

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Standing Committee on External Affairs has overall responsibilities in overseeing the promotion of the Law Society objects and overall image of the solicitor's branch of the legal profession in Hong Kong, as well as fostering relationship with government and non-government organizations, other professional bodies, media representatives and the public through public relations activities or special projects. It is also responsible for monitoring public issues that are of concern to the legal profession or of public interest and making recommendations to the Council on whether the Law Society should and how it may address those issues.

During the year under review, there was a change in the leadership and membership of the Standing Committee as former Chairman Mr. Billy Ma stepped down in May. Mr. Stephen Hung succeeded Mr. Ma as the new Chairman of the Standing Committee and Ms. Melissa Pang assumed the position of Vice-Chairman with effect from June 2010. A number of existing members who had served in the Standing Committee for over six years retired and the vacancies were filled subsequently.

Members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chairman from June)	(10/11)	Lillian L.N. HO (until April)	(2/3)
Billy W.Y. MA (Chairman until May)	(9/11)	Frederick K.C. KAN (from June)	(6/7)
Melissa K. PANG (Vice-Chairman from June)	(6/11)	Ambrose S.K. LAM	(9/11)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN (until May)	(4/4)	Kenneth H.S. NG	(6/11)
CHAN Chak Ming (from June)	(4/6)	Ludwig S.W. NG (until May)	(2/4)
Nicholas H.F. CHAN (from June)	(5/6)	Philip W.C. WONG	(8/11)
Charles C.C. CHAU	(8/11)	Ann M.S. YEUNG (from June)	(6/6)
Anthony W.K. CHOW (until May)	(2/4)	Henry K.W. YIP (from June)	(5/6)
Elaine Y.L. HO	(6/11)	Stephen Reed W.Y. YAP	(7/11)

Secretary: Valerie Cheung, Director of Communications and External Affairs

2010 has been a busy year for the Standing Committee. Highlights of activities organized by the Standing Committee and its sub-committees in the areas of community relations, government relations, international relations, mainland relations and media relations are cited in the following pages.

HONG KONG LEGAL SERVICES FORUM IN SHANGHAI

In support of the initiative of the Department of Justice in promoting Hong Kong's strength as a regional centre of legal service and dispute resolution, the Law Society co-organized the "Hong Kong Legal Services Forum" ("Forum") on 6 July 2010 in Shanghai where the World Expo was staged. Other co-organizers include the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the International Court of Arbitration (Asia Office) of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The Forum was well-attended by over 400 guests including 27 members from the Law Society representing 25 firms. President Huen Wong was one of the officiating guests at the Forum and a moderator at one of the sessions covering "Legal Risks in International Trade" where Mr. Peter Sit and Ms. Emily Lam of the Law Society and a member of the Hong Kong Bar Association were speakers. Another Law Society speaker was Ms. Jacqueline Chiu who covered the topic of "Corporate Finance and Governance".

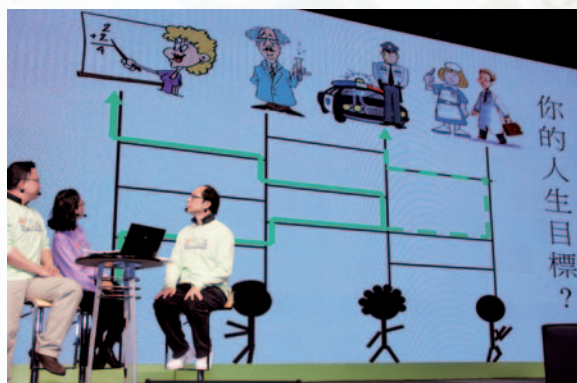


TEEN TALK

As part of the Law Society's effort to address the aspirations of different sections of the community particularly that of young people, a new project titled "Teen Talk" was initiated in 2010 bearing the theme of "Love Oneself, Love Others". The project was modeled on the format of "Teach-in", a widely popular on-campus public forum in universities first introduced in the United States in the 1960's allowing students to discuss current social issues and political affairs affecting their personal core values and that of society at large.

