REPORT FOR
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
CHINESE PROGRAMMES
2010/2012

华文节目咨询委员会:2010/2012 汇报

CONTENT

I) Introduction	Page 3
a. Background	
b. The Committee's Work	
(II) Summary of Key Recommendations	Page 4
(III) Observation and Recommendations on the Range and Quality	Page 5
of Chinese Programmes a. News, Current Affairs, Cultural and Info-Educational Programmes	
b. Dramas	
c. Variety and Entertainment Programmes	
d. Children and Youth Programmes	
e. Programmes for the Elderly	
f. Radio Programmes	
(IV) Other Programming Concerns	Page 9
a. New Rating and logos on TV	J
b. Use of New Media Tools	
(V) Conclusion	Page 10
	1 486 10
Annex A: List of Members	Page 11
Annex B: Broadcasters' Responses to the Report	Page 13

(I) INTRODUCTION

a) Background

- The Advisory Committee for Chinese Programmes (ACCESS) (华文节目咨询委员会) was first set up in 1994 to advise and give feedback on the range and quality of Chinese programmes on the Free-to-Air TV channels and radio stations with the aim to enhance the broadcasters' role to entertain, inform and educate viewers. The Committee also advises on Chinese programmes on Pay TV.
- This report by ACCESS covers the period of 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012. The current Committee was appointed by the Minister for Information, Communication and the Arts (MICA) for a two-year term with effect from 1 July 2010. The list of Committee members can be found in **Annex A**.

b) The Committee's Work

- 3 The Committee undertook the following:
 - a) Reviewed and gave feedback on Chinese programming on MediaCorp's Channel 8 and Channel U, Pay TV channels, and radio stations;
 - b) Reviewed and provided recommendations on the range and quality of Chinese programmes;
 - c) Reviewed and provided feedback on censorship issues, including those arising from public complaints; and
 - d) Provided support and advice to the Media Development Authority (MDA) in the formulation of content guidelines and public education.
- Under Associate Professor Lee Cheuk Yin's chairmanship, the Committee held a total of nine meetings between July 2010 and June 2012. In order to seek more views on the local Chinese programmes from the industry, the Committee also held dialogues with the programming staff of MediaCorp's Channel 8 and Channel U, StarHub Cable Vision (SCV), SingNet, as well as the Chinese radio stations of MediaCorp Radio and SPH UnionWorks to gain a better understanding of their upcoming programming plans and strategies.

(II) SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

5 The following is an overview of the key recommendations made by ACCESS based on its observations during the course of its term.

Improvement in range and exposure for children's programmes

6 ACCESS was heartened to see more children's programmes on weekend mornings following the extension of the time belt by an hour. The Committee also noted a good variety of genres within children's programmes in the form of info-ed and dramas and was pleased to see the programmes being repeated on weekday afternoons and cross-promoted on other channels, thus increasing their exposure. ACCESS also commended MediaCorp's efforts for producing youth-targeted programmes such as "爱要怎么说" ("Shall We Talk") and "你在周什么" ("Let's Talk"), and encouraged the broadcaster to continue its efforts to cater to this age group.

Need for more variety of programmes for the Elderly

7 While the Committee noted the improvement in Children's programmes, they also noted the limited variety of programmes for the Elderly, as the current available regular programming still essentially comprised the weekly "黄金年华之黄金年华" and "黄金年华之斗歌竞艺" ("Golden Age"). ACCESS was of view that programmes for the Elderly need not be restricted to karaoke, and MediaCorp was encouraged to consider other genres of programmes such as travelogues, cooking or lifestyle-related genres that incorporate elements such as Chinese culture, arts or opera. These can not only engage the Elderly, but also be of interest to other demographics such as homemakers.

Overseas collaborations to support cross-cultural efforts

8 ACCESS found the recent collaborations between MediaCorp and Malaysia in several drama productions featuring Malaysian locations and cast, such as "正义武馆" ("Code of Honour") and "渔米人家" ("The Seeds of Life") to be refreshing. With the increased popularity of Taiwanese idol dramas and overseas artistes, the Committee recommended that the broadcaster considers collaborating with other countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and even Thailand and Vietnam. This would enable MediaCorp to harness resources beyond Singapore and to explore cross-cultural values for a more vibrant media landscape, just like how some of the productions were co-produced in the past with China.

Potential for Info-ed programmes featuring local talents to travel

9 The Committee found several info-ed and variety programmes, such as "仁心侠旅 2"("The Activist's Journey 2") and "明星志工队2" ("Stars for a Cause 2") on life in different countries or featuring journeys to impoverished places for social and humanitarian causes, to be inspirational, heart-warming and of high production quality. As the programmes that often involve overseas filming locations are highly engaging and also feature local talents

who have made a name for themselves overseas, ACCESS would like to encourage the broadcaster to consider marketing them overseas as they have the potential to travel.

(III) OBSERVATIONS ON AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF CHINESE PROGRAMMES

Generally, ACCESS welcomed MediaCorp's efforts to provide a variety of locally-produced and acquired programmes on Channel 8 and Channel U. The following are the key observations and recommendations for Chinese programmes made by ACCESS:

(a) News, Current Affairs, Cultural and Info-Educational Programmes

- ACCESS was generally pleased with the programmes in these genres, as it observed that the broadcaster had made an effort to explore new themes and to present old topics in a refreshing manner, while maintaining the production of quality core programmes.
- 12 ACCESS commended programmes such as "星期二特写"("Tuesday Report") for its continued efforts in producing quality short series such as "人。情。味"("A Taste of Life") /" 遗失的美好"("Disappearing Past")/ "谢幕人生"("Applaud to Life"), which evoked much nostalgia and fond memories from viewers. Other than "Tuesday Report", members also highlighted programmes which featured thought-provoking human dramas such as "人间。事"("Stories") and "梦捕手"("Extraordinary Asian").
- The committee expressed appreciation for the programme "中国呛新族"("Hard Rock China") that is produced locally on Channel 8, as it is one of the few Mandarin productions that explores business and social-economic aspects of the China market, with a focus on the younger generation of Chinese.
- 14 Committee members suggested that MediaCorp could consider offering programmes with good info-ed content such as "星期二特写"("Tuesday Report") and "中国 哈新族" ("Hard Rock China") for sale to the public, or even consider investing in a digital library to archive these programmes for the public to retrieve with the payment of a fee as these programmes were educational and parents/ teachers would find them beneficial in educating the young on current affairs issues.
- ACCESS noted and welcomed info-ed programmes on parenting and childcare presented in a refreshing and engaging manner which gave useful insights on the topic. Examples of such programmes include the talk show "大手奉小手"("Hands of Love") in which host Mark Lee invited new parents to share their parenting experiences and the reality-based programme "爸爸秘笈"("Daddy 101"), where a different celebrity father shared his parenting woes and solutions in each episode.
- 16 Programmes focusing on the Arts such as "处处有艺术" ("The Art Effect"), "艺术无国界"("Artistic Journeys") and 艺术合作社("Arts and Hearts"), which presents various

forms of art in different ways and has contributed to bridging the gap between art and viewers, were also commended by the Committee.

With regard to the news bulletins, the Committee welcomed regular segments that were introduced in Channel 8's 10pm news bulletin on Sundays such as the "Cyber Wellness" segment which kept viewers updated with practical tips on using the internet and trends in the cyber world. The Committee also suggested that Channel 8 considers developing an online application for smart phones/devices where users can access news easily, similar to what was done for English news items produced on MediaCorp's CNA.

