For information
on 13 March 2000

**Legislative Council Information Technology
and Broadcasting Panel**

**Y2K Monitoring and Co-ordinating Arrangements
for Rollover to 29 February 2000**


**Purpose**

This paper reports on the local rollover to 29 February 2000, a Y2K critical date related to leap year recognition.

**Overall strategy**

2.      All Government bureaux and departments as well as local essential service providers had, ahead of the rollover to 1 January 2000, confirmed that their mission-critical computer and embedded systems were Y2K compliant. This means, inter alia, that these systems are able to recognise 2000 as a leap year. This notwithstanding, to cater for any unforeseen system failures arising from the Y2K problem during the rollover to 29 February, the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau had asked all Government bureaux and departments and, through the concerned policy bureau/department, all major non-government organisations providing essential services to put in place appropriate contingency measures. These measures were by and large similar to those drawn up for the millennium rollover, but suitably adjusted to take account of the specific circumstances of the leap year rollover (e.g. the absence of multiple large-scale celebratory events throughout the territory, that 29 February was a normal working day and not a public holiday as was the case for 1 January 2000, etc.)

3.      As for the millennium rollover, the 13 essential service sectors (i.e. food supply, transport, financial services, public order, fire and emergency services, environment, aviation, pubic health, telecommunications, port management, energy supply, border control and broadcasting) each operated a sector-wide co-ordinating centre during the leap year rollover to monitor the

situation in their respective sectors.   In turn, these service-wide co-ordinating centres liaised closely with the Y2K Central Co-ordinating Centre (CCC), which was responsible for monitoring the territory-wide rollover situation and for co-ordinating a prompt response to any Y2K-induced emergencies with cross-sector or territory-wide implications.   The territory-wide monitoring and co-ordinating mechanism activated for the rollover to 29 February, essentially the same as that for the rollover to 1 January 2000, is illustrated at the Annex.

**Monitoring arrangements for the leap year rollover**

4.        The CCC was activated from 6:30 p.m. on 28 February to 6 p.m. on 29 February to monitor the territory-wide rollover situation, with particular emphasis on the rollover of the essential services sectors.   Through the Information Services Department, the CCC also closely monitored the situation overseas.

5.        To facilitate monitoring of the local situation, sector-wide co-ordinating centres were required to submit regular situation reports to the CCC after the leap year rollover.   In the event of any suspected or confirmed Y2K-induced incidents, these centres were required to report to the CCC immediately.

6.        Following the start of the normal working day on 29 February, all sector-wide co-ordinating centres as well as all Government bureaux and departments were required to inform the CCC whether their operation was affected by any Y2K-induced failures, including those encountered by their business partners.

**Rollover performance**

7.        With thorough preparation made by Government and the essential service providers, Hong Kong has as a whole had a smooth rollover to 29 February with all essential services continuing uninterrupted.   Based on feedback from the Hong Kong Productivity Council, which operated a 24-hour hotline to provide assistance to local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on Y2K-related matters, the local business community has also rollovered to 29 February smoothly.

**Dissemination of information during the rollover period**

8.         To keep the public informed, the CCC had issued two press releases on the overall local situation during the leap year rollover.   These press releases, together with those issued by individual departments on the rollover situation, were posted on Government's dedicated Y2K web site at http://www.year2000.gov.hk.

**Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau**
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