Held on Sunday, 28 November 2010 at the Summit Hall of Asia World Expo, close to 1,400 Form 4 or above students from over 50 local secondary schools gathered to discuss the core values in life and of society in small groups. The one-day event comprised two sessions with the morning session focusing on the theme of "Love Oneself" and the afternoon session covering issues relating to the theme of "Love Others". The two sessions featured presentations by guest speakers and a short drama performed by young lawyers respectively as lead-ins to the discussion of the core topics followed by group discussions among students and plenary sharing.

Over 200 facilitators, who were solicitors, mediators and volunteers from other organizations, had assisted in the group discussions. University students, law firm staff, Girl Guides, St John Ambulance officers, and Secretariat staff were also on the spot to help maintain orders of the day.



The unparalleled scale of this student forum reflected the increasing social consciousness and self reflection of the younger generation in this day and age. The forum also afforded the Law Society an opportunity to share its love and care for young people, and raised its profile as a Caring Organization in the community.

The successful launch of any new initiative by the Law Society was a result of collaboration of many creative minds who have the vision to navigate into uncharted waters, and the determination to achieve an unprecedented mission. Among the creators of the project, Mr. Fred Kan who introduced the project concept to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and saw it through its implementation, deserved credits for his leadership. The efforts of other members of the Organizing Committee were also commendable. At the evaluation meeting examining the outcome and impact of the project, it was recommended that the Law Society should organize the project again in 2011.

Members Of The “Teen Talk 2010” Organizing Committee:

Frederick K. C. KAN (*Chairman*)

Kenneth H. S. NG (*Vice-Chairman*)

Sylvia W. Y. SIU

Cecilia K.W. WONG

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Melissa K. PANG

Angela W.Y. LEE

Nicholas H.F. CHAN

Grand H.L. CHAN

Charles C.C. CHAU

Cindy C.S. CHIU

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Cammie K.Y. LEUNG

MAK Hon Ming

Carmen S.M. NG

Annie P.Y. WONG

Joanne N.W. WONG

Philip W.C. WONG

Stephen Reed W.Y. YAP

Secretary: Fiona Ng, Assistant Director of Communications & External Affairs

LAW WEEK

Law Week, a flagship programme of the Law Society, celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2010. On the auspicious occasion, the Organizing Committee came up with a package of creative programmes to commemorate the special event including a one-minute television series educating the public on legal issues concerning mediation, conveyancing, building management, probate, family law, cyber law, probate, and judicial review. The series concluded with a special edition containing highlights of the Opening Ceremony of Law Week 2010. The series was broadcast on the Chinese service of Asia Television and on Roadshow, a television broadcast network on buses in the first two weeks of December.

On 4 December 2010 at the open plaza outside the Kwai Tsing Theatre, honourable guests including The Hon. Chief Justice Ma, Secretary for Justice Mr. Wong Yan-lung, SC, Legislator Dr. Hon. Margaret Ng, Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council, Mr. Paul Chan, MH, JP, Director of Legal Aid Mr. William Chan, Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association Mr. Russell Coleman accompanied by the President of the Law Society Mr. Huen Wong, JP and Chairman of the Law Week 2010 Organizing Committee Mr. Billy Ma officiated the opening ceremony of the Law Week. They also sat through the ceremony enjoying a modern jazz dancing performance by a group of young children, and a short drama portraying the civil celebrant service and the merits of using mediation for resolving disputes performed by lawyers, mostly members of the Law Week Organizing Committee.

Law Week 2010 also featured a poster campaign in MTR stations and trains portraying the righteous image of solicitors and programmes scheduled during the Law Week period. A drama production created and performed by the Chung Ying Theatre Company portraying various legal issues in daily situations with lawyers taking part in interactive sessions with the audience was the finale of the Law Week programme.

Law Week 2010 could not have been successfully implemented without the ardent support and contribution of members of the Organizing Committee led by its Chairman Mr. Billy Ma and particularly those members who took charge of the work of the sub-committees, namely Ms. Ann Yeung, Mr. Anthony Hung, Ms Cecilia Grace Wong and Mr. William Kong.





