

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Report of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (“the Panel”) during the 2024 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) session. It will be tabled at the LegCo meeting on 18 December 2024 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of LegCo.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by LegCo on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007, 2 July 2008 and 26 October 2022 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology (“IT”), telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry. The terms of reference of the Panel are set out in **Appendix 1**.

3. For the 2024 session, the Panel comprised 20 members, with Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon YUNG Hoi-yan elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix 2**.

Major work

Overall planning for innovation and technology development

4. Innovation and technology (“I&T”) can spawn new industries in Hong Kong, facilitate the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries, promote economic diversification, and create quality employment

opportunities. This will help enhance the overall competitiveness and inject new impetus into the economy of Hong Kong. Promulgated in 2021, the “Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035” (“the 14th Five-Year Plan”) sets out the vision to develop the country into an innovative nation with strong science and technology. It also expressly supports Hong Kong’s development as an international I&T centre.

5. The Government has promulgated the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint (“the Blueprint”)¹ in December 2022, setting out the I&T development targets for Hong Kong in the next five to 10 years. By mapping out the overall direction and key strategies for Hong Kong’s future I&T development through top-level planning and design, the efforts in the coordination and implementation of relevant policies to take forward the I&T development can be strengthened.

Promoting the development of artificial intelligence

6. The Panel discussed with the Administration the work progress of enhancing digital infrastructure and support to the development of the artificial intelligence (“AI”) ecosystem at the meeting on 8 April 2024.

Planning for the Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre

7. While calling on the Administration to expedite the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre (“AISC”) and the formulation of a development blueprint on AI policy, members enquired about the expected economic benefits and mode of operation in relation to AISC, as well as the future planning of computing capability in Hong Kong. The Administration advised that the first-phase AISC facility was expected to commence operations in the second half of 2024. AISC would be operated under the principle of market operation. The computing resources would be increased in a gradual manner in line with the demand of the industry. At the same time, the Administration would ensure effective allocation and utilization of computing resources.

8. Members indicated support for the Administration’s proposed allocation of \$3 billion to implement a three-year AI Subsidy Scheme (“the Subsidy Scheme”). Members were concerned about the effectiveness in

¹ The full text of the Blueprint can be viewed at the following website:
https://www.itib.gov.hk/en/publications/I&T%20Blueprint%20Book_EN_single_Digital.pdf

monitoring the vetting and utilization of funds under the Subsidy Scheme. The Administration explained that Cyberport would be requested to set up an independent committee to review the operation of the Subsidy Scheme and make approvals for funding applications. Meanwhile, Cyberport would set performance indicators for the Subsidy Scheme and report to the Administration on an annual basis.

Infrastructural support for artificial intelligence development

9. Pointing out that the facilities for the development of AI technology would entail high power consumption, members expressed concern about the supply and cost of electricity. Members suggested that the Administration should consider setting up AISC at a location outside Cyberport. The Administration remarked that it would keep an open mind regarding the location at which AISC would operate, subject to the availability of relevant infrastructural support for the operation of AISC.

Cultivation of artificial intelligence technology talent

10. Members exchanged views with the Administration on the strategies for the cultivation of AI technology talent. The Administration advised that the relevant platforms and schemes were channels to attract local and overseas talent. In addition, AISC would serve as an important platform for talent training in the future. Members suggested that the Administration should harness the I&T talent of Hong Kong returning from the Mainland and provide them with development opportunities. There were also suggestions that the Administration should encourage academic institutions to offer more AI-related programmes and motivate members from non-IT sectors to learn the use of AI technology.

Promoting innovation and technology development

Work progress update of Cyberport

11. At the meeting on 27 February 2024, the Panel exchanged views with the Administration on the work progress of Cyberport in various areas, including the promotion of smart living, digital entertainment and financial technology, AI and big data, blockchain technology and cybersecurity. Members also held discussions with the Administration on Cyberport's work in promoting popular science education and the initiatives in the nurturing of and job matching for high-end I&T talent.

