



社區參與廣播服務
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
BROADCASTING SERVICE

Community Involvement Broadcasting Service

Handbook | For Seasons 55 and 56

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1 Community Involvement Broadcasting Service

- 1.1. To implement the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was tasked to devote part of its airtime to provide a platform for the community, non-governmental organisations and the underprivileged to participate in broadcasting.
- 1.2. RTHK provides funding for application by organisations or individuals interested in producing programmes under the CIBS.

2 Application

2.1. Objectives

- 2.1.1. The CIBS seeks to promote a wide range of social gains to the community, namely-
 - 2.1.1.1. plurality, diversity and social inclusion;
 - 2.1.1.2. mutual respect, social empathy and civic mindedness;
 - 2.1.1.3. creativity, uniqueness and talent nurturing; and
 - 2.1.1.4. community involvement.
- 2.1.2. The aim of the CIBS is not to look for professional broadcasters. The basic requirements for a CIBS producer (CIBS Producer) are originality and the ability to communicate the intended messages through broadcasting.

2.2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.2.1. An organisation meeting the following eligibility criteria may make an application under the CIBS:
 - 2.2.1.1. (a) being a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) or the former Companies Ordinance;
 - (b) being a charitable institution exempted from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112); or
 - (c) being a subsidiary, affiliated member or unit of the above company or charitable institution; and
 - 2.2.1.2. having legal capacity to enter into a contract in its own name.Applicants shall assign an organisation representative for the application who will be responsible for any matter related to the application. Employees of RTHK cannot act as the organisation representative for the application.
- 2.2.2. Individuals
Applicants must be Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above at the time of the application.

- 2.2.3. The CIBS aims to provide service for the community, non-governmental organisations and the underprivileged. Applications by organisations in the structure of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (Government) or public officers(1) are not accepted.
- 2.2.4. Category II service providers of RTHK cannot apply for the CIBS or act as the organisation representative for the application.

2.3. Application Procedures and Rules

- 2.3.1. Two rounds of application will be invited in each year. Two seasons of CIBS programmes will be selected in each round. The ceiling of broadcasting hours in each season will be released on cibs.rthk.hk.
- 2.3.2. Each applicant⁽²⁾ can only submit one application in each season. Applications in breach of the above are subject to disqualification.
- 2.3.3. Applicants shall log on to the website cibs.rthk.hk to complete the application form. For those who wish to apply for funding shall fill in the part of “Funding Support for Production”. All applications shall be submitted by the submission deadline.
- 2.3.4. The Secretariat will send the applicants an acknowledgement of receipt by post or email within ten days from the receipt of the application form.
- 2.3.5. Personal data (as defined in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486)) contained in the application form will be used by RTHK for processing the application for the CIBS and any other purposes directly related to, arising from or incidental to the aforementioned purpose.

¹ Any person holding an office of emolument under the Government, whether such office be permanent or temporary.

² Organisations as well as the subsidiaries, affiliated members or units of the aforementioned organisations may submit an application independently as long as the eligibility criteria under paragraph 2.2.1. above are fulfilled.

3 Selection

3.1. Composition of Selection Committee

The selection committee comprises seven members from different fields and professions (Selection Committee), including an individual familiar with ethnic minority issues. The chairperson and all members are appointed by the Director of Broadcasting (D of B).

3.2. Terms of Reference for Selection Committee

- 3.2.1. To assess applications for the CIBS and make recommendations to D of B for approval.
- 3.2.2. To vet the applications for the funding support for production, and revise their budgets if necessary.
- 3.2.3. Deliberations and decisions made by the Selection Committee have to be in accordance with the CIBS selection process and criteria (see paragraph 3.3) and the funding criteria (see paragraph 7).
- 3.2.4. To advise RTHK, through the Secretariat, on any matters related to the CIBS.

3.3. Selection Process and Criteria

The selection process is divided into:

3.3.1. First Round Selection

Public voting and scoring by the assessors will be conducted concurrently. The full scores for public voting and scoring by the assessors are 25 and 75 respectively. The total score is 100.

3.3.1.1. Public Voting

3.3.1.1.1. The relevant information of programme proposals will be uploaded to cibs.rthk.hk for public voting purpose. The votes received will serve as the indicator of public views.

3.3.1.1.2. The public may add “Like” to any programme under application and may add “Like” to more than one programme. Each individual can only submit a vote once.

