

MAINLAND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

To cope with the ever increasing cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong and our Mainland counterparts, the Standing Committee acknowledged the great support provided by the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee in organizing various events and visits.

Spring Reception 2003

The Mainland Legal Affairs Committee hosted a spring reception on 27 February for 54 PRC lawyers who were working in Hong Kong at that time.

The PRC lawyers present at the reception appreciated the opportunity to become acquainted with members of the Law Society.



Dr. He Min of the China Legal Services Ltd at the Spring Reception

Professional Development Programme (Inbound)

During the period between November 2002 and October 2003, the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee arranged four inbound programmes for Mainland lawyers from the provinces of Anhui, Hubei, Guangdong and Shandong respectively. 12 Mainland lawyers from Anhui and Shandong, and 11 lawyers from Hubei and Guangdong were attached to Hong Kong law firms for a four-week secondment.

Due to the SARS outbreak, the number of inbound programmes arranged during the period was reduced.

During their secondment, the Mainland lawyers participated in a number of activities and visited various Government Departments. These included the Department of Justice, High Court, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, Land Registry, Company Registry, Legal Aid Department, Legislative Council, China Legal Service Hong Kong Ltd, Association of China-Appointed Attesting Officers Ltd., Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association.

During some of these visits, the Secretary for Justice, the Deputy Solicitor General Mr. Stephen Wong, High Court Registrar Mr. Christopher Chan, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong Professor Johannes M.M. Chan and Dr. Fu Hualing also received the Mainland lawyers.

Professional Development Programme (Outbound)

An outbound programme for Hong Kong Solicitors was arranged to Sichuan for two weeks in August. It was the second exchange activity, after the four-week secondment of 12 Sichuan lawyers to Hong Kong law firms. As a reciprocal training, five solicitors also participated in a two-week outbound Professional Development Programme to Sichuan, Chengdu. These programmes provided good opportunities for Hong Kong solicitors to foster collaboration and establish professional links with Mainland firms and lawyers. Such networking and collaboration will be particularly effective with the implementation of CEPA in January 2004.



Professional Development Programme – Shandong



Professional Development Programme – Guangdong

Visitors from the Mainland

1. Hunan Bureau of Health, Conduct Section on 28 March
2. Training Scheme in Common Law for Mainland Official on 5 June
3. Business Association from the University of Hong Kong on 2 August
4. Dongguan Lawyers Association on 22 August



Dongguan Lawyers Association visit the Law Society

5. CEPA meeting with Guangzhou Justice Bureau officials on 25 August
6. Dalian Lawyers Association 4 September



Dalian Lawyers Association visit Hong Kong

7. Shenzhen Municipal Government officials visited on 8 September
8. 25 delegates from the Hunan Provincial Government visited the Law Society on 24 September
9. Huizhou Lawyers Association of Guangdong province visited on 25 September
10. Tianjin Lawyers Association on 21 October

11. Delegation from Huainan Bureau of Justice and Lawyers Association visited on 18 October
12. Jiangsu Lawyers Association in October
13. Shanghai Justice Bureau on 10 October
14. Delegation from the Liaison Office of the Central Government of PRC on 28 October
15. Jiangsu Lawyers Association on 10 November
16. Interview with the editor of *China Youth Daily* on 29 November



Qinghai/Ningxia Notary Public and Lawyers Association visit the Law Society

17. Qinghai/Ningxia Notary Public and Lawyers Association visited on 27 November
18. Mr. Zhang Jiannan, Director-General of the General Administration of Anti-Corruptions, The Supreme People's Procuratorate, PRC, on 26 November
19. Tianjin Bureau of Justice and Economic and Technology Development District Legal Aid Centre visited on 17 December



Tianjin Bureau of Justice at the Law Society

Visits to the Mainland

Pearl River Delta Trip 1

The President and the Chairman of the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee headed a delegation of members to visit lawyers associations of Guangdong, Guangzhou, Shunde, Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Macau in February.



Pearl River Delta Trip 2

A delegation of the Law Society visited lawyers' associations of Foshan, Dongguan, Shenzhen and Macau on March 18. There were discussions concerning matters of constructing web-site linkage, further collaboration and mutual co-operation among lawyers' associations in the Pearl River Delta.

The delegation was received by Mr. Huang Wu, the Deputy Director of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Justice.

Intellectual Property Roadshow in Pearl River Delta

The Intellectual Property Department organized a seminar and visits to several SMEs in Guangzhou on 13 March. The trip aimed at introducing Hong Kong's intellectual property and legal system to

Small and Medium Enterprises, and related enterprises in the Pearl River Delta, as well as to promote intellectual property services provided by Hong Kong legal practitioners. 17 members including Council members Mr. Vincent Liang and Mr. Junius Ho participated in this event.