12. Members suggested that Cyberport should enhance the various financial and professional support programmes for start-ups and urged Cyberport to improve its operating deficits, so as to meet the costs of the

various support programmes. Members also suggested that Cyberport should increase the funding amount for enterprises under the Easy Landing Scheme to attract more leading enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong. According to Cyberport, relevant support programmes would be subject to review and enhancement from time to time, such as increasing the number of times of vetting and approval per year and optimizing the composition of the vetting committee. In addition, Cyberport would provide suitable complementary facilities and support to enterprises having regard to their commitment to promoting industry development and talent nurturing.

13. Members also raised enquiries about how the Administration would assist enterprises in the commercialization of their research and development (“R&D”) outcomes, and about Cyberport’s strategy in expanding economic and trade partnerships with overseas countries. The Administration advised that it would provide enterprises with application scenarios to facilitate commercialization and application of their R&D results. Various bureaux/departments (“B/Ds”) would also be encouraged to enhance public services through the adoption of I&T solutions. Cyberport indicated that the technology solutions developed by its start-ups could contribute to the smart city development, and B/Ds would be encouraged to try out technology products through different approaches, such as the proof-of-concept arrangement. Besides, the international network of Cyberport would be constantly expanded, and it had signed a memorandum of understanding with relevant organizations in Thailand to establish a cooperation framework for promoting the development of start-ups.

Planning for the innovation and technology facilities in Lau Fau Shan

14. There were deliberations between members and the Administration on the planning for the establishment of new I&T facilities in Lau Fau Shan, and discussions were held on how the Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone (“the Qianhai Overall Development Plan”) would be taken forward leveraging the initiative, in order to promote the cooperation between Hong Kong and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”). Members noted that the proposed digital technology hub to be set up in Lau Fau Shan would focus on areas such as AI and arts technology with the integration of new and traditional economies, with a view to nurturing start-ups and bringing in technology talent. At the same time, the initiative would facilitate collaboration with Qianhai of Shenzhen in implementing development projects and implementing the objectives of the Qianhai Overall Development Plan, while supporting Hong Kong enterprises to tap into the Mainland market.

Setting up the Digital Policy Office

15. The Administration briefed the Panel on 8 April 2024 on the arrangements for forming the Digital Policy Office (“DPO”) by merging the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Efficiency Office.² Members were in support of the proposal and raised enquiries about how DPO would promote data sharing among B/Ds and public and private organizations, and about the use of government and industry data to facilitate digitalization of different industries.

16. The Administration responded that DPO would oversee the promotion of data sharing and application of digital technology among B/Ds, and would enable data exchange and data interchange among B/Ds through the development and management of the Government Cloud Infrastructure Services, Big Data Analytics Platform, the Consented Data Exchange Gateway, etc., with a view to providing more convenient services for the general public and the business sector. On the other hand, the Administration would take into account the actual circumstances among different industries in formulating digital policies, in order to facilitate the development of smart city and industries related to digital economy. DPO would be endowed with a broader scope of functions for the purpose of propelling the development of digital government and formulating important policies for the future development of digital economy in Hong Kong.

17. Members held discussions on the schedule of responsibilities of the Commissioner for Digital Policy and the coordination work with various B/Ds. Members suggested that the Administration should conduct an open recruitment for the directorate posts in DPO to draw in experts or talent with experience in the business sector, start-ups or I&T, thereby enriching the experience of the management team of DPO.

Bolstering the digital infrastructure

Enhancement of “iAM Smart”

18. At the meeting on 8 July 2024, the Panel received a briefing from the Administration on the progress on the enhancement of “iAM Smart”.

Increasing the utilization rate of “iAM Smart”

19. Members suggested that the Administration should enhance the publicity and promotion work of “iAM Smart” while developing functions

² The relevant establishment proposal ([EC\(2024-25\)2](#)) was endorsed by the Establishment Subcommittee on 29 May 2024 and subsequently approved by the Finance Committee on 14 June 2024.

suitable for use by the private sector in “iAM Smart”, in order to increase its utilization rate. There were suggestions that the Administration should introduce AI-powered search and recommendation services to “iAM Smart” and incorporate mini-programmes in the interface design to facilitate users to select the services they needed.

