立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1470/20-21 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/PL/ITB

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Minutes of special meeting held on Tuesday, 25 May 2021, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present: Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP (Chairman)

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, 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

Member attending: Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Public officers: Agenda item I

attending

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)

Radio Television Hong Kong

Mr Patrick LI, JP

Director of Broadcasting

Mr Eugene FUNG, JP

Deputy Director of Broadcasting

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. The Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report

(Commerce and Economic -- <u>The Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong</u>

Review Report

LC Paper No. CB(1)927/20-21(01) -- Administration's paper on the

Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong

Kong Review Report

LC Paper No. CB(1)927/20-21(02)

Paper on the governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

Briefing by the Administration

At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development</u> ("SCED") briefed members that the latest progress of implementing the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report ("the Review Report") by Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") was detailed in the Administration's paper (vide LC Paper No. CB(1)927/20-21(01)).

Discussion

Implementation of the editorial management mechanism

- 2. <u>Mr Martin LIAO</u> commended RTHK for implementing a series of follow-up actions to the recommendations of the Review Report. He enquired about the operation of the newly introduced editorial meetings, in particular the supervision of programme production to ensure the contents therein were unbiased and impartial. <u>Mr LIAO</u> noted that there was unfair criticism of infringement on press freedom following Director of Broadcasting's ("D of B") decision to suspend some programmes from broadcasting since March 2021 and to remove some of the contents from a recent episode of *LegCo Review*. He suggested that D of B and the RTHK management should communicate the editorial meeting's deliberations clearly to RTHK staff and the public.
- 3. In a similar remark, <u>Ms YUNG Hoi-yan</u> suggested that the editorial meetings should make their editorial policies and practice guidelines clear and transparent so that RTHK staff and the public would have a better understanding of the operation of the newly introduced editorial management mechanism. She believed that, with better understanding of the editorial policies and practice guidelines among RTHK staff, further incidents of withdrawal of programmes from broadcasting and editing of aired programmes could be avoided.
- 4. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> said that the RTHK management should enhance the transparency of the various editorial policies and guidelines to help RTHK production staff produce programmes that complied with the requirements of the Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong ("Charter") and Producers' Guidelines. She enquired whether the newly introduced editorial management mechanism was applicable to both television and radio programmes of RTHK.

- 5. Mr CHAN Han-pan recognized the effectiveness and positive impact of the recent measures implemented by the new RTHK management. He commented that, while the Review Report affirmed D of B's power as RTHK's Editor-in-chief to make editorial decisions and enhance governance of RTHK, some RTHK staff and RTHK unions considered that the incumbent had undermined RTHK's editorial independence. Mr CHAN asked how the RTHK management would seek to refute the criticism.
- 6. <u>The Chairman</u> observed that D of B's editorial powers as RTHK's Editorin-chief were enshrined in the Charter, with or without the editorial management mechanism. He said that the Administration should sanction those who disregarded the decisions of the editorial meetings, stalled the implementation of such decisions, or produced programmes that were biased and partial.
- 7. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that while he appreciated RTHK's recent efforts in maintaining impartiality of its programmes, he enquired about the editorial management of RTHK programmes, especially RTHK's reasons for removing the parts of *LegCo Review* where former and serving Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members (including himself) appeared as guest speakers and discussed the current state of development of foreign investment in Hong Kong. Commenting on the insertion of a clip which had not been approved beforehand to the same episode of *LegCo Review*, Mr Michael TIEN asked whether an effective disciplinary mechanism against a breach of the editorial management mechanism was in place.
- 8. <u>SCED</u> advised that since February 2021, the RTHK management had taken a series of follow-up actions to implement the recommendations of the Review Report concerning areas that required immediate attention. These included introducing a new editorial management mechanism and a clearer referral mechanism in March 2021 to ensure that RTHK's programmes comply with the Charter and Producers' Guidelines.
- 9. <u>D of B</u> advised that the new editorial management mechanism applied to television as well as radio programmes. Under this mechanism, programme plans had to be submitted to the editorial meeting for approval before commencement of production. The editorial meeting was chaired by D of B and comprised senior management staff of RTHK who would provide guidance throughout the production process to ensure that the approved programme plans were adhered to. Potentially contentious programmes were reviewed at the editorial meeting before they were produced or broadcasted, with comprehensive records of the deliberations. The decisions of the editorial meeting would be communicated to the relevant production staff. <u>D of B</u> stressed that most RTHK staff had performed professionally and followed the new editorial management mechanism throughout the programme production process. Since the implementation of the

