

SJ continues ASEAN visit in Vietnam to strengthen ties with legal and business sectors  
(with photos)

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The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, today (September 25) continued his visit programme in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with a delegation comprising representatives from the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Bar Association and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) organisations.

In the morning, Mr Lam and his delegation met with the Chief Supervisor of the China Business Association Ho Chi Minh City Branch, Mr Sun Guo Qiang, to discuss and explore business opportunities in both places and learn about the demand for legal services in the local business sector. They then had lunch with Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Business Association Vietnam Mr Fred Burke to have a better understanding of the Vietnam business environment and their need for cross-jurisdictional legal services.

In the afternoon, Mr Lam and his delegation met with representatives from the Vietnam International Arbitration Center to exchange views on recent developments in the arbitration landscape in both places and explore ways to strengthen collaboration. They then had a meeting with representatives from the Ho Chi Minh City Bar Association to discuss the development of the legal profession and explore potential future collaborations in building stronger and closer ties.

In the evening, Mr Lam will have dinner with the Acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Xu Zhou, to share with him the latest developments in Hong Kong's legal and ADR sector.

Upon arriving in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday afternoon, Mr Lam and his delegation attended a forum titled "Hong Kong: The Common Law Gateway for Vietnamese Businesses to China and Beyond", followed by a networking dinner, organised by the Department of Justice, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry to meet local legal and business sectors. Speakers from the Hong Kong delegation shared their views with the audience on various topics, including Hong Kong's diversified legal and dispute resolution services, its unique

advantages of enjoying strong support from the motherland while being closely connected to the world under "one country, two systems", and the opportunities arising from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative. The event received an enthusiastic response with over 120 participants from the legal, business and other sectors of Vietnam.

Mr Lam and the delegation will conclude their visit to Ho Chi Minh City and depart for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, tomorrow (September 26) to attend a seminar to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services.

Ends/Wednesday, September 25, 2024