

**For discussion on
24 October 2022**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services
2022 Policy Address – Policy Initiatives of the Department of Justice**

Introduction

This paper sets out the policy initiatives of the Department of Justice (DoJ) in the 2022 Policy Address.

The unique strengths of Hong Kong under “One Country, Two Systems”

2. President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech (the important speech) at the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) cum Inaugural Ceremony of the Sixth-term Government of the HKSAR on 1 July 2022. In the speech, President Xi emphasised that the fundamental purpose of “One Country, Two Systems” was to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests and to maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao. There was no reason to change the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, which must be adhered to in the long run. In the important speech, President Xi also mentioned that the Central Government fully supports Hong Kong in its efforts to maintain its distinctive status and edges, and to maintain the common law system, so as to expand and facilitate its exchanges with the world. The remarks of President Xi have undoubtedly established a strong and solid basis for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, providing the HKSAR Government with a clear guidance for implementing its blueprint for governance.

3. The fundamental principle of “One Country, Two Systems” is the foundation of the rule of law in Hong Kong, and the most unique advantage of “One Country, Two Systems” is that the HKSAR has maintained its common law system, being the only common law jurisdiction within China. DoJ is committed to fully and faithfully implementing and firmly safeguarding the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, capitalising on the strengths of the common law system, creating strong impetus for the development of the legal

and dispute resolution professions, strengthening the integration with key national strategies that are closely related to the development of Hong Kong, including the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in order to create diversified development opportunities for various sectors and the general public of Hong Kong in the area of law, as well as to enable the community at large to perceive justice in our inclusive and harmonious system, and to assist in promoting the development of the rule of law in our country and Hong Kong.

DoJ's Three Main Policy Initiatives

(I) Strengthening the co-ordination of rule of law education and training of advocacy leaders

4. “Reinforcing the core value of the rule of law” is one of the key priorities in the Policy Address this year. As remarked by the Chief Executive, the Government will safeguard independent judicial power, fully support the Judiciary in exercising its judicial power independently in accordance with the law. DoJ’s prosecutors and all other officers will remain steadfast in their roles and in execution of their duties in accordance with the law. To foster a rule of law society, various sectors must work together with the HKSAR Government to jointly enhance public awareness, proper understanding and confidence in respect of the rule of law, and to conscientiously uphold the rule of law.

(1) Establishing a “Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education” and promoting the “Rule of Law Education Train-the-Trainers” Programme

5. DoJ will establish a “Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education” (Steering Committee) to be chaired by the Secretary for Justice (SJ) to work in collaboration with relevant bureaux, legal professional bodies and law schools to formulate, co-ordinate and collaborate in the promotion of awareness and proper understanding of the rule of law in a bid to strengthen the rule of law education and training in Hong Kong on all fronts. DoJ will also collaborate with the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee”, led by

the Chief Secretary for Administration, to collectively promote consistent and correct messages on the rule of law in the community.

6. Under the guidance of the Steering Committee, DoJ will work with relevant government departments and stakeholders to launch the “Rule of Law Education Train-the-Trainers Programme” in the third quarter of 2023, with the aim of training “trainers” in various sectors of the community to enhance their capability for and the effectiveness of promoting messages relating to the rule of law to youths and the general public, and facilitate the trainers to inspire others in instilling self-awareness of respect for the legal system and a law-abiding spirit in their everyday lives. Our plan is to recruit “trainers” from frontline persons, initially covering members of the legal profession, youth uniformed groups, “District Services and Community Care Teams” to be set up by the Government and other community leaders, etc.

7. To implement this city-wide training programme, DoJ will develop teaching materials covering topics on the Constitution, the Basic Law, the National Security Law, the concept of the rule of law, and the basic framework of Hong Kong’s legal system, etc. for the “trainers” under the guidance of the Steering Committee. The materials will be lucid, precisely targeted and backed by practical or real-life examples and their contents will be presented from the historical, national and world perspectives. They will help the “trainers” to effectively grasp the gist and key contents, thereby enabling the “trainers”, through a step-by-step approach and from a fair and impartial perspective, to instil self-awareness of respect and trust for the legal system into members of the community and enable them to personally understand and experience the importance of the rule of law.