(b) Dramas

- The Committee was heartened to note that the primetime slot of 7pm, has been occupied by local content since the Taiwanese drama "爱" ("Love") ended its run. It is glad to see productions such as "甘榜情" ("Kampong Ties") and "正义武馆" ("Code of Honour") during this drama slot, which also incorporated Malaysian locations and cast. ACCESS encouraged MediaCorp to be pro-active in looking out for opportunities for overseas collaborations in order to harness resources beyond Singapore.
- 19 ACCESS noted the setting up of new TV companies in Hong Kong as well as the increased popularity of Taiwanese idol dramas and artistes, and urged broadcasters to explore collaborating with China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.
- 20 Of the local dramas produced over the past two years, the Committee found the following to be of the best quality: "四个门牌一个梦" ("Love Thy Neighbour") which explored social issues of concern to Singaporeans; "正义武馆" ("Code of Honour") for its inspirational storyline and authentic historical setting; and "行医"("The Oath") for providing a balance of viewpoints and exploring ethical dilemmas between from Western medicine and TCM.
- The Committee also had praises for a few series by local independent production companies such as "秘密花园"("Secret Garden"), "拍。卖"("Secrets for Sale"), and "注。定" ("Show Hand"), which it found to contain compelling storylines and quality acting. In addition, the Committee expressed appreciation for dramas based on professionals such as the police drama "警徽天职" ("C.L.I.F"), the legal drama "走进走出"("The Family Court"), and "995" ("Rescue 995") which featured paramedics at the medical frontline.
- 22 However, the Committee expressed some concerns with dramas that explored mature themes or featured disturbing content, but was rated PG and scheduled before 10pm. Citing the Channel 8 drama "最火搭档2" ("Unriddle 2") as an example of a drama which contained disturbing themes such as child prostitution, gang-rape and violent deaths, ACCESS noted that undesirable values and themes such as violence and brutality remained one of the key features in some local dramas, and they opined that programmes need not rely on violence to engage viewers

- As for acquired dramas, the Committee applauded MediaCorp's prompt acquisition and airing of "步步惊心"("Scarlet Heart"), which had been widely popular in the region. Members found this drama to be a good source of information for young children on Chinese history and culture, while featuring a high standard of the Chinese language. ACCESS would like to encourage the acquisition of such quality dramas, as opposed to long running Taiwanese dramas such as "爱"("Love"),"夜市人生"("Life")or "金色摩天轮"("The Golden Ferris Wheel"),which focused on themes such as family feuds, hatred and revenge. The Committee also noted that subtitles in two languages (Chinese and English)is provided for acquired historical dramas such as "Scarlet Heart", as well as locally produced dramas, which could help engage non-Chinese speaking viewers.
- With regard to the Hokkien Jia Le channel (Channel 88) on SingNet's mioTV, ACCESS observed that some of the Hokkien dramas scheduled during family viewing hours contain undesirable themes such as revenge and violence. Recognising that this is a self-packaged channel, the Committee urged the broadcaster to exercise greater discretion in its selection of dramas to ensure that they are suitable for the timeslots they are scheduled in.

(c) Variety and Entertainment Programmes

- 25 ACCESS welcomed programmes such as "小村大任务" ("Mission Possible"), "梦。窑匠"("Dream Potter"), "薪火之旅" ("Firestarters") as well as returning series "仁心侠旅2"("The Activist's Journey 2") and "明星志工队 2" ("Stars for a Cause 2"), which highlighted inspirational life stories and humanitarian efforts. As the programmes are often crosscultural in nature, highly engaging and also feature various local talents, ACCESS would like to encourage the broadcaster to market such quality productions overseas.
- 26 ACCESS opined that while tear-jerking or "emo-tainment" programmes such as "心 晴大动员"("Life Transformers") struck a chord with viewers, programmes on social causes presented in a light-hearted and upbeat manner were equally inspiring. Examples include "名厨出走记"("Love on a Plate") and "梦。窑匠"("Dream Potter").
- 27 ACCESS found some of the food programmes such as "食在好源头"("Food Source") commendable as the host Pornsak could engage viewers with his lively presentation and delivery of information. "吃出一碗文化" ("Bowl of Culture") and "大飨宴" ("The Banquet") were applauded for weaving nuggets of cultural information about the cuisines featured into the programme.
- Z8 Committee members shared that they found language programmes such as "小兵迎 大将"("Gatekeepers") , "华文智多星" ("Chinese Language Challenge") and "爱说才会赢" ("Tongue Twister") educational and useful as youth could learn more about the Chinese language. However, ACCESS found the cross-dressing of DJ Dennis Chew as the character "Aunty Lucy" in "Gatekeepers" to be unnecessary as it did not add any value to the programme.
- 29 The Committee also enjoyed the studio-based contests such as "IQ超人"("Super IQ") and "Best Denki 智夺天下" ("Best Denki Show"). However, it noted that the questions in the

programmes tended to be mathematically based and suggested that the programmes feature more multi-faceted challenges .