3.3.1.1.3. Trends of the public voting will be updated on cibs.rthk.hk.

3.3.1.2. Scoring by the Assessors

3.3.1.2.1. Scoring is made according to the content of the application form.

3.3.1.2.2. Score is derived from two aspects, namely **social gains**⁽³⁾ from the CIBS programmes and **feasibility**⁽⁴⁾ of programme productions. The full scores for **social gains** and **feasibility** are 40 and 35 respectively.

3.3.1.2.3. If an assessor declares a conflict of interest with any applicant(s), he/she shall not score the application concerned.

3.3.1.3. Result of the First Round Selection

3.3.1.3.1. The Secretariat will add up the scores from the public voting and the assessors to arrive at the scores obtained by each application in the first round selection.

3.3.1.3.2. Having considered the scorings of all applications, the broadcasting hours allocated for the CIBS in the season concerned and response of application for all programme themes etc., the Selection Committee will shortlist the entries for interview. If a member of the Selection Committee declares a conflict of interest with any applicant(s), he/she shall not assess the application concerned.

3.3.2. Second Round Selection

3.3.2.1. The Selection Committee will interview the applicants on the interview list and raise questions on their programme proposals to further understand their applications.

3.3.2.2. Having considered the performance of the applicants in the interview and the result in the first round selection, the scores given by the Selection Committee for each application will be considered as the result of the second round selection. A total score

³ **Social Gains**

- plurality, diversity and social inclusion
- mutual respect, social empathy and civic mindedness
- creativity, uniqueness and talent nurturing
- community involvement

In general, empowering applicants whose voices are not usually heard in public or who have never been selected by the CIBS to produce radio programmes can be considered as promoting better social gains.

⁴ **Feasibility**

- the project feasibility
- the organising ability of applicants
- the track record of applicants in CIBS (applicable only to the second round selection)

In general, applications by organisations or recorded programmes can be considered as more feasible.

of 100 is derived from two aspects, namely **social gains** from the CIBS programmes and **feasibility of programme productions**. The full scores for **social gains** and **feasibility of programme productions** are 55 and 45 respectively.

3.3.3. Final Selection Result

- 3.3.3.1. Having considered the result in the second round selection, the broadcasting hours allocated for the CIBS in the season concerned and for different programme themes, the Selection Committee will propose the successful and waitlisted entries. In case the same score is given to different applicants, priority will be accorded to the one whose application has not been selected before.
- 3.3.3.2. With the approval of D of B, the entries proposed by the Selection Committee will be deemed as successful for that round of application.
- 3.3.3.3. After the confirmation of the final selection result, the Secretariat will notify the applicants of the selection result within ten days and the comments within six weeks.
- 3.3.3.4. There will be no appeal mechanism for the applicants. The successful applicants will be disqualified if they refuse to accept the selection result.

3.3.4. Signing of Agreement

- 3.3.4.1. The Secretariat will brief the successful applicants on the terms of an agreement on the CIBS to be entered into between the Government and the successful applicant (Agreement), the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201), the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards, and the Charter of RTHK, RTHK Producers' Guidelines and the Editorial Policies and Processes of RTHK.
- 3.3.4.2. The Secretariat will notify the successful applicants in writing about the signing of the Agreement.
- 3.3.4.3. The Government will enter into the Agreement with the successful applicant in which the duties, rights and liabilities of both parties will be clearly stipulated. After the signing of the Agreement, the successful applicant will be regarded as a CIBS Producer.

4 Duties and Liabilities of the CIBS Producers

- 4.1. Fulfilling duties and liabilities stipulated in the Agreement signed with the Government, producing programmes and being held liable for any breach of broadcasting regulations and standards.
- 4.2. Earning income or gaining interest from the programme productions or activities related to the production except for the allocated funding is prohibited.
- 4.3. Assigning a project coordinator who will be responsible for the management of their CIBS programme.
- 4.4. Monitoring the use of funding.
- 4.5. Complying with all applicable laws (including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance and the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201)), regulations and by-laws of Hong Kong, the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards issued by the Communications Authority, and the Charter of RTHK, RTHK Producers' Guidelines and the Editorial Policies and Processes of RTHK.
- 4.6. Ensuring compliance with the technical standards for broadcasting.
- 4.7. Sourcing studios and other technical facilities required for the production.

