



Press Release

10 November 2022

**5th Belt and Road Conference
“Metaverse and Money on the Belt and Road”**

Organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region and the 115th Anniversary of the Law Society, the 5th Belt and Road Conference was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre today (10 November 2022) in a hybrid format, attracting a record-high registration of over 1,400 participants from 37 jurisdictions.

As part of “Hong Kong Legal Week 2022”, this year’s Conference was themed on “Metaverse and Money on the Belt and Road”. In his welcome remarks, the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. C. M. Chan, pointed out that in the post-pandemic era, the Belt and Road Initiative means more important than ever because it promotes connectivity, convergence and collaboration. “Despite the geopolitical tensions, soaring inflation and weakening global economy, this Belt and Road spirit will help keep us going as we work our way out”.

Mr. C. M. Chan said the Law Society has grown into a 13,000-member strong professional body, adding that with our common law tradition, legal expertise and international perspectives, Hong Kong lawyers can provide effective support for investors in the drafting, enforcement and resolution of disputes in relation to trade and investment contracts in the Greater Bay Area and along the Belt and Road.

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam Ting-kwok, SC, gave an opening address at the Opening Ceremony, saying that “the emergence of new technologies are associated with risks. For instance, the use of blockchain technology and crypto and digital currencies might give rise to risks such as money laundering and even terrorist financing. A robust legal and regulatory framework is therefore imperative for the healthy and sustainable development of these technologies in the Belt and Road context.”

Also speaking at the Opening Ceremony was Mr Fang Jianming, the Deputy Commissioner of Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“MFA”). He said that the rule of law is an essential and important foundation that safeguards the development of the Belt and Road. He encouraged the legal sector to fully utilise Hong Kong’s institutional advantages under “One Country, Two Systems” and the common law system. He also urged legal professionals to take advantage of its global reputation of high professional standards to safeguard the rule of law, to

actively participate in Hong Kong's development as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, and to contribute to the formulation and harmonisation of rules, dispute prevention and resolution, as well as exchanges and cooperation to promote the rule of law.

The event featured government leaders as well as experts and scholars from the legal, technology and financial sector across the world, exploring the vast opportunities brought to the legal industry by the rise of metaverse and the increasing use of digital currency. Active discussions were held on how to identify and overcome the legal, regulatory and geopolitical barriers hindering growth.

Since 2017, The Law Society of Hong Kong has held the Belt and Road Conference almost once every year. It is the first and foremost conference of its kind, dedicated to exploring opportunities and discussing solutions for challenges brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative for the legal profession.

Event Photos



The President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. C. M. Chan, delivers welcome remarks at the 5th Belt and Road Conference.



The President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr C.M. Chan (centre), and the two guests of honour, the Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam Ting-kwok SC (second from right) and Deputy Commissioner of the MFA Mr Fang Jianming (second from left), attend the event.



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