30 ACCESS also expressed appreciation for SCV's efforts to provide local content on its self-packaged channel E City (Channel 825) in the form of programmes such as the Singapore edition of "女人我最大" ("Lady First"), "功夫新世代"("New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition"), "超级星光大道"("One Million Star") and "平价妙厨家族大比拼 "("NTUC Fairprice Cookoff"). Members were of the view that such programmes enabled their self-packaged channels to stand out from the other regional channels that it offers.

(d) Children and Youth Programmes

- ACCESS was heartened to see a greater variety of children's programmes on the weekend morning time belt. It found programmes such as "绿色假期" ("Little Wwoofers"), " 荒岛冒险记" ("Stranded")," 我的小小发明" ("Think Big") and "快乐火柴" ("Magic Matchsticks") educational and engaging. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the broadcaster's attempts to repeat the programmes at various timeslots during weekday afternoons with more cross-promotional efforts of the programmes on other channels, thus increasing their exposure.
- 32 ACCESS also recommended that the broadcaster considers producing programmes for preschoolers which involve collaboration with other parties, in order to extend their reach. For example, "绿色假期" ("Little Wwoofers") which looked at green issues could be produced in collaboration with NParks and schools to provide the programme with fresh angles.
- 33 ACCESS also commended programmes targeted at or engaging the youth such as the programme "爱要怎么说" ("Shall We Talk") on sexuality education and the studio-based talkshow "你在囧什么" ("Let's Talk"), where a group of youths discuss topics such as relationship, friendship and peer pressure. The Committee found it encouraging that MediaCorp covered topics seldom explored in info-ed programmes, especially those targeted at this age group.
- The Committee was heartened to note the introduction of a new kids belt between 10:30am to 12:30pm on Sundays on SCV's self-packaged channel, E-City (Ch 111/825), as well as a new 24-hour Chinese children's channel, Momo Kids Channel (Ch 321). ACCESS also expressed its wish for more programmes on the sports channels to come with Mandarin commentaries should resources permit.

(e) Programmes for the Elderly

35 With regard to programmes for the Elderly, the Committee noted that current choices are still largely limited to "黄金年华之黄金年华" and "黄金年华之斗歌竞艺"

("Golden Age"). ACCESS urged for more programmes to be produced, which could be in various genres and presentation styles, and not limited to karaoke competitions.

The Committee suggested talk shows, cooking programmes or even info-ed/reality programmes which could feature senior citizens imparting their skills or sharing their experiences with the younger generation, e.g. in areas involving culinary or historical knowledge, thus promoting inter-generation bonding and understanding. Citing an example of a Hong Kong TVB travelogue "蔡澜叹世界" ("Cai Lan Around The World") hosted by Cai Lan in which the 71-year-old presenter-cum-writer brought a group of youths on a journey to visit places or old buildings of historical value, the Committee illustrated the fact that programmes for the Elderly could be engaging.

(f) Radio Programmes

- 37 The Committee opined that the grasp of Chinese language by children is an increasingly important issue to parents. Hence, more youth-oriented programmes such as on-air Chinese story-telling segments might be of interest to listeners, as parents may want to expose their children to more Chinese programmes to help improve their command of the language. Members also suggested that MediaCorp's radio stations could collaborate with schools or tuition and education centres to produce radio programmes targeted at the youth, where they may be directly involved in the production of such programmes (e.g. in the form of "young journalist" or "young newscaster").
- ACCESS also mentioned that there appeared to be insufficient programmes related to Chinese folk songs and traditional music for listeners above 40 years old. Members opined that if the music is packaged or categorized according to various themes such as drama or action, and incorporated into story-telling, these could appeal to listeners of different ages and not just to the older generation.
- 39 ACCESS also encouraged FM 1003 to continue leveraging on the resources of SPH News Centre and suggested that some popular columns in the "副刊"("Fukan") section of the Chinese newspaper "联合早报" ("Lianhe Zaobao") can possibly be adapted into a radio programme, to maximize their potential.

