Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework in the Age of Ubiquitous Network Society

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Towards Convergence

- License Convergence
  - Fixed/Mobile
  - Telecom/Broadcasting

- Regulator Convergence
  - OFTA/Broadcasting Authority
Broadband Wireless Access (BWA):

- Multiple Technologies: technology neutral
- Short delivery period: “on-demand” high speed connectivity for temporary event
- Primarily the wireless extension of conventional wireline based fixed network
- An effective solution for Type II Network Interconnection
Accelerated Market Share of New Entrants in Local Fixed Network
BWA: A Solution after Withdrawing Type II Network Interconnection?
Mobile operators’ worry: will BWA pose a threat to 3G?

OFTA: BWA will complement rather than threaten 3G – at least until the technology fully matures, namely with the handoff and roaming capabilities.
Handoff between Adjacent Cells

Cellular Switch
DMS-MTX

PSTN
BWA for Mobility: Back to the Origin?
Power Efficiency vs. Terminal Weight

Comparison from the Terminal Perspectives: The Tradeoff between Information Richness and Reach
Who Should Get BWA License?

- Current licensing and regulatory frameworks for mobile and fixed carriers:
  - Separated and different

- Can fixed carrier holding a BWA license provide mobile service?
  - No – then what about technology neutrality?
  - Yes – then what license? Fixed or mobile?
Who Should Get BWA License?

- Can mobile carrier get a BWA license?
  - If yes, can they use their 3G spectrums for BWA service?
  - If no, how can the mobile/fixed convergence be facilitated?

OFTA is positively working on the convergence of mobile and fixed carrier license and conducting a comprehensive policy review of spectrum regulation
Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT) in Hong Kong

- 1998 – government policy paper to introduce DTT in HK after 2002
- 1999 – technology trials of three DTT standards
- 2000/2003 – two rounds public consultation
- 2007 – DTT to be launched in Hong Kong
- 2008 – 75% coverage in HK
- 2012: Analogue switch off
Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT)

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Fixed Reception Only

Both Fixed and Mobile Reception
Merger of Telecom and Broadcasting Services

- DTT supports all kinds of services including:
  - Mobile broadcasting service
  - Interactive multimedia service
  - Text broadcast services
  - Telecommunications services
  - Merger of audio, sound, video and text services
**DTT and Its Policy Implications**

- DTT supports mobile TV and mobile interactive multimedia service, while current licenses do not allow mobile communications.

- DTT offers both paid and free service while current license are separated for these two business models in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance.

A new regime to deal with the merger of telecommunications and broadcasting services is required.
Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework

- From technology-orientated regulation towards application-orientated regulation

- The political objective of telecom policy should be guaranteeing “Universal Connection” rather than guaranteeing “Universal Service” in the specific context of EoIP

- Efficiency remains the economic objective of telecommunications policy, while competition between different technologies and different players remains the best option to achieve the economic objective
Towards a Converged Regulatory Framework

- Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA)
- Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA)
- Information Technology Service Department (ITS)

- Broadcasting
- Telecommunications
- Information Technology
THANK YOU!