

**Minutes of the 15th meeting of
RTHK Board of Advisors
held at 2:30 pm, 29 November 2013
in Conference Room “Idea 1”, 41/F, Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai**

Present

Mr Lester G. HUANG, JP (Chairman)
Miss Lisa Marie DJENG Kar-yee
Ms Mimi CHEUNG
Mr C.K. LAU, JP
Mr Raj Sital MOTWANI, SBS, BBS, JP
Mr Roy TANG, Director of Broadcasting

In attendance from RTHK

Miss Leonia TAI, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)
Mr TAI Keen-man, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes)
Mr Forever SZE, Assistant Director (Television & Corporate Businesses) (Agenda item 3)
Miss Natalie CHAN, Head/Programming (Agenda item 3)
Mr Bryan CURTIS, Head/English Programme Service (Agenda item 4)
Ms Amy KWONG (Board Secretariat)

Absent with apologies

Dr Eugene CHAN Kin-keung, JP
Ms FUNG May-gay
Mr Ringo LAM Wing-kwan
Mr Maurice LEE Wai-man, BBS, JP
Ms Marisa YIU

Secretary

Miss Janice LAU (Board Secretariat)

Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

1. Dr Eugene CHAN Kin-keung, JP, Ms FUNG May-gay, Mr Ringo LAM Wing-kwan, Mr Maurice LEE Wai-man, BBS, JP and Ms Marisa YIU sent apologies for not being able to join this meeting.

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the last meeting held on 13 September 2013 for Members' comments on 27 November 2013, and Members had made no comments. The minutes of the last meeting were therefore confirmed without amendment.

Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising

3. Members raised no item for discussion.

Agenda Item 3 : Update on Digital Terrestrial Television

4. Mr Forever SZE and Ms Natalie CHAN updated the meeting on the development of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) of RTHK.
5. Members raised questions about the receipt of DTT signals. Mr Forever SZE advised that whether a building could receive DTT signals depend on complicated factors such as the ownership of the antenna and other technical issues such as the frequency spectrum of the antenna.
6. The meeting discussed how to improve the coverage of the DTT broadcast services. Mr Forever SZE advised that they would strengthen the promotion on DTT broadcasting services as well as the communication with building management offices to resolve problems on signal transmission. Mr Roy TANG advised the meeting that RTHK would apply for funding for the establishment of 22 fill-in stations to further extend RTHK's DTT network coverage to around 99% of Hong Kong's population.
7. The meeting discussed issues relating to the carriage of RTHK programmes by other television stations. Mr TAI Keen-man advised the meeting that whether other television stations would carry RTHK programmes would depend on the licence requirements issued by the Office of the Communications Authority.
8. Some Members raised concerns that as the existing digital television penetration rate was only about 80%, the coverage by analogue television stations might be necessary for the RTHK programmes at the present stage.

9. In response to Members' enquiry about the broadcast of educational television programmes on the DTT channels, Mr Forever SZE replied that since the educational television programmes were broadcast on the existing free television channels during school time, those programmes would be scheduled for rebroadcast after school time on the DTT channels to allow students to revisit the programmes.

Agenda Item 4 : English Language Programming

10. Mr Bryan Curtis presented to the meeting on the English language programming of RTHK and introduced major English programmes and projects of the English channels.
11. The meeting discussed the possible synergy of the collaboration of the English and Chinese news reporting. Mr Bryan Curtis advised that in view of the different audience groups, there was a different focus in news coverage for the English and Chinese channels. For example, the English channels covered more international news while the Chinese channels focused more on local news. However, there was still collaboration in news reporting such as sharing of visual and audio files as well as texts collected.
12. Upon an enquiry about the recruitment of English-speaking broadcasters, Mr Bryan Curtis briefed the meeting that there were difficulties in recruiting good English-speaking broadcasters with skills meeting the broadcasting standards. It was especially difficult for Radio 4 as the broadcasters were required to have good command of English broadcasting skills and in-depth music knowledge.
13. In response to an enquiry on whether there was any mobile application (app) for the programmes of Radio 3, Mr Bryan Curtis replied that the programmes of Radio 3 were available for live-listening and downloading through the mobile app "RTHK On The Go". There was also an app "RTHK Cube" allowing users to listen to the music and live music programmes of Radio 4 and other channels.
14. The meeting acknowledged that the RTHK English channels provided a good platform to provide programmes for the minority groups and the monolingual communities in Hong Kong.

**Agenda Item 5 : Annual Report of the RTHK Board of Advisors 2012-2013
(BOA Paper 15/2013)**

15. The Chairman informed the meeting that it was the practice of the Board that an Annual Report was compiled on the basis of the papers and minutes of meetings held in the past year. He invited Members to provide opinions on the paper.
16. A Member suggested adding an acknowledgement on the support of RTHK staff for the Board meetings.
17. The meeting agreed to circulate the paper to Members again to collect further views.

[Post-meeting note: The paper was circulated to Members in December 2013 and no further comment was collected.]

Agenda Item 6(a) : Updates on programmes (BOA Paper 16/2013)

18. Mr TAI Keen-man introduced the paper.
19. In response to an enquiry of the Members, Mr TAI Keen-man informed the meeting that the RTHK Apprenticeship Scheme focused on finding Cantonese-speaking apprentices. The meeting discussed issues on the succession of broadcasters and the challenge in retaining talents for RTHK under the keen competition in the broadcast industry.

Agenda Item 6(b) : Updates on complaints (BOA Paper 17/2013)

20. Mr TAI Keen-man introduced the paper. Members had no comment on the paper.

Any other business

21. The meeting noted the details and progress of the proposed construction of the new Broadcasting House of RTHK.

Date of next meeting

22. The Chairman informed the meeting that the date of the next meeting and the venue were to be fixed.

23. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Secretariat

RTHK Board of Advisors