Visit to the Shunde Lawyers Association

Small and Medium Enterprises – Trip to Guangzhou

Small and Medium Enterprises organized a visit to Guangzhou in March. The Guangdong Economic and Trade Office also acted as a co-organizer. The objective of the visit was to promote the Hong Kong service industries including the legal sector, accounting, finance, logistics, tourism, product design, and e-commerce to the Mainland enterprises and explore business opportunities along the Pearl River Delta.

Fujian-Hong Kong Week

The HKSAR Beijing Office organized the Fujian-Hong Kong Week from August 24 to 26. It aimed at strengthening our professional linkage with Xiamen, Fuzhou and Fujian Lawyers Associations. A total of eight delegates led by the President participated in the event. The delegation was also invited to participate in the seminar specially arranged for the service sector. A display booth was established for the provision of free legal consultation.



Fujian – Hong Kong Week led by the Financial Secretary Hon. Henry Tang

Beijing Symposium 2003

The Beijing Bureau of Justice and the Law Society of Hong Kong co-organized a Beijing Symposium in October. The Symposium focused on the opportunities for legal professionals under CEPA. The Law Society sent a delegation of 50 to participate in this event. Ms. Emily Lam and Mr. Eddie Lee were invited as speakers at the symposium.



The President with 50 delegates participate in the Beijing Symposium

The Secretary for Justice, Director of the Beijing Bureau of Justice, President of the Beijing Lawyers Association and President of the Law Society of Hong Kong attended this event and delivered opening speeches. The Law Society delegates also visited the following organizations:

- Beijing Bureau of Justice;
- Beijing Lawyers Association;
- Beijing Notary Public Office;
- Beijing Legal Aid Department;



Delegates sing at the farewell dinner

Zhejiang-Hong Kong Week

The Zhejiang - Hong Kong Week was hosted by the HKSAR Beijing Office in Hangzhou from 27 November to 2 December. Eight professional bodies including the Law Society were invited to participate.



Council member Lester Huang attended the Zhejiang-Hong Kong Week

HKTDC Business Matching Free Advisory Services in PRD Cities

The on-site seminar programmes were held in November and the speakers were Eddie Lee, Junius Ho and Wong Tak Shing.

Third China Lawyers Forum in Guangzhou

A total of 45 participants attended the third China Lawyers Forum in Guangzhou in December. Over 800 lawyers from 18 provinces joined the Forum.

Topics such as intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, maritime law and environmental law were discussed.



The Third China Lawyers Forum

HKTDC Hong Kong Professional Services Expo, Shenzhen

The Shenzhen Expo was held in December in Shenzhen. The President represented the Law Society in the Opening Ceremony, CEO Forum and Press Conference. VIP guests at the Ceremony included the Mayor of Guangdong Province, the Secretary for Justice, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology Mr. John Tsang, Chairman of the Coalition for Professional Services the Hon. Mr. C.Y. Leung and the Chairman of the HKTDC.

Mr. Anthony Chow signed the cooperation agreement with Mr. Xu Jian, the President of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association in the Seminar of Legal Profession.



Shenzhen Expo 2003

20 Hong Kong law firms established exhibition booths. A cocktail reception took place on 18 December. About 50 lawyers from both Hong Kong and Shenzhen were invited to join this networking session.

Shanghai Symposium

The Shanghai Symposium organized by the Department of Justice was held in Shanghai on 11 December. A total of 45 participants joined the trip and attended the "Shanghai-Hong Kong Law Forum". Council members, Mr. Anthony Chow, Mr. Wong Kwai Huen and a number of senior members in the profession and the representatives from the Hong Kong Bar Association participated in the event. The Secretary for Justice attended the opening ceremony as the guest of honour and met the Vice Mayor of Shanghai.



Delegates attend the Shanghai Symposium

Members of the Committee:

Raymond C.K. HO (*Chairman*)
Edward W.Y. CHEUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Margaret CHOI
FU Hua Ling
Junius K.Y. HO
IP Shing Hing
Christine M. KOO
Patrick K.H. LAM
Emily Y.M. LAM
Vincent W.S. LIANG
MA Xiaohu

SONG Bing
TAM Kwok Leung
Herbert H.K. TSOI
Stephen K.Y. WONG
WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

Mainland Column

The Mainland Legal Affairs Committee recommended that a 'Mainland Column' be established in the *Hong Kong Lawyer*:

- (a) to publish materials relating to the legal, tax, financial, investment, economic and business environments in China (to be released periodically);
- (b) to evaluate the strength of the Chinese Law websites;
- (c) to review legislative updates in the Mainland and judicial interpretations relevant to the practice of Hong Kong solicitors;

The following articles were published:

- An interview with Moses Cheng (July)
- Secretary for Justice, The Hon. Ms. Elsie Leung (August)
- A Hong Kong Lawyer in the Mainland – Eddie Lee (September)
- Corporate Legal Counsel – Keys to Success when working on the Mainland – Joe Poon (October)
- Sichuan Outbound Programme (November)
- Highlights of the Beijing Symposium (December)

Members of the Sub-committee:

WONG Tak Shing (*Chairman*)
Margaret CHOI
Emily Y.M. LAM

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs