

SJ convenes Steering Committee meeting on establishment of Inter-Departmental Working Group to Review Legislation to Support Wider Application of AI (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, convened a Steering Committee meeting on the establishment of the Inter-Departmental Working Group to Review Legislation to Support Wider Application of AI today (March 6). The Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan; the Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung; the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs Ingrid Yeung; the Acting Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Miss Diane Wong, Permanent Secretaries and Under Secretaries of various policy bureaux, and heads and representatives of other government departments also attended.

The establishment of the Working Group by the Department of Justice (DoJ) is one of the key policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address.

Mr Lam said that the Government must take the lead in promptly reviewing relevant laws in Hong Kong with a view to modernising them so as to establish a facilitative yet properly controlled legal environment for AI development in Hong Kong, enabling the city to fully harness AI's potential benefits while safeguarding the legitimate interests of all stakeholders on whom the use of AI has an impact.

He noted that the Government must take a candid and proactive approach to the risks and regulatory requirements that may arise from the development and application of AI. It is essential to strike a balance between promoting relevant development and mitigating associated risks. Therefore, policy bureaux and departments (B/Ds) should first conduct a comprehensive and thorough review of existing laws to identify loopholes and deficiencies, and then formulate targeted and practicable solutions taking into account Hong Kong's actual environment, Mr Lam added.

At the meeting, the purpose of the Working Group and its mode of operation under the superintendence of the Steering Committee were discussed. The core members of the Working Group will be drawn from various B/Ds. The role of the DoJ is to help each bureau keep a sharp focus in conducting a critical review of the areas of law under their policy responsibility. After a preliminary study, the DoJ will seek to co-ordinate different B/Ds when concerted effort is required during the course of the substantive review by the Working Group.

Noting that the establishment of the Working Group would be essential in addressing issues arising from the fast development and pervasive use of AI, Mr Lam called on all B/Ds, including the Judiciary Administration, the Administration Wing and the Digital Policy Office, to lend their full support.

Ends/Friday, March 6, 2026