(IV) OTHER PROGRAMMING CONCERNS

(a) New rating and logos adopted

40 Following the harmonisation of ratings across film and TV platforms, ACCESS noted the use of new PG13 rating and the new rating logos on TV, with relevant consumer advice,

such as "Juvenile Delinquency" in the PG rated "边缘父子" ("On the Fringe"). However, ACCESS also observed that some PG-rated programmes did not come with any consumer advice [e.g. "四个门牌一个梦" ("Love Thy Neighbour") and "再见单人床" ("Pillow Talk")]. ACCESS was also heartened to see the same use of ratings and advisories on self-packaged pay TV channels such as E-City (Ch 111/825) and VV Drama(Ch 855), programmes such as "潜行狙击"("Lives of Omission") and "勇士们" ("Soldiers") using the NC16 rating and logo. The Committee would like to encourage broadcasters to proactively provide consumer advice for programmes whenever possible.

(b) Use of new media tools

ACCESS was glad to note that MediaCorp was using new media tools such as the QR scanner on smart phones and its video website XINMSN, which not only allow viewers to catch up on TV programmes, but was also used to premiere programmes like "大牌88" ("Blk 88") and incorporated interactive features such as online voting for programme concepts and online discussions of story development for "实验视" ("TesTube"). The Committee would like to encourage the broadcasters to continue to engage their viewers through the use of both traditional and new media platforms.

(V) CONCLUSION

- ACCESS has in this Report, highlighted areas where the broadcasters did well in terms of the range and quality of Chinese programmes available on TV and radio, as well as areas for improvement. While the Committee found local productions in the genres of infoed, children, youth and drama to be commendable, it would like to encourage greater variety of content for the Elderly.
- In view of convergence and the rapidly changing media environment, the Committee also encourages collaborations between media companies and other overseas counterparts or relevant sectors, so as to synergize resources and allow for a more vibrant mix of programmes. The broadcasters are also encouraged to tap into different media platforms to create innovative programmes, and to maximize the reach of its programmes.
- Responses from the broadcasters to the Report can be found in **Annex B**.

[ANNEX A]

ACCESS MEMBERS

Chairman:

Associate Professor Lee Cheuk Yin (李焯然副教授)

Associate Professor Department of Chinese Studies National University of Singapore

Vice-Chairman:

Mr Leng Chin Fai (凌展辉先生)

Executive Director Fei Yue Community Service

Members:

Mr Cheong Soon Keng (锺顺庆先生)

Director

SK Cheong Realty Service

Mr Chia Ti Yu (谢智友先生)

Divisional Director Finance ITE Headquarters

Ms Peggie Chua (蔡翠娥女士)

President

The Teochew Drama Association and Event Project Director, PR Consultant

Dr Foo Tee Tuan (符诗专博士)

Deputy Director

UniSim Centre for Chinese Studies

Mr Gui Kai Chong (魏凯仲先生)

Instructor in Media Studies
Department of Communications and New Media
National University of Singapore

Mdm Heng Boey Hong (王梅凤女士)

Principal

Nanyang Girls High School

Mrs Hwang-Lee Poh See (李宝丝女士)

Part-time Counsellor Raffles Girl Primary School

Ms Lee Siew Li (李秀丽小姐)

Manager, Corporate Communications Buisiness China

Ms Samantha Loh Seow May (罗小玫女士)

Assistant Director (Institute of Public Administration and Management) Civil Service College

Mr Ray Ng (黄子琛先生)

Course Manager, Chinese Media & Communication School of Humanities, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Mr Marcus Phuah Kok Liang(潘国良先生)

Lawyer

Marcus Phuah & Co.

Ms Tan Miao Ling(陈妙玲女士)

Principal

Guangyang Secondary School

Mr Tay Tze Siong(郑志祥先生)

Assistant Manager

Business Communications, Singapore Pools Pte Ltd

Ms Toh Shi Ling, Shirleen (卓诗翎小姐)

Teacher

Anglo Chinese School (Independent)

Mr Wan Shung Ming (尹崇明先生)

Executive Director

Tin Sing Goldsmiths Pte Ltd

Mr Wong Lin Tam (王连三先生)

Managing Director

Wang Media Consulting Pte Ltd

Ms Xie Hui Qun (谢惠群小姐)

Manager

DBS Marketing, Consumer Banking Group

[Annex B]

Broadcasters' Response to Report

The following are responses from broadcasters to ACCESS's feedback and recommendations given in this report.

