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**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Minutes of policy briefing**  
**held on Monday, 11 October 2021, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 1 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 MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, GBS, MH, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

**Members attending** : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

**Public attending officers** : 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

Miss Charmaine WONG Hoi-wan, 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

Mr Ivan LEE Kwok-bun, JP  
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)

Mr Johann WONG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Communications and Creative  
Industries)

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

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 Patrick LI, JP  
Director of Broadcasting

Mr Raymond SY, 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

Miss Judy YEE  
Council Secretary (1)6

Miss Yolanda CHEUK  
Legislative Assistant (1)6

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Action

**I. Briefings by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1396/20-21(01) -- Administration's paper on 2021 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Innovation and Technology Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(1)1396/20-21(02) -- Administration's paper on 2021 Policy Address — Policy initiatives of Communications and Creative Industries Branch, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau)

Relevant papers

The Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address and Supplement  
(issued on 6 October 2021)

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 ("ITB") featured in the Chief Executive ("CE")'s 2021 Policy Address ("Policy Address"). Details of the relevant policy initiatives were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1396/20-21(01)).

Discussion

*Manpower and land resources to supporting innovation and technology development*

2. The Deputy Chairman said that he supported innovation and technology ("I&T")-related policy initiatives as set out in the Policy Address. Noting that a considerable number of I&T measures were underway/would be implemented, the Deputy Chairman expressed concern about whether there was adequate manpower in ITB and whether they possessed the relevant knowledge and experience to take forward the various initiatives. S for IT responded that the Administration would review the staff establishment from time to time and consider the need for increasing manpower as and when necessary.

3. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok noted that the Administration had planned to provide substantially more land to support the development of technology industries. When companies began to set up in those areas, there would be a huge demand for workforce. Ir Dr LO asked if the Administration had assessed the manpower needs in the short, medium and long terms to support the technology industries. He commented that the Administration should develop the necessary population policy objectives to meet the long-term talent demand for Hong Kong's I&T development.

4. S for IT advised that in the short to medium term, the Administration expected that about 5 000 job opportunities would be created by the Batch 1 development (comprising eight buildings) of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park ("HSITP") at the Lok Ma Chau Loop ("the Loop") which would be completed in phases from end-2024. It was anticipated that the full development of the San Tin Technopole in the Northern Metropolis, which included HSITP, would create a total of 150 000 job opportunities in I&T industries. The expansion programme of the Hong Kong Science Park, to be completed in phases from 2022 to 2024, was under study, and the Cyberport expansion programme which was scheduled for completion in 2025, would likewise generate new job opportunities.

*Evaluating the cost effectiveness of investment in innovation and technology*

5. Agreeing that the Administration should continue to commit resources to support I&T development in Hong Kong, Mr MA Fung-kwok said that there should be a proper mechanism to evaluate how these investments would benefit Hong Kong. He asked whether the Administration had established performance indicators to evaluate the investment in I&T development in terms of the impacts on Hong Kong's economy, society and talent as a whole.

6. S for IT responded that CE had mentioned eight major areas for developing I&T in the 2017 Policy Address. The Administration monitored the progress of various I&T-related measures through a number of key performance indicators ("KPIs"), such as the number of start-ups, the number of employees and the expenditure on research and development ("R&D"). The Administration would review and update KPIs from time to time so as to complement the policy measures as prescribed in the Policy Address.

*Planning issues related to the proposed deep technology research facility*

7. Mrs Regina IP noted that the Administration had accepted in principle the proposals of the University of Hong Kong ("HKU") to provide the university with land for research use, including reserving a four-hectare site currently zoned "Green Belt" at Pokfulam for HKU to construct facilities for deep technology research. She requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the details of the proposal, including location of the site and scope of research in deep technology. Mrs IP also asked the Administration to maintain close liaison with local residents and address their concerns on the loss of the green belt due to the development of the proposed research facility.

