

TV senior executives and company director charged for alleged corruption and fraud

16.09.10

The ICAC today (Thursday) charged three persons, including a general manager of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), for alleged corruption and conspiracy to defraud offences in relation to the business affairs of TVB.

The defendants are Stephen Chan Chi-wan, 51, General Manager of TVB; Tseng Pei-kun, 28, director of Idea Empire Advertising & Production Company Limited (IEAP) and Idea Empire Publisher Company Limited (IEPCL); and Wilson Chan Wing-shuen, 63, Head of Business Development of the Marketing and Sales Division of TVB.

The defendants will appear in Eastern Magistracy at 9:30 am next Tuesday (September 21) for mention.

Chan and Tseng face two counts of conspiracy for an agent to accept an advantage, contrary to Section 9(1)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

Chan and Tseng each also faces two alternative charges of agent accepting an advantage and offering an advantage to an agent respectively, contrary to Sections 9(1)(a) and 9(2)(a) of the POBO.

The two corruption charges allege that between July 2009 and January 2010, Chan and Tseng conspired together for Chan to accept a total of about \$127,000 from IEAP. In return, Chan was said to have participated or performed in an event and a show, which were related to TVB's business or affairs.

Another charge alleges Chan and Tseng of conspiring together to defraud TVB and artistes of TVB between January and February 2010. They are alleged to have falsely represented that the attendance of the artistes at an event was to show support to Chan for the release of his book. They however concealed and did not disclose the fact that the event was arranged by IEPCL under sponsorship from a business corporation, with obligation to invite some of the said artistes to attend the said event.

The remaining charge alleges Tseng and Wilson Chan of conspiring together to defraud TVB between September and December 2009. They are alleged to have dishonestly misappropriated \$550,000 from \$5.2 million due and payable to TVB from a business corporation under a commercial contract, by dishonestly and falsely creating a service agreement between TVB and IEAP whereby TVB was to pay \$550,000 to IEAP.