

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting Held on Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 2:30 p.m. in OFCA Conference Room, 20/F Wu Chung House

Members Present

Mr Chaucer Leung	Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) (Chairman)
Mr Sanda Cheuk	OFCA (Secretary)
Ms Terese Au Yeung	Consumer Council
Mr Alex Wong	Communications Association of Hong Kong
Ir Alan Chan	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Ms Agnes Tan	WTT HK Limited (WTT) and Services-based operators (SBO) as a group
Mr Kevin Chu	Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited, PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited and PCCW Global (HK) Limited
Miss Katherine Kwok	HGC Global Communications Limited
Ms Juliana Wong	Hutchison Telephone Company Limited and Genius Brand Limited
Mr T L Or	SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited and SmarTone Communications Limited (SmarTone)
Mr Henry Lee	21 ViaNet Group Limited
Mr Karson Ng	China Telecom Global Limited
Mr Kenneth Kwok	ComNet Telecom (HK) Limited
Mr J Law	Easy Tone Network Limited (Easy Tone)
Mr Richard Leung	Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited and HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited (HKBN)
Mr Patrick Lam	Hong Kong Cable Television Limited
Mr Patrick Ng	NTT Com Asia Limited (NTT)

Ms Neeti Jain	Telstra International HK Limited and Telstra International Limited
Mr Walter Ngan	Towngas Telecommunications Fixed Network Limited
Mr Eric Cheung	TraxComm Limited
Mr Allen Law	Village Telephone Limited
Mr Ralph Riley	Public Radiocommunications Service licensees and Wireless Internet of Things licensees as a group
Mr Fred Lam	Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)
Dr Patrick Tsie	Ad personam

In Attendance

Mr Malcolm Leong	WTT and SBO as a group
Mr Johnny Yeung	SmarTone
Mr Ronald Lee	Easy Tone
Mr Eric Wong	Easy Tone
Miss Abbie Lo	HKBN
Mr Donald Chan	NTT
Mr S K Yiu	OFCA
Mr Esmond Chiu	OFCA
Mr Wilson Lee	OFCA
Ms Christine Chim	OFCA
Mr Penny Lo	OFCA
Ms Andrea Lau	OFCA
Ms Kim Lee	OFCA

For agenda item 3

Mr Samson Cho	HKPF
Mr Joe Chan	HKPF
Mr Louis Lau	HKPF

Ms Diana Chan	HKPF
Mr W K Shiu	HKPF
Mr Ryan Kwok	Fire Services Department (FSD)
Mr Daniel Chan	FSD
Mr Kevin Ip	FSD

Observers

For agenda item 5

Mr Joe Sun	Thinextra Network Limited (Thinextra)
Mr Derek So	ATAL Technologies Limited (ATAL)

Members Absent with Apologies

Mr Ben Li	The Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong
Mr Bruce Chan	The Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong
Mr Alex Cheng	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Mr Mike Pan	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Mr Raphael Ho	Equinix Hong Kong Limited
Mr CY Chung	Superloop (Hong Kong) Limited
Mr Indarto Nata	External Fixed Carrier / Unified Carrier (External Fixed Services) licensees as a group
Prof Vincent Lau	Ad personam

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting and mentioned that for agenda item 3, representatives of HKPF and FSD would join the discussion and would give a presentation. For agenda item 5, representatives of two Wireless Internet of Things (WIoT) licensees were invited to join the discussion as observers.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The Chairman said that the draft minutes of the sixteenth meeting had been circulated to Members for comment on 23 October 2018. As no comment was received, the minutes of the sixteenth meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Progress of the Technical Regulatory Working Group (TRWG)

3. The Secretary reported that in the last TRWG meeting held on 11 December 2018, OFCA gave an update on the proposal to adopt a unified calling line identification arrangement with a view to enhancing customer protection. With the support of the TRWG Members to the proposal and approval of the Communications Authority (CA), appropriate revision was made to the “Code of Practice in relation to Calling Line Identification and Other Calling Line Identification Related Services” (CoP for CLI). The updated CoP for CLI was published on the CA’s website and came into effect on 26 February 2019.