20. The Administration briefed members on the various enhancement and publicity measures, including enhancing publicity on “iAM Smart” at the community level through elderly service centres and community organizations, providing a simplified user interface for “iAM Smart”, adding personalized settings, as well as expanding the Enriched Information and Communications Technology (“ICT”) Training Programme for the Elderly and the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly. The current fee waiver arrangement would also be extended for three years to attract more organizations to use “iAM Smart”. It was the Administration’s plan to drive the full adoption of “iAM Smart” by all government online services by 2025, and would make use of personalized design and AI technology to understand users’ personal preferences, age groups, occupations and usage habits, etc., so as to optimize the interface design and make recommendations on suitable services.

Design and functions of “iAM Smart”

21. Members were concerned that the current enhancement of “iAM Smart” would not be completed until 2025, and urged the Administration to speed up the progress. The Administration explained that a vast amount of preparatory work was necessary for the enhancement of “iAM Smart”, and the soon-to-be-introduced simplified online self-registration function and the “iAM Smart Personal Code” function would involve different government departments and public and private organizations. As such, the current timetable for enhancing the “iAM Smart” aligned well with the requirements and ambitious goals.

Cross-boundary public services

22. Noting the setting up of connection linking “iAM Smart” with the “Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province” (“the Authentication Platform”) in November 2023, members enquired about the plans for the introduction of cross-boundary services. The Administration responded that “iAM Smart” users could opt to bind their “iAM Smart” accounts when registering on the Authentication Platform, thereby enabling the users to log in directly to the Guangdong Government Service Network and the “Yue Sheng Shi” mobile app through “iAM Smart” to use a wide range of Guangdong Province’s government services. In addition, the Administration would explore in due course the possibility for Hong Kong

residents to further access “Cross-provincial Government Services” in other provinces and cities in the Mainland through the Authentication Platform.

Information security relating to “iAM Smart”

23. Members were concerned that the large amount of personal information stored in “iAM Smart” might pose information security risks. There were suggestions that the Administration should encrypt the data contained in “iAM Smart”, such that in the event of a data leakage incident, criminal elements would not be able to use the data for further fraudulent activities. The Administration advised that with the introduction of red team exercises, the assessments leveraging AI technology, and the engagement of professional cybersecurity companies to conduct tests, etc., it was expected that any security vulnerabilities of the “iAM Smart” platform would be identified as early as possible to facilitate timely implementation of defensive efforts. The Administration added that the provision of all government services was in strict compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) (“PDPO”) in respect of the collection of personal data, and the personal data would be subject to encryption throughout the transmission and storage processes.

Developing the “Digital Corporate Identity” platform

24. The Administration briefed the Panel on 13 May 2024 on the latest work progress on developing the “Digital Corporate Identity” (“CorpID”) platform, which aimed to enable authentication of identity and verification of enterprises using e-government services or conducting online business transactions in a convenient and efficient manner, thereby simplifying the complicated procedures and accelerating their digital transformation.

Convenience of the “Digital Corporate Identity” platform for enterprises

25. Members were concerned about how the CorpID platform could facilitate business and how the work related to the Know-Your-Customer (“KYC”) process among financial institutions would be streamlined. Members were of the view that the CorpID platform should support the Commercial Data Interchange (“CDI”) to facilitate access to relevant information by other local enterprises, and at the same time, it should be aligned with international standards to make it easier for Hong Kong enterprises to conduct transactions with the use of digital signing and digital contracts through international web-based platforms. Some members suggested that the Administration should enable departments in charge of vetting and approving various funding schemes to check the past funding records of enterprises through the CorpID platform.