5 Role and Support of RTHK

- 5.1. Providing information on cibs.rthk.hk to applicants interested in the CIBS. Topics to be covered include technical requirement, broadcasting regulations and standards, procedures for procuring services and goods, copyright requirements and values of public service broadcasting.
- 5.2. Administering and facilitating the CIBS, and ensuring the CIBS Producers are in compliance with the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards issued by the Communications Authority, and the Charter of RTHK, RTHK Producers' Guidelines and the Editorial Policies and Processes of RTHK. RTHK will not be involved in the editorial matters of the programmes unless upon the request of the CIBS Producers or in case of non-compliance with the aforesaid guidelines by the CIBS Producers.
- 5.3. Assigning RTHK facilitators to follow up on each CIBS programme and requiring the CIBS Producers to comply with the terms of the Agreement.
- 5.4. Ensuring the proper use of public funding by the CIBS Producers with funding support.
- 5.5. Reserving the right to terminate the Agreement by serving written notice upon the CIBS Producers if the CIBS Producers fail to observe or perform any of the obligations under the Agreement and (in the case of a breach capable of being remedied) have failed to remedy the breach to the satisfaction of RTHK within a specified period after the issuance of a written notice by RTHK to the CIBS Producers .

6 Submission of Programmes

The CIBS Producers shall complete production of the first two episodes of programmes around four weeks before the scheduled broadcasting date or on the date as agreed by RTHK and send them to RTHK. From the third episode onwards, programmes shall be submitted around two weeks before the scheduled broadcasting date or on the date as agreed by RTHK. If the programmes fail to comply with the broadcasting standards, RTHK will request the CIBS Producers to amend their outputs and submit the revised programmes to RTHK within 7 days or on a date designated by RTHK. Outputs shall be submitted in wav format of computer file (48 kHz, 16 bit) or any format required by RTHK.

7 Funding Criteria

- 7.1. The CIBS Producers with funding support are required to pay for the production expenses before applying for reimbursement.
- 7.2. Reimbursement will only be made on an accountable basis to the approved items specified in the Agreement.
- 7.3. Unless otherwise agreed by RTHK, the approved unit rate and/or quantity of each approved item shall not be increased in any event.
- 7.4. Funding support is subject to a ceiling of HK\$7,500 per half-hour episode (HK\$97,500 for 13 episodes) and HK\$15,000 per one-hour episode (HK\$195,000 for 13 episodes).
- 7.5. As voluntarism is the core spirit of the CIBS, each production crew member may claim for a standard honorarium of HK\$300 per episode. The respective quota for each eligible post for honorarium in each episode is as follows: one for project coordinator, producer, and technical producer, two for scriptwriter and researcher, and eight for presenter/actor. The overall quota is ten. A person assuming more than one post for the same episode can only receive an honorarium of HK\$300.

8 Procurement of Services and Goods

- 8.1. Services and goods shall be procured in an open, fair and value for money manner. Actual, perceived and potential conflict of interests shall be avoided during the procurement process. The services and goods acquired shall be directly relevant to the programme production.
- 8.2. For the procurement of services and goods up to HK\$1,000, a verbal or written quotation shall be obtained. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the charges/prices are reasonable. For the procurement of services and goods over HK\$1,000 but not more than HK\$50,000, at least two written quotations shall be obtained. For the procurement of services and goods over HK\$50,000, at least five written quotations shall be obtained. The CIBS Producers shall obtain services and goods at the best value for money.
- 8.3. Studio rental hours shall be procured in advance. Considering that the participation in the CIBS is on a voluntary basis, arrangements for programme recording can be flexible. The CIBS Producers are allowed to divide the studio rental hours into sessions. Each session shall have a minimum of 8 hours and can be assigned to different days. The CIBS Producers may regard a session as a unit for procurement. For instance, if the estimated total recording hours are 40, they can be divided into 5 sessions of 8 hours each. The CIBS Producers can procure the service 5 times. For procurement up to HK\$50,000, at least two written quotations shall be obtained; for procurement over HK\$50,000, at least five written quotations shall be obtained.
- 8.4. The total expenditure on music CDs shall not exceed HK\$1,000 and the maximum number shall not exceed 10 pieces.
- 8.5. Goods purchased with the funding support shall be handed over to RTHK on request upon completion of the programme production.

