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Press Release

The Law Society of Hong Kong organises the Sports Law Mega Event 2025

Sports and sports industry have captured significant public attention in recent years. Further, sports law and related policies have been canvassed in the 2024 Policy Address. The legal framework surrounding sports law and its related policies is becoming increasingly vital. Against this background, The Law Society of Hong Kong proudly presents the inaugural Sports Law Mega Event (“Mega Event”) in February 2025. The Mega Event aims to discover new frontiers and opportunities for Hong Kong’s legal industry, sports industry as well as sports development at the national level. We also hope to help align Hong Kong’s sports law with the world.

This ground-breaking Mega Event aims to illuminate the critical interface among sports, law and business against the backdrop of “One Country, Two Systems and Three Jurisdictions”. It consists of three components, namely the Sports Law Conference, the 15th Recreation and Sports Night and the 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Lawyers Sports Meet. With a line-up of experts from different parts of the world, the Sports Law Conference was successfully held today (21 February) at the Hopewell Hotel.

The Law Society of Hong Kong’s Sports Law Conference

Themed “Be Just! Be a Good Sport”, the Sports Law Conference was held in the form of an international conference, having recorded close to 350 physical participants and over 400 online registrations from 14 jurisdictions. Themed “Be Just! Be a Good Sport”, the Conference discussed a series of topics related to sports, law and business, exploring the significance of sports law and sports arbitration in the development of the sports industry.

In his welcome remarks, the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, **Mr. Roden Tong**, said that sports and related industries rank among the fastest-growing sectors in Hong Kong, and that the city’s diverse array of legal and dispute resolution services can significantly bolster sports development, thereby laying a robust legal foundation for the growth of the sports industry. In January 2025, The Law Society of Hong Kong made a submission in response to the Government’s consultation on the Budget for 2025-2026. Among others, we advocated for the establishment of a dedicated high-performance unit that integrates personnel and resources from various government departments, focusing exclusively on promoting sports development.

President Tong added that sports law transcends mere regulation of athletic activities. It encompasses both contentious and non-contentious legal issues vital to the industry’s

functioning. Those issues include personality rights, intellectual property, media rights, broadcasting rights, anti-money laundry, anti-doping and sports dispute resolution, etc. At this conference, we were honoured to host an impressive array of speakers, including legal professionals, high-ranking officials, policymakers, legislators, an Olympic gold medalist, business leaders, esports developers, and solicitor sports arbitrators. Some have travelled from the Mainland, France, and Switzerland, bringing diverse perspectives.

During the Opening Session, **the Hon Mrs. Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, GBM, GBS, JP**, Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council and Member of Legislative Council, said, “The importance China attaches to sports arbitration highlights the important role The Law Society of Hong Kong can play in promoting sports arbitration and expanding its services.” She added.

Meanwhile, with Hong Kong people’s sports enthusiasm fired up and mega facilities coming on stream, she said the city is well placed to host more international games and competitions to cement Hong Kong’s position as an international sports hub. Mrs. Ip also proposed hosting the first Belt and Road Games in the Greater Bay Area. “Hong Kong should seriously consider making a recommendation to the central authorities that the Greater Bay Area, including Hong Kong, should hold the first Belt and Road Games in 2027, after the successful conclusion of the 2025 National Games and the 2026 Asian Games... A Belt and Road Games secretariat could be established in Hong Kong,” she said. “Holding the Belt and Road Games in Hong Kong would provide a tremendous boost to the development of local sports industries, as well as to the local retail and catering sectors and of course tourism,” added Mrs. Ip.

Ms. Rosanna Law Shuk-pui, JP, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, said as the sports industry continues to grow, there is a need to develop a robust legal system that supports fair play and resolves conflicts effectively, thereby promoting professionalism and accountability within the sector. “Sports have the potential to unlock a wide range of different values that enrich our community and contribute to the growth of Hong Kong. The potential for sports development is truly immense. My team will continue to work with the sports, legal and business sectors to ensure that the sports industry thrives. I am confident that through sports, we can build a stronger, healthier, and more united Hong Kong.” She said.

Ms. Vivian Kong, MH, Olympic Gold Medallist, said, “The true meaning of sports extends far beyond medals, good health or entertainment. At the heart of sports is the principle of fair play and achieving true equality in sports requires addressing systematic barriers, legal barriers and ensuring that opportunities are open to all. I am very grateful for the legal community’s interest and commitment to protecting athletes and the development of the sports sector. There is immense potential for sports law to promote fairness and inclusion in sports to help athletes become the best that they can be.”

We were also honoured to have invited **Dr. the Hon Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP**, Deputy Secretary for Justice, to deliver a keynote speech at the Conference Lunch. He said, “Over the past two years, the Government has been actively engaging with key stakeholders in order to better understand the needs of our sports sector... In the Chief Executive’s Policy Address last year, the Government announced the initiative to explore establishing a sports dispute resolution mechanism and promote sports arbitration, leveraging the institutional advantages of Hong Kong in dispute resolution. Specifically, the Government supports the industry in launching a pilot scheme on sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong within 2025.”

Dr. Cheung pointed out that industry participation, capacity building, promotion and public education are crucial for advancing the sports industry and strengthening the sports dispute resolution framework. “May we all embrace today's theme: ‘Be Just! Be a Good Sport!’ And let’s take a step further: let us cultivate a culture of effective sports dispute resolution, and build a good sports community that promotes growth and excellence.” He said.

Please click [here](#) for the event webpage and programme rundown.

About the Sports Law Mega Event

Following the conference, the 15th Recreation and Sports Night would be held in the evening of the same day. The event takes the form of a black-tie gala dinner with captivating performances and engaging games, fostering the exchange of brilliant ideas between lawyers and distinguished guests in an enchanting setting.

The 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Lawyers Sports Meet (“Sports Meet”) is a biennial event that brings together lawyers from three jurisdictions, promoting the rule of law, the spirit of justice and sportsmanship through twelve diverse sports competitions, including Badminton, Basketball, Bridge, Football, Golf, Running, Snooker, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Tenpin Bowling and Volleyball. The Opening Ceremony of the Sports Meet will take place at the brand-new Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground on the morning of 22 February. Guests including the Hon Andrew Cheung Kui-nung, GBM, Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal; Deputy Secretary for Justice Dr. Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP; as well as national Olympic gold medallists, will attend and engage in sharing session at the event.

Through these three events, the Law Society aims to explore how sports can transform the legal profession and contribute to the advancement of Hong Kong, while celebrating the values of fairness, integrity and rule of law through the display of athletic prowess, a Rule of Law Marathon and The Rule of Law Pledge, which will respectively culminate and take place at the Opening Ceremony of the Sports Meet. Notably, certain events would be open to stakeholders across different generations, promoting community engagement and intergenerational inheritance.