8. In addition, taking into account the educational and development needs, experience and expertise of people from different backgrounds and age groups in the community, we will consider preparing teaching materials or information on specific legal issues for “trainers” to integrate and apply them to targeted sectors or situations for further enhancing the effectiveness of promoting the rule of law education.

(2) Foster the concept of rule of law on all fronts

9. DoJ will continue to support an array of rule of law education programmes for youths and the general public, with a view to enhancing their overall law-abiding awareness and promoting the understanding of the rule of law and our legal system among different sectors of the community. To this end, we will continue to collaborate with relevant groups to organise or support relevant education and promotion activities, including interactive drama performances for primary school students, rule of law lectures and themed guided tours “Rule of Law Journey” for secondary school students, as well as rule of law education projects conducted by means of legal seminars, games and interactive group discussions, etc.

10. At the same time, ensuring that laws are accessible and clear is an important part of the rule of law. A notable feature and advantage of Hong Kong’s legal system is the use of both Chinese and English. The bilingual legislations are drafted in plain language, clearly and accurately reflecting the legislative intent. In order to enhance the public’s understanding of this aspect, DoJ will organise a law drafting competition to enable youths (especially law students) to gain personal experience in drafting legislation, and experienced law drafters of DoJ will share with participants the basic principles and techniques of law drafting with a view to imparting Hong Kong’s excellent bilingual legislation and to promote the rule of law.

(3) Further optimising the use of new media and various channels to promote rule of law information

11. With the development of diversified new media, members of the public can have easy access to various information, including misinformation, through network media, social media platforms, etc. DoJ will actively make good use of different new media channels to disseminate proper information on the rule of law and to clarify rumours and misinformation in a timely manner.

12. Meanwhile, DoJ, in collaboration with the Asian Academy of International Law will launch a video series to inculcate basic concepts and various topics of international law to the general public in a simple way with everyday vivid examples, and to introduce the implementation of international law in Hong Kong.

13. To promote the rule of law, DoJ has published various publications in the past, introducing Hong Kong’s legal system and legislative procedures, compiling legal glossaries, etc. We will continue and strengthen our work in this area, further explain Hong Kong’s legal system and the spirit of jurisprudence by using simple and easy-to-understand methods and languages, and compile relevant teaching publications according to different needs.

(II) Promoting the strengths of and opportunities for Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services on all fronts

14. As the only common law jurisdiction in the country, Hong Kong has a wealth of legal and dispute resolution professionals with cross-regional experience, multilingual proficiency and cultural diversity, giving it an edge on the provision of professional and quality legal and dispute resolution services to the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. In accordance with the guidance of President Xi’s important speech and in the Policy Address to “dovetail with national strategies to create strong impetus for growth” and in relation to the strategic position of Hong Kong as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific Region – being one of the “eight centres” established under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, DoJ will exert all efforts to strengthen the advancement of the rule of law, enhance various regulations to support the development of different industries and newly emerging industries, and to promote the strength of Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services within and outside the country on all fronts.

(1) Intensive promotion activities within and outside the country

15. DoJ will organise the Hong Kong Legal Week 2022, being its annual flagship event, from 7 to 11 November, where a series of promotional activities will be co-organised with international and local organisations, bringing together world-renowned experts and academics to engage in in-depth discussions and exchanges on the latest developments of specific issues in international law, arbitration, mediation, LawTech applications etc. We will use the Hong Kong Legal Week 2022 as a starting point, to develop an overall promotion strategy to promote the unique strengths of Hong Kong’s common law system under “One Country, Two Systems” and its diversified legal and dispute resolution services.

16. Amongst the initiatives, DoJ has planned various key large-scale promotional activities in the coming year, including:

(a) Strengthening promotion to legal consultants of multinational corporations in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a major international financial center, with many multinational corporations having set up regional headquarters or offices in Hong Kong, as well as their corporate executives and regional legal consultants working in Hong Kong. DoJ will hold targeted forums and seminars for relevant corporate legal consultants in Hong Kong to promote the strengths of Hong Kong's legal system as well as its legal and dispute resolution services.