26. The Administration explained that corporate users could carry out real-time corporate identity authentication through the CorpID platform, thereby simplifying the steps concerning the use of CDI and facilitating enterprises to undergo the KYC process. On the other hand, the design of the CorpID platform would enable corporate users to store other global or sectorial identity authentication data; the Administration was in discussions with professional bodies, the industry and relevant departments on the Business Identifier Codes to be interfaced with the CorpID platform, and there were also discussions with the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation on the interfacing arrangements for its LEI (Legal Entity Identifier) standards. The Administration indicated that enterprises would be encouraged to make use of the CorpID platform for the submission of various applications and storage of certificates issued by different departments, thereby facilitating departments or other enterprises in verifying identities and related information through the CorpID platform.

Development progress of the “Digital Corporate Identity” platform and expected benefits

27. Noting that the contract staff costs for the CorpID platform was higher than that for other digital infrastructure projects, members discussed with the Administration issues such as the staffing arrangements and measures for streamlining the manpower in relation to the operation of the CorpID platform.

28. Regarding how to increase the usage rate of the platform, members suggested that the Administration establish relevant performance indicators and targets, and specify that certain documents or applications submitted to the government after a specified date must be handled through the CorpID platform. The Administration expected that enterprises would more frequently employ the corporate identity authentication and digital signing functions of the CorpID platform to facilitate the verification of documents or returns. The Administration would require that all corporate-related e-government services and government-related contractual services to support CorpID.

Promoting the development of fifth-generation mobile communications in Hong Kong

29. At the meeting on 13 May 2024, the Panel discussed with the Administration the new initiatives relating to the development of the fifth-generation mobile communications (“5G”) in Hong Kong and the latest progress.

Enhancing mobile network coverage

30. Expressing concern that some rural and remote areas were still not yet fully covered by mobile network services, members urged the Administration to make improvements as soon as possible. Members were of the view that the Administration should actively promote the use of 5G services among the 10% of the population who were still not covered by 5G networks, including enhancing mobile network coverage in old buildings in the urban areas currently without access to fibre-based networks, so as to bridge the digital divide. The Administration remarked that the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”) intended to subsidize mobile network operators (“MNOs”) to carry out phased installation of new radio base stations (“RBSs”) at locations in the rural and remote areas, and would commence consultations on the details of the subsidy scheme. In addition, OFCA had been actively assisting MNOs in reaching out to owners and property management companies for improving mobile network coverage in buildings. Meanwhile, the Telecommunications (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 would require that appropriate space to be reserved in new or redeveloped buildings for the installation of RBSs by MNOs, effectively enhancing the overall 5G network coverage in Hong Kong.

Enhancing 5G network capacity at major public event venues

31. Pointing out that 5G network services were insufficient at some public event venues when mega events or activities were hosted, members urged the Administration to enhance the 5G network capacity at the event venues across different districts. The Administration advised that OFCA was coordinating with the relevant organizations in relation to the installation of RBSs at the venues of mega events or activities or nearby government buildings. MNOs would also be invited to set up temporary 5G RBSs on-site, so as to improve the network services at the relevant venues.

Supporting the development of low-orbit satellite network and low-altitude economy

32. Members had discussions with the Administration on the strategies and planning for the development of low-orbit satellite and mobile communications networks, promoting the development of low-altitude economy, supporting the development of autonomous technology and so on. The Administration responded that OFCA would process licence applications and spectrum assignments for satellite operators in Hong Kong, and would maintain close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities and coordinate with overseas authorities on the use of satellite spectrum and orbits to facilitate the development of satellite services. On the development of low-altitude economy, the Administration added that OFCA would

closely monitor the development trend of the Mainland and overseas telecommunications market to ensure that the planning, supply and utilization of spectrum could support the relevant developments.

Facilitating the cross-boundary data flow

33. The Administration and the Cyberspace Administration of China (“CAC”) jointly announced the facilitation measure of the “Standard Contract for the Cross-boundary Flow of Personal Information Within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong)” (“the GBA Standard Contract”) in December 2023 to facilitate and streamline the compliance arrangements on cross-boundary flow of personal information from the Mainland cities in GBA to Hong Kong. At the meeting on 5 February 2024, the Panel exchanged views with the Administration on the aforesaid facilitation measure and its early and pilot implementation arrangements.

