

**For discussion on
15 September 2025**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**Development of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training
Academy and Progress of its Capacity Building Initiatives**

Purpose

This paper seeks to provide an overview of the work, development and capacity-building programmes of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy.

Background of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy

2. The initiative to establish the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the “Academy”) was mentioned in the Chief Executive’s Policy Addresses in 2023 and 2024. On 8 November 2024, the Department of Justice (DoJ) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government formally launched the Academy during the 2024 Hong Kong Legal Week.

3. The Academy is dedicated to providing capacity-building, exchange, and knowledge-sharing platforms for professionals from the legal and dispute resolution sectors in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and other jurisdictions, in particular those along the “Belt and Road”. Through practical legal training courses, seminars, and international exchange programmes, the Academy promotes the exchange of international legal talents, consolidates Hong Kong’s strategic position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, establishing Hong Kong as a capacity-building hub, and proactively contributing to the next decade of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, as well as the country’s foreign-related rule of law construction.

4. To take forward this initiative, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the “Office”) and the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Expert Committee (the “Expert Committee”) were set up in October 2024. The Office¹ serves as the Secretariat of the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee consists of 3 advisory committees, comprising 17 eminent legal experts and scholars from renowned international, Mainland, and local legal organisations and universities as members², advising the DoJ on developing the training and capacity-building programmes and strategies.

Training Programmes Organised by the Academy

A. Training Programmes Organised in Cooperation with International Organisations

(1) Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law, co-organised with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (Hong Kong)

5. On 14 March 2025, the Academy co-organised the “Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law” in Hong Kong with UNCITRAL, discussing how the international trade law can effectively support the achievement of climate action goals set by the international community. The conference attracted about 600 registrations from around 70 jurisdictions in Asia-Pacific (including local), the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and Africa. The conference was held in a hybrid format, with participants from different backgrounds and sectors, including scholars, judges, officials, legal and dispute resolution professionals, other professionals and representatives of international organisations to share their insights on various issues of climate change and international trade law, enabling countries to gain a deeper understanding of the relevant issues and develop effective response measures. The conference provided a capacity-building framework to promote the coordinated development of

¹ The Office currently consists of 9 staff members, with Dr YANG Ling serving as the Director. Two legal officers are posted from other unit or division within the DoJ to provide support.

² For the list of members of the Expert Committee, please refer to https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/about/pdf/Hong_Kong_International_Legal_Talents_Training_Expert_Committee_en.pdf.

global climate governance and trade rules. Participants considered that the conference was rich in content and thought-provoking, with in-depth discussions on the impact of climate change on international trade regulations and policies. It also provided a valuable exchange platform to promote experience sharing among experts from different countries and regions.

(2) Panel Discussion on “Capacity Building for International Legal Co-operation” at World Law Congress 2025 (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

6. On 5 May 2025, the Academy organised a panel discussion on “Capacity Building for International Legal Co-operation” as part of the World Law Congress 2025 held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The congress attracted over 2,500 delegates from 87 countries. The Academy invited the Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Secretary General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), representative from UNCITRAL and an associate professor of Universidad Externado de Colombia to be speakers of the panel. They shared insights on capacity building and international legal collaborations, the uniqueness of Hong Kong’s common law system under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and the HKSAR Government’s initiatives and commitments on capacity building.

(3) Seminar on “Hong Kong as a Gateway to the Asia Pacific”, co-organised with UNIDROIT (Rome, Italy)

7. On 10 July 2025, the Academy co-organised a seminar titled “Hong Kong as a Gateway to the Asia Pacific” with UNIDROIT in Rome, Italy. The Chinese Ambassador to Italy, the Secretary General of UNIDROIT, and the Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR Government shared with nearly 100 legal and business professionals the unique status of Hong Kong under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and explained why Hong Kong is an ideal location for international organizations to establish liaison offices in the Asia-Pacific region.

(4) Workshop on Use of International Instruments to Legally Enable End-to-End Digitalization of Trade, in collaboration with UNCITRAL under the APEC Economic Committee (Incheon, Korea)

8. On 9 August 2025, the Academy co-organised the “Workshop on Use of International Instruments to Legally Enable End-to-End Digitalization of Trade” under the Economic Committee of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) with UNCITRAL. The workshop was attended by over 50 officials, scholars and experts from 13 APEC economies. The workshop was held in Incheon, Korea, and international trade law experts and policymakers from different economies were invited to examine how international law instruments such as UNCITRAL texts could facilitate a harmonized, legally enabling environment for digitalization of whole business lifecycle, from automated contracting to commercial transactions, trade finance, transport and dispute resolution. Participants expressed that the content of the workshop was practical, and integrated the scope of application of different international legal instruments, and that the experience sharing by representatives of the economies was of reference value.

