

## **RTHK Digital Terrestrial Television**

In September 2009, the Chief Executive in Council announced the decision that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) would be tasked to take up the mission to serve as the Public Service Broadcaster for Hong Kong, and to expand the scope of its services to fulfill this mission. Among the development initiatives is the launch of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting service. To provide this service, RTHK is granted one DTT multiplex in the ultra high frequency band which is capable of providing:

- one high definition (HD) Channel (Ch 31); and
- two standard definition (SD) Channels (Ch 32 and Ch33).

2. Since 1 July 2012, RTHK has been conducting technical signal tests for DTT service through the Temple Hill Transmission Station. Another three Transmission Stations, namely Golden Hill, Castle Peak and Kowloon Peak, have commenced operation in mid of March 2013 as well. With the operation of these four transmission stations, RTHK's DTT signal coverage has reached over 50% of the Hong Kong population. It is targeted to progressively extend the coverage to the whole territory when the remaining transmission stations and gap fillers commence operation in phases.

3. RTHK is currently using the following programmes to test the signal for the three channels:

On HD TV (Ch 31)	35th Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards Presentation Concert looping for 24 hours
On SD TV 1 (Ch 32)	Live feed of Legislative Council meeting on every Wednesday, and around one hour of RTHK promotion trailers to be looped for 24 hours in the rest of the week.
On SD TV 2 (Ch 33)	Photos of "Below the Lion Rock" looping for 24 hours

As part of the signal tests, starting from 1 April 2013, Ch 31 (HD TV) will simulcast existing prime time programmes on Television Broadcasts Limited and Asia Television Limited followed by repeat of RTHK programmes up to 6 hours of transmission, from 1900 to 2500. The 35th Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs Awards Presentation Concert will be looped in the remaining hours. If the tests progress smoothly, it is expected that this stage will complete at the end of 2013 and we shall proceed to the next stage of Transmission Trial Run.

4. According to the Charter of RTHK, one of the programming objectives is to relay national broadcasting. RTHK is discussing with CCTV regarding this issue.

5. The full launch of the DTT service is tentatively scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2018 upon commissioning of the new Broadcasting House. There will be 24-hour broadcast for the three DTT channels. We are now planning for the programme contents and the initial proposals are as follows:

On HD TV (Ch 31)	Comprehensive channel (propose to introduce TV news )
On SD TV 1 (Ch 32)	Channel to cover live feeds and events, and open for other options if resources allow
On SD TV 2 (Ch 33)	Channel to relay national broadcasting

## **Radio Television Hong Kong**

March 2013