

**Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of  
RTHK Board of Advisors  
held at 9:15 am, 24 March 2017  
at Conference Room, G/F, Broadcasting House  
30 Broadcast Drive, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon**

**Present**

Dr Eugene CHAN Kin-keung, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Ms Mimi CHEUNG Yee-may  
Mr Robert CHUA Wah-peng  
Mr Mohan DATWANI  
Ms Anna HUNG Wing-chee  
Mr LEE Luen-fai  
Dr Agnes LAW Koon-chui, JP  
Mr Augustine WONG, JP  
Mr LEUNG Ka-wing, Director of Broadcasting

**In attendance from RTHK**

Mrs Sharon YIP, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments)  
Mr CHAN Yiu-wah, Ag. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) / Assistant  
Director (Radio & Corporate Programming)  
Miss CHAN Man-kuen, Ag. Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes) / Assistant Director  
(TV & Corporate Businesses)  
Mr Brian CHOW, Controller (Radio)  
Ms Liane CHENG, Controller (Television)  
Mr Albert CHEUNG, Chief Project Co-ordinator (Agenda item 4)  
Ms Amen NG, Head/Corporate Communications & Standards  
Ms Amy KWONG (Board Secretariat)  
Ms Alice CHAN (Board Secretariat)

**Absent with apologies**

Mr Walter CHAN Kar-lok, SBS, JP  
Mr Leslie CHING Pui-wai  
Ms Helen KWAN Po-jen  
Mr Douglas LAM Tak-yip  
Dr Carol MA Hok-ka  
Prof WONG Kam-fai, MH

**Secretary**

Ms Priscilla HO (Board Secretariat)

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

1. The Chairman welcomed Mr Augustine WONG to attend the meeting as new Member of the Board.
2. Mr Walter CHAN, Mr Leslie CHING, Ms Helen KWAN, Mr Douglas LAM, Dr Carol MA and Prof WONG Kam-fai sent their apologies for not being able to join this meeting.
3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the last meeting held on 20 January 2017 for Members' comments on 21 March 2017 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 other item for discussion.

### **Agenda Item 3: Overview of Radio & Corporate Programming Division**

5. Mr Brian CHOW delivered an overview of Radio & Corporate Programming Division.
6. A Member suggested including topics in relation to certain professions such as accountants and lawyers in radio programmes to arouse the interests of the public in the respective industries.
7. A Member commented that unlike radio programmes in the past, some current programmes were too political and boring though RTHK news programme was impartial and fair. Some Members recognised the wide variety of radio programmes and commended in particular the programmes on education which were found to be instrumental in promoting language and presentation skills of students. They suggested that more educational competitions could be organized, developed and broadcast on RTHK TV channels to motivate students and to build up the branding of RTHK. A Member also proposed to invite Members from the education sector to be the adjudicators of these competitions.

8. While recognising the wide variety of RTHK radio programmes, a Member advised RTHK to maintain the optimal number of programmes on political issues and to produce programmes with more interactions with the audience.
9. A Member opined that there was no focus in the spectrum of programmes provided by RTHK and the positioning of RTHK was not clear. Some Members however considered that RTHK needed not to focus on one specific theme or target audience because it should be responsive to the community. RTHK should have its focus on Hong Kong people as a whole as it represented the people's channel.
10. In response, Mrs Sharon YIP remarked that each RTHK radio channel had its designated target audience. The mission of RTHK was to inform, entertain and educate, which distinguished it from commercial broadcasters. As RTHK had to address the needs of people from all walks of life, branding RTHK around a specific theme may not be applicable. Mr Brian CHOW supplemented that the distinctiveness of RTHK was its credibility and it would be more important to strategically brand and position the various radio channels of RTHK.
11. Upon a Member's enquiry about the plan of expanding the coverage of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) channels, Mr LEUNG Ka-wing replied that RTHK had made every effort to maintain and promote DAB channels. RTHK would not distribute digital radios to the public but the audience could use online mobile phone application to listen to DAB programmes.

