus payment, in public markets in the coming year.

35. S for IT said that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority had issued Stored Value Facilities ("SVF") licences to 15 non-bank entities and also three licensed banks providing SVF services. On the other hand, the Government would provide a one-off subsidy to tenants of public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to promote the use of contactless payment in market stalls so as to protect public health.

[At 5:54 pm, the Chairman announced that the meeting would be extended for up to 15 minutes beyond its appointed end time at 6:00 pm.]

Other issues

36. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok commented that the Administration should consider reviewing the organization structure of I&TB, such as whether it should take over the role of CEDB in monitoring the work related to creative industries and overseeing the operation of the Intellectual Property Department and the Communications and Creative Industries Branch, both of which were currently under CEDB. S for IT took note of Ir Dr LO's views.

Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

37. At the invitation of the Chairman, SCED briefed members on the major initiatives relating to the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of CEDB in the Policy Address. Details of the policy initiatives were set out in the Administration's paper vide LC Paper No. CB(1)277/20-21(02).

Discussion on issues relating to communications and creative industries

Proposed injection into the CreateSmart Initiative

38. Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern that many frontline practitioners in the creative sectors (e.g. independent musicians, artists, etc.) had already been unemployed for months due to the prolonged social distancing measures. She queried if the proposed injection into CSI would provide sufficient assistance to these practitioners, and enquired whether the Administration had any short-term relief measures for them.

39. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) ("PS(CCI)") replied that the Administration had been encouraging creative industries to digitalize their services and products so as to adapt to the challenges arising from the social

distancing measures under the pandemic. The Chief Executive had also announced in her Policy Address measures which would promote the integration of arts and I&T. These measures would not only help local creative industries cope with the current challenges, but also expand their businesses to overseas markets.

Supportive measures for the film industry

40. Mr MA Fung-kwok queried why, instead of directly subsidizing the trade using the \$1 billion injected into FDF in 2019, the Administration only earmarked a sum under FDF to launch five supportive measures for the local film industry. He also asked how the Administration came up with the amount of \$260 million for these measures. Mr Holden CHOW expressed concerns that the Administration's supportive measures might only be able to benefit the upstream fields of the film industry (e.g. directors) but not those working downstream (e.g. actors).

41. SCED advised that unlike the Anti-epidemic Fund which provided direct assistance or relief to enterprises and members of the public, FDF only supported projects conducive to the long-term development of the film industry in Hong Kong. In 2019-2020, the film industry faced challenges such as the reduction in the number of productions in the Mainland and the impact of the pandemic. The Administration recognized the need to use FDF to implement five specific measures to address the needs of different fields of the film industry, to retain talent and to inject fresh impetus into the sector.

42. The five major measures included (a) the Directors' Succession Scheme and (b) the Film Production Financing Scheme, which were introduced to encourage the production of new local films, (c) the Scriptwriting Incubation Programme which aimed to nurture scriptwriting talent, (d) sponsoring trade organizations to provide free professional skill training for adding value to film practitioners and creating job opportunities for trainers, and (e) the First Feature Film Initiative improvement measures, which were implemented to further support new directors and their production teams with a view to nurturing talents for the film industry. SCED said that these measures were starting to take effects. About 20 local films had started preparatory work for their productions and such development should be beneficial to the whole industry in a short period of time.

43. Mr MA Fung-kwok further asked how much of the earmarked amount of \$260 million had been appropriated for the specific purposes over the four months since its announcement in mid-July. PS(CCI) advised that the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers and the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild had been subsidized with a total of \$20 million to provide free professional skill training for practitioners. PS(CCI) added that some 20 films were also expected

to receive sponsorship via initiatives such as the Directors' Succession Scheme and the Film Production Financing Scheme within a short period of time. In response, Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed concern that many practitioners had not received any subsidy from the Administration throughout the past ten months.

44. Mr SHIU Ka-fai asked how many of the 60-plus film productions supported by FDF since 2005 were profitable and had won public acclaim. He also asked whether the \$260 million earmarked under FDF was sufficient for the long-term development of the film industry. PS(CCI) replied that several of the ten highest grossing films in China were jointly produced by Hong Kong and the Mainland producers under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and its Supplements. These joint productions were also award-winners in both the Mainland and Hong Kong markets. To nurture talent and groom new directors for the continued success of the local film industry, the Administration had introduced the Directors' Succession Scheme which sponsored experienced directors to partner with and guide new directors. It was hoped that with the Scheme and other supportive measures, the film industry could continue to flourish and Hong Kong's local culture could be promoted through films.

Governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong

45. Ms Elizabeth QUAT enquired about the progress of the Administration's review concerning the governance and management of RTHK which was expected to complete by the end of 2020. Ms QUAT also asked how the Administration would follow up complaints against RTHK's programmes for being biased and misleading.

46. SCED said that the Administration had established a dedicated team in mid-2020 to review the governance and management of RTHK so as to ensure that its public broadcasting services fully abide by the Charter of RTHK ("Charter"). The review report was expected to be available in early 2021. As stipulated in the Charter, the Communications Authority ("CA") would investigate all complaints received by it against any programme broadcast on RTHK's platform. SCED explained that investigations on the complaints against RTHK must be conducted prudently and fairly; a number of complaint cases were still under investigation.

Internship scheme for local graduates

47. Mr Holden CHOW noted that the Administration had been working with foreign chambers of commerce to provide young graduates with internships and job opportunities. He enquired which foreign chambers had been approached. SCED responded that initially, chambers of Germany, France, United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden and Japan had been approached for internships and job

opportunities in relevant industries (including creative industries).

Other issues

Hong Kong-Zhuhai airport co-operation

48. Mr Michael TIEN supported the recommendation in the Policy Address which allowed the Airport Authority Hong Kong to inject equity in the Zhuhai Airport. While recognizing the tremendous business opportunity it might bring to Hong Kong's aviation and logistics industries under the Mainland's "dual circulation" policy, Mr TIEN expressed his concern that the growth of these industries beyond 2035 might be constrained by the maximum capacity of HKIA's three-runway system. He asked whether Hong Kong had a long-term plan to build its fourth runway or its second airport and if so, whether the Administration had kicked off the preparation works which could take decades to complete.

49. SCED advised that Hong Kong was an international financial, transportation and trade centre which was also recognized in the National 13th Five-Year Plan. Besides planning for new infrastructure, in order to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status, HKIA should fully utilize its own capacity and cooperate with other airports in the region for achieving greater synergy. SCED undertook to relay Mr TIEN's views to the Secretary for Transport and Housing for consideration.

Number of foreign business operations in Hong Kong

50. Mr Holden CHOW noted SCED's remark that the number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong remained broadly the same in 2020 as compared to 2019. He requested SCED to put across such positive messages about Hong Kong's business environment and competitiveness more often.

51. SCED said that according to the latest results of an annual survey released last week, the number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong was 9 025 in 2020, which remained broadly the same as compared to 9 040 last year. In terms of source country/territory, Mainland China ranked the first, followed by Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore. SCED advised that he had been addressing similar remarks, using facts and figures, to international media frequently throughout 2020.

II. Any other business

52. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:16 pm.

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Legislative Council Secretariat
2 February 2021