(b) Organising the biennial "Mediate First" Pledge Event

DoJ has been committed to promoting mediation culture and the benefits of mediation to different sectors of the community. We plan to continue to hold the biennial "Mediation First" Pledge Event in May next year, and to hold the "Mediation Week" and "Mediation Conference" in 2024. Different elements and modes will be introduced for future events, in order to instil the concept of "Mediation First" to the community and different sectors, and towards building a harmonious society.

(c) Organising the 26th International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) Congress in Hong Kong

With the support of DoJ, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre has won the bid to host the biennial ICCA Congress in Hong Kong in 2024. The Congress, known for its major contribution to international dispute resolution, is the largest regular international arbitration conference of its kind worldwide. DoJ will fully support the organisation of the ICCA Congress in Hong Kong, so as to promote and consolidate Hong Kong's leading position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

(2) Leading local delegations comprising legal professionals to overseas visits

17. DoJ signed Memoranda of Co-operation with the relevant authorities of Japan, Korea and Thailand respectively in 2019 to strengthen its collaboration with these jurisdictions on legal and dispute resolution matters. However, concrete plans for collaboration are yet to be implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DoJ will resume exchanges with these jurisdictions to actively implement the co-operation proposals. At the same time, DoJ will explore possible co-operation with other jurisdictions, particularly member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to support the further development of the legal and dispute resolution sector.

18. Besides, from 2023 onwards, DoJ will collaborate with relevant organisations (such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) and overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (HKETOs)) to lead local delegations comprising legal and professionals from other sectors to visit ASEAN member states, other Southeast Asia, the Middle East and African countries, as well as other common law jurisdictions, to tell good and accurate stories of Hong Kong, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's sound and robust legal system, solid foundation of the rule of law and diversified legal and dispute resolution services, and at the same time to better understand the views of overseas stakeholders and their needs towards Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services.

19. DoJ is planning to initiate a series of promotional work next year in collaboration with relevant organisations, including the following projects:

(a) “Resolve2Win Campaign”

DoJ will collaborate with HKTDC to organise a new large-scale outreach promotional campaign to promote Hong Kong's dispute resolution services, including the promotion of the “Mediate First” Pledge, in Mainland cities of the GBA and in Bangkok, Thailand in 2023.

(b) “Hong Kong Legal Services Forum”

DoJ also plans to co-organise the sixth “Hong Kong Legal Services Forum” (Forum) with HKTDC in Chengdu in the third quarter of

2023. The Forum is one of the flagship events of DoJ to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland, which has received positive responses from different sectors since it was held in various Mainland cities in 2010. The Forum will bring together seasoned representatives from Hong Kong's legal sector to promote the strengths of Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services and the latest developments in the industry to Mainland enterprises and users, thereby creating business opportunities.

- (d) Actively support the legal profession in external outreach promotion
Through the Government's Professionals Participation Subsidy Programme under the Professional Services Advancement Support Schemes, DoJ plans to jointly organise an event in Tokyo, Japan in 2023 with HKETO in Tokyo to promote the strengths of Hong Kong's dispute resolution services, especially maritime arbitration and online dispute resolution services.

(3) Enhancing the promotion of mutual legal assistance arrangements on civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland

20. Hong Kong and the Mainland have entered into nine arrangements for mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters, covering mutual assistance in legal procedures, mutual assistance in arbitration, and arrangements for mutual recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. DoJ will strengthen the promotion of various mutual legal assistance arrangements in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas. Our objective is to adopt a concise and an easy-to-understand approach in the promotion work. In addition to the legal sector, we will also target other stakeholders (including the business sector and the general public) to deepen their understanding of the key features and practical benefits of the various arrangements, enhance the application of these arrangements, and will explore with stakeholders to continue to fine-tune these arrangements, to further enrich the mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters between the two places, as well as to facilitate the development of economy, trade and people's livelihood in the two places.

(4) Providing user-friendly and practical legal guides and tools

21. DoJ will continue to enhance exchanges with the legal sector and service users, to explore the provision of user-friendly and practical legal guides and tools such as samples of commonly used contractual model clauses and checklists on legal issues, to assist service users in the legal sector, newly emerging industries and other sectors to enable users of legal and dispute resolution services to gain a clear understanding of the advantages of choosing Hong Kong law as the applicable law in contracts and choosing Hong Kong as the venue for dispute resolution.