8. S for IT explained that Hong Kong possessed a solid foundation and strong capability in scientific research. To consolidate Hong Kong's leading position in basic research, the Administration had accepted HKU's proposal for reserving a four-hectare site at Pokfulam to construct facilities for deep technology research, which covered, among others, quantum technology and human health engineering. HKU would, in accordance with planning-related procedures and statutory requirements, consult the relevant District Council and local residents in a timely manner on the proposed research facility. S for IT undertook to provide supplementary information after the meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1448/20-21(01) on 26 October 2021.)*

*Pooling technology talent*

9. Mr Martin LIAO enquired how the Administration would support the implementation of the national strategy of building a strong pool of talent. Mr LIAO noted that the Technology Talent Admission Scheme ("TechTAS") launched in June 2018 provided a fast-track arrangement for admitting overseas and Mainland technology talent to conduct R&D in Hong Kong but only 586 out of 1 000 quotas had been taken up so far. He asked whether the Administration had evaluated the effectiveness of the Scheme and whether the quota take up rate had met the Administration's expectation. Mr LIAO also asked if the Administration would incentivize overseas talent to come to Hong Kong by, for example, providing education fund for their children.

10. S for IT explained that the Administration had launched the Global STEM Professorship Scheme in June 2021 to provide funding support for local universities to recruit internationally renowned I&T scholars and their teams to conduct research and teaching activities in Hong Kong. In addition, the *InnoHK* research clusters had been set up to pool together talent from around the world to establish Hong Kong as the hub for global research collaboration, with focuses on healthcare technologies as well as artificial intelligence ("AI") and robotics technologies. S for IT added that the scope of TechTAS had been expanded to cover six more areas including 5G communications, digital entertainment, green technology, Internet-of-Things, integrated circuit design and microelectronics.

11. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok commented that the Administration should attract non-local I&T talent by providing an ideal place for them to live and work. He enquired how the Administration would enhance its policies on and measures for attracting talent to Hong Kong. Ir Dr LO commented that the Research Talent Hub and the STEM Internship Scheme, which were only able to recruit 5 000 talent and train 4 000 interns respectively, could not address Hong Kong's

long-term I&T manpower need. Ir Dr LO noted that the Administration intended to double the annual quota of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme ("QMAS") to 4 000, but given the large demand for talent in the I&T sector, the industry had queried whether there should be an annual quota under QMAS at all. The Chairman raised a similar query.

12. S for IT said that the Administration had been adopting a multi-pronged approach in enlarging the local I&T talent pool by nurturing, retaining and attracting talent. The Administration had launched different schemes to assist young people to pursue a career in I&T after graduation. Over the past four years, fund had been provided under the Research Talent Hub for enterprises and research institutions to recruit university graduates to conduct R&D work, and around 5 400 research positions had been created; 586 quotas had been allotted under TechTAS. Moreover, the 28 laboratories set up by local universities in collaboration with world-renowned institutions would bring more jobs for local young entrepreneurs and scientists. The Administration would continue to review the arrangement and effectiveness of QMAS in attracting more highly skilled and talented persons to develop their careers and settle in Hong Kong with a view to enlarging Hong Kong's talent pool.

*Measures to support re-industrialization in Hong Kong*

13. Mr SHIU Ka-fai asked whether there was sufficient manpower and land to support re-industrialization in Hong Kong. S for IT indicated that under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy ("the Development Strategy"), the Administration would provide additional 150 hectares of land for I&T-related uses in the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau area, including the surrounding areas of HSITP, which would be consolidated and developed as the San Tin Technopole, with a view to creating a critical mass of I&T facilities with greater economy of scale. In addition, the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation had started to plan for the construction of the second Advanced Manufacturing Centre ("AMC"). As regards manpower supply, the Administration had been striving to attract talent, professionals and entrepreneurs from around the world to develop their careers in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes.

14. The Deputy Chairman noted that with an injection of HK\$2 billion, the Re-industrialization Funding Scheme ("RFS") was launched in 2020 and had subsidized manufacturers, on matching basis, to set up new smart production lines in Hong Kong. However, only about \$108 million had been approved. The Deputy Chairman enquired how the Administration would strengthen its effort to promote the development of re-industrialization in Hong Kong.

