

**Minutes of the 20th meeting of
RTHK Board of Advisors
held at 8:30 am, 24 September 2014
at Conference Room “Idea 1”, 41/F Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai**

Present

Mr Lester G. HUANG, JP (Chairman)
Dr Eugene CHAN Kin-keung, JP
Ms Mimi CHEUNG
Mr Robert CHUA
Mr Mohan DATWANI
Miss Lisa Marie DJENG Kar-yee
Ms Anna HUNG
Mr Ringo LAM Wing-kwan
Mr C.K. LAU, JP
Mr Maurice LEE Wai-man, BBS, JP
Dr Carol MA
Mr Jimmy NG
Ms Marisa YIU
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)
Ms CHAN Man-kuen, Controller (TV) (Agenda item 4)
Miss Natalie CHAN, Head/Programming (Agenda item 4)
Ms Mayella CHEUNG (Board Secretariat)

Absent with apologies

Mr Walter CHAN, SBS, JP

Secretary

Mr Philip LAM (Board Secretariat)
Miss Heather CHAN (Board Secretariat)

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman introduced and welcomed new Members Mr Robert CHUA, Mr Mohan DATWANI, Ms Anna HUNG, Dr Carol MA and Mr Jimmy NG. He

also thanked ex-Members Ms May FUNG and Mr Raj Sital MOTWANI, SBS, JP for their past contributions.

2. Mr Walter CHAN, SBS, JP sent apology for not being able to join the meeting.

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

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the last meeting held on 23 July 2014 for Members' comments on 10 September 2014, and Members had made no comments. The minutes of the last meeting were therefore confirmed without amendment.

Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising

4. Members raised no item for discussion.

Agenda Item 3: Welcoming brief for new Members

5. Mr TAI Keen-man gave an overview of RTHK to the meeting.
6. As suggested by a Member, new Members were invited to share their views on RTHK.
7. A Member opined that, for the purpose of knowledge transfer, RTHK might consider increasing collaborations with universities in producing programmes of various kinds. The programmes of RTHK should also have close links with the community. For example, consideration might be given for RTHK to hold forum with the youth and elderly to help relieve the conflicts between young people and the elderly. Mr TAI Keen-man replied that RTHK had regular interactions with universities in programme production. Radio programmes such as "Knowledge Platform" and television (TV) programmes such as "Knowledge Zone" were good examples. In addition, RTHK had been providing internships for some 80 university students each year.
8. A Member said that RTHK should produce more programmes to present what the Government wanted to say. He also considered that programme hosts should refrain from giving their own judgments or views on public issues but should try to ask questions to help guests or audience to express their views. In response, Mr Roy TANG said that, according to the Charter of RTHK, RTHK should be impartial and provide platforms for the Government and community to express

their views. RTHK had all along been doing so.

9. A Member considered that RTHK should continue to uphold good values in its programmes. She noted that on some occasions the programme hosts had said things which were considered to be inappropriate in the programmes. She also commented that some phone-in programmes were having bias when choosing audience to express views in the programmes. Mr TAI Keen-man clarified that staff of phone-in programmes would not choose audience on the basis of audience's stance or views. They would only try to ensure that there could be a wide variety of topics to be discussed in a programme and audience of different genders and age groups were given the chance to express their opinions.
10. In fulfilling its public purposes and mission as stated in the Charter of RTHK, a Member opined that RTHK had performed well in some areas but also had room for improvement. He considered that RTHK programmes should be more balanced to cater for the diversity of Hong Kong.
11. A Member said that some RTHK programmes with guest hosts had given him impressions of not being impartial. Citing his experience of having been invited as a guest commentator of a programme for one day a week for a period of six months, he opined that the six-month period was too long and it would be difficult for people to spare time to accept the invitation. He suggested RTHK to consider shortening the period to one or two months. In addition, he noted that in phone-in programmes, the guest commentators were often criticized by the audience. Mr Roy TANG replied that the six-month period was aimed at allowing sufficient time for audience to familiarize with the guest commentator. Nevertheless, he would refer the suggestion of shortening the period to the producers for consideration. Regarding criticism from audience of phone-in programmes to guest commentators, he said that it was due to the diversity of opinions on public issues in the community as audience could have different views with the commentators or programme hosts.

Agenda Item 4: Review and updates on the RTHK Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) development

12. Ms CHAN Man-kuen briefed the meeting on the development of DTT service of RTHK.
13. In response to the questions from two Members on whether RTHK had set a

budget and a percentage in total TV output for acquisition programmes, Ms CHAN Man-kuen replied that RTHK had set such a budget and the current percentage of the acquired programmes in total DTT output was around 10% to 12%. The meeting also noted that the programmes were procured by RTHK at market rate, and RTHK had cleared the webcast rights for most of these acquired programmes so that viewers could watch them through RTHK's official website and mobile app "Screen" locally .

14. A Member asked if RTHK would take the opportunity of DTT development to digitize its archive materials. Mr Roy TANG replied that funding had been allocated to RTHK to embark on a media asset management (MAM) project to restore and digitize the most valuable portion of RTHK archives. The work was in progress. Whether the scope of the MAM project could be further expanded would depend on resources. A Member opined that it was worthwhile for the Government to allocate additional resources to RTHK for digitizing all of its archive materials, which were valuable heritage of Hong Kong. Another Member mentioned that the United Kingdom had declassified certain Hong Kong records kept in the United Kingdom, and it was worth considering spending resources to obtain relevant information thereon as they were of historical value and consistent to the project.
15. A Member said that RTHK TV 31 was currently running as a variety channel, RTHK might need to consider adjusting the approach of its DTT channels in the future in view of the changing habits and modes of watching TV. Ms CHAN Man-kuen replied that at this stage of development, a variety channel approach was still considered suitable.

Agenda Item 5(a) : Updates on programmes (BOA Paper 12/2014)

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

Agenda Item 5(b) : Updates on complaints (BOA Paper 13/2014)

17. Mr TAI Keen-man introduced the paper.
18. Referring to the complaint on indirect advertising, a Member opined that, as RTHK was now having its own DTT channels, more attention should be given in working out broadcasting agreements of events in the future.

Any other business

19. As there were six new Members joining the Board of Advisors, Mr TAI Keen-man said that a familiarization visit to RTHK would be arranged in around October or November 2014 for all Members.

Date of next meeting

20. The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled on 28 November 2014.

21. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Secretariat

RTHK Board of Advisors