

DoJ's Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education holds first meeting (with photo)

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Chaired by the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, and vice-chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan, the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education (Steering Committee) of the Department of Justice (DoJ) which was established earlier this month held its first meeting this afternoon (February 28).

The establishment of the Steering Committee and the launch of the brand new "Rule of Law Education Train-the-Trainers Programme" (Programme) are among the key policy initiatives of the DoJ in the 2022 Policy Address.

At the meeting, Mr Lam expressed his gratitude to the representatives from the relevant bureaux, the judicial and legal sectors as well as the law schools for joining the Steering Committee to advise and assist on the co-ordination and collaboration of the relevant work on the promotion of rule of law education in Hong Kong.

At the meeting, the terms of reference of the Steering Committee and the preliminary framework of the Programme were discussed and endorsed. The Steering Committee agreed that two working groups, to be chaired respectively by the Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Justice Patrick Chan, and Legislative Council member Ms Carmen Kan, should be set up under the Steering Committee to follow up on the design of the Programme's curriculum and teaching materials, as well as the relevant co-ordination and collaboration work.

The curriculum and teaching materials of the Programme will be developed with a focus on the rule of law. Fundamental topics related to Hong Kong's rule of law and legal system under the principle of "one country, two systems", covering the Constitution, the Basic Law, the Hong Kong National Security Law, the Mainland's legal system and the basic elements of Hong Kong's common law system, will be taught in an easy-to-understand manner. The Programme aims to train "trainers" in various sectors of the community and enhance their capability of and effectiveness in passing on correct messages of the rule of law to others through their diversified community works and different roles in the community, thereby promoting rule of law education on all fronts.

Mr Lam said the Steering Committee would spare no effort to take forward and

launch the Programme as soon as possible, aiming to promote consistent and correct messages on the rule of law in different sectors of the community, so as to foster the general public's self-consciousness to uphold the rule of law and jointly tell good stories of Hong Kong's rule of law.

The membership and terms of reference of the Steering Committee are set out in the appendices.

Ends/Tuesday, February 28, 2023