

Verification project for Hong Kong e-Legislation accomplished (with photos)

The verification of all the current consolidated Hong Kong legislation published on Hong Kong e-Legislation (HKeL) (www.elegislation.gov.hk) has been completed in the first quarter of this year. The hard copy loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong is thus fully phased out by HKeL, which becomes the only official source of the current consolidated legislation of Hong Kong. This transition marks the successful finish of the years-long verification project for HKeL. The printing of the loose-leaf edition had ceased after its last issue was issued earlier this month.

Under the verification project for HKeL, all copies of the current consolidated Hong Kong legislation published on HKeL were subjected to a rigorous verification process, which included accuracy checking against official copies of legislation in the loose-leaf edition and the Government Gazette.

With the completion of the verification project, all verified copies published on HKeL have legal status. Users may now access and download all verified copies of legislation with legal status on HKeL for free with not only desktop computers, but also mobile phones, tablets or other portable devices anytime, anywhere.

Before the launch of HKeL, the official version of the consolidated legislation was published in loose-leaf format, known as the loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong. With the advent of the Internet, the Department of Justice (DoJ) rolled out the Bilingual Laws Information System website in 1997 for accessing Hong Kong legislation online. However, the website's contents had no official status and were for information only. Therefore, the DoJ established HKeL in 2017 and embarked on the verification project with a view to modernising legislation publication in Hong Kong in the digital era.

To cater to the varying needs of users and to enhance user experience, the DoJ has been optimising the functions of HKeL. One example is the new "Get QR Code" feature, which enables users to generate a QR code for any HKeL content or make their own QR code for any specified chapter or provision as desired. Additionally, alongside its ongoing effort in taking forward the project of back-capturing past printed gazettes for uploading their electronic versions to HKeL, the department is gradually converting printed copies of the loose-leaf edition into electronic copies of portable document format (pdf), with a plan to make them available on HKeL in batches in the coming years for public access.

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