editorial management mechanism in March 2021, only three programmes (namely, *Hong Kong Story*, *LegCo Review* and *Hong Kong Connection*) had been withdrawn before airing as all or most of the production work of those programmes was completed before the new referral mechanism was in place, and the issues concerned could therefore not be rectified in time.

- 10. As regards the episode of *LegCo Review* in question, <u>D of B</u> explained that it was a common practice for production teams to edit programmes to meet the scheduled running time and present a focused and balanced discussion. To follow up on the insertion of a clip to the same episode without seeking the editorial committee's prior approval, RTHK had swiftly deleted the clip from its programme archive and online version. The production of future episodes of *LegCo Review* would be outsourced while the RTHK production team concerned was under internal investigation.
- 11. On strengthening communications with RTHK staff about the operation and decisions of the editorial committee, <u>D of B</u> replied that the RTHK management had been maintaining effective communications via various channels, and the time-limited contract post of Advisor to D of B was created to provide assistance in implementing the Review Report's recommendations pertaining to editorial management. Moreover, frontline staff were reminded of the Editor-in-chief's editorial responsibilities and authority to make final editorial decisions of RTHK programmes under the Charter. The management's deliberations of what constituted contentious contents of a programme were recorded. Unauthorised disclosure of confidential information, including the deliberations of the editorial meetings, by RTHK staff would be followed up in strict accordance with the established procedure.
- 12. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) ("PSCED (C&CI)") supplemented that RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, had to comply with the Charter and the codes of practices issued by the Communications Authority ("CA"). As a government department, RTHK also had to follow all relevant government rules and regulations. Staff found to have contravened the above principles would be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions. An appeal mechanism was in place for staff who disagreed with or felt aggrieved of the management's decision against them.
- 13. Mr Holden CHOW commended the swift and effective follow-up actions taken by the RTHK management to implement the recommendations of the Review Report. He enquired whether, under the editorial management mechanism, the communications between the editorial committee and relevant production teams about programme plans and programme production would be kept confidential.

14. <u>D of B</u> responded that the editorial meetings and production teams had maintained close contact regarding the programme plans and production process to make sure the programmes produced would comply with the Charter and all relevant rules and regulations. As the referral mechanism was established to ensure RTHK programmes were unbiased and impartial rather than to embarrass or target individual staff, discussions between the editorial meetings and individual production teams would be kept within the department.

Management and training of workforce of Radio and Television Hong Kong

- 15. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan enquired about RTHK's recruitment procedures and performance evaluation of the service providers. As the production of *LegCo Review* would henceforth be outsourced following the recent incident where a segment of the programme had been inserted without prior approval from the editorial committee, Mr CHUNG asked how the production staff involved were redeployed while awaiting the outcome of the internal investigation.
- 16. <u>Mr SHIU Ka-fai</u> asked why the number of Category II ("Cat. II") service providers engaged was larger than civil servants as indicated in the Review Report, and why the number of contracts signed was larger than service providers engaged. <u>Mr SHIU</u> further asked whether Cat. II service providers would be assigned duties other than those specified in the contracts.
- 17. Mr Michael TIEN commented that RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, should exercise prudence when spending public money and should restrain from employing excessive staff for programme production. He questioned RTHK's rationale behind spending \$71 million in 2019-2020 on hiring Cat. II service providers. Mr TIEN commented that RTHK should make reference to private broadcasters where, rather than hiring more employees, technology was applied more broadly to raise cost-effectiveness.
- 18. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> noted that a number of issues concerning the management of Cat. II service providers had been identified in the Review Report. For example, Cat. II service providers' breaches of prevailing instructions were not followed up by the RTHK management; further instructions to determine the disciplinary actions to be taken in individual cases concerning Cat. II service providers were not issued by the RTHK management; and that no further guidelines were given for Cat II service providers on "conflict of interest" in the context of a public service broadcaster. She enquired about the details of disciplinary actions applicable to Cat. II service providers and to civil servants.
- 19. Mr WONG Ting-kwong commented that as early as October 2018, No. 71 of the Director of Audit ("Audit Report No. 71") had already recommended that the RTHK management should improve the process of engaging Cat. II service

