



9 November 2023

Press Release

Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) Young Lawyers Forum successfully held

Co-organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong (“the Law Society”) and the Department of Justice (“DoJ”), the GBA Young Lawyers Forum (“the Forum”) was held successfully today (9 November 2023). As one of the events of DoJ’s annual flagship project “Hong Kong Legal Week 2023”, the Forum was held in a hybrid format under the theme “Building a Future Together under GBA Opportunities”. The Forum attracted registrations by 35 lawyers’ associations from different provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, recording over 1,000 local and Mainland participants in total.

At the Opening Ceremony, **Mr. C. M. Chan**, President of the Law Society, said that currently the total economic volume of the GBA has exceeded US\$1.9 trillion, and if the area was considered an independent economy, it would be the 10th largest economy in the world. Lawyers in the GBA form a huge legal talent pool, which can provide diversified and international legal services for the high-quality development of Mainland enterprises.

“The GBA, with its promising prospects, is the best entry point for Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country, and the best platform for young people to unleash their strengths and potentials. The purpose of today’s forum is to help young lawyers seize the opportunities arising from the development of the GBA, unleash their strengths in the area, realise their dreams, and contribute to Hong Kong and the country”, said Mr. C. M. Chan.

The 14th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong’s development into an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Main Forum, we had the honour of having **Mr. Fang Jianming**, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, deliver a keynote address. Mr. Fang Jianming said, “As the only common law jurisdiction in the area, Hong Kong has a solid foundation of the rule of law, and a legal system that is in line with international rules, being a pioneer in terms of rule formulation”.

Mr. Fang Jianming encouraged Hong Kong to give full play to its legal expertise, resolve the differences between the “two systems”, promote the connectivity of mechanisms of the three regions in trade, financing and service rules, and build a convenient, efficient, multi-faceted, collaborative and smooth cross-border dispute resolution and legal services platform for the GBA. He also encouraged young lawyers to seize the opportunities in the GBA and actively participate in the development of the area.

Professor Ba Shusong, Managing Director and Chief China Economist of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited; **Dr. Lee George Lam**, Co-Chairman of Hong Kong Aerospace Technology Group Limited; and **Mr. Ronald Sum**, Council Member of the Law Society, were invited to join the discussion and share their views in the Main Forum, which was hosted by **Dr. James Wong**, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the GBA Young Lawyers Forum and Vice-Chairman of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee of the Law Society. On the theme “Planning Strategy – Strategic positioning and roles of legal professionals in the Greater Bay Area”, they discussed the roles of legal professionals in building a law-based business environment from the perspectives of politics, business and the local legal community, as well as how to cooperate with enterprises in the GBA.

To further promote cooperation among Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as strengthen exchange among young talents from the three regions, the Forum featured an Interactive Session where young legal representatives from the three regions were invited to share their views and expectation on practising in the GBA in the format of “One Question and Three Answers”.

Before the start of the Interactive Session, **Ms. Jiang Xiao Wen**, Director of Justice Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality; and **Mr. Huang Shan**, Director of Young Lawyers Committee of All China Lawyers Association, were invited to speak on the recent developments of the GBA and the country’s support for young lawyers, with a view to helping them seize opportunities in the GBA and contribute to the country.

Afterwards, **Ms. Sharon Tam**, Chairlady of Greater China Young Solicitors Sub-Committee of the Law Society; **Mr. Gao Chao**, young lawyer representative from Guangdong Lawyers Association; and **Ms. Chao Sio Ngan**, young lawyer representative from Macau Lawyers Association, shared their experience in and expectations of practising in the GBA, under the topic “Embracing opportunities and realising dreams in the GBA”. They also discussed matters of concern to young lawyers, including the GBA Legal Professional Examination, the practice environment in the GBA cities, etc.

To highlight the unique linguistic characteristics of the GBA, under the facilitation of **Ms. Beryl Wu**, the Forum’s moderator and member of 2023 Law Week Organising Committee of the Law Society, the three young lawyers from three different jurisdictions in the GBA conversed in Putonghua, English and Cantonese throughout the session.

Last but not least, Vice-President and Chairman of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee of the Law Society, **Mr. Roden Rong**, in his closing speech highlighted that both Chinese and English are official languages used by the Hong Kong Government, legislature and judiciary, and that multi-lingual skills (English, Putonghua and Cantonese) are one of the many strengths of Hong Kong’s young lawyers.

Event Photos:



Group photo of Law Society representatives and officiating guests



Mr. C. M. Chan, President of the Law Society, delivers opening remarks



Mr. Fang Jianming, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, delivers a keynote address at the Main Forum



Main Forum: Planning Strategy – Strategic positioning and roles of legal professionals in the Greater Bay Area



Interactive session: Understanding the three jurisdictions – Embracing opportunities and realising dreams in the GBA



Mr. Roden Tong, Vice-President of the Law Society, delivers closing remarks