

SJ meets with legal and dispute resolution sector to explore development opportunities (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, today (September 30) met with members from the legal and dispute resolution sector to listen to their views on how the industry should make best use of the opportunities brought about by the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) development, and the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone (Qianhai Plan).

Ms Cheng pointed out that the outline of the National 14th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong to establish itself as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, while the Qianhai Plan promulgated earlier this month clearly states a higher level of opening up in legal matters and the establishment of an international legal services centre and an international commercial dispute resolution centre in the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone. As the only common law jurisdiction within the country, Hong Kong shall utilise the unique advantages under the "one country, two systems and three jurisdictions" in the GBA. With the support of the Central Government, Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution sector has very promising prospects.

Noting that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government published the "Report on Hong Kong's Business Environment: A Place with Unique Advantages and Unlimited Opportunities", Ms Cheng said it reiterates Hong Kong's institutional strengths under "one country, two systems", with other inherent strengths remaining intact, including the solid foundation of rule of law and judicial independence guaranteed by the Basic Law, which provide a safe and vibrant business environment to attract more investments in Hong Kong, and into the Mainland via Hong Kong.

Ms Cheng said she was delighted to know that the participants all attached great importance to the abundant opportunities for the sector brought about by the country's relevant measures. She also thanked them for offering their professional views and invaluable advice on how to best seize the opportunities.

The Department of Justice will continue to maintain close contact with the

stakeholders to bring out the best of Hong Kong in order to integrate with the needs of the country, and to create synergy with the nation's development.

Ends/Thursday, September 30, 2021