(5) Training Programme on Common Law and International Arbitration, co-organised with UNIDROIT (Wuhan)

9. The Academy co-organised the “Training Programme on Common Law and International Arbitration” with UNIDROIT in Wuhan from 8 to 9 September 2025. As an important part of the inaugural UNIDROIT Asian Transnational Law Centre Summer School, the programme helped students and legal practitioners master important theoretical knowledge and practical perspectives of common law and international arbitration, and comprehensively improve their professional quality and comprehensive capabilities in international legal practice. The programme attracted over 100 judges, legal and dispute resolution professionals, scholars and students from various countries and regions including China, Pakistan, Vietnam, Nigeria, and Morocco.

B. Tailor-made Training Programmes Organised in Collaboration with Mainland Authorities and Bodies

(1) *Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course, co-organised with the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) (Hong Kong)*

10. From 6 to 17 January 2025, the Academy co-organised the “Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course” in Hong Kong with the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC. 25 judges from the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC, the High People’s Court of Guangdong Province, and courts in nine Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area participated in this two-week course in Hong Kong. Through lectures, discussions, and visits, the course provided a comprehensive introduction on the practical and operational aspects of Hong Kong’s common law system. Participants in the lectures and seminars included local judges and judicial officers, experienced legal professionals, and members of the Expert Committee.

11. The course helped promote cooperation between the legal systems of Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as accelerate the work on the interface of mechanisms and regulatory framework in the Greater Bay Area. Most participants found the training experience positive, and the lectures informative and practical. Many participants also hoped that the course would continue to run so that other Mainland judges may gain a more comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong common law system, thereby fostering cooperation between the legal systems of Hong Kong and the Mainland.

(2) *National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-Related Arbitration, co-organised with the Ministry of Justice of the PRC (Hong Kong)*

12. From 17 to 28 February 2025, the Academy co-organised the “National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-Related Arbitration” in Hong Kong with the Ministry of Justice of the PRC. Around 80 participants, including in-house counsel of Mainland

enterprises, experienced arbitrators, lawyers, and arbitration practitioners, were introduced to the system and practice of arbitration in Hong Kong. Through visits to leading law firms and arbitration institutions in Hong Kong, and lectures by different local legal scholars and senior members of the legal profession, participants gained a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's legal system, thereby strengthening understanding and cooperation between the two regions in cross-boundary dispute resolution. Most participants found the content of the course practical and closely related to their work, and suggested that real case studies be incorporated to supplement the discussions on principles.

(3) Hong Kong Common Law & Dispute Resolution Practical Training Course (Xi'an)

13. From 24 to 26 May 2025, the Academy organised the “Hong Kong Common Law & Dispute Resolution Practical Training Course” in Xi'an with the assistance of Shaanxi Province Lawyers Association. The course covered topics including Hong Kong common law and court litigation, evidence and cross-examination skills, international arbitration clauses, and practical issues encountered by Chinese enterprises going overseas. Through lectures, mock arbitration negotiations and hearings, the course highlighted Hong Kong's unique position as an international legal hub. In addition to lawyers from the Shaanxi Province, a total of around 140 lawyers from 13 neighbouring provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities, including Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Henan, Guangxi, Hainan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, and Xinjiang, attended the course. Most participants found the training experience positive, and the lectures comprehensive, rich in content, and easy to understand.

14. The Academy specially scheduled the course to take place shortly before the 7th Hong Kong Legal Services Forum, which was jointly organised by the DoJ, the Department of Justice of Shaanxi Province, and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government, together with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Xi'an Municipal People's Government as co-organisers. This arrangement allowed the local sectors in Xi'an to gain a deeper

understanding of Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services at a professional level.

C. Training Programmes Specifically Designed for Local Legal and Dispute Resolution Sectors

(1) *Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course 2025 (Hong Kong)*

15. In addition to participating in the above-mentioned programmes in different capacities, local legal and dispute resolution professionals in Hong Kong can also benefit from customised training specifically organised for local participants by the Academy, such as the “Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course 2025” held from 13 to 14 June 2025 in Hong Kong, which attracted about 300 participants from the local legal and dispute resolution sectors, including barristers, solicitors, and in-house counsel. The course covered various key areas of the Mainland civil and commercial legal practices. Through lectures and seminars, the course further enhanced Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution sectors’ understanding and knowledge of the practice and operation of the Mainland civil and commercial legal system, providing a platform for exchange and cooperation between the Hong Kong and Mainland legal sectors. Speakers of the course comprised judges of the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC and High People’s Court of Guangdong Province of the PRC, senior Mainland law professors, legal practitioners, in house counsel, arbitration practitioners and members of the Expert Committee.

16. The two-day course featured two panel discussions, respectively focusing on the legal risks and applicable compliance strategies for Chinese companies expanding overseas, the operational mechanisms of Mainland Chinese arbitration institutions, the latest developments in foreign-related arbitration practice, and how the Hong Kong’s dispute resolution sector could better participate in the rapid growth of foreign-related arbitration in Mainland. Participants considered that the course provided them with a comprehensive understanding of the latest developments in Mainland civil and commercial law practice, and the

procedures and practical arrangements of Mainland courts and arbitration institutions when handling relevant cases. The course also promoted collaboration between the two regions, so as to provide more comprehensive services to clients.

