

**Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of  
RTHK Board of Advisors  
held at 2:30 pm, 19 July 2013  
at Board Room, 2/F Broadcasting House,  
30 Broadcast Drive, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon**

**Present**

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

**In attendance from RTHK**

Mr TAI Keen-man, Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes)  
Miss Clara CHOI, Head/Public and Current Affairs Section (Agenda item 3)  
Mr Henry DOO, Head/New Media Unit (Agenda item 4)

**Absent with apologies**

Ms FUNG May-gay  
Mr Ringo LAM Wing-kwan  
Mr Maurice LEE Wai-man, BBS, JP

**Secretary**

Miss Janice LAU (Board Secretariat)

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

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1. Ms FUNG May-gay, Mr Ringo LAM and Mr Maurice LEE 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 15 May 2013 for Members' comments on 5 July 2013, and Members had made no comments. The minutes of the last meeting were therefore confirmed without amendment.

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

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3. Members raised no item for discussion.

## **Agenda Item 3 : Briefing on documentary production of RTHK**

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4. Miss Clara CHOI briefed the meeting on the production of documentaries at RTHK, especially on the production of RTHK's flagship programme, "Hong Kong Connection" (鏗鏘集), which was regarded as the first and longest series of documentaries in Hong Kong.
5. Upon a Member's enquiry, Miss Clara CHOI advised the meeting that overseas documentaries were usually licensed with agreement on the broadcast terms, including the broadcast period, broadcast media, and number of re-broadcasts allowed.
6. A Member enquired about the co-produced documentaries. Miss Clara CHOI advised that co-production was based on the availability of some topics of common interest among several broadcasters. Although the production costs would usually be higher than that of local production, it would be shared among all co-operating broadcasters. As much time was involved in communication/discussion among broadcasters, the production period of co-produced documentaries was usually more than one year. Mr TAI Keen-man briefed the meeting that RTHK had regularly co-produced with members of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), which included broadcasters over the Asia-Pacific areas, such as Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.
7. A Member commented that RTHK should produce more documentaries such as "Hong Kong Connection" that provide neutral and balanced view points on current issues. Miss Clara CHOI replied that following the increase in political awareness of the public, more documentaries on political and current issues had been produced.

8. Another Member recommended producing documentaries on the external relationships of China and the effect of Hong Kong on other countries. Mr TAI Keen-man briefed the meeting that RTHK had produced programmes on similar themes, for example, “60 Years of Foreign Relations” (六十年來 與鄰為伴) was produced in 2009. The programme explored the relationships of China and 10 of its nearby countries. Miss Clara CHOI also reported that the programme “Ocean Business” (海底交易) had traced stories from Hong Kong’s import of shark fin and coral fishes to the international trade of such products and the environmental implications. The series of “Roots Old and New, Stories of Chinese Emigrants” (華人移民史) also explored the interactive effects of Chinese emigrants with their new countries.
9. Upon the Chairman’s enquiry about the selection of topics for “Hong Kong Connection”, Miss Clara CHOI explained that the topics selected should be important and interesting, i.e. appealing to the audience. The Producer would then carry out research and confirm the practicability of production. The problem now most frequently encountered was that the subject of the documentary refused to appear on screen.
10. A Member enquired about the top benchmark for “Hong Kong Connection”. Miss Clara CHOI informed that they would compare with the standards of Panorama of BBC Television.
11. The Chairman asked about the verification process for local documentary production and co-production. Miss Clara CHOI took “Hong Kong Connection” as an example and replied that there was a very strict verification process. Producers had to present their stories to an editorial meeting. The Executive Producer would coach the Producer and monitor the whole production process. Miss Clara CHOI, being Head of the Public and Current Affairs Section, was also the Senior Executive Producer, would carry out the final assessment and verification of the programmes so as to ensure factual accuracy. Co-produced documentaries would also undergo strict verification by all co-operating broadcasters.
12. A Member commented that the perspective adopted in a documentary was important and difficult to handle. Mr Roy TANG noted that as a documentary programme ought to have a focus, it was hard to produce a documentary with no perspective. RTHK always strived to achieve a balanced viewpoint in the documentaries.