Members of the Law Week 2010 Organizing Committee:

Billy W.Y. MA (*Chairman*)

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Melissa K. PANG

Grand H.L. CHAN

Clare S.Y. CHEUNG

Anthony J. HUNG

William C.Y. KONG

Nadine LAI

Secretary: Valerie Cheung, Director of Communications & External Affairs

Alex C.Y. LAM

Stephanie W.Y. LAU

Cammie K.Y. LEUNG

Kenneth H.S. NG

SAUW Yim

Cecilia G. WONG

Philip W.C. WONG

Ann M.S. YEUNG

SPRING RECEPTION

The annual Spring Reception was held on 23 February, 2010 at the Hong Kong Bankers Club. Over 230 guests including the Chief Justice, the Secretary for Justice, the Convenor of the Non-official members of the Executive Council, members of Legislative Council, the Deputy Director of Legal Aid, the Land Registrar, the Registrar of Companies, the Director of the Intellectual Property Department, the Head of the Legal Department of CPGLO, representatives from other professional bodies and members of the Law Society attended the reception.



WORLD SME EXPO

Hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Expo brought together SMEs around the world for business promotion and networking. As a Supporting Organization of the event, the Law Society showcased its activities and the professional services provided by member firms at the Expo. Firms participating in the event placed their marketing materials in the Law Society kiosk for browsing by visitors, and some of them also signed up for the presentation session to introduce their portfolios to potential clients visiting the Expo.

INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, the Law Society represented by the President, Council Members and members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs was also engaged in various external activities. Below are some of the more significant activities in which the Law Society was involved:

- On 28 August 2010, Vice-President Junius Ho acted as a member of the judging panel at the final competition for the third Constitutional, Basic and Environmental Laws Competition organized by the Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law.
- At the invitation of the Department of Business of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Training ("HKIVE") in Tuen Mun, President Huen Wong attended the inauguration ceremony of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Legal and Administrative Practices as its Honorary Advisor on 26 May 2010, and presented certificates of appointments to members of the Advisory Committee who are legal practitioners offering employment and internship opportunities at their firms to students of HKIVE.
- In February, President Huen Wong and Council Member Mr. Ip Shing Hing took part in the The Standard Chartered Hong Kong 10 km SME Chairman Cup Race. They were the 2nd runner-up in the race.
- President Huen Wong had also participated in the following activities:
 - the inaugural ceremonies/dinners of the law associations of the student unions of the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong and Shue Yan University. Mr. Wong also conducted a workshop on business etiquettes for members of the HKU Business Law Association;
 - Speaking at a seminar organized by the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong in March 2010 covering the LPO (Amendment) Bill on Higher Rights of Audience for solicitors;
 - Speaking at a lecture organized by HKU SPACE for a group of visiting Jiangsu lawyers covering the legal profession in Hong Kong and the structure of the Law Society;
 - Officiating at the Opening Ceremony of ICAC's Integrity and Quality Building Management Project to which the Law Society was a Supporting Organization;
 - Acting as an adjudicator at the semi-final round of the "27th Inter-universities Debate Competition" hosted by RTHK; and
 - Attending anniversary celebrations and annual meetings of various professional and trade bodies.
- Council Member Mr. Stephen Hung attended the "Fight Drug Together" Ceremony hosted by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau.
- Ms. Melissa Pang represented the Law Society in the Hong Kong Council of Volunteering.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Committee ("CRC") was responsible for fostering relations between the Law Society and various organizations in the local community with a view to encourage participation in community activities and charity work among solicitors and to enhance the corporate image of the Law Society as a Caring Organization.





Members of the Community Relations Committee:

Philip W.C. WONG (*Chairman from March*)

Melissa K. PANG (*Chairman until February*)

IP Shing Hing

Bronco M.T. BUT (*until August*)

Isabella W.H. CHAN

Nicholas H.F. CHAN

Serina K.S. CHAN

Alexander Y.H. CHANG (*until February*)

Charles C.C. CHAU

Secretary: Janet Lau, Communications & External Affairs Officer
(until March)

Tristan Wong, Communications & External Affairs Officer
(from April)

Eric C.H. HEUNG

Anthony W.M. KWAN

Alexander H.S. LEUNG

MAK Hon Ming

MAN Kwok Leung

SAUW Yim

Patricia WIJAYA

Cecilia G. WONG

Peter K.C. YIP

During the year under review, members of the CRC continued to work with schools, non-government organizations and government agencies in implementing projects under the "Solicitors Care and Share Programme". Below are highlights of their work:

"Path Builders" Mentorship Programme

Following the success of Phase One of the "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme ("The Programme") in 2009, Phase Two of the 'Path Builders' Mentorship Programme was launched on 25 April 2010. Over 100 mentors comprising solicitors, trainee solicitors, members of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors have volunteered as mentors for close to 200 mentees from 27 secondary schools in the Yuen Long and the North districts.

