

**Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of  
RTHK Board of Advisors  
held at 9:15 am, 26 September 2016  
at Conference Room, G/F, Broadcasting House  
30 Broadcast Drive, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon**

**Present**

Dr Eugene CHAN Kin-keung, BBS, JP (Chairman)

Mr Walter CHAN Kar-lok, SBS, JP

Ms Mimi CHEUNG Yee-may

Mr Leslie CHING Pui-wai

Mr Mohan DATWANI

Ms Anna HUNG Wing-chee

Ms Helen KWAN Po-chun

Dr Agnes LAW Koon-chui, JP

Mr LEE Luen-fai

Mr Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP

Prof WONG Kam-fai, MH

Mr LEUNG Ka-wing, Director of Broadcasting

**In attendance from RTHK**

Ms Lisa LIU, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes)

Mrs Sharon YIP, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)

Mr CHAN Yiu-wah, Assistant Director (Radio & Corporate Programming)

Miss CHAN Man-kuen, Assistant Director (TV & Corporate Businesses)

Ms Mayella CHEUNG (Board Secretariat)

**Absent with apologies**

Mr Robert CHUA Wah-peng

Mr Douglas LAM Tak-yip

Dr Carol MA Hok-ka

**Secretary**

Ms Priscilla HO (Board Secretariat)

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

---

1. The Chairman introduced and welcomed new Members Mr Leslie CHING, Ms Helen KWAN, Dr Agnes LAW, Mr LEE Luen-fai and Prof WONG Kam-fai. He also introduced the existing Members Mr Walter CHAN, Ms Mimi CHEUNG, Mr

Mohan DATWANI, Ms Anna HUNG and Mr Jimmy NG. The Chairman thanked ex-Chairman Mr Lester HUANG, and ex-Members Miss Lisa DJENG, Mr Ringo LAM, Mr C.K. LAU, Mr Maurice LEE and Ms Marisa YIU for their past contributions.

2. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing introduced staff of RTHK and the Secretariat to Members.
3. Mr Robert CHUA, Mr Douglas LAM and Dr Carol MA sent their apologies for not being able to join this meeting.
4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the last meeting held on 15 July 2016 for Members' comments on 22 August 2016 and Members had made no comments. The minutes of the last meeting were therefore confirmed without amendment.

### **Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising**

---

5. The Chairman briefly introduced the general working parameters of the Board. The Board would hold meeting every two months and agreed that the quorum of the meeting was 7 persons. A guideline on declaration of interests was delivered to Members. The Chairman reminded Members to declare interests if situation warranted. The Member concerned might inform the Secretariat in advance of the meeting or consulted the Chairman on the issue. Members agreed to adopt the arrangement.
6. The Chairman continued to brief the meeting the arrangements for handling of complaints. According to paragraph 13(b) of the Charter of RTHK, the Board would receive reports on complaints against editorial principles, programming standards and quality of RTHK programming. While the Director of Broadcasting (DB) would handle the complaints in accordance with the established mechanism, the Chairman stated that Members might comment on the complaints with a view to minimizing the complaints in future and maintaining the neutral and impartial image of RTHK. If Members received any complaint addressed to them, they should send it to DB through the Secretariat. Members noted the arrangement.
7. Regarding handling of media, the Chairman would represent the Board to answer enquiries. If the media approached Members for interview on matters relating to RTHK, they might do so in their personal capacities. If the interview was related to the Board, Members should inform the Secretariat which would provide

support to them as appropriate. Members noted the arrangement.

8. The Chairman stated that the meeting minutes would be prepared and circulated by the Secretariat. Upon confirmation by the Board, the meeting minutes in bilingual versions would be placed on the website for information to the public. He pointed out that similar to the practice of other government advisory boards, the meeting minutes would not mention the names in order to facilitate and encourage free expression of Members. However, if Members would prefer quoting their names on a specific issue, it would be mentioned in the minutes. Members noted the arrangement.
9. A Member asked why the paper on complaints which was restricted was placed on the website. Miss CHAN Man-kuen explained that some complaints were open while some complaints in the paper were not and it resulted in the classification of paper bearing “restricted”.
10. Members raised no item for discussion.

