

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

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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 the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region 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) (Acting)
 - ▶ Introduction to the secondment programme
- ▶ Professor Zhao Yun, Representative of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP) of the HCCH
 - ▶ Briefing on the HCCH
- ▶ Dr. James Ding, Commissioner of the Inclusive Dispute Avoidance Resolution Office
 - ▶ Secondment experience at the HCCH
 - ▶ Hong Kong's participation in the work of the HCCH
- ▶ 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 secondees: 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: 18 February 2021
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Government applicants
 - ▶ Relevant information and application forms circulated to the legal divisions in DoJ, as well as the relevant law-related departments

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

22 Jan - 18 Feb 2021 (4 weeks)	Application period
18 Feb 2021	Close of applications
Mar 2021	1 st round interview
Q2 2021	2 nd round interview
TBC	3 rd round interview
Earliest possible start time for the first secondment	July 2021

The HCCH Secondment Programme

- ▶ For further information, please visit:

https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/miscellaneous/secondment_programmes_to_international_organisations.html