#### **Agenda Item 4: RTHK Programmes on 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR**

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12. Mr Albert CHEUNG presented the programmes in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR (20A).
13. In response to a Member's enquiry about whether additional resources were allocated by the central government for producing programmes on 20A, Mr LEUNG Ka-wing replied that resources were still very stringent though extra allocations were granted to RTHK. Mrs Sharon YIP supplemented that RTHK would flexibly adjust funding and resources to accommodate the production of programmes in relation to 20A. The Member continued to ask whether RTHK could increase output without additional resources. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing replied that the Television & Corporate Businesses Division had been doing so since 2014.

14. In respect of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Operation Santa Claus” in December 2017, the Member enquired if any special promotion or programmes were planned to celebrate the occasion. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing said that programme details would be decided subject to the confirmation of venue.
15. A Member opined that using drone to film flag-raising ceremony would be spectacular. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing said that there would be flag-carrying helicopter-parade in the air as part of the ceremony. No other flying objects would be allowed.
16. Another Member considered that apart from celebrating, 20A was also the time for reflection of Hong Kong’s economic development. RTHK might produce some documentaries on this subject if funding allowed. Miss CHAN Man-kuen thanked for the opinion and remarked that the proposal could be considered further.

#### **Agenda Item 5(a) : Updates on programmes (BOA Paper 4/2017)**

17. Mr CHAN Yiu-wah and Miss CHAN Man-kuen introduced the paper.
18. The Chairman encouraged Members to listen to and watch the programmes in order to provide more concrete opinion.

#### **Agenda Item 5(b) : Updates on complaints (BOA Paper 5/2017)**

19. Ms Amen NG introduced a summary of direct feedback from the public and the paper.
20. A Member commented that the summary of direct feedback could not provide qualitative assessment of the complaints and suggested that case brief in a few lines for each feedback item should be provided. Ms Amen NG replied that feedbacks/complaints were categorised according to the nature of the cases as revealed in the summary. Further information on specific cases could be provided upon Members’ requests.
21. Another Member was concerned about the timeliness of complaints handled by the Communications Authority. He further proposed RTHK to copy the reply to Members for reference in case of controversial and important complaints.
22. Regarding the trend of complaints received by RTHK as raised by the Member, Ms Amen NG said the number of complaints received usually depended on the public

mood and the current issues happened at the time.

**Any other business**

23. The Chairman briefed Members about the agenda planned for 2017 and thanked the efforts of RTHK management in drafting the agenda.
24. He also thanked Mr Leslie CHING, Mr Robert CHUA, Mr Mohan DATWANI and Mr Douglas LAM for their presence and support at RTHK Lunar New Year Gathering.
25. The Chairman informed the meeting that he would conduct a visit to BBC in London on 4 April 2017 and thanked the Economic & Trade Office and RTHK for the assistance provided.
26. In view of the recent comments on RTHK made by a Chief Executive candidate, the Chairman invited Mr LEUNG Ka-wing to provide feedback. The latter stated that RTHK Staff Union had expressed their views shortly afterwards on that day. With regard to the criticism about slide-showing news photographs on TV 32, Mr LEUNG Ka-wing said that with RTHK colleagues' dedicated effort, significant difference in TV 32's output had been made in the past two months. Other than having live relays of meetings of the Legislative Council, RTHK would also, as far as possible, live relay major news and press conferences on TV 32. He also noted that, basing on his experience in the private sector, the present production capability of RTHK is extremely inadequate in providing a decent 24-hour television news service, even in minimum efficient scale. Nevertheless, the content of TV 32 had been enriched and more improvement was expected in future.
27. In response to Mr LEUNG Ka-wing's remarks, the Chairman had made the following comments:
  - (i) being a Member of Board of Advisor (BoA) for almost seven years, he recognised and supported the efforts of the management and the enthusiasm of RTHK staff in providing high quality programmes to the audience;
  - (ii) . Members had previously made an enquiry about the broadcasting of news photos on TV 32 and the management had explained the difficulties and constraints encountered;
  - (iii) he commended the improvement of television programmes; and

(iv) he wished Members to convey the message as stated in paragraph 26 to the public to clarify that RTHK had endeavoured to provide the best under extremely stringent resources.

28. Mr LEUNG Ka-wing thanked the support of BoA and would strive to make further improvement in TV 32.

**Date of next meeting**

29. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

**Secretariat**

**RTHK Board of Advisors**