

## [Transcript of remarks by Acting CE at media session before ExCo meeting \(with video\)](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Acting Chief Executive, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting this morning (October 30):

Reporter:... was ...for two days on the weekend and that has been criticised by the public for being just ...services. Is it time to review the mechanism governing public transport? And what is your take on the travel chaos of the shuttle bus on the Zhuhai-Macao Bridge?

Acting Chief Executive: The problem stems from the fact that it happened on Sunday night with a surge in travellers. On a normal weekday after the opening of the Bridge, only around 35 000 people left Hong Kong. But on that particular Sunday evening, we are talking about 70 000 which is more than double of the normal weekday figure. So, that situation was certainly not satisfactory, undesirable. What's going to happen is that the Transport Department will work closely with the operators to iron out the problem and find a viable solution, and also work in close liaison with the Zhuhai authorities and the Macao authorities as well. We hope that the operator can provide, deploy more buses to tackle the situation if warranted.

Reporter: Can you also respond to the question on MTR as well?

Acting Chief Executive: I know the sentiment of the commuters, and I would urge the MTR to take account of the aspirations and views expressed by the community, commuters in particular, on this special arrangement.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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## [Speech by Acting SCED at Asia Video Summit 2018 \(English only\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, at the Asia Video Summit 2018 today (October 30):

Joe (Chairman of the Asia Video Industry Association, Mr Joe Welch), Louis (Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Video Industry Association, Mr Louis

Boswell), John (Chief Policy Officer of the Asia Video Industry Association, Mr John Medeiros), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my pleasure to join all of you at the Asia Video Summit 2018 of the Asia Video Industry Association (AVIA).

We are glad that AVIA has its inaugural Asia Video Summit staged in Hong Kong. May I take this opportunity to welcome all the industry executives and practitioners, especially those who have come from afar, to gather here today for this special event.

I am delighted to witness that AVIA has evolved smartly, responding to the new era of the broadcasting industry. CASBAA (Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia), as it used to be called, has rebranded itself as AVIA and truly reflects the changing broadcasting landscape worldwide. AVIA's new mission and scope of membership to encompass the broader video industry is surely a move in the right direction to fully align itself with the technological innovations and increasing pervasiveness of Internet media.

This summit with the theme of "The State of the Video Industry in Asia" aims to explore the opportunities and challenges, the disruption and the consolidation, as well as the success stories and the ability to embrace change. This is indeed a very challenging yet meaningful topic. The sharing among industry experts and key stakeholders will no doubt bring new insight for each of us to bring home.

With the advancement of technology and telecommunications infrastructure, virtually all people – perhaps with the exception of a few – are connected to the Internet. Smartphones, tablets and laptops are ubiquitous. And obviously, the prevalence of mobile and broadband services has given rise to the proliferation of the Internet-based media.

"Watching video from anywhere at any time" is an appealing slogan of nowadays' video content providers. Instead of viewing the Internet as a disruption to the traditional broadcasting industry, I would more optimistically say that the Internet has brought us unprecedented opportunities. The broadcasters and video content providers can now reach out to potential customers with unlimited geographical boundaries and breaking any time constraints via their cross-media platforms and content delivery networks. On the other hand, telcos are eager to provide more videos and entertainment as value-added services to their subscribers.

Many believe that the increasingly blurred boundary between broadcasting and telecommunications industries would vanish one fine day. Until then, we see increasing collaboration and partnership among broadcasters, telcos, content providers and technological solution companies, fuelling the growth of the video business around the world.

Today, I am here to share with you some updates on the broadcasting and telecommunications developments in Hong Kong, as well as the efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to support our

broadcasting, telecommunications and creative industries.

The HKSAR Government is committed to promoting Hong Kong as a regional broadcasting hub. As you may know, Hong Kong adopts market-led, technology-neutral broadcasting policies and a light-handed regulatory approach. As one of the freest economies in the world, Hong Kong has no limit on foreign investment in pay TV services and does not impose restrictions on the business models of pay TV services. Most importantly, we uphold freedom of expression and information, and do not pre-censor broadcast contents.

On the pay TV market, our two incumbent operators are providing about 400 pay TV channels, including 130 high-definition channels. They have been exploring enhanced services such as ultra-high-definition TV, 3D TV and interactive programmes. Their programmes are also available via over-the-top (OTT) and mobile platforms.

Hong Kong prides itself for the sophisticated infrastructure and excellent pool of talents, which has well-positioned us as a regional hub for uplinking satellite TV services. Our 14 non-domestic TV programme service licensees are serving the Asia-Pacific region by offering about 190 satellite TV channels. Viewers in Hong Kong are benefitted as we can receive more than 400 free unencrypted satellite TV channels uplinked from Hong Kong and elsewhere.

The OTT service has gained popularity swiftly across the globe, and Hong Kong is of no exception. In line with practices adopted by other advanced economies, TV programmes provided on the Internet, including OTT, are exempted from the regulatory regime of traditional broadcasting services in Hong Kong. All these contribute to an open environment for regional and international broadcasters to develop their businesses here. With our high broadband and mobile penetration rate, we expect OTT business will continue to expand in Hong Kong in the coming years.