Operational mechanism of the GBA Standard Contract

34. Members asked how the Administration would ensure that the flow of personal information under the GBA Standard Contract complied with its terms. The Administration responded that enterprises entering into contracts were required to fulfil the terms set out in the relevant undertakings and they were subject to the oversight of the local regulatory authorities (i.e. DPO and the Cyberspace Administration of Guangdong Province). DPO would liaise with the Cyberspace Administration of Guangdong Province on the filing of records by enterprises, and regular reports would be made to CAC; DPO would also conduct audits and reviews of the situation of cross-boundary data flow involving information processors and recipients as and when necessary.

35. Members enquired whether the facilitation measure under the GBA Standard Contract would make it easier for Hong Kong residents to apply for or gain access to various support measures in the Mainland. The Administration explained that the main objective of the facilitation measure was to assist the business community in providing cross-boundary services, and Hong Kong residents in Guangdong Province could access government services of Guangdong and Hong Kong through the Cross-boundary Public Services initiative.

Protection of privacy in cross-boundary flow of personal data

36. Expressing concern about the protection of personal data involved in cross-boundary data flow, members suggested that the Administration should streamline the procedures for obtaining consent from data subjects

while stepping up publicity and education efforts. The Administration pointed out that in implementing cross-boundary flow of personal data under the GBA Standard Contract, both contracting parties were required to ensure that the arrangements complied with the relevant laws and regulations of the respective jurisdictions, including the requirement to obtain the consent of the personal information subject prior to the flow of personal data from GBA to Hong Kong. To avoid occurrences of personal data leakage incidents, DPO and the Cyberspace Administration of Guangdong Province had established a cooperation mechanism to oversee the fulfilment of contracts by enterprises. Members suggested that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data should be more proactive in taking measures and formulating rules to promote proper protection of personal data privacy among enterprises. There were also suggestions that the Administration should review PDPO and introduce amendments as appropriate.

37. Members enquired whether the Administration would draw reference from the Cybersecurity Law, the Data Security Law and the Personal Information Protection Law in the Mainland and enact laws similar to the Data Security Law, so as to ensure the alignment of the laws and regulations between Hong Kong and the Mainland. According to the Administration, the Policy Statement on Facilitating Data Flow and Safeguarding Data Security in Hong Kong was published in December 2023 to set out the Government's key strategies and action plans on data flow and data security. At the same time, the personal information processors and the recipients would enter into the GBA Standard Contract on a voluntary basis using a standardized template, which would bind both contractual parties on their responsibilities and obligations in respect of the cross-boundary flow of personal data. As such, the Administration did not consider it necessary for comprehensive alignment of the relevant laws of the two places.

Complementary measures and support for GBA Standard Contract

38. Noting that the early and pilot implementation arrangements for the GBA Standard Contract facilitation measure would only be opened for participation from the banking, credit referencing and healthcare sectors in the first phase, members enquired whether the Administration would invite more sectors to participate and provide practical assistance to the enterprises. The Administration responded that it would review the aforesaid early and pilot implementation arrangements in mid-2024 and refine the details as appropriate, with a view to extending the facilitation measure to all sectors and facilitating the provision of more cross-boundary services by enterprises. The Administration had also set up a dedicated team to provide appropriate support to enterprises entering into the GBA Standard Contract.

39. Members suggested that the Administration should cooperate with specific organizations and the Mainland authorities on a pilot basis to streamline the future arrangements for the flow of personal data from the Mainland to Hong Kong. The Administration replied that the filing of records by enterprises in the Mainland cities in GBA was coordinated through the Cyberspace Administration of Guangdong Province to ensure that vetting and approval of applications were processed with uniform standards across the cities in GBA. The Administration had plans to extend the facilitation measure to other provinces and cities in the Mainland in the future to enable the provision of more cross-boundary services.

