

SJ attends DoJ seminar to promote Hong Kong legal services in Paris (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, arrived in Paris, France, on July 8 (Paris time) to continue his European visit. He attended a Hong Kong legal services seminar organised by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and met with representatives of international organisations to introduce Hong Kong's advantages in legal services and its arbitration system.

In Paris, Mr Lam first met with the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Ms Elisa de Anda Madrazo. Noting that the FATF leads global action to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing, Mr Lam said that Hong Kong, as an international financial centre, has always supported the FATF's work in maintaining the stability of the international financial system, and that the DoJ has actively participated in mutual evaluations among FATF member jurisdictions.

Afterwards, Mr Lam visited the Paris Maritime Arbitration Chamber (Chambre arbitrale maritime de Paris) and met with the Secretary General of the Paris Maritime Arbitration Chamber, Mrs Pascale Mesnil, to learn about its operation and the situation in the French arbitration sector, as well as developments in resolving international maritime disputes through arbitration. Mr Lam said that Hong Kong has been committed to optimising its arbitration system through multi-pronged policy measures, enhancing and consolidating its status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Lam also expressed hope for deepening exchanges and co-operation with the French arbitration sector.

On the morning of July 9 (Paris time), Mr Lam visited the office of the French National and Olympic Sports Committee (CNOSF) and met with representatives of the Chamber of Arbitration for Sport (Chambre Arbitrale du Sport) and the Conference of Conciliators of the CNOSF to learn about the committee's services in sports arbitration and conciliation, and he introduced the DoJ's work in promoting the development of sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong.

At noon, Mr Lam attended a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the French Republic, Mr Deng Li, and briefed him on Hong Kong's efforts in safeguarding national security, ensuring the

implementation of the principle of "one country, two systems" by rule of law, and leveraging its unique advantages to promote development in various aspects.

In the afternoon, Mr Lam attended the Paris Seminar entitled "Hong Kong Legal Services – Gateway to China and Beyond", which was organised by the DoJ, sharing with about 130 guests and participants the unique advantages of Hong Kong's legal services under the principle of "one country, two systems" with guests. In his keynote speech, Mr Lam said that Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction in China and the only jurisdiction in the world with a bilingual common law system in both Chinese and English. As an international legal and dispute resolution service centre, Hong Kong's common law system is rigorous and mature, belonging to the same legal system as the world's major economies and in line with international trade and business rules. Hong Kong's legal services industry is professional and comprehensive, providing high-quality legal services to global financial and commercial activities. Two panel sessions were held afterwards to discuss the co-operation between Hong Kong and France in commercial law, as well as the latest developments in the mechanism of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

During the Paris Seminar, Mr Lam also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre and Jus Mundi, an AI-powered legal research platform based in Paris, to further enhance co-operation in legal and alternative dispute resolution between the two places.

Mr Lam will depart for Rome, Italy, today (July 10, Paris time) to continue his visit programme.

Ends/Thursday, July 10, 2025