4. The Secretary mentioned that the last TRWG meeting also discussed the proposal to conduct a technical trial for installation of radio base stations by mobile network operators (MNOs) at bus shelters. Interested MNOs had been invited to liaise with bus companies in respect of potential locations and necessary arrangement for the trial. In tandem, OFCA was also taking the initiative to coordinate with relevant government bureaux/departments on the long-term arrangement for such installation.

Item 3 Provision of Location Information of Callers for Emergency Service by Telecommunications Operators (TRAAC Paper No. 1/2019)

5. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of HKPF and FSD to join the discussion.

6. Mr Joe Chan gave a presentation on the need to obtain the location information of callers making emergency calls (hereinafter referred to as “location information”) during search and rescue operations and other time-critical incidents as well as the current difficulties experienced by the emergency service agencies in obtaining such information. A copy of his presentation slides was at **Annex**. Mr Wilson Lee next gave an overview of the current regulatory arrangements in respect of provision of location information and overseas developments in that respect as well as the proposed amendment to the relevant licence condition of the telecommunications operators concerned. Mr Wilson Lee said that OFCA, HKPF and FSD would further discuss with the industry regarding the technical solutions to enhance the arrangements for provision of location information by telecommunications operators to emergency service agencies.

7. Mr Kevin Chu, Ms Juliana Wong and Ms Katherine Kwok, mentioned that from telecommunications operators’ angle, they acknowledged the importance of emergency services and had all along been cooperating with the agencies to provide the location information upon request. However, they opined that without the knowledge of the technical solution required to enhance the current arrangements and the implementation details, it would be premature for the CA to consider any amendment to the relevant licence condition. The same view was shared by Mr Richard Leung and Mr T L Or. Ms Katherine Kwok also expressed concern about any privacy issue in that regard.

8. Ir Alan Chan and Ms Terese Au Yeung supported the proposal and considered that its implementation should be expedited to provide better protection to members of the public. Mr Karson Ng was of the view that it was a social responsibility for provision of location

information by telecommunications operators and did not see any particular concern about incorporating such requirement into the licences of the operators concerned.

9. In response to the views of major telecommunications operators, Mr Joe Chan and Mr Ryan Kwok stressed that the provision of location information was crucial for life-and-death rescue operations. Suitable amendment should therefore be made to the relevant licence condition to make clear the responsibility and requirement for provision of location information by telecommunications operators. Mr Joe Chan pointed out that operators could, in the meantime, continue to provide the location information based on their existing arrangements. HKPF and FSD stood ready to further discuss with the relevant operators and work out the technical details of the solutions for enhancement of existing arrangements.

10. The Chairman noted that there was no objection in principle from Members regarding the provision of location information. He pointed out that under the proposed amended licence condition, operators would be required to provide, to the extent technically feasible and practicable, location information to emergency service agencies. Operators could therefore provide such information to emergency service agencies based on the existing arrangements and means available to them. The Secretary added that given the importance of location information in life-and-death situations, it would be necessary to set out clearly the responsibility and requirement in the licences for all relevant operators to follow across the board.

11. In sum, the Chairman said that with a view to facilitating the technical discussion, OFCA would conduct a survey among the relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements as well as views and comments on possible enhancements in respect of provision of location information. OFCA, HKPF and FSD would then arrange a task group discussion among the relevant operators and interested parties to work out the technical arrangements and implementation details.

[Post-meeting note: OFCA issued respective surveys to the relevant operators and emergency service agencies on 9 April 2019 for feedback

by 15 April 2019, as well as convened a task group meeting on 24 April 2019. The proposed amendments to the licence condition were circulated to Members for comment on 2 May 2019.]