Promoting digital inclusion

40. At the meeting on 4 June 2024, the Administration updated the Panel on the progress of its work on digital inclusion initiatives.

Helping the elderly, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities in the use of technology

41. At present, about 650 government websites and some 80 government mobile applications had already adopted accessibility design. The Administration would carry out timely updates and promote the adoption of web accessibility design catering for the needs of the elderly by public and private organizations.

42. On the digital training courses for the elderly, Members were of the view that the Administration should enhance the practicality and personalization of their contents. Topics such as anti-fraud information, digital financial technologies and Mainland mobile applications should be included, and funding support should be provided for community organizations to set up accessible websites in compliance with the international standards (e.g. the Level AA standard of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.0). There were also suggestions that the Administration should capitalize on the resources from the industry and professional organizations, such as forming volunteer teams by industry representatives to provide digital training for the elderly. The Administration advised that enhancements had been made to the relevant training courses in 2023, such as the inclusion of contents on mobile applications frequently used in the Mainland, anti-deception and the latest cybersecurity knowledge. Personalized digital technical support would also be provided to the elderly through specific programmes, offering appropriate support suiting their individual needs. The Administration also advised that there was close collaboration among different government departments and community organizations, including the promotion of the Digital Inclusion Programme for the Elderlies and dissemination of common digital

technology knowledge to the elderly through District Services and Community Care Teams. On the other hand, the Administration also worked with various industry organizations and invited their members to serve as guest trainers for the training programmes.

Safeguarding and promoting information security

43. The Administration updated the Panel on 14 October 2024 on the latest situation of information security in Hong Kong, as well as the Government's work on safeguarding and promoting information security.

Enhancing information security measures in government departments and public organizations

44. Members expressed concerns about the cybersecurity incidents involving government departments or public organizations in recent years, and there were discussions with the Administration on the enhancement measures adopted by various B/Ds and public organizations, including conducting tests for large-scale and high-risk IT projects and enhancing the oversight of information systems. Members noted that DPO would proactively inspect government information systems and launch information security compliance audits for B/Ds. Members suggested that the Administration should examine the implementation of the relevant information security guidelines by B/Ds to gauge the effectiveness of their work in safeguarding information security.

Enhancing the protection against unauthorized access to online service accounts

45. Members were concerned about the upsurge in the number of cases of unauthorized access to online service accounts in recent years and urged the Administration to step up efforts in preventing and combating fraudulent activities. There were suggestions that the Administration should strengthen cooperation with operators of social media platforms in blocking online fraudulent advertisements, and that considerations should be given to introducing legislation to stipulate the responsibilities of the relevant operators in handling information such as fraudulent webpages or advertisements. The Administration advised that efforts would be made to enhance the anti-fraud awareness among the public through various channels, such as moving showroom vehicles, the "CyberDefender" website, the "Scameter" and the Faster Payment System Suspicious Proxy ID Alert. At the same time, the Police would step up online patrols and enforcement actions, and join forces with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in combating cross-boundary fraudulent activities.

Cyberport's cybersecurity incident

46. In August 2023, Cyberport's network had been subject to illegal access by hackers, with its systems attacked by ransomware and maliciously encrypted. At the meeting on 8 April 2024, the Panel received a briefing from the Administration on the sequence of events in relation to the aforesaid cybersecurity incident, as well as the Administration's follow-up actions and improvement measures taken following the incident.

Information security policies of the Government

47. Given that the Administration had reminded all government departments to review their information security systems and enhance their cybersecurity defence capabilities in the wake of Cyberport's cybersecurity incident, members were concerned about the relevant work progress and asked whether a cybersecurity response team would be set up to handle emergencies. In response, the Administration said that as most government systems were managed centrally on the Government's private cloud platform with access to the Internet through the Central Internet Gateway, security arrangements could be made in a more coordinated manner. The Administration had adopted multi-layered cybersecurity technologies, firewalls, intrusion detection and response systems, etc. to monitor system traffic, conduct analysis and issue alerts. There were also requirements for each department to set up a computer emergency response team for immediate report in case of an incident.