22. To improve the better use of resources and work efficiency, DoJ will aim to enhance the impetus of developing Hong Kong's dispute resolution services by exploring the integration of the existing "Steering Committee on Mediation" and the "Advisory Committee on Promotion of Arbitration" to form a "Steering Committee on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services" (Steering Committee) in the first half of 2023, to be chaired by SJ with members from the legal sector. The Steering Committee will advise DoJ on and assist in, among other things, the review of the above initiatives to produce suitable legal guides and tools for users of legal and dispute resolution services and other sectors, for the wider and more effective use of relevant services.

(5) Presence of international legal and dispute resolution institutions in Hong Kong

23. Officially opened on 2 November 2020, the Hong Kong Legal Hub provides office accommodation for DoJ, law-related organisations (LROs) and dispute resolution institutions in the former Central Government Offices, the former French Mission Building as well as parts of Two Exchange Square and Shanghai Commercial Bank Tower. DoJ is committed to facilitating international and regional LROs and dispute resolution institutions to set up offices in the Hong Kong Legal Hub, to enhance effective promotion of exchanges and collaborations among the institutions and between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

24. Following the establishment of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre at the Hong Kong Legal Hub in May 2022 with staunch support from the Central People's

Government and AALCO, DoJ will continue to attract other international legal and dispute resolution institutions to establish their presence in Hong Kong. We are taking active steps to facilitate the establishment of a new international dispute resolution institution in Hong Kong, details of which will be announced in due course.

(6) Refining the legal framework to foster development of the legal sector

25. DoJ will sustain its efforts in refining Hong Kong's legal framework for the legal and dispute resolution profession to develop quality and diversified professional services under a sound legal framework that aligns with international standard, thereby further enhancing our international competitiveness. In this respect, the highlights of our work are as follows:

(a) Implementing outcome related fee structures for arbitration

The Arbitration and Legal Practitioners Legislation (Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration) (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 was enacted on 22 June 2022, to introduce outcome related fee structures for arbitration (ORFSA). DoJ is committed to enacting the related subsidiary legislation within 2022 for the full implementation of the ORFSA regime, so as to proactively respond to the needs of arbitration parties for flexible fee arrangement, thereby enhancing access to justice and raising the competitiveness of Hong Kong's arbitration services.

(b) Implementing the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR (REJ Arrangement)

The REJ Arrangement was signed in January 2019 to establish a more comprehensive and clearer mechanism for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of civil and commercial judgments between both places. DoJ introduced a bill into the Legislative Council in May 2022 for implementing the REJ Arrangement in Hong Kong, and is seeking the early passage of the bill. We will discuss with the Mainland the date for the simultaneous implementation of the REJ Arrangement in both places. The implementation of the REJ Arrangement will reduce the need for parties to re-litigate the same disputes in both places, thereby

providing better protection to parties' interests and further enhancing Hong Kong's position as a regional centre for international legal and dispute resolution services.

(c) Implementing the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)

CISG will apply to the HKSAR with effect from 1 December 2022. The Sale of Goods (United Nations Convention) Ordinance (Cap. 641), passed in September last year, will come into operation on the same date for implementing the Convention locally. The CISG has been described as "the most successful substantive uniform commercial law treaty". Applying the Convention to the HKSAR will allow for a uniform sales law to govern the bulk of Hong Kong businesses' international sales transactions, enabling businesses to trade with their overseas counterparts on a fair and level playing field by using a sales law which is familiar to the parties, which would further enhance Hong Kong's legal infrastructure for international sale of goods and bolstering its role as an international hub for trade and dispute resolution.

(7) Deepening of the mediation culture

26. In his important speech, President Xi expressed his hope for concerted efforts on all fronts to safeguard social harmony and stability, to embrace the traditions of inclusiveness, and seek common ground while reserving differences. DoJ will actively promote mediation culture in various sectors of the community, to build a harmonious and stable society, and foster a culture that embraces mutual support, respect, harmony and inclusiveness. To this end, we will formulate plans to nurture the use of mediation skills within the Government as well as amongst different sectors of the community, and to study the overall further development of mediation in Hong Kong. The relevant short-, medium- and long- term goals are as follows:

- (a) **Short-term goals:** fostering a culture of applying mediation skills in daily lives of all sectors in the community, with the Government taking the lead to make a statement on "Mediate First" to drive changes to the litigation culture in society, providing mediation related support to government departments, including updating the

existing Mediation Handbook for Government administrators, collaborating with the Civil Service Bureau and/or mediation institutions to provide trainings and guidelines etc. to different government departments and other sectors (such as medical and healthcare, insurance, education, private organisations, etc.) that are tailored to their operational needs.

