

DoJ establishes high-level preparatory group for aligning with 15th Five-Year Plan (with photos)

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The Department of Justice (DoJ) announced today (February 20) the establishment of its high-level preparatory group for aligning with the 15th Five-Year Plan. The preparatory group will commence preparatory work for the upcoming release of the National 15th Five-Year Plan, making more comprehensive, precise and detailed strategic arrangements for the 15th Five-Year Plan and proactively leveraging the role of Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services in national development.

The preparatory group is chaired by the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, and vice-chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan. Members include the Law Officer (Civil Law), the Solicitor General, the Law Officer (International Law), and the Director of Administration and Development of the DoJ. The secretaries of the Group are the Principal Government Counsel of the Legal Enhancement and Development Office and the Director of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office.

The preparatory group convened its first meeting today to discuss the DoJ's key areas of development, staffing and resource allocation under the 15th Five-Year Plan. Once the contents and details of the 15th Five-Year Plan are released, the preparatory group will be converted into a working group to advance various tasks of proactively aligning with the 15th Five-Year Plan. As directed by the Chief Executive, Hong Kong's five-year blueprint in aligning with the country's 15th Five-Year Plan will be completed within this year, further promoting Hong Kong's better integration into and contribution to the overall national development.

Mr Lam said that as the inaugural year of the 15th Five-Year Plan begins, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China adopted the Recommendations for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan, which set out Hong Kong's strategic position as the "three centres and a hub", to consolidate and enhance the city's status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre, and to support Hong Kong in building itself into an international hub for high-calibre talent. In promoting the development of the rule of law, the recommendations include accelerating the development of a foreign-related legal system and capabilities, and improving mediation, arbitration, and litigation mechanisms for international commercial disputes. In the 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong can strive to play its role by showcasing its strengths in internationalised, high-standard, and highly credible legal and dispute resolution services, and by actively contributing to the training of international legal talent. By proactively aligning with the 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong will further contribute to the country's efforts in promoting the foreign-related rule of law and in building a higher-level of rule of law in China.

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