Under the 9-month programme, mentors and mentees were encouraged to meet or communicate regularly so that the former may offer support to their mentees who are in need of advice on their studies, career choices, or family and peer issues. The ultimate goal was to help students stay away from drugs.



To help foster relationship and enhance communication between the mentors and mentees, the Law Society had organized the following activities:

- Creation of a “Path Builders” Mentorship Programme Facebook
- Visit to the Legislative Council, High Court and Drug InfoCentre
- Tour to the Geopark
- Delivery of caring moon cakes to the physically handicapped
- Delivery of rice dumplings to the elderly in Central and Western District, Hong Kong Island
- Hosting a Christmas party for underprivileged children from Tsing Yi, New Territories
- Leadership Training Day Camp for Phase One mentees
- Attending Law Week 2010 Opening Ceremony and drama shows



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“Solicitors Care & Share” – Charity Cooking Competition

For the second year in a row, the Community Relations Committee organized the Charity Cooking Competition to raise fund for non-government organizations. The Competition comprised two rounds with the preliminary round catering for members of the Law Society only. Qualified teams then entered the final round to compete for the grand championship with teams of barristers, accountants, surveyors, engineers, representatives from the Legal Aid Department and the Central People’s Government Liaison Office in Hong Kong SAR. A new item, the President’s Cup was also introduced for the first time and President Huen Wong emerged as the winner.

The participating teams have raised over HK\$48,000 for various charities on this occasion. They also won praises from the Judging Panel comprising The Hon. Mr. Justice Woo Kwok Hing, Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Mr. Leung Chun-ying, renowned food critic Mr. Chua Lam, the Programme Manager of the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute Mr. Peter Lo for their culinary skill and enthusiasm in contributing to the welfare of the underprivileged.



Members of the Charity Cooking Competition Working Group:

Nicholas H.F. CHAN (*Chairman*)

Serina K.S. CHAN

Charles C.C. CHAU

Anthony W.M. KWAN

Louisa D.M. LAM

Secretary: Tristan Wong, Communications & External Affairs Officer

MAK Hon Ming

Melissa K. PANG

SAUW Yim

Philip W.C. WONG

“Legal Mail Box” Column in Sing Tao Daily

The ‘Legal Mail Box’ Column published in Sing Tao Daily on a weekly basis was launched in 2006 and more than 900 articles have since been contributed mostly by members of the Writers Group under the CRC. The articles presented in the form of a Q & A covered a variety of legal matters that were topical and of relevance to the general public.

All articles submitted by the writers were vetted by a Working Group under the CRC prior to publication to ensure accuracy and clarity. It was a demanding job vetting articles to meet the weekly deadline. To enhance efficiency and to ease the burden of members of the Vetting Group, the vetting system was reviewed near end of the year by having group members divided into sub-teams each being responsible for reviewing articles covering certain practice areas. The new vetting system worked well and further modifications such as putting the writers on a roster to ensure continuous supply of articles is in the pipeline.

CRC member Ms. Patricia Wijawa was appointed as the Convenor of the Vetting Group to oversee the vetting procedure and clearance of articles for publication. She was assisted by other members of the CRC with expertise in different legal practices.

Talks to schools under the “Law and the New Generation” programme and to non-government organizations

As in previous years, CRC coordinated talks in schools participating in the Law Society’s “Law and the New Generation” programme, and to members of various non-government organizations. These talks were normally held during weekdays and occasionally on weekends with the audience size varying from a small group of 40 or more to a congregation of hundreds. The Law Society is thankful to those members who have volunteered their time in attending these talks some of which were held in remote locations.

