

Seventh Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Departments Joint
Conference advances co-operation in rule of law construction to new levels (with photos)

The Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, today (December 9) hosted the seventh Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Legal Departments Joint Conference. The Director-General of the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province, Mr Chen Xudong, and the Secretary for Administration and Justice of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, Mr Wong Sio Chak, respectively led a delegation to attend the conference.

In the conference, the Department of Justice (DoJ) and representatives of the legal departments of Guangdong and Macao engaged in comprehensive discussions on several major areas, such as the interfaces of legal talent and regulatory frameworks of mediation and arbitration. Substantial results were achieved by the meeting, fully demonstrating the positive role of the joint conference mechanism of the legal departments of the three places.

The meeting reached a consensus on the proposal by the DoJ to establish a GBA commercial mediation and arbitration platform. The platform will bring together mediation and arbitration institutions in the GBA to jointly promote the establishment and adoption of relevant GBA standards, and collectively enhance the efficiency of dispute resolution in the region.

The three places reviewed the GBA Mediator Panel 2025 and the Panel of GBA Arbitrators, and agreed to work towards the common goal of updating the GBA Mediator Panel and introducing the Panel of GBA Arbitrators by the end of this year, marking a new phase in the building of a talent pool for dispute resolution in the GBA.

The three places also discussed the latest developments in nurturing foreign-related legal talent, including the work of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy.

On the interface of regulatory frameworks, the three places agreed to jointly explore pathways to promote the establishment of the GBA arbitration model rules.

In addition, the conference for the first time discussed policy measures related to promoting high-quality development in the GBA, enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration. The three places introduced the latest developments of their respective policy measures, including the DoJ's intensified efforts to be taken, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary for Justice, to promote Hong Kong's legal services and collaborate with other professional service sectors to support Mainland enterprises expanding overseas.

Concluding the conference, Dr Cheung said that the meeting yielded fruitful results, demonstrating the three places' determination to jointly enhance the rule of law business environment in the GBA and leverage the unique advantages of "one country, two systems and three jurisdictions". He expressed his gratitude for the efforts made by the legal departments of the three places and looked forward to the continual deepening of co-operation in the construction of the rule of law in the GBA, providing a solid legal foundation for building a world-class bay area.

Ends/Tuesday, December 9, 2025