providers and cost-efficiency in programme productions, and similar recommendations were given in the Review Report. He enquired about RTHK's progress in implementing these recommendations.

- 20. <u>SCED</u> responded that upholding the reputation and credibility of RTHK was one of the priorities of the RTHK management. It was important for RTHK to formulate a clear code of conduct applicable to civil servants, contract staff as well as Cat. II service providers. He stressed that it was necessary for D of B to have the flexibility to engage contract staff and Cat. II service providers to meet the department's operational needs, but in accordance with relevant rules and regulations. Very often, Cat. II service providers, e.g. programme presenters, were professionals who contributed their highly specialized knowledge and expertise which was not available from within the civil service. To improve the management of RTHK's workforce, the Administration and the RTHK management would focus on whether the programmes produced or presented by contract staff and Cat. II service providers met the standards of RTHK, rather than limiting the number of contract staff and service providers hired.
- 21. <u>D of B</u> elaborated that the hiring of Cat. II service providers was a long established practice of RTHK as it offered the broadcaster more flexibility in programme production, and that Cat. II service providers could often bring new thinking and new perspectives to RTHK programmes. RTHK would consider whether the candidates (including potential producers, presenters, and reporting crew) possessed relevant experience in programme production, especially current affairs programmes, and would hire candidates with the right caliber.
- 22. <u>D of B</u> said that the RTHK management accepted the recommendations of the Review Report as well as those of the Audit Report No. 71. A number of measures had been implemented to improve the management of Cat. II service providers. To strengthen the supervision of Cat. II service providers, the rank of officers who could approve the engagement of Cat. II service providers had been escalated to Assistant Director of Broadcasting. Cat. II service providers would be liable to disciplinary sanctions, such as suspension from work, on grounds of misconduct. To properly manage conflicts of interest and compliance risks and to safeguard RTHK's credibility, the RTHK management would draw reference from other public service broadcasters when formulating a clear and comprehensive code of conduct for staff and service providers involving in programme production. The RTHK management would remind Cat. II service providers to observe the newly introduced referral mechanism.
- 23. As regards the reason for a larger number of signed contracts than the number of service providers, <u>PSCED (C&CI)</u> and <u>D of B</u> advised that a service provider might be engaged in more than one contract at the same time. <u>D of B</u> took note of members' concerns about RTHK's increasing headcounts and said

that RTHK would consider deploying Programme Officers, who were civil servants working in RTHK, to take up some of the duties currently undertaken by Cat. II service providers where appropriate.