- (b) **Medium- and long-term goals:** Following the publication of a report reviewing the development of mediation in Hong Kong by DoJ in 2010, the implementation of the recommendations therein has become a major milestone in the development of mediation in Hong Kong. Together with the proposed “Steering Committee on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services”, DoJ will deliberate the way forward in the further development of mediation in Hong Kong and conduct extensive studies in areas, including the reviewing of the existing legal framework, qualifications of mediators, use of mediation in different sectors and the blueprint of mediation development in Hong Kong etc.

(8) Continuing to attract legal and dispute resolution talent

27. The Pilot Scheme on Facilitation for Persons Participating in Arbitral Proceedings in Hong Kong (Scheme) was launched in June 2020 to facilitate eligible non-Hong Kong residents to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong on a short-term basis. Under the Scheme, foreign nationals who may visit Hong Kong visa-free and are in possession of a letter of proof may participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong as visitors without the need to obtain an employment visa. The Scheme was implemented on a pilot basis for a period of two years.

28. DoJ has completed reviewing the Scheme. The Advisory Committee on Promotion of Arbitration supported the expansion of the Scheme to cover other persons from regions that require a visa to visit Hong Kong and eligible persons from the Mainland. DoJ has prepared the implementation plan and will announce the details in due course. The expansion of the Scheme will help attract more legal and dispute resolution talent to Hong Kong, hence further consolidating Hong Kong’s status as a centre for international legal and

dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, which is in line with the BRI as well as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA development.

(III) Deepening the integration of legal practices between the GBA and Hong Kong and promoting a standard online mediation platform for the GBA

(1) Establishing a task force for promoting the integration of legal practices between the GBA and Hong Kong

29. President Xi pointed out in the important speech that the Central Government fully supports Hong Kong in seizing the opportunities brought about by the national development, with a hope that Hong Kong would proactively integrate itself with national strategies including the 14th Five-Year Plan, development of the GBA and high-quality BRI co-operation. In accordance with the strategy outlined in the Policy Address, DoJ will further encourage the legal sector to seize and integrate itself with the opportunities of national development strategies, particularly in leveraging the unique strengths of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions” in the GBA, and to conduct studies on the integration of legal practices in the GBA. In this connection, DoJ will establish, by the end of this year, a task force dedicated to studying and promoting the integration of legal practices of the two places.

30. We note that the general public and business sector would encounter certain operational or practical problems or difficulties when conducting various civil or commercial activities or legal proceedings in the GBA, such as the issues about the cross-jurisdictional service of judicial instruments and use of affidavits or statutory declarations etc. Together with the task force, DoJ will focus pragmatically on how to effectively rationalise or resolve relevant practical problems, promote and facilitate interaction and exchanges between the residents and enterprises of the two places, thus maximising the synergy of legal co-operation in the GBA.

(2) Promoting the development of mediation and online dispute resolution in the GBA

31. The fourth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference will be held in Hong Kong by the end of this

year. DoJ is striving for the endorsement of the GBA Cross-boundary Dispute Model Mediation Rules (Model Rules) at the Conference. The promulgated Model Rules are for voluntary adoption and use by mediation institutions in the three places, thereby promoting the integration of mediation sector in the three places and enhancing public confidence in the use of mediation in the GBA.

32. On the other hand, DoJ has been committed to supporting and promoting the development of an online dispute resolution service platform, enabling the public to gain access to justice at lower costs and with greater convenience. With the support of DoJ, the eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (eBRAM) was officially listed by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as one of the very first batch of online dispute resolution service providers under the APEC Collaborative Framework for Online Dispute Resolution of Cross-Border Business-to-Business Disputes in May 2022, signifying international recognition towards its work.