This term of Government is firmly committed to being a "facilitator" and a "promoter" for businesses. To this end, we have reviewed our broadcasting policies and measures with a view to removing obstacles for the traditional broadcasters and modernising the regulatory framework to provide a competitive business environment. A three-month public consultation exercise on the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance was completed earlier this year. By the way, we thank all key stakeholders, including AVIA, for sending us comments and views on our proposals.

I wish to inform our honourable guests here that the broadcasting industry and stakeholders are generally supportive of the direction of the legislative proposals to relax obsolete statutory requirements and rationalise the regulatory arrangements. The proposed amendment package covers three aspects, namely cross-media ownership restrictions, foreign control restrictions and the requirement of a licensee being a non-subsidiary company. With the support gathered in the public consultation, colleagues in my bureau are preparing a draft amendment bill, which we aim to introduce into the Legislative Council early next year.

Our regulatory improvement measures for the broadcasting sector are multi-pronged and do not stop at legislative amendments. Codes of Practice and other administrative regulatory control practices will continue to be modernised to dovetail with the latest development needs. For instance, in July 2018, the Communications Authority announced the relaxation of regulations for indirect advertising in TV programme services. Broadly speaking, with the exception of certain genres of programmes and subject to certain compliance requirements, indirect advertising is now permitted in TV programmes. This will help the industry diversify its sources of advertising and provide a more conducive business environment for the industry while safeguarding viewers' interests. We trust that the package of improvement measures, when fully implemented, will create a more facilitative environment that enables further innovation and sustainable development of Hong Kong's broadcasting industry.

I understand that another area of concern of the trade is online piracy. Please rest assured that Hong Kong attaches great importance to the protection of intellectual property rights. On the front of law enforcement, Hong Kong Customs has been sparing no efforts in combating online piracy, and its efforts bore fruit last December with the successful prosecution of the Maige TV set-top box case effected in Hong Kong. The court ruling and the jail sentence for the convicted have a strong deterrent effect on similar piracy activities, and have sent a clear message to the community that copyright infringement is a serious criminal offence.

We are pleased to note that our enforcement efforts have been recognised by the industry, including the then CASBAA. Our Customs and Excise Department would continue to give its best in fighting against infringing activities involving TV set-top boxes, as demonstrated by the series of operations taken since then.

Talking about embracing change, we are all expecting commercial 5G services to be launched in 2020. Characterised by its technical capabilities of high speed, high capacity, high reliability and low latency, 5G will open up vast potential for video and broadcasting services, such as better streaming experience, virtual reality and augmented reality.

Hong Kong is ready for the launch of the 5G network and services. In terms of spectrum supply, we have planned to assign a total of 4 500 MHz of radio spectrum in various frequency bands next year for 5G services. The amount is eight times the spectrum currently assigned for public mobile services, making Hong Kong the first economy in the world to release such a significant amount of spectrum to support 5G development.

In addition, to enhance our broadband network coverage, we are implementing a subsidy scheme to extend the fibre-based broadband backbone to about 300 villages in remote locations in the New Territories and on the outlying islands. As a further move to facilitate the roll-out of 5G networks, as announced by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, in the recently announced Policy Address 2018, we will proactively open up around 1 000 suitable government premises to enable the mobile operators to install radio base stations and streamline the application procedures.

All the above demonstrates the Government's commitment to enhancing the telecommunications infrastructure so as to provide an efficient backbone for cross-media broadcasting services. I am confident that our effort will support AVIA members to adopt the latest technologies and assist the industry to unleash new business opportunities in the 5G era.

Technology aside, another key driver for video infotainment is quality content. Customers nowadays have a wide array of choices and they only select the best.

As a world-class metropolis where East meets West and with such cultural diversity, Hong Kong is a natural ground for nurturing creativity. The HKSAR Government values the development of creative industries, the new drivers for Hong Kong's economy. Earlier this year, the Government injected a sum of HK\$1 billion in one go into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI), which is dedicated funding used to support specific creative sectors, including design, TV, music, etc, to launch events or programmes in talent nurturing, market development and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community.

The CSI is administered by an office, Create Hong Kong, which is under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and is the lead sponsor of this summit. Indeed, since 2010, we have been sponsoring small and medium-sized enterprises and local tertiary students to attend previous CASBAA Conventions.

The CSI does not cover the film industry, which is supported through another form of dedicated government funding, the Film Development Fund, or FDF. Since 2005, we have injected a total of HK\$540 million into the FDF to promote the long-term development of Hong Kong's film industry. The FDF has achieved heartening results – 50 film production projects and 200 other film-related projects supported by the Fund have so far groomed some 50 new directors and producers and scooped more than 110 local and international awards. The Chief Executive Mrs Lam has just announced in her 2018 Policy Address the plan to inject HK\$1 billion into the FDF to support the development of the film industry. One of the initiatives is to groom our talents by equipping them with skills for film productions of different lengths and genres for broadcast on multimedia platforms.