Item 4 Proposed Update of the “Security Guidelines for Next Generation Networks” (TRAAC Paper No. 2/2019)

12. Mr Wilson Lee gave a presentation on OFCA’s proposal to update the “Security Guidelines for Next Generation Networks” (NGN Guidelines) in view of emerging technologies and new security threats which might arise in the 5G era.

13. Mr Fred Lam said that HKPF fully supported the proposal for updating the guidelines in view of the advent of 5G technologies, which were expected to bring significant changes to our daily lives. In fact, HKPF attached great importance to the security of telecommunications networks, which were critical infrastructures of HKPF’s key partners. Apart from enhancing protection to telecommunications networks, it was also important for operators to have the abilities to effectively respond to and recover from cyber-attacks and incidents. HKPF would be pleased to offer comments and provide inputs to the guidelines in this regard.

14. In response to Mr Richard Leung’s enquiry on the schedule for updating the NGN Guidelines, the Chairman said that OFCA targeted to complete the updating process in several months. The Secretary expected that the operators concerned could take into account the relevant measures and requirements in the updated NGN Guidelines in procurement of new equipment/systems for their 5G networks.

15. Mr Kevin Chu enquired about how the operators could deal with security threats which might be brought by the emerging technologies when these technologies had not been implemented in their networks. In response, Mr Wilson Lee said that those emerging technologies mentioned in the TRAAC paper were applicable across various types of networks, and some of them might have been put in place in some of the operators’ networks for some years. In this regard, OFCA would like to take this opportunity to update the NGN Guidelines with a view to setting

out relevant measures and requirements to be followed and more importantly, strengthening consumer protection and increasing consumer confidence in using telecommunications services.

16. The Chairman said that OFCA would make reference to the latest international and regional standards, specifications and best practices in preparing draft revisions to the NGN Guidelines. Relevant operators should pledge compliance with the updated NGN Guidelines as well as make reference to them in designing and implementing their new networks, including 5G networks.

17. As there was no further comment from Members, the Chairman said that OFCA would prepare the draft revision to the NGN Guidelines after the meeting and targeted to circulate it in April/May 2019 for comment by relevant operators.

Item 5 Proposed Code of Practice on Operation and Management of Internet of Things Devices for Public Telecommunications Services (TRAAC Paper No. 3/2019)

18. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of ATAL and Thinxtra to join the discussion.

19. Mr Penny Lo gave a presentation on the proposed Code of Practice on Operation and Management of Internet of Things (IoT) Devices for Public Telecommunications Services (the CoP).

20. Mr Ralph Riley said that some measures included in the “GSMA IoT Security Guidelines” might not be applicable to wireless technologies such as Lora and Sigfox. He considered that comments should be sought from the relevant industry associations including the LoRa Alliance. The Chairman said that OFCA was minded to seek comments from all relevant IoT service providers, irrespective of the technologies being deployed such as Narrowband-IoT, Lora and Sigfox.

21. Ms Terese Au Yeung said that a voluntary CoP might not be able to provide sufficient protection for consumers on use of IoT devices.

The Secretary replied that as there was not yet a wide adoption of IoT devices, it would be appropriate to issue the proposed CoP for voluntary compliance by IoT service providers at this juncture. Such an approach was consistent with overseas practices. OFCA would keep in view the market situation and might consider imposing more stringent measures including requiring mandatory compliance by IoT service providers should the situation so warrant. The Chairman added that while the recommended measures and best practices set out in the proposed CoP were voluntary in nature, IoT service providers were encouraged to implement them for provision of IoT services in a good, efficient, and continuous manner in accordance with their licence obligation.

22. As there was no further comment from participants, the Chairman said that OFCA would prepare the draft CoP after the meeting and targeted to circulate it in April/May 2019 for comment by relevant IoT service providers.

Item 6 Any Other Business

23. The Chairman advised that subject to the availability of suitable discussion items, the next TRAAC meeting would tentatively be scheduled around mid 2019. Members would be informed of the exact date of the meeting nearer the time.

24. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

**Office of the Communications Authority
May 2019**