In order to effectively achieve the purpose of the “Law and New Generation” programme, CRC has set up a Working Group to review the structure of the school talks and the speaker’s material. CRC member Ms. Cecilia G Wong chaired the Working Group and had assisted in updating the speaker’s material for use in future talks. The Working Group also recommended that in future, school talks could be delivered on Saturdays instead of weekdays and to a larger audience instead of small groups to maximize impact.

A gathering of members of the Speaker’s Group was also arranged during the year to appreciate their support towards the school and community talks. The event also facilitated exchange among the speakers on how the format and content of the school talks might be improved.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Law Society maintained amiable relationship with government offices and related organizations in both formal and informal settings such as seminars, forums, courtesy visits, luncheons and dinners.

The Law Society also worked closely with the Judiciary in coordinating participation by overseas delegates in the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year; with the Department of Justice on special events; and with the Legal Aid Department in Law Week activities. As always, the Law Society is grateful for their support towards these activities.

During the period under review, dinner receptions were held in honour of both the outgoing Chief Justice Andrew Li and his successor Chief Justice Ma. Luncheons with the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Commissioner of Police and other senior Government officers, as well as officials from different organs of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong were also arranged to foster relationship.

The Law Society has always been supportive of the work of various government offices by recommending members to sit in different public committees, or acting as a supporting organization for publicity campaigns initiated by them such as the "Integrity and Quality Building Management Project" launched by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme initiated by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse.

The President of the Law Society also participated in business missions organized by the HKSAR Government promoting Hong Kong as an international financial and legal hub to the business communities in overseas markets.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES

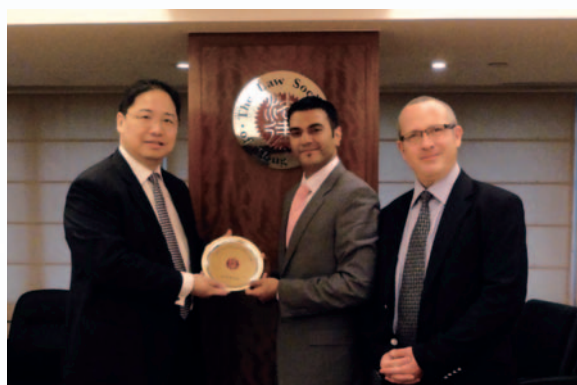
As a member of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services ("The Coalition"), the Law Society was in regular contacts with other professional bodies. President Huen Wong represented the Law Society in the Board of Directors of The Coalition and former president Ip Shing Hing as the alternate representative.

In 2010, the Law Society supported various activities coordinated by The Coalition such as the two-week internship programme for Form five students attending schools in the Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai districts, the Forum on Class Actions, and meetings with officials from the Mainland.

Members of other professional bodies were also invited to volunteer as mentors under the "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme, and to compete in the Caring Cooking Competition. These activities greatly enhanced the relationship between the Law Society and other professionals.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2010 has been an eventful year for the Law Society for its involvement in international affairs. As the level of international activities and interaction with lawyers from overseas jurisdictions increased significantly since the start of the 2010, a new International Legal Affairs Committee was established in March 2010 with Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang in the Chair to oversee these activities and to coordinate members' participation in the annual meeting/congress hosted by international bodies.



Members of the International Legal Affairs Committee:

Melissa K. PANG (*Chairman*)

Thomas S.T. SO (*until July*)

Lester G. HUANG (*from May*)

William J. BROTHY

Bonita B.Y. CHAN

CHAN Chak Ming

Jeckle CHIU (*from August*)

Kenneth Y. CHOY

Geoffrey S. GREEN

Secretary: Valerie Cheung, Director of Communications & External Affairs

GU Jing

Elaine Y.L. HO

Frederick K.C. KAN

Alan H. LINNING

Kenneth H.S. NG

Ludwig S.W. NG (*until June*)