15. S for IT replied that the Administration had received some 20 applications in total under RFS and the Vetting Committee had agreed in principle to support 16 of them. The Administration would continue to promote re-industrialization with a five-pronged approach, namely infrastructure, talent, capital, technology and research; and developing advanced manufacturing, which was less land- or labour-intensive, based on new technologies and smart production. S for IT highlighted that AMC at the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate ("IE") would be completed in mid-2022. AMC would provide comprehensive services for logistics, warehousing, prototyping, low-volume assembly and clean room enabled space. The San Tin Technopole would also be able to provide land for advanced manufacturing industries. Separately, the Administration had introduced various training programmes and schemes that attracted overseas talent to Hong Kong. These measures would help expand the talent pool to support Hong Kong's re-industrialization efforts.

16. Mr Holden CHOW suggested that the Administration should consider locating the second AMC in Tuen Mun or Hung Shui Kiu, leveraging the geographical advantage of the Northwest New Territories, and at the same time complementing the development of HSITP at the Loop. Mr CHOW further asked how the rental charges of the land reserved for I&T uses would be set and whether the rental fees of AMC would be pitched at a competitive but lower level so that the industry would find the industrial sites affordable for their operation.

17. S for IT advised that AMC at the Tseung Kwan O IE and the Microelectronics Centre at the Yuen Long IE would be completed in 2022 and 2023 respectively. In identifying the potential site for the second AMC, the Administration would consult the industry as appropriate and consider other factors such as whether the site formation works were completed. Tenders would be invited for the lease of the sites at AMC and the Microelectronics Centre. In addition to rental fees offered, factors such as the tenants' contribution to the economy and the high-skilled employment opportunities to be provided, would be considered in selecting tenants.

18. The Chairman asked when the Administration would promulgate the details of admission criteria and leasing arrangement of IEs. S for IT said that the Administration had already adopted a "two-envelope" approach for the tender exercises in respect of admission to IEs and tenancy of AMC whereby due weight would be accorded to the technical factor other than the price factor in the tender assessment. The assessment criteria were applicable to different industries including data centres. The Administration would continue to work in close collaboration with the industry to encourage manufacturers to set up their production bases in Hong Kong, thereby promoting re-industrialization. Meanwhile, the Administration would act in response to the development of



emerging industries, such as biomedicine industry, and stipulate in the tender documents the relevant requirements when inviting tenders for leasing land lots in IEs and renting AMC.

19. Mr Holden CHOW and the Chairman suggested that the Administration should draw up a target on the share of the manufacturing sector in Gross Domestic Product ("GDP"). Mr CHOW commented that, in addition to manufacturing activities, the values of related producer services including R&D, product design and testing, should also be considered in calculating GDP, so that the full contribution of the manufacturing sector to the economy could be reflected. S for IT took note of members' suggestions.

20. The Chairman added that the scope of re-industrialization should cover environmental protection and environmental industries. Expressing concern that the shortage of land might impede the development of recycling and manufacturing industry, the Chairman commented that the Administration should explore collaboration with the Environment Bureau to ensure that adequate land would be provided to support the development of recycling and manufacturing industry and achieve synergy.

21. S for IT responded that the Administration had been proactively identifying land to provide the I&T industry and re-industrialization with space necessary for development. Under the Development Strategy, the proposed provision of about 150 hectares of additional land for developing the San Tin Technopole would create a critical mass of I&T facilities with greater economy of scale. The Administration would spare no effort in promoting re-industrialization, which would in turn bring impetus to the economy of Hong Kong.

*Removing barriers for Hong Kong companies to conduct technology research business in the Mainland*

22. Ms Elizabeth QUAT relayed the concerns raised by some biotechnology companies that the Mainland authorities had banned the import and export of bio bank and medical data, such as DNA samples. As a result, local enterprises and research institutes could not enter the Mainland biotech market. Ms QUAT suggested that the Administration should explore with the Mainland authorities on (a) relaxing the limitation on exporting Hong Kong human genetic resources to the Mainland, or at least allow such resources to be used in the Loop or the San Tin Technopole; (b) promoting the adoption of the Original Grant Patent ("OGP") system in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA"); and (c) exempting Hong Kong residents from hi-tech sectors from the restrictions in relation to the existing negative lists.