### **Agenda Item 3: Welcoming Brief for New Members**

---

11. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing, Ms Lisa LIU, Mr CHAN Yiu-wah and Miss CHAN Man-kuen gave an overview of RTHK to the meeting.
12. Noting that there was no substantial increase in the budget for television programme production, a Member proposed to seek additional resources for analogue television programmes production. Ms Lisa LIU explained that the programmes on the digital terrestrial television (DTT) were being simulcast on the analogue television channels. Additional cost in taking up the analogue television channels only hinged on technical service. Hence, enriching DTT programmes would strengthen the analogue television programmes as well.
13. Upon a Member’s enquiry about the provision of RTHK contents on existing pre-installed television sets in the market, Mr LEUNG Ka-wing replied that the authorisation was open to all brands of television to extend RTHK’s audience reach and no favour was given to specific brand. Miss CHAN Man-kuen supplemented that television sets manufacturers required only minor modifications to the backend such as feeding clips from the internet to the television set platforms.
14. As regards to the licence and broadcasting rights of RTHK programmes, Ms Lisa

LIU explained that RTHK had granted television programmes licences to overseas broadcasters, airline companies, etc. to generate licensing revenue.

15. A Member opined that unlike the development of digital television which would replace analogue television in some countries, the Government did not plan for phasing out analogue radio broadcasting. As RTHK would become the sole operator of digital radio broadcasts in Hong Kong, it should develop a directional strategy with a clear Government policy to sustain its development. Regarding television development, the Member expressed concern on the possible diminishing audienceship if Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) would no longer carry RTHK programmes during prime-time on its Jade Channel. Mr. LEUNG Ka-wing remarked that TVB would continue carrying RTHK TV programmes but the broadcast schedule was being advanced to 6pm on Monday – Friday.
16. The Chairman explained the roles of Board of Advisors to Members. In accordance with the Charter of RTHK, the Board had the following functions –
  - (a) advising DB on all matters pertaining to editorial principles, programming standards and quality of RTHK programming;
  - (b) receiving reports on complaints against editorial principles, programming standards and quality of RTHK programming;
  - (c) receiving reports of public opinion surveys regularly conducted by RTHK to track how well RTHK programming meets up to audience expectations;
  - (d) receiving reports on the performance evaluation of RTHK and the department's compliance with performance evaluation indicators, and advising DB on the adoption of appropriate performance evaluation indicators and ways to improve service delivery;
  - (e) advising DB on matters relating to community participation in broadcasting on radio and television channels, including advising on the rules for disbursement of the Community Broadcasting Involvement Fund; and
  - (f) initiating studies and research on issues pertaining to the achievement of the public purposes and mission of RTHK.
17. The Board would uphold the editorial principles set out in the Charter of RTHK in

exercising the above functions.

18. The Chairman added that the Board would maintain regular communication with the RTHK management, but it would not be involved in the day-to-day operation or staffing matters of RTHK, which would be dealt with by DB and the RTHK Management. The Board was advisory in nature. It had no executive power. The ultimate editorial responsibility for RTHK would rest with DB. The Director, as the head of RTHK and the ex-officio member of the Board, might seek advice of the Board on matters pertaining to editorial principles, programming standards, quality of RTHK programming and community participation in broadcasting, and should –
- (a) give due weight and consideration to all advice provided by the Board. DB shall report and explain to the Board the reasons for not following the advice of the Board;
  - (b) submit performance evaluation reports to the Board and seek its advice on related matters; and
  - (c) provide secretarial and other necessary support to the Board in carrying out its functions above.
19. As regards to the function of receiving reports on complaints, a Member enquired whether RTHK would rectify or take preventive measures in respect of minor breach cases whilst another Member asked if there was a panel from the Board to handle the complaints. The Chairman replied that it was the Board's duty to enquire about the complaints and advise. DB would handle the complaints following the departmental procedure. The Chairman invited the DB to explain the issue under Agenda item 5(b).

