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Some Reflections on Telecommunications Pricing Policy –With Comments on the Draft of “Communications Regulatory Act”

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Abstract

Price regulation in the telecommunications industry can be divided into two categories—“wholesale price control” and “retail price control”. By wholesale price control, it forces dominant telecommunications carriers to set a wholesale price for providing telecommunications services to other telecommunications carriers. Retail price control requires, where there is a monopoly or a lack of effective competition in the market, certain telecommunications carriers to set reasonable and affordable prices to their ultimate consumers.

In the light of the rising trend of convergence in communications sectors, Taiwan’s National Communications Commission (NCC) has finalized the draft of “Communications Regulatory Act” in 2008. By looking upon the regulatory policy and schemes of price regulation in the U.K. and U.S., the article offers some significant reflections of price regulatory reform as well as some comments with respect to pricing provisions in the new Draft.

Keywords: price control, pricing regulation, price cap, telecommunications, wholesale price control, retail price control, Communications Regulatory Act, Telecommunication Act, National Communications Commission, NCC