

Speech by DSJ at closing ceremony of second edition of Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course (English only)(with photos)

Following are the closing remarks by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, at the closing ceremony of the second edition of the Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course - Company Law in Focus today (January 22):

Deputy Director Si (Deputy Director General of the Research Office of the Supreme People's Court, Ms Si Yanli), distinguished judges, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to deliver the closing remarks for the Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course - Company Law in Focus, which has brought together 24 senior judges representing 22 courts across the Chinese Mainland, including the Supreme People's Court, as well as courts from 12 provinces and 3 direct-administered municipalities. Such unprecedented composition of judges reflects the breadth and depth of collaboration between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland in the area of judicial capacity building, and marks a new milestone in our ongoing endeavour to enhance mutual understanding and co-operation between our two legal systems. I am both humbled and honoured to witness this important achievement.

I am also delighted to note that this Training Course focusing on company law is complementary to other key initiatives undertaken by my Department. As announced in the Policy Address 2025, I have been tasked by the Chief Executive to promote Hong Kong's legal services and collaborate with other professional sectors, including accounting and finance, to support Chinese Mainland enterprises aspiring to expand their businesses overseas. In this connection, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy, with the support of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, successfully organised the Legal Practical Training Course for Chinese Enterprises Going Overseas last October. That course provides training for over 30 general counsel and legal advisors from companies on the Chinese Mainland, and this Training Course provides training on the company law for judges on the Chinese Mainland.

I must take this opportunity to show appreciation to all those involved in making this Training Course a real success. First and foremost, on behalf of the Hong Kong

International Legal Talents Training Academy, I would like to extend our profound gratitude to the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China for its unwavering support. We are particularly grateful to Director General Si and her team for their invaluable guidance throughout this course. From the early stages of course planning and content design, through the nomination of participants, to the close co-ordination during the Training Course, the Supreme People's Court has provided tremendous support to the Academy, which has been instrumental in making this second edition of the Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course a success.

Second, I would like to thank all our distinguished speakers and moderators, who delivered nothing short of excellence despite their demanding schedules. Their interactive sessions have engaged participants in discussing real-world issues, turning classroom learning into an interactive judicial dialogue. Their willingness and dedication to share their valuable knowledge and practical experience have made this Course truly impactful.

Third, I wish to offer my warmest congratulations and appreciation to all of you for your active participation throughout the course. Each question raised, each comment shared, and each perspective offered brought new dimensions to our collective learning. There is a Chinese saying, "教學相長", that is teaching and learning advance hand in hand. This principle has truly come to life throughout this course. Your insights and contributions have deepened our understanding of cross-border judicial practice, demonstrating how the Hong Kong common law principles could be applied in civil law adjudication in foreign-related cases. This dynamic, two-way exchange of knowledge is what makes this course truly meaningful and enriching for both participants and speakers.

I am grateful for the heartfelt sharing from some of you just now about your experiences throughout this course. Knowing the course has equipped you to address the real challenges in handling foreign-related cases back home brings great encouragement to me and my colleagues. It is most rewarding to learn that the course has met, and even exceeded, your expectations. We are also glad that you have known more about Hong Kong's unique legal system and way of life, while building lasting friendships with fellow distinguished judges from across the country. I hope that you will carry these valuable insights and new connections forward into your future professional endeavours.

Looking forward, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy will continue to collaborate with the Supreme People's Court to organise judicial capacity-

building programmes to foster the knowledge exchange between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong. We will also continue to explore collaboration with provincial courts for judicial capacity building as well. For example, the Academy co-organised with the Shanghai High People's Court a training course in Shanghai in November last year for around 100 judges in the Yangtze River Delta region. The training course focused on practical difficulties in foreign-related adjudication, including the characteristics of Hong Kong's common law under the "one country, two systems" principle, its comparison and interaction with the law on the Chinese Mainland, and practical issues such as contract law, law of evidence, judicial reviews of arbitration, ascertainment of foreign law and drafting of judgments. We hope these initiatives will support the national strategy to be outlined in the 15th Five-Year Plan to strengthen judicial capability and promote the rule of law. We look forward with great anticipation to many more similar courses in Hong Kong and on the Chinese Mainland in the years to come.

Distinguished judges, thank you once again for your invaluable contribution and participation. To enable us to develop even more impactful training programmes ahead, I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the feedback form and share your views - whether on the structure of sessions, the balance between lectures and visits, or the inclusion of specific topics. Lastly, may I wish you a safe journey back home, and a joyful and prosperous Chinese New Year ahead. Thank you very much.

Ends/Thursday, January 22, 2026