



**Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd's Submission
to The Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau
on the Consultation for the Establishment of the Communications Authority**

Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd welcomes in principle the proposed establishment of the Communications Authority (CA).

We agree that a staged approach, including the setting up of the CA as a first step, incorporating the existing regulatory frameworks (with necessary additional legislation to achieve this) followed by a review of matters considered the highest priority, is the most sensible approach. We presume that there will be ample opportunity to address the issue of what are the CA's priority matters in the run up to the second review stage, tentatively scheduled for the 4th month from passage of the initial legislation.

The public mission and core values of the proposed CA seem sound. Protecting both the advancement of Hong Kong's communication's sector while protecting freedom of speech and offering the broadest spectrum of choice to the consumer are values we should all share. Transparency in all matters concerning how these aims are achieved is also of paramount importance, as is suggested. We are also strong supporters of regulation being in line with international best practice.

As to the proposed structure of the CA, we note that it is to include five non-official members (including the Chairman) out of a total of 7 members. Since the CA will be a functional regulator (para 19 of the consultation document) tasked to make major regulatory decisions (para 46) under a convergent and highly competitive market environment (para 17), we believe the emphasis of its composition would be different from the existing Broadcasting Authority, which comprise members from a wide spectrum of the community. While we have no questions that the CA membership should reflect the plurality and values of the society, we would submit that member(s) with relevant expertise in the broadcasting industry must be present in the CA.

We look forward to the results of this initial review and the possible initiation of the first stage of the proposed changes.

Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd

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