The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC, began a three-day visit to Shanghai and Hangzhou today (April 7) to enhance mutual understanding and relation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in judicial and legal matters. He will also promote Hong Kong's arbitration services.

Mr Wong will stay in Shanghai for two days. Today, he will call on the Mayor of Shanghai, Mr Han Zheng; Shanghai Higher People's Court, Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice and Shanghai Lawyers Association. Apart from exchanging experience with officials and legal practitioners there, he will brief them on the latest work of the Department of Justice, including its effort in promoting mutual legal assistance and Hong Kong's arbitration services.

On the second day of his visit, the Secretary for Justice will meet representatives of the Shanghai Commission of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and Hong Kong law firms with branch offices in Shanghai. He will also visit the Fudan University.

On April 9 in Hangzhou, Mr Wong will meet officials from the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, the Legislative Affairs Office of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, and the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Justice. He will also have opportunities to learn more about the implementation of Hangzhou's mediation law.

Mr Wong will be back in Hong Kong on April 10.

Ends/Monday, April 7, 2008