

Welcoming Speech of the BA Chairman

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Broadcasting Authority ("BA"), I would like to thank you for coming to the public hearing this evening.

The domestic free television programme service licences held by Asia Television Limited ("ATV") and Television Broadcasts Limited ("TVB") will expire in December 2003. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow the BA to collect views from members of the public on the performance of ATV and TVB. The BA would take into account these views when formulating recommendations about the renewal of the licences of ATV and TVB.

As the regulator for the broadcasting industry, the BA has to strike a balance between maintaining a business environment conducive to the broadcasting industry on one hand, and ensuring that the television programme services provided by the licensees could meet the public needs and expectation on the other. The hearing this evening provides a good opportunity for Members of the BA and representatives of ATV and TVB to get together and listen to your views.

In the public hearing this evening, representatives of ATV and TVB will each present a short video introducing their services, after which there will be an intermission. Then, we will have about an hour's time for you to express your opinions on the services of ATV and TVB. I will now hand over the time to ATV's representative.