Jean H.C. WONG

Philip W.C. WONG

Membership to international legal organizations

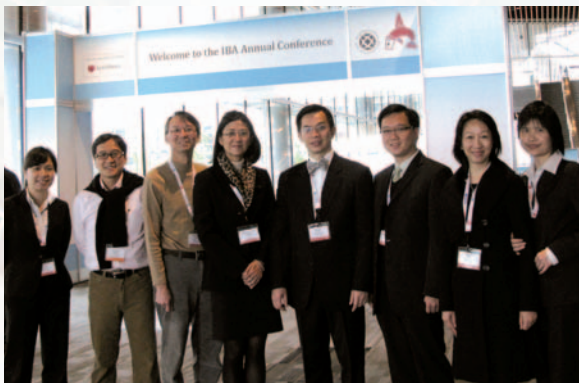
The Law Society of Hong Kong is a Member Organization of the following regional and international legal organizations:

Commonwealth Lawyers Association (“CLA”)	President Huen Wong is a CLA’s Councillor
International Bar Association (“IBA”)	The Law Society is a member of IBA’s Bar Issues Commission with the Secretary General as the Permanent Liaison Officer
International Institute of Law Association’s Chief Executives (“IILAC”)	The Secretary General represents the Law Society at IILAC
Inter-Pacific Bar Association (“IPBA”)	The President represents the Law Society at IPBA
LawAsia	The President is a Country Councillor and one of the Vice President is an Alternate Country Councillor of LawAsia
Presidents of Asia Lawyers Associations (“POLA”)	The President represents the Law Society at POLA
Union Internationale des Avocats (“UIA”)	The President represents the Law Society at UIA

Promoting Hong Kong legal profession at overseas conferences

International Bar Association (“IBA”) Annual Conference

Led by President Huen Wong, a ten-member delegation from the Law Society attended the IBA Vancouver conference from 3 to 8 October 2010. Among the delegates, there were three young lawyers who attended the Conference under the sponsorship of the Academy of Law.





More than 3,000 legal practitioners of all disciplines from over the world gathered at the conference for networking and exchange of new developments on legal practice and related issues. The presence of the Hong Kong Law Society delegation at the conference was obviously felt as members of the delegation had actively mingled with their overseas counterparts introducing Hong Kong's legal services to them.

Apart from sending a delegation, the Law Society also joined hands with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to place an advertisement in the Conference Programme in the form of a two-page spread highlighting Hong Kong's competitive edges as the platform for doing business in China and the strength of the Hong Kong legal profession in assisting foreign companies in cross-border transactions.

The conference has been a rewarding experience for all members of the Law Society delegation, particularly the three young lawyers, whether for networking purposes or for promoting Hong Kong as the platform for doing business in China or Asia to lawyers from all nations.

Union Internationale des Avocats ("UIA") 54th Congress

UIA held its last annual Congress in Istanbul, Turkey between 30 October 2010 and 3 November 2010. Eleven members of the Law Society including the President, Mr. Huen Wong, Vice-President, Mr. Junius Ho, Council Members, Ms Melissa Pang and Mr. Stephen Hung, and seven young lawyers participated in the Congress.

The Congress commenced with the "International Bar Leaders Senate" session bearing the theme of "International Legal Cyberspace and Lawyers", focusing on the opportunities and challenges brought about by the free movement of legal information in cyberspace. President Huen Wong was one of the main speakers of the session alongside leaders from Burkina Faso, France, Brazil, South Korea, and the United States.

Again, the Law Society took the opportunity to promote Hong Kong legal profession at the UIA Congress by co-organizing a Young Lawyers Cocktail Reception with UIA. With the attendance of over 80 young lawyers from all over the world, the event has successfully achieved its purposes.



23rd LawAsia Conference, New Delhi

LawAsia held its 23rd annual conference from 11 to 14 November 2010 in New Delhi, India. To show the Law Society's support towards LawAsia whose current President is Mr. Lester Huang, a former president of the Law Society, two members of the International Legal Affairs Committee, Ms. Jing Gu and Ms. Jean Wong had attended the Conference. Both found the conference to be inspiring and useful.



