

Speech by SJ at Opening Ceremony of New Premises of Law Society of Hong Kong
(English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, at the Opening Ceremony of the New Premises of the Law Society of Hong Kong today (April 8):

President Roden Tong (President of the Law Society of Hong Kong), Council members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a great honour to join you today to officiate the opening of the new premises of the Law Society of Hong Kong at The Center and to celebrate the 119th anniversary of the Law Society's incorporation. This is a momentous occasion, not just for the Law Society, but for the legal community of Hong Kong. It is a celebration of heritage, of progress and of our shared commitment to the rule of law.

For over a century, the Law Society has stood as a steadfast pillar of Hong Kong's legal system. From the early days of this city's development to its current status as a leading international financial, shipping and trading centre and an international hub for high-calibre talent, generation after generation of solicitors have been the custodians of professional standards, the advocates for access to justice and the trusted advisors to individuals, business and the community at large.

Reaching such a historic milestone is a testament to the vision of your predecessors and the dedication of your current leadership and members. The legal landscape of Hong Kong has transformed dramatically over these 119 years and even more so recently given the rapid technological development and increasing globalisation. However, the core values of integrity, professionalism and service upheld and embodied by the Law Society have remained constant, guiding the profession through times of change and challenge.

Today, however, we are not just looking back at a rich history; we are looking forward to a bright future. In an era characterised by rapid technological advancement and evolving legal landscapes, the need for a strong, united and forward-looking professional body is greater than ever. Against this backdrop, the opening of the new premises is

timely and symbolic of the Law Society's commitment to nurturing young legal talent, as well as generating innovative ideas through fruitful collaborations.

As Hong Kong further consolidates its role as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services as supported by the National 15th Five-Year Plan approved last month, the Department of Justice (DoJ) is itself embarking on an exciting project to develop a new Hong Kong International Legal Service Building next to the headquarters of the International Organization for Mediation in Wan Chai.

The construction of this new international legal hub reflects the Government's firm commitment to provide enhanced infrastructure for our legal and dispute resolution communities. Just as the Law Society's new premises will serve as a focal point for the solicitors' profession, the new international legal hub will stand as another landmark for Hong Kong's legal services sector as a whole. I also look forward to even closer collaboration between the Law Society and the DoJ in advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law, as well as to harnessing our unique legal system under the principle of "one country, two systems" to contribute to our country.

Once again, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Law Society, to its presidents past and present, and to all its members. May these new premises be a place where professional excellence, integrity and a deep commitment to justice continue to flourish. I am confident that this new chapter for the Law Society will be defined by continued excellence and an even stronger commitment to serve both its members and the people of Hong Kong. Thank you.

Ends/Wednesday, April 8, 2026