48. Members asked whether the Administration would review and update the Government IT Security Policy and Guidelines ("the Policy and Guidelines"), such that public organizations would be requested to observe the Policy and Guidelines in the formulation of relevant measures. The Administration advised that the Policy and Guidelines would be updated and uploaded onto the Internet on a regular basis for reference by all public and private organizations, and individual organizations could adopt the principles and measures recommended in the Policy and Guidelines for managing security risks as appropriate. Members called for the consolidation of different information security guidelines to provide more comprehensive guidelines for public and private organizations.

Nurturing information security talent

49. Pointing out the lack of talent in Hong Kong with specialized knowledge in information security, members suggested that such personnel should be trained by the Administration for better coordinating the work of upgrading the information security systems among various B/Ds and public organizations. The Administration replied that continuous efforts would be

made to enhance the cultivation of information security experts and cybersecurity experts. Organizations from overseas and the Mainland would be brought in to support the relevant work in Hong Kong. The Administration added that by organizing regular sharing sessions or technical exchange activities, such as inviting prominent Mainland cybersecurity companies to Hong Kong for sharing and enhancing exchanges with the industry, it was expected that there would be additional demand from Hong Kong enterprises for cybersecurity services, thereby attracting Mainland enterprises and talent to settle in Hong Kong.

Introduction of cybersecurity legislation

50. Members noted that for the purpose of enhancing the protection of cybersecurity of critical infrastructures, the Administration had plans to define clearly, through legislation, the cybersecurity obligations of the operators of these critical infrastructures, including the establishment of a good preventive management system to ensure the secure operation of their information systems and networks; the Security Bureau would consult the LegCo Panel on Security on the legislative proposals in due course, and a public consultation exercise would be launched accordingly.

Promoting the development of cultural and creative industries

51. At the meetings on 5 February 2024 and 11 November 2024, the Panel had discussions on the work and future plans of the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (“CCIDA”) and Hong Kong Design Centre (“HKDC”). Members noted that CCIDA would promote the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries under the industry-oriented principle, with a view to implementing Hong Kong’s positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange under the Nation’s 14th Five-Year Plan.

Strategies for the development of cultural and creative industries

52. Expressing concern about the Administration’s strategies and performance indicators for promoting cultural and creative industries (“CCI”), members suggested that publicity on CCI should be stepped up and that initiatives of the creative sector should be integrated into the community. Members raised questions about the application of generative AI in the creative industries and the associated legal issues such as intellectual property rights. The Administration replied that CCIDA would further promote the development of the sectors as industries, including identifying promising projects, promoting the application of cross-sectoral and cross-genre content, and strengthening support to the industries for content distribution. Also, CCIDA would expand markets and provide commercialization opportunities for CCI through various media channels.

Meanwhile, the Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development was promulgated on 26 November 2024, and members suggested that data should be provided to illustrate the contribution of CCI to employment and the Gross Domestic Product.

53. Members suggested that the Administration should actively assist CCI to tap into the Mainland and overseas markets, including promoting the screening of films and broadcasting of television programmes from Hong Kong in Belt and Road countries or regions, and the establishment of platforms to showcase Hong Kong's creative culture in GBA and other parts of the world. Members also suggested that market studies should be conducted on the target markets for the formulation of appropriate promotional strategies. According to the Administration, it was essential to consider the cost-effectiveness of different promotional activities. On the other hand, the Administration encouraged the industry to adjust as appropriate in their film and television productions having regard to factors such as the culture and languages of different countries or regions, with a view to attracting local audiences and exploring local markets in a more effective manner. Members suggested that more policy support should be provided to Mainland and international cultural enterprises and organizations so as to attract them to set up operations in Hong Kong.