13. A Member enquired on RTHK's plan on nurturing independent producers. Mr Roy TANG advised that RTHK had been outsourcing the production of documentaries, dramas and animations through the TV Commissioning Project so as to provide more opportunities for independent producers to share their talents.
14. The Chairman and a Member commented that RTHK should make productions on topics not appealing to commercial broadcasters such as the minority groups. Miss Clara CHOI replied that RTHK would cover stories of common people and topics of public interest. For example, an RTHK programme had reported how the language problem of the minority groups had affected their education and life in Hong Kong.
15. The Chairman was concerned that after RTHK had its own television channels, the percentage of documentaries produced would decrease. Mr Roy TANG advised that as the variety of television programmes would increase, the relative share of documentaries in the total production would inevitably decrease. However, the actual number of hours of documentaries being broadcast should increase. With its own television channels, RTHK could extend the duration of documentary programmes to allow for more in-depth coverage of topics.
16. The Chairman and some Members expressed concern about the shortage of manpower and human resources to be faced by RTHK. Mr TAI Keen-man agreed that it was a challenge to find suitable talents to meet the ever-increasing production needs. Miss Clara CHOI expected that with the commencement of civil service recruitment exercises of RTHK, the new recruits would be more willing to remain in RTHK in view of the career prospects.

#### **Agenda Item 4 : Introduction of "RTHK Memory" (Phase 2)**

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17. Mr Henry DOO updated the meeting on the latest development of "RTHK Memory" and the way forward.
18. Upon the Chairman's enquiry, Mr Henry DOO replied that the English content of the "RTHK Memory" depended on the amount of English programmes being converted into digital files. Mr TAI Keen-man advised that the English content was mainly governors' speeches or important events such as inauguration and opening ceremonies.

19. A Member enquired if bilingual versions of past programmes or bilingual subtitles would be available. Mr Henry DOO informed the meeting that the original versions would be put on line with English and Chinese navigation. Mr Roy TANG explained that the programmes would be retained in their original languages with no subtitles or translated versions added. The Chairman agreed that as “RTHK Memory” was an archive, the original version should be preserved.
20. Upon a Member’s concern about the difficulty in keyword searching for materials in online database, Mr Henry DOO informed that to facilitate searching, the materials on “RTHK Memory” were divided by categories and tag files (e.g. most popular search items, people also watch items, etc.) were also adopted.
21. In answer to a question about measures to prevent the website being hacked, Mr Henry DOO explained that the data security measures issued by Office of the Government Chief Information Officer were adopted. According to evaluations of security experts, the “RTHK Memory” website had a low risk of being hacked as it did not contain any personal data and the website design allowed easy identification and disabling of hacking. Two internet service providers were engaged for the website and they would closely monitor any hacking activities.
22. The Chairman noted that apart from “RTHK Memory”, programmes broadcast in the past one year were also available on the RTHK website. He enquired why RTHK had not placed programmes broadcast more than one year ago online.
23. Mr Henry DOO explained that for most programmes, the highest catch-up rate was within one month after the broadcast date. The hit rate for most programmes dropped to a low level after 6 months from the first broadcast. Therefore putting programmes broadcast in the past one year online would be sufficient for most viewers. Some programmes with particularly high catch-up rate, such as Hong Kong Connection, would still be available online at the RTHK website after more than one year of broadcast. Mr TAI Keen-man supplemented that the public could request for access to any programmes that were not available online.

### **Agenda Item 5(a) : Updates on programmes (BOA Paper 10/2013)**

24. Mr TAI Keen-man introduced the paper. He also mentioned that RTHK would broadcast a coming international football match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspurs on the radio.
25. Upon the Chairman's enquiry about RTHK's lack of television programme with sign language, Mr TAI Keen-man briefed the meeting that RTHK weekly broadcast about 1.5 hours' programmes with sign language. For example, "News Review" (時事摘錄) and "Look and Learn" (識多一點點). Whether the amount of programmes with sign language could be increased would depend on the availability of resources.

### **Agenda Item 5(b) : Updates on complaints (BOA Paper 11/2013)**

26. Mr TAI Keen-man introduced the paper. He mentioned that a case with a strong advice received from the Communications Authority would be presented at the next meeting.
27. The meeting discussed complaints on the programme host's attitude. The Chairman expressed that the issue about a host's attitude at the programmes was difficult to handle. Mr Roy TANG explained that some of the RTHK programmes on current issues had adopted the style of "*Hard Talk*" of the BBC. The atmosphere of each episode of such programmes would also depend much on the interaction between the host and the guests.

### **Date of next meeting**

28. The Chairman informed the meeting that the next meeting would be held on 13 September 2013 and the venue was to be fixed.
29. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**Secretariat**

**RTHK Board of Advisors**