

# Secondment to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) Online Information Session

Ms Linda Lam, Law Officer (International Law)

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# Secondment to the HCCH

## Introduction

### Policy Initiative of the Department of Justice (DOJ)

- ▶ To nurture legal talent through continuous provision of training opportunities

### The HCCH Secondment Programme

- ▶ The standing arrangement was made pursuant to an agreement concluded between the Central People's Government and the HCCH and the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the HKSAR of PRC and the HCCH on 22 December 2020
- ▶ Continual explorations and discussions with other international organisations for secondment opportunities to all Hong Kong legal professionals

# Secondment to the HCCH Speakers and Programme

- ▶ Ms Linda Lam, Law Officer (International Law)
  - ▶ Introduction to the secondment programme
- ▶ Dr Gérardine Goh Escolar, Deputy Secretary General of the HCCH & Mr Brody Warren, Attaché to the Secretary General of the HCCH
  - ▶ Briefing on the HCCH's work
  - ▶ Role of the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH
  - ▶ Professional duties of secondees
  - ▶ Expectations for secondees
- ▶ Ms Beryl Wu, current secondee & Mr Eric Yuen, past secondee
  - ▶ Experience sharing
- ▶ Q&A Session

# The HCCH Secondment Programme

- ▶ Secondment of Hong Kong legal professionals to the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH in The Hague, the Netherlands
- ▶ Secondment period: Normally 6 to 12 months unless agreed otherwise
- ▶ The Permanent Bureau of the HCCH is headed by its Secretary General Dr Christophe Bernasconi, and supported by a team of diplomatic lawyers
- ▶ The HCCH is a global inter-governmental organisation working for the progressive unification of the private international law rules
- ▶ The HCCH develops and services multilateral legal instruments in a wide range of areas

# The HCCH Secondment Programme

## Who can apply?

- ▶ Open to both private legal practitioners in Hong Kong and lawyers from the public sector
  - ▶ Private sector secondee: monthly allowance of HK\$50,000 from the HCCH
  - ▶ Civil servants in the employ of the Government: subject to the secondment terms under the relevant Government regulations

# The HCCH Secondment Programme

## How to apply?

- ▶ Application deadline: 10 May 2022 (Tuesday)
- ▶ Non-Government applicants
  - ▶ Application form and supporting documents (including CV, written submission, two or more letters of recommendation, previous written work, transcripts and employment records, etc.)
  - ▶ “Secondment Programmes to International Organisations” webpage ([https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/secondment\\_programmes\\_to\\_international\\_organisations.html](https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/secondment_programmes_to_international_organisations.html))
- ▶ Government applicants
  - ▶ Relevant information and application forms circulated to the legal divisions in DoJ, as well as the relevant law-related departments
- ▶ Send applications to the International Law Division of the DoJ via the online portal: <https://eform.one.gov.hk/form/doj007/en/>

# The HCCH Secondment Programme

## Selection Criteria

- (a) be permanent residents of the HKSAR with Chinese nationality;
- (b) be (i) solicitors admitted in Hong Kong; (ii) barristers with the right to full practice in Hong Kong; or (iii) civil servants who are serving at the ranks of the grades as specified in the advertisement circulated to the relevant law-related departments;
- (c) have received law school education in a system based on civil law, common law and equity, or other, including conflicts of laws and are familiar with comparative law (substantive and procedural law); knowledge of public international law, particularly the law of treaties, is desirable;
- (d) have a good command, both written and spoken, of at least one of the official languages of the HCCH (French or English); knowledge of another language is an asset; and
- (e) have good drafting capabilities (dissertation, academic essay, law review or other publication experience will be taken into account).

# The HCCH Secondment Programme Selection Process

- ▶ Applications will be assessed on the basis of merit

11 Apr - 10 May 2022 (4 weeks)	Application period
10 May 2022	Close of applications
May 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> round interview
Around mid-2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> round interview
TBC	3 <sup>rd</sup> round interview
Earliest possible start time for the first secondment	Aug 2022 or after



# The HCCH Secondment Programme

- ▶ For further information, please visit:



[https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/secondment\\_programmes\\_to\\_international\\_organisations.html](https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/secondment_programmes_to_international_organisations.html)