Supporting the development of the film industry

54. Members exchanged views with the Administration on the financing arrangements and conditions of the Film Financing Scheme for Mainland Market. Members suggested that the Film Development Fund ("the Fund") should prioritize funding films that have a higher guarantee of box office success. They proposed that the Administration should participate in investing in film projects expected to generate profits through the government's investment funds. There were also suggestions that the Cinema Day should be organized more often to cultivate the public's interest in watching movies at cinemas; and that the Administration should subsidize at least one co-production film project from the Middle East each year under the Hong Kong-Europe-Asian Film Collaboration Funding Scheme. On the support for the operation of cinemas, members suggested that the Administration should allow cinemas to organize activities other than film screening, and relax the requirement for cinema licensees to make applications for licence renewals on an annual basis. The Administration emphasized that the objective of Fund was to promote the development of the film industry in Hong Kong and provide training and job opportunities for members of the industry, instead of placing a focus on profits. Furthermore, the Administration would continue to provide the industry with various support measures, including exploring how to make better use of the cinema space for other purposes.

55. Members pointed out that different international streaming platforms had become important avenues for provision of film and television entertainment. There were suggestions that the Administration should motivate the film and television sectors to strengthen their cooperation with international streaming platforms in order to facilitate the release of more Hong Kong film and television productions on the streaming platforms. In response, the Administration said that under the Content Development Scheme for Streaming Platforms, production subsidies were provided to teams in their development of streaming platform contents, and efforts would also be made to promote the release of more Hong Kong films on streaming platforms to facilitate the industry to explore new distribution markets.

Promotion of film and game productions featuring Hong Kong

56. Members urged the Administration to step up support for film and game production companies from the Mainland and overseas to come to Hong Kong for filming and storyline development, thereby promoting a greater number of film and game productions featuring Hong Kong. The initiative would also foster the development of the relevant industries, create synergy with the tourism industry, and uplift the image of Hong Kong in the international arena. There were suggestions that the Administration should work on developing unique tourist attractions and photo-taking spots featuring movie scenes to enable tourists to immerse themselves in Hong Kong's cultural landscape, and, at the same time, to promote Hong Kong's film productions and facilitate the development of the film industry. The Administration commented that it would assist local and overseas film and television production crews in undertaking filming in Hong Kong in various ways. However, it was necessary to ensure that the relevant productions would project a positive image of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Design Centre

57. Given that it was mentioned in the Director of Audit's report published by the Audit Commission in 2023 that the staff turnover and vacancy rates of HKDC were on the high side, members urged HKDC to review and adjust its human resources policies. The Administration advised that a review would be jointly conducted with HKDC on its manpower strategies, and would also examine the manpower requirements for the Sham Shui Po Design and Fashion Base, with a view to improving the staffing situation and the overall manpower arrangements of HKDC.

Meetings held

58. From January to November 2024, the Panel held a total of 10 meetings. The Panel has scheduled another meeting in December 2024

to receive the Administration's briefing on the 2025-2026 funding proposal under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation)—New Administrative Computer Systems.

Council Business Divisions
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 December 2024

Legislative Council

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film services and creative industry.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Membership list for 2024 session*

Chairman Hon Elizabeth QUAT, SBS, JP

Deputy Chairman Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

Members Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, GBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, BBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, BBS, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung, JP
Hon LAM Chun-sing
Dr Hon Dennis LAM Shun-chiu, JP
Hon Duncan CHIU
Hon Dennis LEUNG Tsz-wing, MH
Hon Kenneth LEUNG Yuk-wai, JP
Ir Hon CHAN Siu-hung, JP
Hon CHAN Hok-fung, MH, JP
Hon TANG Fei, MH
Hon Kenneth FOK Kai-kong, JP
Hon Adrian Pedro HO King-hong
Prof Hon William WONG Kam-fai, MH

(Total : 20 members)

Clerk Mr Daniel SIN

Legal Adviser Mr Jonathan CHENG

* Changes in membership are shown in Annex

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Changes in membership

Member	Relevant date
Dr Hon Dennis LAM Shun-chiu, JP	Since 16 January 2024
Hon Kenneth LEUNG Yuk-wai, JP	Since 16 January 2024