Other overseas events

President Huen Wong, as the Chief Representative of the Law Society, has been promoting Hong Kong's legal services at overseas conferences or trade missions initiated by the HKSAR Government or the Hong Kong Trade Development Council during the year. Below is a list of conferences and trade missions that the President has participated as a speaker or as the Chief Delegate of the Law Society in 2010:

- UIA 54th Congress in November in Istanbul, Turkey;
- International Bar Association Annual Conference in October in Vancouver, Canada;
- Hong Kong High Level Business Mission to Moscow led by Mr. Donald Tsang, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government from 31 August to 3 September. President Huen Wong was a speaker at one of the sessions;
- American Bar Association Annual Meeting in early August in San Francisco, USA;
- Annual meeting of the Presidents of Lawyers Association in Asia ("POLA") in late July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Paris Bar Bicentennial celebration in June;

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- Inter-Pacific Bar Association annual conference in early May in Singapore;
- UIA Corruption and Rule of Law Seminar in mid May in Macau; and
- World City Bar Leaders Conference in late March in Tokyo, Japan.

Other Council Members have also represented the Law Society at various international events, namely:

- Vice-President Dieter Yih participated in the Business Delegation to Taipei led by Mr. John Tsang, the Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government in late August.
- Vice-President Dieter Yih, former president Lester Huang (in his capacity as the President of LawAsia, and Council Member Stephen Hung attended POLA in July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- At the invitation of the Department of Justice, Council Member Thomas So attended the “Workshop on Enforcing Contracts” hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and the Ministry of Justice of Korea in June in Seoul. The Workshop was an initiative under the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.
- In mid September, Mr. Kenneth Choy, a member of the International Legal Affairs Committee of the Law Society delivered a presentation to about 100 members of the Ho Chi Minh City Bar Association (“HCMCBA”) in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam covering the subject of ‘Corporate Governance’.

Overseas visitors

Apart from attending overseas conferences and meetings, the President and members of the Law Society Council had also greeted overseas bar/law society leaders attending the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year in Hong Kong in early January, and representatives from various countries in the remaining part of the year. Below are some of the overseas guests greeted by the Law Society in 2010:

- On 5 November, the Law Society hosted a lunch for Mr. Cormac Cullinan, an experienced environmental lawyer in South Africa who spoke at the International Conference on Climate Change 2010 held in Hong Kong from 3 to 6 November. Mr. Cullinan shared his insights on environmental issues with members present at the lunch.
- On 18 October, Vice President Dieter Yih received representative of the Birmingham Law Society and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.
- In October, the President and Vice-President met with representatives from the US Consulate Hong Kong and the US Department of Commerce.
- On 30 August, the Trade Commissioner of the British Consulate Hong Kong visited the Law Society.
- On 10 June, President Huen Wong and members of the International Legal Affairs Committee met with representatives from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Commission.

Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year

On 11 January, 17 representatives of law society/bar association leaders from Korea, Malaysia, Paris, Philippines, Singapore, Taipei, Macau, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Shenzhen, Zhongshan, Foshan, and Zhuhai were in Hong Kong attending the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year at the invitation of the Judiciary.

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The overseas and Mainland delegates also participated in hospitality programmes during their stay in Hong Kong including a lunch reception where the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data Mr. Roderick Woo delivered a speech on the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, a visit to the High Court for observing the court proceeding and attending a briefing by the Hon Mr. Justice Alan Wright and the Hon Mr. Justice Louis Tong on the Hong Kong judicial system, as well as a dinner reception jointly hosted by the Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association.



MAINLAND RELATIONS

To further facilitate professional networking, cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong solicitors and their Mainland counterparts, the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee ("MLAC") organized various activities in 2010, whether on its own or joined hands with Mainland Lawyers Associations, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Department of Justice and other government offices.





Members of the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)

Emily Y. M. LAM (*Vice-Chairman*)

TSUI Kei Ping (*Vice-Chairman*)

Hugo S.K. CHAN (*from March*)

Rico W.K. CHAN (*from March*)

Neville C.H. CHENG (*from March*)

Margaret CHOI

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Grace H.W. CHU

Elaine Y.L. HO

IP Shing Hing

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Patrick K.H. LAM

William C.W. LAM

Maurice W.M. LEE

Brian C.S. LEUNG

Elsie O.S. LEUNG

Vincent W.S. LIANG (*until January*)

Alexandra D.W. LO

Derek Y.W. TSANG

Herbert H.K. TSOI

Christine P.W. WONG

James K.T. WONG

WONG Tak Shing (*until January*)

Tony Y.H. YEN

Simon S.M. YEUNG

Secretary: Katherine Yu, Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

The following is a summary of the activities that MLAC had organized in the year under review:

Business matching roadshows cum seminars in PRD Region (“PRD Region”)

Implementation of initiatives contained in the “Framework for Development and Reform Planning for Pearl River Delta Region” adopted by The Central People’s Government prompted the launch of a series of roadshows in major cities in the PRD Region, namely Zhongshan, Foshan, Dongguan, Jiangmen and Huizhou by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTD”) and supported by the Law Society. The roadshows were held during the months of June, August and December.