23. S for IT responded that the Administration had achieved breakthroughs in various aspects such as exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong and cross-boundary remittance of Mainland R&D funding. As for exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong, so far, four Mainland branches established by Hong Kong's universities had been confirmed by the Ministry of Science and Technology to be meeting the specified requirements and allowed to lodge applications for exporting Mainland human genetic resources to Hong Kong independently under a pilot scheme for research purpose. Regarding the cross-boundary remittance of Mainland R&D funding, over RMB370 million R&D funding had been successfully remitted to Hong Kong for supporting local universities and R&D institutes to conduct R&D projects. The Administration would continue to explore and facilitate the flow of the four R&D elements, namely talent, capital, goods and information, in the GBA.

### *Arts Technology*

24. Mr MA Fung-kwok pointed out that according to the findings of the Survey of Startups in Hong Kong, the number of start-ups in the design sector was only 7.6% out of the 3 755 start-ups operating in Hong Kong. He asked why the proportion was so low, and whether few start-ups would invest resources in cultural and creative industries. Mr MA further asked how the Administration would promote the adoption of new technologies and/or participation in science and research projects by cultural and creative industries, and encourage start-ups to increase investment in arts technology ("arts tech").

25. S for IT advised that the Administration was committed to promoting arts tech. The inter-departmental Task Force on Arts Technology, led by the Home Affairs Bureau and comprising ITB as well as other relevant bureaux/departments, had worked actively in formulating strategies and measures for the development and promotion of arts tech. The Task Force had, amongst other strategies, matched artists and arts organizations with suitable start-ups to boost the use of arts tech in artworks and performances. As arts tech covered a wide area, technology application had extended the horizon of creativity in arts and brought new opportunities for the arts and creative industries. In addition to providing funding for the related sectors to implement projects that integrated technology and arts, the Administration would continue to promote arts tech and set up platforms for communication and exchanges between the arts and culture sector and the technology industry, such as encouraging the integration of technology into the design work and realize design concepts at the Hong Kong Science Park.

26. Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") added that the integration of arts, cultural and creative industries with technology was at a budding stage. There had been rapid growth in the arts, cultural and creative

industries in recent years. He said that the Administration noted that some performances and exhibitions had adopted a technological approach in their production and presentation, and the fact that Hong Kong had overtaken London as the world's second largest art trading centre last year clearly demonstrated the development potential of the arts sector.

*"Health code" mutual recognition arrangement*

27. Mr SHIU Ka-fai enquired whether a new system or the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application ("app") would be adopted to facilitate the resumption of cross-boundary travel soon. S for IT informed members that the Hong Kong government representatives led by the Chief Secretary for Administration had attended a meeting on the anti-epidemic work of the Mainland and Hong Kong in September 2021. As Hong Kong and the Mainland adopted different anti-epidemic systems, the Administration had been actively exploring ways to bridge the differences between the two systems. The Administration had also been collaborating with the "Health Code" technical teams of Guangdong Province and Macao on the enhancement of the code conversion system and making technical preparations for the gradual resumption of cross-boundary travel.

28. The Chairman noted that the "LeaveHomeSafe" app provided a convenient digital tool for users to track their movement, but the app did not require registration of any personal information nor have a tracking function due to the public's concern for personal privacy. He expressed concern about differences between the "LeaveHomeSafe" app and the Mainland health code system. The Chairman asked whether and when Hong Kong residents could use a health code to facilitate the quarantine-free travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok asked the Administration to expedite the implementation of "Hong Kong Health Code" to facilitate quarantine-free flow of people within GBA.

29. S for IT advised that the Administration had completed the development of the health code conversion system last year. The code conversion system supported eligible persons arriving Hong Kong from Guangdong Province or Macao under the "Return2hk" Scheme, to use the "Yuekang Code" or "Macao Health Code" to directly convert their valid nucleic acid testing results to the electronic Health Declaration Form platform of Hong Kong. The system also supported persons coming to Hong Kong from Guangdong Province and Macao under the "Come2HK" Scheme launched in September this year. The Administration would continue to maintain close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities to consider the early resumption of cross-boundary travel.

Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

30. At the invitation of the Chairman, SCED briefed the Panel on the major initiatives relating to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") under the Policy Address. Details of the policy initiatives were set out in the Administration paper vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1396/20-21(02).