#### **Agenda Item 4: Report on Television Appreciation Index Survey**

20. Miss CHAN Man-kuen presented the report on Television Appreciation Index Survey. Members had no comment on the presentation.

#### **Agenda Item 5(a) : Updates on programmes (BOA Paper 11/2016)**

21. Ms Lisa LIU introduced the paper. Members exchanged their views on the programme content, timetable and means of promotion produced by RTHK.

22. A Member suggested RTHK to provide sign language and subtitles to all television programmes to accommodate the needs of hearing-impaired persons. Ms Lisa LIU replied that subtitles were already being added to all pre-recorded television programmes. For sign language, it could not be provided to all programmes due to the constraints on infrastructure and resources.
23. As regards to the programme of “Below the Lion Rock 2016”, a Member asked about the thematic topic for the new series. Miss CHAN Man-kuen explained that there was a panel to assess the topics and proposals submitted, resulting in a wide variety of topics which were not confined to a particular group of people.
24. Another Member opined that “Below the Lion Rock” could unite the public and move the community forward, revealing a positive force. With the forthcoming 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HKSAR, the Member suggested RTHK reflecting on the production of programmes which could help move the community forward through presenting historical perspectives of Hong Kong. Being a public broadcaster, RTHK should distinguish itself from commercial counterparts by realising its missions with foresight and promoting the unity in the community.
25. In response to an enquiry on co-productions of television programmes with other broadcasters, mostly overseas, Miss CHAN Man-kuen briefly reported the current practice and said RTHK would continue to participate in such kind of collaborations to widen the scope and varieties of programming.
26. A Member suggested televising radio programmes on TV 32 channel so that the synergy effect of radio and television could be maximised, whilst another Member considered it more desirable to look for more resources for increasing television productions in filling the extended broadcast hours.
27. Regarding the enrichment and provision of educational television programmes for use in the education sector as proposed by a Member, Miss CHAN Man-kuen replied that while the ETV school programme content was determined by the Education Bureau, some RTHK programmes were uploaded on the website of eTVonline regularly to facilitate the usage by school teachers and students as teaching aids.

#### **Agenda Item 5(b) : Updates on complaints (BOA Paper 12/2016)**

---

28. Ms Lisa LIU introduced the paper. Members expressed their opinions on the paper.

29. Some Members raised their concerns over the minor breach cases and those complaints in which part of the allegations were outside the remit of the Communications Authority (CA). Ms Lisa LIU advised the meeting that although no pecuniary penalty would be levied on RTHK which was a government department, RTHK would seriously handle every case in order to prevent recurrence.
30. A Member opined that the Board had the duty and obligation to look into the complaints having regard to the Charter and monitor follow-up actions. He was worried that no one would follow up with the allegations which were outside the remit of the CA. He suggested more efforts should be placed in this respect.
31. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing and Mrs Sharon YIP explained that in the course of investigation conducted by CA, RTHK would provide information to CA to look into the complaint case. RTHK would also review each complaint regardless of whether it was within the remit of CA and take remedial action and adopt preventive measures subject to individual merits of the case. If the Board rendered advice to RTHK on specific complaints, it would be reflected to RTHK staff as appropriate. In this connection, all complaints including those outside the remit of CA were being properly followed up.
32. A Member remarked that the Board should not address to every complaint as it would be time-consuming and RTHK had already handled the complaints directly. The Board would receive regular reports on complaints in accordance with the RTHK Charter.
33. Another Member proposed that details of the follow-up action taken by RTHK be provided in the report and explanation should be provided if the advice of the Board on the complaints could not be adopted.

#### **Any other business**

34. The Chairman said that the meeting would be held bi-monthly and proposed to be held on last Friday of the month, that is, on 25 Nov 2016, 20 Jan 2017, 24 Mar 2017, 26 May 2017, 28 Jul 2017 and 29 Sep 2017. It was agreed that these forthcoming meetings would be held at RTHK Broadcasting House.

**Date of next meeting**

35. The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting was scheduled for 25 November 2016.

36. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

**Secretariat**

**RTHK Board of Advisors**