- 24. On lowering programme production cost, PSCED (C&CI) and D of B advised that, depending on the nature of the programmes concerned, the responsible producers and the RTHK management would determine the appropriate size of the production teams. Meanwhile, RTHK was preparing a more comprehensive set of performance indicators to replace the current inputoriented approach in evaluating RTHK productions. The RTHK management would take into consideration of audience or viewers' reviews of RTHK programmes to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the public broadcaster. D of B added that the improved performance indicators should also assist RTHK in RTHK was obliged, under the Charter, to produce resource allocation. programmes to fulfill specified public purposes, which involved promoting understanding of the concept of "One Country, Two Systems" and its implementation in Hong Kong, and contributing to the understanding of the community and nation.
- 25. On disciplinary mechanism in RTHK, <u>SCED</u> advised that any RTHK staff, including contract staff or civil servants, would be subject to disciplinary actions if they were found to have breached the Charter or any applicable rules and regulations. They could be sanctioned and liable to dismissal depending on the severity of the misconduct according to the established mechanism. For RTHK staff who produced programmes without the permission or who did not follow the directions of the editorial meetings, <u>D of B</u> added that public officers who had improperly incurred expenditure at the time of employment might be liable to paying a surcharge to the Government under the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2).
- 26. As regards the RTHK programme, *LegCo Review*, <u>D of B</u> advised that Cat. II service providers had been hired to take up the production work. The previously responsible production team had been redeployed to other duties pending the outcome of the internal investigation.
- 27. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should implement measures to improve RTHK's efficiency and lower production costs through reducing headcounts. The Chairman noted that Non-Civil Service Contract ("NCSC") employees in RTHK were categorized as "NCSC staff" and "NCSC staff (Programme)". He enquired about the difference between these two categories of NCSC employees. The Chairman asked the Administration to provide a comparison between the outputs of programmes delivered by (a) civil servants; and (b) other non-civil servants employees in RTHK (including contract staff, T-contract staff and Cat. II service providers), with breakdown by service

categories (e.g. scriptwriters, researchers and contributors). Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed a similar view.

(*Post-meeting note*: The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1052/20-21(01) on 25 June 2021.)

- 28. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> said that many people were of the view that deploying civil servants to produce RTHK programmes incurred a high on-cost and was not cost-effective. She requested the Administration to submit a report to the Panel outlining measures that the Administration would implement to streamline the operation of RTHK. <u>Ms QUAT</u> also enquired about RTHK staff's training in national studies, as well as the progress of the signing of declaration to uphold the Basic Law ("the Declaration") of RTHK staff (including both civil servants and contract staff). She was of the view that the RTHK management should strengthen staff training in these areas, and their understanding of the Charter.
- 29. Mr WONG Ting-kwong commended RTHK's efforts in sending civil servants to participate in national studies training and exchange programmes with the Mainland. He said that the experience would enhance RTHK staff's understanding of concepts such as national identity and the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, so they could better present such concepts in RTHK programmes. He asked how RTHK would strengthen staff training and development in this regard in future.
- 30. <u>SCED</u> advised that the estimated expenditure of a government department was made up of the operating account, which included expenses for salaries, allowances and other operating expenses etc., and capital account, which included plant, vehicles and equipment etc. Staff productivity and cost efficiency could not be measured by the average salary cost alone. He explained that RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, relied on the support of both civil servants and noncivil servants as well as Cat. II service providers to provide different kinds of services according to their skills and expertise. He stressed that, unlike the Audit Reports which focused only on the cost efficiency of individual bureaux/departments, the Review Report had looked into the governance and management of RTHK and had made recommendations on, among other matters, how to ensure that RTHK's mix of workforce would comply with applicable government rules and regulations, and fulfill their obligations under the Charter.
- 31. <u>SCED</u> emphasized that, having considered the Review Report, the RTHK management had already implemented various measures, including the introduction of performance measurement to provide a more objective indicator of cost efficiency. He said that the Review Report did not rule out RTHK's needs to hire Cat. II service providers, but recommended that the RTHK management might reconsider their proportion in the total workforce.

