

BASIC LAW

B U L L E T I N



EDITOR'S NOTE

4 April 2005 marks the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the HKSAR. Accordingly, we have prepared an article for *The Focus* reviewing how the Basic Law has been implemented in the HKSAR since it came into effect on 1 July 1997. In this issue, we also discuss various aspects of the external affairs of the HKSAR. In addition to an article in *The Focus* giving readers a general picture of HKSAR's external affairs, we have included in the *Sidelights* articles on Hong Kong's participation in the World Trade Organization, air services, implementation of international agreements and travel documents.

The *Judgment Update* includes summaries of two court cases. They relate to (a) the power of the Chief Executive to determine the minimum term within an indeterminate sentence that an offender under 18 years old (at the time of the commission of the relevant offence) is to serve; and (b) the constitutional right to legal representation under BL 35. As legislative amendments were made as a result of the first case, we have included an article in the *Sidelights* on the legal development subsequent to the case.

As readers may be interested in knowing who comprise the Committee for the Basic Law (which plays an important role under BL 17, 18, 158 and 159), we have included an updated list of the members of the Committee in the *Sidelights*.

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