(a) MediaCorp

Television

News, Current Affairs, Cultural and Info-Educational Programmes

In response to ACCESS's suggestion of offering quality info-ed programmes for sale to the public and investing in a digital library to archive these programmes, Channel 8 will work with XINMSN to ensure that as much of its info-ed content is made available on XINMSN Catch-up TV service as possible, subject to rights clearance.

MediaCorp noted the Committee's comments on info-ed programmes on parenting and childcare, and will continue to produce refreshing content of this genre to engage the viewers. Channel 8 also informed that there are plans to feature a reality-documentary series in the first quarter of 2013 which will compare the life experiences of 3 sets of parents in 3 cities (Singapore, Tokyo and Shanghai) helping their children prepare for their first major exams.

MediaCorp indicated that they intend to continue with the collaborations with National Arts Council and MDA on arts programmes. Channel 8 will be commissioning another docudrama series this year to tell the stories of 8 real-life patients whose lives are changed by arts and music.

On developing an online application for smart phones/devices for easy access of Chinese news content, MediaCorp noted the Committee's comments and also mentioned that Channel 8 is currently offering "live" news updates to our viewers through the Channel 8 News Facebook page, and it is also working with XINMSN and Capital 95.8FM to offer a 360-experience for Chinese News content consumers in Singapore.

<u>Drama</u>

In response to the Committee's wish to see more overseas collaborations, MediaCorp noted the Committee's comment and will continue to explore co-production opportunity with countries in the region that can offer viewers dramas with fresh angles.

On drama with mature themes and disturbing content, MediaCorp noted the Committee's comments and will continue to be mindful of the treatment and execution of such themes.

MediaCorp commented that its acquisition team is constantly on the lookout for quality drama series from the region to provide good mix of offerings to its viewers. Besides "步步

惊心"("Scarlet Heart"), Channel 8 is currently showing "西游记"("Journey to the West") on weekday nights and it will also be launching another popular literary classic drama series "水浒传"("All Men Are Brothers") in first quarter of 2013.

Variety and Entertainment Programmes

MediaCorp clarified that all of its current programmes are being marketed to regional broadcasters through its Content Distribution team. Although the demand for such programmes is not substantial, it will continue to market its info-ed programme to its regional partners and clients.

With regard to the use of cross-dressed character "Aunty Lucy" in "Gatekeepers", MediaCorp said that the intention of using such a character in the show was to enhance the show's entertainment value. Notwithstanding this, MediaCorp has noted the committee's comment and will review the need of featuring cross-dressing characters in its future programmes.

On more multi-faceted challenges for studio-based IQ test programmes, MediaCorp agreed with the Committee's comment and will seek to improve on the type of questions asked in future programmes of this nature.

Children and Youth Programmes

On collaborating with different partners to produce programmes for preschoolers, MediaCorp said that Ch 8 has worked with the other TV channels in MediaCorp to launch a new generation multi-platform project "优优猫"("Mat Yoyo") earlier this year, to offer valuable learning content to the preschoolers. In addition, the Singapore Media Academy also organised a series of courses and workshops for the children with reference to content in the series. The programme's online platform and its merchandise were also other efforts in engaging the preschoolers.

On youth info-ed programmes. MediaCorp informed that Ch U has received good feedback from the public with regard to the programmes mentioned by the Committee, and has already commissioned the 3rd season of "你在圈什么"("Let's Talk"). To further enhance the direct engagement with our audiences, it is also planning for a "second-screen" experience for the viewers to discuss the topics online simultaneously.

Programmes for the Elderly

MediaCorp informed that as part of its new initiatives for 2012, Ch 8 will launch a new locally produced series targeted at the elderly, entitled "银色嘉年华" ("Silver Carnival") on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3.30 – 4.30pm starting from Sep 2012. MediaCorp said that this new programme will offer the elderly viewers a wide range of lifestyle and info-ed content that promotes an active lifestyle for the senior citizens, as well as provide a platform to showcase their hobbies and talents.