(2) Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents BRI Tour, in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC in HKSAR (Beijing and Kashgar)

17. The Academy collaborated with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC in HKSAR to arrange the “Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents BRI Tour”. From 21 to 25 July 2025, 16 young international legal talents from law faculties of three local universities, legal professional bodies and organizations, and the DoJ, visited Beijing, China’s capital, and Kashgar, Xinjiang. The delegation visited government authorities, legal institutions, international organisations, and high-tech enterprises. The tour enhanced Hong Kong young legal professionals’ understanding of China’s overall development and the “Belt and Road” Initiative, and deepened legal exchanges and cooperation between Mainland cities and Hong Kong. Participants considered the itinerary intensive and fulfilling, and through immersive visits and interactive exchanges, they further deepened their understanding of the country’s foreign policy, foreign-related rule of law, technology industry, as well as history and culture.

Upcoming Training Programmes to be launched by the Academy

18. The Academy is currently planning and preparing to organise various types of training programmes, including:

(1) Seminar on Trends in Combating Money Laundering and Corruption (Hong Kong)

19. The Academy will host a seminar on combating money laundering and corruption in Hong Kong on 24 September 2025 for prosecutors from the Mainland and ASEAN member states as well as local practitioners.

(2) Legal Practical Training Course for Chinese Enterprises Going Overseas (Hong Kong)

20. With the support from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, the Academy will host the “Legal Practical Legal Training Course for Chinese Enterprises Going Overseas” in Hong Kong from 19 to 25 October 2025. About 30 legal counsel and compliance officers from state-owned enterprises have been invited to attend the course. Through sharing sessions led by experienced local legal professionals and legal advisors from various renowned enterprises, participants will gain insights into the risks encountered by Chinese enterprises going overseas and the applicable compliance strategies, which will help Chinese enterprises “go global”, and expand their international influence.

(3) 3rd Training Course for Legal Departments in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (Hong Kong)

21. Under the framework of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference, the Academy will host the “3rd Training Course for Legal Departments in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area” in Hong Kong from 3 to 5 November 2025. The course will cover the characteristics of Hong Kong’s common law system, the organisational structure of the HKSAR Government, the Hong Kong court system, the drafting and enactment process of Hong Kong laws, and family mediation, etc.

(4) Shanghai Foreign-related Judicial Talents Training Course, co-organised with the Shanghai High People’s Court (Shanghai)

22. The Academy is planning to co-organise the “Shanghai Foreign-Related Judicial Talents Training Course” with the Shanghai Higher People’s Court in Shanghai in late November 2025. The course will target foreign-related commercial judges in Shanghai, covering topics such as “One Country, Two Systems” and Hong Kong common law.

(5) The 6th UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Judicial Summit 2025, co-organised with UNCITRAL during Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 (Hong Kong)

23. The Academy is going to organise “The 6th UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Judicial Summit 2025”, in collaboration with UNCITRAL, in Hong Kong during Hong Kong Law Week 2025. The UNCITRAL Asia-Pacific Judicial Summit is a biennial flagship event jointly organised by UNCITRAL and the DoJ. Comprising a judicial conference and a judicial roundtable, the summit is expected to attract judges, officials, and legal experts and scholars from the legal and dispute resolution fields across various jurisdictions.

Concluding Remarks

24. In summary, after its launch, the Academy has organised a wide range of variety of training programmes covering important areas such as legal practice, dispute resolution and arbitration, providing a platform for professionals to enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

25. The Academy is committed to leveraging Hong Kong’s unique legal system advantages and regional connections as its core competitiveness in foreign-related rule of law. Looking ahead, the Academy will deepen and strive to establish cooperation with more international legal institutions (including the International Organisation for Mediation, which will be in operation soon) to further consolidate Hong Kong’s unique position on the international legal stage. Meanwhile, the Academy will continue to maintain close ties and collaboration with various organisations to gain an in-depth understanding of the needs of talents in professional fields such as legal, dispute resolution, in particular, arbitration and mediation, etc, and tailor-make targeted training courses to cultivate outstanding legal talents for the country and Hong Kong.

26. The Academy will fully leverage the unique advantages of Hong Kong’s bilingual common law system, steadfastly promoting Hong Kong as the hub for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, and striving to build an international hub for talents on rule of law. This will not only promote the long term and stable

development of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, but also enable Hong Kong to play a more significant role in the country’s foreign-related rule of law construction, providing continuous impetus to the rule of law.

Advice Sought

27. Members are invited to note the contents of the paper and to offer any valuable view.

Department of Justice
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