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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the  
Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Justice**

**Session No. : 2**

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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the  
Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 92 Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Legal Policy

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Pursuant to reply no. SJ020, the Administration is requested to provide information on the number of briefings targeted at Mainland audience (covering topics including introduction to the work of the Department, matters relating to the rule of law including the Hong Kong legal system, the Department's policy initiatives, cooperation of work in legal and arbitration services between the Department and Mainland's legal departments and organizations and promotion of Hong Kong as an international centre for legal services and dispute resolution). The Administration is also requested to provide a breakdown by topics, with indications of the frequency and the number of participants in the briefings.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The numbers of briefings given by the Department of Justice as a whole to Mainland audience in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) are set out below :

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
No. of briefings to Mainland audience	38	45	45

In each year, about 600 participants joined the briefings.

In general, our briefings to Mainland audience cover one or more of the following topics, namely, introduction to the work of the Department, matters relating to the rule of law including the Hong Kong legal system as well as the Basic Law and human rights, the Department's policy initiatives, cooperation of work in legal and arbitration services between the Department and Mainland's legal departments and organizations and promotion of Hong Kong as an international centre for legal services and dispute resolution. As a number of topics would be covered in individual briefings and the topics would vary depending on the nature of the occasions, we do not keep any statistical breakdown of the number of briefings in respect of the individual topics mentioned above.

Name in block letters: Arthur Ho

Post Title: Director of Administration  
and Development

Date: 18.4.2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 92 Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Administration is requested to provide information on the number of legal professionals in the Department of Justice recruited from other legal jurisdictions, and who are not proficient in the use of Chinese Language.

Asked by: Hon. Albert HO Chun-yan

Reply:

Candidates who meet the following entry requirements can apply for the Government Counsel (GC) post in the Department of Justice :

(a) solicitors admitted in a recognised jurisdiction as stipulated under Section 2A and Schedule 2 of the Legal Officers Ordinance (LOO), or barristers with one year's professional experience since attaining the right to full practice in a recognised jurisdiction as stipulated under Section 2A and Schedule 2 of the LOO (recognised jurisdictions as stipulated under Section 2A and Schedule 2 of the LOO are Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the States and Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Territories and provinces of Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, Zimbabwe and Singapore); and

(b) have "Level 2" result in the Use of English paper and "Level 1" result in the Use of Chinese paper in the Common Recruitment Examination (or relevant results in the English and Chinese language subjects of specified public examinations). However, candidates without the requisite Chinese language requirements may also be appointed subject to the operational needs of the Department.

As at 16.4.2013, the Department has 76 serving officers in the GC Grade, who were admitted in recognised jurisdictions other than Hong Kong when they were first appointed. Among these 76 officers, 17 did not possess the requisite Chinese Language requirement.

Name in block letters: Arthur Ho

Post Title: Director of Administration  
and Development

Date: 18.4.2013