Other Programming Concerns

(a) New rating and logos adopted

With regard to carrying consumer advice for programmes rated PG, MediaCorp clarified that Channel 8 carries the appropriate advisory for selected PG-rated programmes whenever there is any issue deemed to be of concern and should be highlighted to parents. However, for a programme that has no particular stand-out element, it will usually rate the programme as PG without any advisory being used, which is a common practice for cinema and video releases classified by the BFC.

(b) Use of new media tools

MediaCorp noted the Committee's comments on the use of new media tools in programmes, and informed the Committee that it is constantly improving its production capabilities and technologies to allow greater interaction and engagement with viewers through the use of both traditional and new media platforms. Apart from efforts in "大牌 88" ("BIk 88") and "实验视" ('TesTube"), Channel 8 has worked with XINMSN to launch a "我和偶像有个约会" ("Date A Star") series online before the programme was featured on TV, and Channel U's 3rd season of "你在囧什么" ("Let's Talk") will also have a "second-screen" experience for viewers to discuss on the topics online simultaneously. MediaCorp said that it will continue to explore new ways in bringing new viewing experiences to its viewers.

Radio

In response to the Committee's call for more youth-oriented programmes, MediaCorp said that more of such programmes have been planned. Capital 95.8M just launched the programme, "Campus Talk" with students from junior colleges and other tertiary institutions, in which youths can air their views on a given topic. The programme was broadcast for a period of 13 weeks started from Wednesday 27 June 2012 from 8.20pm to 8.45pm and will be repeated on Sundays between 12pm to 1pm. In addition, Capital 95.8FM will also be running a broadcast journalist contest in September this year.

Capital 95.8FM also has a programme for children that is broadcast from Mondays to Fridays at 8.35pm and on Sundays at 9am. The programme features story-telling, songs and conversations with children aged 9-12 years. In addition, Capital 95.8FM currently airs cultural programmes including interviews and segment featuring Chinese orchestral music and folk songs.

Conclusion

MediaCorp expressed appreciation for the Committee's recognition of the range and quality of Chinese programmes offered by Channels 8 and U over the past two years and efforts to improve its offerings to the viewers. It indicated that it would continue to invest in resources to produce innovative programmes, and to foster more collaboration to maximize the reach and engagement of viewers.

(b) Starhub's Response

StarHub welcomes the release of the 2010-2012 ACCESS Report and noted the comments made in the report on its programming content. Starhub said that it is always conscious of its customers' needs, and will strive to provide quality content that caters to their needs.

(c) SingNet's Response

In response to the Committee's comments on Jia Le Channel (Channel 88), SingNet said that it is cognizant that the Jia Le Channel is a channel for family-viewing, hence all dramas shown during primetime are rated 'PG'. It will continue to provide the appropriate rating and advisory to inform and guide viewers of the nature of the programmes. It also provides English and Chinese subtitles in all primetime Hokkien dramas on Jia Le Channel, and will continue to provide similar subtitles where possible, to engage non-Chinese speaking viewers.

In addition, SingNet said that Jia Le Channel also offers variety programmes that cater to elderly, which is in-line with ACCESS's recommendation for more of such programmes. Examples of such programmes on the channel include "金曲百老汇" ("Golden Classics") and "超级夜总会)" ("Super Nightclub"), in which singers perform songs from the 1960s to 1990s. It also offers travel/lifestyle programmes which would appeal to active seniors who are interested in such programming.

In relation to acquired dramas, Singnet informed that it recently acquired and aired a highly-rated period drama from China, "后宫•甄嬛传"("Empresses in the Palace") on Jia Le Channel and it believes that its viewers were entertained by this acclaimed period drama.

In relation to children and youth programmes, SingNet responded that mio TV currently offers a dedicated educational Mandarin kids channel – ETTV Yoyo (东森幼幼台, Channel 26). This channel is currently Taiwan's top Mandarin kids' channel which shows quality educational programmes.

SAFRA Radio

SAFRA Radio has noted ACCESS' comments on and recommendations for radio programmes.

SPH UnionWorks

SPH UnionWorks has noted ACCESS' comments on and recommendations for radio programmes.