Looking ahead, the emergence of online and mobile viewing platforms will further intensify the demand for quality programme content in the Mainland. On market expansion, we will continue to assist the trade to capture opportunities under the CEPA (Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement) framework, where Hong Kong service providers are given preferential treatment in technical service of cable TV and the Mainland-Hong Kong film productions, as well as those arising from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen, the above is just an essence of the latest developments in our broadcasting, telecommunications and creative industries. Opportunities are always waiting for the best prepared. I am sure the Asia Video Summit, in its new form, will continue to be a superb platform bringing

together experts around the world to network, exchange views and share market intelligence.

Let me wish AVIA a most successful summit. Thanks for choosing Hong Kong once again. And to all our friends from overseas, I wish you an enjoyable stay in Hong Kong.

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## [Acclaimed local pianist Cheng Wai to give recital in December](#)

Acclaimed local pianist Cheng Wai will play a variety of compositions for a recital in December.

"Piano Recital by Cheng Wai" is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) as part of its "City Hall Virtuosi" Series.

The programme will include Wu Zuqiang and Du Mingxin's "The Mermaid Suite for Piano" which consists of "Dance of Coral", "Dance of Ginseng", "Dance of Waterweed" and "Wedding Dance"; Ye Xiaogang's "Namucuo", Doming Lam's "Flowery Moon Light of Spring River", Zhou Long's "Wu Kui", Chen Peixun's "Autumn Moon on a Calm Lake", Zhang Zhao's "Pi Huang", Liszt's Three Concert Études, S. 144, No. 3 "Un Sospiro" and "Sonata in B minor, S. 178".

Cheng Wai, who has been described by one critic as a "piano poetess", received one of Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons awards in 2009. Having graduated early from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and the Curtis Institute of Music in the United States, she obtained her master's degree at Yale University, and then finished with a doctoral degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Her principal teachers included Ling Yuan, Gabriel Kwok, John Winther, Seymour Lipkin, Gary Graffman, Claude Frank and Gilbert Kalish.

Cheng has performed around the world, including the concert halls of the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the National Centre for Performing Arts, Beijing Concert Hall, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Harbin Grand Theatre, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and more. One of Hong Kong's most versatile and renowned pianists, Cheng is active both as soloist and chamber musician. She has appeared with numerous orchestras, including the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. Cheng has also performed under the baton of Gustav Meier, Lawrence Smith, Samuel Wong, Yip Wing-sie, Zheng Xiaoying, Mak Ka-lok, Hu Yongyan, Yan Huichang and more.

Cheng is the chairlady of the Central Conservatory of Music (Hong Kong) Foundation, and teaches at the HKAPA, Hong Kong Baptist University and the

Chinese University of Hong Kong. In addition, she is a frequent adjudicator of numerous local and international competitions. She recently finished her 2017 "Dessiner la Musique, Cheng Wai Piano Recital China Tour" of 15 cities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region's establishment.

"City Hall Virtuosi Series – Piano Recital by Cheng Wai" will be staged at 8pm on December 28 (Friday) at the Theatre of Hong Kong City Hall. Tickets priced at \$150 and \$200 are now available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs\\_555.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_555.html).

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## **2Faced Dance Company to perform dance and circus show "What the Moon Saw"**

2Faced Dance Company from the United Kingdom will perform the dance and circus production "What the Moon Saw" in December. This performance is suitable for children aged 3 and above.

2Faced Dance Company drew inspiration from the work of Hans Christian Andersen and artfully re-imagined it for "What the Moon Saw", a dance and circus performance for little ones and their families. Alone in the world and scared of the dark, Jack opens his bedroom windows to find a familiar friendly face, the Moon. The Moon teaches Jack to be brave with his treasured experience and takes Jack on travels around the world.

2Faced Dance Company was established in the United Kingdom in 1999 by Artistic Director and Choreographer Tamsin Fitzgerald. The company produces innovative and aspirational artistic performances and participation programmes which tour extensively across the United Kingdom and internationally. The company works with cutting-edge and culturally diverse designers, venues and organisations, and supports and mentors artists while advocating on behalf of the dance sector, challenging and inspiring different sectors of society.

Details of the performances are as follows:

December 14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday), 7.30pm  
December 16 (Sunday), 3pm  
Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall  
Tickets: \$140, \$180 and \$240

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, "What the Moon Saw" is one of the attractions of the "Cheers!" Series. Tickets are now

available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit [www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi\\_arts/programs\\_652.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_652.html).

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## **Hong Kong Customs teams up with Australian Border Force to curb international drug trafficking activities**

Hong Kong Customs and the Australian Border Force mounted a joint operation against drug trafficking by air mail between the two places from October 15 to 28.

During the operation, a total of 18 cases of trafficking drugs from Hong Kong to Australia were detected with a seizure of about 26 kilograms of suspected gamma-butyrolactone and about 4kg of suspected Part 1 poisons. The estimated market value of the seizure is about HK\$500,000.

Hong Kong Customs will continue to step up co-operation with overseas law enforcement agencies through intelligence exchange and joint operations to combat international drug trafficking activities.