Discussion

*The work of the Hong Kong Observatory*

31. Members discussed a recent incident where the Hong Kong Observatory ("HKO") had been criticized for its slow response in keeping the public updated about the development of a tropical cyclone that hit Hong Kong. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that HKO's repeated postponement of the lowering of the tropical cyclone signal no. 8 had caused disruption to many business operations. Employees had been asked to return to their workplace to make preparation of resumption of business which turned out to be futile as the tropical cyclone signal remained in force.

32. Mrs Regina IP and the Deputy Chairman commented that HKO had used the meteorological data available to make the best scientific forecast of the weather conditions as it could. The impact on business operations could not be the reason for HKO to determine whether a tropical cyclone signal should be hoisted or remain in force. The Deputy Chairman said that there were inevitable uncertainties in any forecast, and one should not be unduly harsh on HKO's decision.

33. Ms Elizabeth QUAT said that with the advancement of satellite technology and AI, more accurate weather forecasts for smaller areas were possible. She suggested that HKO should consider applying such technology to improve its weather forecast service.

34. Mrs Regina IP suggested HKO's work should now be more concerned with dealing with climate change and should be more related to environmental policies than commerce or economic services. She asked if the Administration would consider transferring HKO to under the policy oversight of the Environment Bureau.

35. SCED replied that HKO was committed to providing people-oriented meteorological services to help the public enhance their capability to respond to severe weather and natural disasters. While HKO fell under the policy purview of CEDB, its weather forecasts were based solely on its professional and scientific

analysis of meteorological data. To address the public's concerns about the weather forecasts regarding the last tropical cyclone and to update the public on the upcoming tropical cyclone, the Director of HKO would hold a press conference later in the day.

36. SCED took note of the suggestions from Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mrs Regina IP, and advised that bureaux and departments regularly work in close collaboration to discharge their duties. HKO had provided much professional input to the Environment Bureau, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations, on climate change-related issues. SCED added that the Administration was open to discussion of Government restructuring.

*Protection of intellectual property rights*

37. Mr SHIU Ka-fai enquired about the progress of the Administration's plan to update the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528) to strengthen the intellectual property ("IP") protection regime of Hong Kong. SCED advised that as announced in this year's Policy Address, one of the new roles of Hong Kong charted in the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan would be to develop into a regional IP trading centre. To achieve this, the relevant legislation would have to be updated. The Administration would thus revive the amendment exercise of Cap. 528 by issuing a consultation document next month to consult the public on the modernization of the copyright regime, with the target of introducing a bill to amend Cap. 528 in the next term of the Legislative Council.

38. Ms Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether the OGP system which opened up a direct route for innovators to seek standard patent protection in Hong Kong could be extended to the GBA, and thus to help strengthen IP protection and enhance the development of innovation and technology in the Mainland.

39. SCED agreed that the patent system was a prerequisite to any credible bid to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre, and the conventional way to obtain a patent registration in Hong Kong was through the re-registration route. Since 2019, Hong Kong had launched the OGP system with the assistance of the Mainland authorities, under which a standard patent could be obtained directly in Hong Kong without going through the registration process outside Hong Kong first. He noted that Mainland China was leading in the number of patent registrations worldwide. With the development of the GBA, the demand for patent registrations would be increasing in both Mainland China and Hong Kong, and many companies, both local and overseas, would like to use Hong Kong to secure the first filing of their patent applications. The Administration would further promote and develop the OGP system by building up the substantive examination capability of the Intellectual Property Department. SCED added that

since its launch in 2019, the OGP system had received more than 400 applications, and the first standard patent under the system was granted in June 2021, within 14 months after the date of filing of the application.

*The governance and management of the Radio Television Hong Kong*

40. The Chairman commended the Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") for producing more diverse and educational television programmes after implementing the recommendations of the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report. Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mr SHIU Ka-fai echoed the Chairman's views. Mr SHIU commented that the Editorial Policies and Process of Radio Television Hong Kong published in September 2021 had offered clearer guidance to employees of RTHK on programme production. SCED took note of members' views.

**II. Any other business**

41. The Chairman said that it was the last Panel meeting of this term of the Legislative Council and he thanked members and the Administration for their support and contributions.

42. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:07 pm.