- 32. <u>PSCED (C&CI)</u> supplemented that simply comparing their average pays and hours of programme produced could not reflect the cost efficiency of a civil servant employee and a Cat. II service provider. He explained that not all the 600-plus civil servants of RTHK were engaged in programme production; many in fact took up supervision, management, administrative or technical support duties. For civil servants working in programme production, they collaborated with Cat. II service providers. It would not be appropriate to give a comparison of the number of productions by the working hours of civil servants and Cat. II service providers in RTHK to determine which kind of workforce was more productive.
- 33. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about different types of NCSC staff, PSCED (C&CI) advised that as of August 2020, around 400 full-time/part-time NCSC staff were engaged by RTHK. In addition to ordinary NCSC staff, RTHK ran a separate NCSC (Programme) scheme to supplement both full-time and part-time manpower to meet programme needs. The Review Report found that administration of the scheme had been devolved to divisions and there was inadequate corporate-level monitoring to ensure administrative efficiency and cost-effectiveness. He said that the Administration and the RTHK management heeded the recommendations of the Review Report and would roll out measures to improve the management of NCSC staff, including introducing a standardized performance management arrangement for them. PSCED (C&CI) agreed to provide the supplementary information requested by the Chairman after the meeting.
- 34. On the promotion of the understanding of "One Country, Two Systems" and its implementation, and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity, <u>D of B</u> pointed out that these were indeed RTHK's public purposes and missions under the Charter. To discharge these responsibilities, not only would RTHK strengthen staff training and development in related areas, but would also consider arranging exchange programmes and co-productions with radio and television stations in the Mainland as soon as cross-boundary travel resumed. Furthermore, the RTHK management was committed to providing all-rounded training and development opportunities to staff.
- 35. <u>D of B</u> assured members that all serving civil servants in RTHK had signed the Declaration according to the requirement of the Government and those who did not sign had left RTHK. Contract staff of RTHK would be arranged to make the Declaration in accordance with government procedures. Furthermore, the RTHK management would review and improve the management of its contract staff and Cat. II service providers to ensure administrative efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Mechanism of handling complaints

- 36. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> said that she had received complaints from the public about biased views expressed by guest speakers against the Mainland in some of RTHK's radio programmes. She enquired how RTHK would handle complaints received.
- 37. <u>D of B</u> advised that RTHK handled public complaints with an open mind. RTHK was currently in the process of reviewing its complaint handling mechanism with a view to enhancing the transparency and accountability. Meanwhile, RTHK had already stepped up the monitoring of public complaints such as compilation of programme-related complaint statistics, reporting relevant complaint statistics, classification and summaries of complaint contents to the RTHK Board of Advisors ("Board of Advisors") and the Administration to give a comprehensive overview of the complaints received.
- 38. Mr SHIU Ka-fai asked whether RTHK or the Administration had any guidelines or criteria when selecting callers to go on-air in phone-ins programmes. He said that some members of the public had the impression that callers with certain views were screened out of phone-ins programmes to present one-sided views on certain government policies.
- 39. <u>SCED</u> and <u>D of B</u> advised that RTHK would not censor the views of callers to phone-ins programmes before presenting them on air. Moreover, RTHK would ensure that it complied with the relevant rules and regulations of the Administration and codes of practices issued by CA. Broadcasters had the responsibility to ensure that their programmes were unbiased and impartial, and had their own internal codes of practices to advise them on the compliance of relevant rules and regulations. Should members of the public suspected a breach of any of these requirements, they could lodge a complaint to CA against the broadcaster concerned.

Allocation of manpower and resources

- 40. <u>Ms Elizabeth QUAT</u> queried whether the public resources deployed to producing RTHK programmes (both radio and television ones) were being properly used. She pointed out that despite the substantial amount allocated to radio programmes, and public affairs and general TV programmes in 2020-2021, it was difficult to assess the reception of RTHK's programmes or whether they met the needs of minority audience due to the absence of meaningful performance indicators.
- 41. <u>PSCED (C&CI)</u> advised that the Administration and the RTHK management had set out details of RTHK's performance indicators in the

Controlling Officer's Report for every financial year. Officials and public officers of RTHK also attended the special meetings to examine the Estimates of Expenditure every year to answer LegCo Members' questions about the operation and resource allocation of RTHK. As recommended by the Review Report, RTHK would set more meaningful performance targets and indicators to facilitate the evaluation of how far RTHK's programmes had succeeded in achieving the public purposes and mission as stipulated in the Charter.