9 Payment Arrangements

- 9.1. Applicants who wish to apply for funding support for production shall have a bank account in Hong Kong for payment purpose.
- 9.2. Applicants may apply for an advance disbursement of 20% of the approved funding (Advance Payment). If the application is accepted by the Selection Committee, the applicant shall submit a payment request form (Request Form) to the Secretariat within 30 days from the effective date of the Agreement. If the applicant fails to submit the Request Form within the specified period, the application for the Advance Payment will not be considered further.
- 9.3. The funding support for production will be disbursed on an accountable basis to the CIBS Producers.
- 9.4. The CIBS Producers shall submit to RTHK all delivery materials, including all episodes of the programme, a self-evaluation report, certificates of royalty on music or information and a limited assurance engagement report (enclosed with a statement of expenditure) which shall be prepared, signed and certified as being accurate and complete by a practice unit as defined under the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council Ordinance (Cap. 588) that is not in any way connected with the CIBS Producers and the programmes, by the deadline designated by RTHK. After RTHK has confirmed the episodes submitted are in compliance with the broadcasting specifications and the other delivery materials submitted are valid, the CIBS Producers will be asked to send the Request Form to RTHK within six weeks.
- 9.5. In the event that the limited assurance engagement report indicates that the total expenditure on the production of the programme is less than the total amount of the approved funding, RTHK is entitled to reduce the total amount of the approved funding to an amount equal to the total expenditure amount as indicated in the limited assurance engagement report. As for the expenditures exceeding the approved funding, it shall be solely borne by the CIBS Producers.
- 9.6. Any payments of the approved funding will only be disbursed within 30 days after RTHK acknowledges the receipt of the Request Form from the CIBS Producers.

10 Control Mechanism of the CIBS

10.1. Control Mechanism of the CIBS programmes

- 10.1.1. CIBS programmes shall comply with RTHK's requirements that include but are not limited to the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards issued by the Communications Authority, and the Charter of RTHK, RTHK Producers' Guidelines and the Editorial Policies and Processes of RTHK, and D of B shall have the final decision in this respect.
- 10.1.2. RTHK is responsible for ensuring public accountability of the CIBS. The CIBS Producers will be required to submit self-evaluation reports upon completion of the 13 episodes. RTHK will provide supplementary comments on the self-evaluation reports where appropriate. The self-evaluation reports will be used for the review of the CIBS.
- 10.1.3. In view of the fact that the CIBS programmes are publicly-funded, the Intellectual Property Rights (as defined in the Agreement) of the CIBS programmes will be vested in RTHK. The CIBS Producers shall seek the prior consent of RTHK if they intend to use their programmes for other purposes.

10.2. Control Mechanism of funding support for production

- 10.2.1. Applicants will be required to state the target audience and expected deliverables when submitting applications for consideration by the Selection Committee.
- 10.2.2. RTHK will monitor the production progress of the CIBS programmes.
- 10.2.3. The CIBS Producers with funding support shall submit to RTHK all delivery materials. (see paragraph 9.4) to the satisfaction of D of B.
- 10.2.4. RTHK reserves the right to withhold the payment, or to take action for the repayment, of any portion of the approved funding in the event that: (a) the programme or any delivery materials are not provided to the satisfaction of RTHK; (b) RTHK has reasonable grounds to believe that the CIBS Producer is or will be liable to the Government under the indemnity clause of the Agreement for any loss or damage suffered by the Government; or (c) the withholding is required by any applicable law.
- 10.2.5. RTHK reserves the right to seek compensation from the CIBS Producer if the Agreement is terminated by the Government by reason of the CIBS Producer's failure to observe or perform any obligations under the Agreement.

- 10.2.6. The CIBS Producers with funding support are required to maintain all relevant records, including procurement documents, honorarium records and separate and complete books of accounts, for inspection and checking by representatives of RTHK or the Government as and when required. Such books and records shall be kept during the continuance of the Agreement and for a minimum period of seven years after the expiry or termination of the Agreement.
- 10.2.7. RTHK reserves the right to seek compensation from the CIBS Producer if the Agreement is terminated by the Government by reason of the CIBS Producer's failure to observe or perform any obligations under the Agreement.

The Chinese translation of this handbook is for reference only. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the English text and the Chinese translation of this handbook, the English text shall prevail.

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