For information
on 10 May 1999

Legislative Council Information Technology
and Broadcasting Panel

Progress of Year 2000 Compliance Work
under the purview of the
Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

Purpose

This paper reports on the position as at 15 March 1999 (unless otherwise specified) of Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance work in Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB) and in Government departments and non-government organisations (NGOs) which provide essential services under the purview of ITBB. These departments and NGOs are -

    (a)   Information Technology Services Department (ITSD);

    (b)   Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA);

    (c)   Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK);

    (d)   Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA);

    (e)   broadcasting licensees; and

    (f)   telecommunications services providers.

Progress of Y2K compliance work in Government departments under the purview of ITBB (Position as at 15 March 1999)

Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau and Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority

2.   ITBB and TELA do not have any mission-critical systems, i.e. computer and embedded systems whose proper functioning is related to public health and safety, the provision of critical services to the public, or payment and revenue collection.

Information Technology Services Department

3.   There are 17 mission-critical systems in ITSD. All of them are confirmed to be Y2K compliant or have been rectified.

Radio Television Hong Kong

4.   There are 65 mission-critical systems in RTHK. All of them are confirmed to be compliant or have been rectified.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority

5.   OFTA has six mission-critical computer systems. All of them are Y2K compliant.

6.   A summary of the mission-critical systems in the three departments is at the Appendix.

Contingency arrangements

7.   To minimise disruptions to their services as a result of unforeseeable Y2K-induced failures caused by external parties, ITBB and its four subordinate departments are in the process of formulating contingency plans for their critical business processes. In addition, as the lead bureau to co-ordinate action to help Hong Kong achieve overall Y2K readiness, ITBB will co-ordinate the preparation of a territory-wide contingency plan on the basis of the contingency plans drawn up by individual government bureaux and departments as well as the essential services providers.

8.   ITSD and OFTA, which offer technical support to other Government departments on their computer systems and telecommunications equipment respectively, are planning to set up Y2K emergency centres during the rollover to Y2K critical dates to facilitate early response to Y2K-induced events within their respective areas of responsibilities. ITBB is also considering to need to set up a territory-wide Y2K emergency response centre during critical periods on the basis of the existing emergency response arrangements.

Progress of Y2K compliance work in NGOs providing essential services under the purview of ITBB

<u>Broadcasting licensees</u>

9.   The progress of Y2K rectification work being undertaken by the eight broadcasting licensees is closely monitored by TELA. The position as of 15 March 1999 is set out below.

Broadcasting licensee	Progress of Y2K rectification work (as of 15.3.1999)	Target completion date
Hong Kong Cable Television Ltd.	Completed 71% of the rectification work	June 1999
Hong Kong Telecom VOD Ltd.	Already compliant	-
Hutchvision Hong Kong Ltd. (Star TV)	Completed 90% of the rectification work	July 1999
Galaxy Satellite Broadcasting Ltd.	Completed 50% of the rectification work	June 1999
Television Broadcasts Ltd.	Completed 65% of the rectification work	June 1999
Asia Television Ltd.	Completed 98% of the rectification work	June 1999
Metro Broadcast Corporation Ltd.	Completed 87% of the rectification work	May 1999
Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Ltd.	Completed 65% of the rectification work	May 1999

10.   All broadcasting licensees aim to finalise their Y2K contingency plans upon the completion of their rectification work.

Telecommunications service providers

11.　　In August 1998, OFTA set up a Task Force on Y2K Compliance of the Telecommunications Sector to oversee the progress of Y2K compliance work in the sector and to co-ordinate sector-wide activities (e.g. joint testing across telecommunications networks). The Task Force comprises representatives of all major telecommunications service providers.

12.　　The compliance position of the telecommunications sector as at 15 March 1999 is set out below -

Category	Progress of Y2K rectification work (as of 15.3.1999)	Target completion date
Fixed telecommunication services licensees	Hutchison Communications Ltd. has completed 93% of the rectification work.	First quarter 1999
	Hong Kong Telephone Company Ltd. has completed 96% of the rectification work.	Second quarter of 1999
	New T & T Hong Kong Ltd. has completed 84% of the rectification work.	Second quarter of 1999
	New World Telephone Ltd. has completed 68% of the rectification work.	Second quarter of 1999
Mobile phone operators	80% of the mobile phone operators have completed over 75% of the rectification work; the remaining 20% have completed between 50% to 75% of the rectification work.	All mobile phone operators aim to achieve compliance by June 1999

Radio paging operators	77% of the radio paging operators have completed over 75% of the rectification work; the remaining 23% have completed between 50% to 75% of the rectification work.	All radio paging operators aim to achieve compliance by June 1999.
Satellite network licensees	Asia Satellite Telecommunications Ltd. has completed 88% of the rectification work; APT Satellite Company Ltd. has completed 80% of the rectification work.	Both licensees aim to achieve compliance by June 1999.

13.	As at 15 April 1999, Y2K inter-network tests of emergency services (i.e. 999 and 992 for communication with Hong Kong Police Force) and inter-network tests of normal communications services have been completed on three fixed telecommunications networks and six mobile telecommunications networks. The industry plans to complete such testing on the remaining networks in the second quarter of 1999. In addition, the Hong Kong Telecom International Limited has started to conduct Y2K testing with carriers in other places and eight tests of such nature have been completed. The company plans to finish the testing on the major routes by September 1999.

14.	All major telecommunications operators are expected to complete their Y2K contingency plans by end May 1999.

Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau
May 1999

A breakdown of the mission-critical computer and embedded systems in ITSD, RTHK and OFTA

Type of system	ITSD	RTHK	OFTA
Radio Transmission System	0	12	0
On-air Studios System	0	37	0
Newsroom Computer System	0	4	0
Administrative Computer System	0	0	4
Computer Room Supporting System	6	0	0
Line Communication System	0	8	1
Burglar Alarm/Security System	0	1	1
Air-conditioning System	3	0	0
Power Supply System	8	0	0
Lift and Escalator System	0	3	0
Total:	17	65	6