- 42. Mr CHAN Kin-por welcomed and recognized the efforts of SCED, PSCED (C&CI) and D of B in improving the governance and management of RTHK. He enquired about how the Administration and the RTHK management would address the issues identified in the Audit Report No. 71 and the Review Report, such as improving RTHK's television ratings, efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and ensuring that RTHK had sufficient resources to meet its operational needs. Commenting on the decrepit state of RTHK's Broadcasting House ("Broadcasting House"), Mr CHAN suggested that the Administration should consider renovating the building to provide staff with a better working environment to boost production efficiency.
- 43. SCED advised that to ensure RTHK's full compliance with the Charter, the codes of practices issued by CA and all applicable government rules and regulations, the Administration announced in May 2020 the establishment of a dedicated team to review the governance and management of RTHK and to provide recommendations on improving its overall management systems, processes and practices. The dedicated team had conducted a review on the governance and management of RTHK in six areas, namely mechanisms for editorial management and complaints handling, performance measurement and evaluation, management of RTHK's workforce, financial management, stores and procurement, and information technology management, from July 2020 to January 2021. The Review Report, with the major findings and recommendations of the dedicated team, was released in February 2021. RTHK accepted the recommendations of the Review Report and had commenced follow-up actions in related areas. RTHK would consult and regularly report the progress to the Board of Advisors as appropriate.
- 44. <u>SCED</u> and <u>D of B</u> said that the Administration was committed to providing adequate resources to RTHK to meet its operational needs. <u>D of B</u> added that RTHK would step up maintenance and repairs, and introduce measures to improve the facilities and working environment of RTHK. Apart from using different government properties as offices and for programme production purpose, RTHK also rented other properties with modern equipment to meet its operational needs.
- 45. <u>The Chairman</u> noted in the Review Report that, while the total hours of first-run programmes broadcast on RTHK's TV services had increased from 577.3

hours to 1 775.6 hours between 2009-2010 and 2019-2020, the actual total expenditure of RTHK in public affairs and general TV programme also recorded a decrease from \$563.9 million in 2018-2019 to \$556.1 million in 2019-2020. He enquired whether the production cost of RTHK's TV programmes could be reduced to improve cost-efficiency.

- 46. <u>SCED</u> replied that some of the programmes broadcast on the three digital TV channels carried social importance, which might not be allocated lengthy air time on commercial TV channels. On the other hand, some programmes such as those for ethnic minorities might incur higher production cost due to the large amount of pre-production research and preparation required, and RTHK was obliged to produce and air these programmes to deliver its public mission specified in the Charter.
- 47. PSCED (C&CI) added that in 1990, free TV licensees were required to broadcast RTHK programmes as part of their obligations under their licences as RTHK did not operate its own TV channels at that time. In April 2016, RTHK took over the analogue TV channels vacated by the Asia Television Limited upon cessation of its free TV services, and broadcast more programmes. RTHK's three digital TV channels also extended broadcast to round-the-clock since 2019-2020. These explained the increase in total hours of first-run programmes on RTHK's TV services between 2009-2010 and 2019-2020. The hours of first-run programmes broadcast on average remained at approximately 1 700 to 1 800 hours per year. Various kinds of programmes run on the three digital TV channels, including live broadcast of LegCo meetings, programmes of China Central Television. PSCED (C&CI) said that in future, the RTHK management would consider providing more substantive information to members regarding RTHK television programmes.
- 48. Given the growing connection between Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("Greater Bay Area"), and Hong Kong's new role as a hub of arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired whether RTHK, as a public service broadcaster, would put more efforts into promoting cross-boundary art and cultural exchanges.
- 49. <u>D</u> of <u>B</u> advised that RTHK had been producing and broadcasting programmes relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area, one of which was the radio programme *Bay Area Guide* where the development in trades and industries there was shared, so as to enhance public understanding of the living cultures of various cities in the Greater Bay Area. Furthermore, more RTHK-produced and co-produced programmes on Chinese arts in Hong Kong were in the pipeline, one example was a co-production with the Hong Kong Museum of Arts, titled *Ancient Chinese Painting*. Consideration was also being given to

collaborating with Mainland television stations to produce programmes that explored cross-boundary art and cultural development and the development of Chinese arts in Hong Kong.

II. Any other business

50. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:18 pm.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
10 November 2021