



Press release
(For immediate release)

4 December 2012

**The Law Society of Hong Kong welcomes the Government's decision
on usage of the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices**

The Law Society welcomes the Government's decision to allocate the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices for use as offices by the Department of Justice and other law related non-government organisations. The President of the Law Society Mr. Dieter Yih said, "I am very pleased that the Government has decided to preserve and revitalize the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices. Turning it into a landmark symbolizing our well-established legal system in Hong Kong is very meaningful."

It is noted that the detailed arrangement on the use of the West Wing is yet to be determined. The Law Society urges the Government to consider allocating some space for mediation and legal training.

Despite the Government's active promotion of mediation, the difficulty in securing a suitable venue for mediation at affordable charges proves to be an obstacle in making mediation a user friendly avenue of dispute resolution. The conveniently located West Wing will be a good choice for use by the public as a mediation venue.

Continuing professional training is important to the maintenance of standards for the legal profession. Training venues however are inadequate and the Law Society urges the Government to consider reserving space for use as a training venue by the legal sector.

Enquiries: Valerie Cheung/Fiona Ng
Telephone: 2846 0583/2846 0589
Email: adceag@hklawsoc.org.hk

About the Law Society of Hong Kong

The Law Society of Hong Kong is a professional body of solicitors in Hong Kong vested with the statutory powers to regulate the professional conduct of solicitors. It establishes and promotes professional standards and the solicitors' code of conduct and practice and ensures its compliance. The Law Society assists its members to promote Hong Kong legal services and offers its views from time to time on legal issues that are of public concern. For more information, please visit: www.hklawsoc.org.hk