33. DoJ will seek to implement and promote a standard online mediation platform for the GBA to provide Hong Kong and Mainland residents with an online option for resolving cross-boundary disputes that is both time and cost-effective, thereby promoting the extensive use of mediation in the GBA. We will explore ways to further harness the eBRAM platform, with a view to offering a means of reliable, innovative and efficient online dispute resolution option for individuals and enterprises in the GBA.

Establishing the “Legal Enhancement and Development Office”

34. In response to President Xi’s important speech, the Policy Address sets out that the HKSAR Government will further improve its governance and enhance its governance systems. To this end, DoJ has established the Legal Enhancement and Development Office (LEAD Office), which will work directly under the steer of SJ.

35. The LEAD Office will take on the role as the central policy unit of DoJ, to succeed and replace the existing Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office. It will be headed by two Principal Government Counsel who are responsible for the overall management and supervision of the office with the support of two Deputy Principal Government Counsel, one Assistant Principal Government Counsel and a team of non-directorate counsel and other

supporting administrative staff. The LEAD Office will actively assist SJ in formulating and taking forward policy initiatives effectively. Specifically, it will render high-level strategic support to SJ and Deputy SJ, and assist in the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of policy initiatives in the three major areas outlined in this Paper, namely promoting the rule of law education, promoting and enhancing Hong Kong's strengths in legal and dispute resolution services, and strengthening legal co-operation and the interface of legal practices between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Serving as a bridge for enhancing DoJ's communication and collaboration both internally and externally, the LEAD Office will optimise co-ordination and co-operation among the divisions within DoJ, while promoting exchanges and collaboration with government departments and stakeholders from various sectors of the community.

36. Adopting the name "Legal Enhancement and Development Office" can fully reflect the role of the new office in providing high-level strategic support and overall co-ordination in DoJ, and emphasise our policy objectives of proactively enhancing the development of the rule of law, strengthening rule of law education, promoting Hong Kong's strengths in legal and dispute resolution services and integrating ourselves into the national development. The establishment of the LEAD Office will help DoJ to improve its governance, enhance its effectiveness in taking forward and implementing the relevant policy initiatives, and ensuring that the initiatives are effectively executed, pragmatic and beneficial to the people. As remarked by the Chief Executive, we will be "result-oriented" and have formulated indicators for the relevant policy measures as published in the Policy Address (as extracted in [Annex](#)).

37. Furthermore, in accordance with the policy measures in the Policy Address to deepen participation of government departments and civil service grades in youth work, the LEAD Office will actively form youth groups in DoJ, organise activities to deepen youth's understanding of DoJ's work, guide and encourage more young people with ideals and aspirations to join the ranks of legal officers and for them to experience DoJ's culture and teamwork.

Conclusion

38. Leveraging the support from the Motherland while engaging the world, Hong Kong has been a leading international city by virtue of its unique

strengths under “One Country, Two Systems”. The rule of law is a core value underpinning Hong Kong’s success upon which its indispensable “gilded reputation” is built. DoJ will spare no effort to foster exchanges and collaboration with government departments and bureaux, the legal, business and education sectors as well as members and organisations of various communities; to comprehensively promote the rule of law education so that the public will understand and be convinced that the rule of law is not an opaque concept but should be practised conscientiously in daily lives; and to promote Hong Kong’s status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region on all fronts, locally, nationally and globally so as to further boost Hong Kong’s institutional strengths under the common law. DoJ will lead the legal profession to make enhanced and proactive efforts to integrate itself with the national development strategies and strive for fresh impetus for growth so as to contribute to the development of our country and Hong Kong.

Department of Justice
October 2022

Extract of the 2022 Policy Address – Indicators for Specified Tasks of DoJ

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Lead delegations of the local legal sector to visit The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, other Southeast Asian, Middle East and African countries from **2023 onward**. (Item 57)
- Establish a task force to strengthen inter-regional legal assistance and facilitate the convergence of legal practices between the GBA and Hong Kong **by end-2022**, and establish an online mediation platform dedicated for dispute resolution in the GBA **by end-2023**. (Item 58)

Promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law and National Security Awareness

- Launch the Rule of Law Education “Train-the-Trainers” Programme by the Department of Justice in collaboration with legal professionals and law schools in **Q3 2023**. (Item 105)