Each of the roadshows staged in the PRD Region attracted a sizable audience comprising mainly representatives from Mainland enterprises who were in need of legal advisory service from Hong Kong lawyers on cross-border transactions relevant to investment in overseas markets, means minimizing business risks in overseas trades, ways to resolve cross-border disputes, and protection of intellectual property rights. The one-on-one consultation sessions and the presentations by Hong Kong lawyers were found to be very useful by the Mainland participants.

The last of the series of PRD roadshows in Zhuhai is scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

Research study on business opportunities for Hong Kong law firms in the PRD Region

To examine the prospects of the development of law practice by Hong Kong firms in the PRD Region, MLAC commissioned the research team of the Law Faculty of the Zhongshan University to conduct a research study for that purpose. Research work commenced in mid 2010. An interim report was compiled for review by the MLAC in October and the final report is expected to be released in 2011.

A Working Party under MLAC supervised the research project and its membership comprised Mr. Junius Ho, Mr. Wilfred Tsui, Ms. Elsie Leung, Ms. Margaret Choi, Ms. Elaine Ho, Mr. Patrick Lam, Mr. William Hui and Mr. Raymond Ho.

Professional Services Development Programme for Mainland and Hong Kong lawyers

Since 2000, the Law Society had signed close to 30 Cooperation Agreements with provincial and municipal lawyers associations in the Mainland. Parties concerned have agreed to facilitate professional exchanges between Hong Kong and PRC lawyers through training or attachment programmes in firms. Over the years, the Law Society had organized several attachment programmes for PRC lawyers to undergo training in Hong Kong firms with funding support under the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme ("PSDAS").

In 2010, the Law Society was granted funding under PSDAS to arrange four inbound and four outbound attachment programmes for PRC and Hong Kong lawyers respectively. The first group of five PRC lawyers from Henan Province attended a 4-weeks attachment training in Hong Kong law firms in mid-April. They also presented a series of one-hour China law seminars in May to members of the Law Society covering patent protection in the Mainland, construction and real estate laws in the Mainland, laws and policies governing investment in Henan, and civil litigation procedures involving parties in the Mainland and foreign jurisdictions.

In July 2010, five solicitors from Hong Kong attended a one-week attachment programme in five different law firms in Shanghai. Upon completion of the programme, they shared their attachment experience in the 'Mainland Column' published in the Law Society official journal, Hong Kong Lawyer.

Networking activities with Mainland lawyers associations and other Mainland parties

During the year under review, MLAC coordinated a number of networking activities and courtesy programmes to foster relationship with Mainland lawyers. MLAC members also visited selected destinations in the Mainland to explore opportunities for Hong Kong law firms to develop their practice in those destinations. Highlights of some of these activities are set out in the following pages.

Professional exchange cum training programme for members of the Foshan Lawyers Association

Members of the Foshan Lawyers Association visited the Law Society twice in March and September 2010 on a professional exchange cum training programme hosted by the Law Society. As one of the cities designated for further development under the "Framework for Development and Reform Planning for Pearl River Delta Region", lawyers from Foshan were keen to borrow the experience of Hong Kong lawyers in cross-border legal practice and to seek collaboration between the two parties. During their visit in Hong Kong, the visitors attended a training seminar at the Law Society. The seminar facilitated exchanges on the recent developments of the legal markets in Foshan and Hong Kong, and fostered networking between lawyers from the two cities.



Courtesy calls from/to Mainland parties and lawyers associations

In 2010, different Mainland groups visited the Law Society, including:

- A delegation of the Social and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Chinese People Political Consultative Committee led by its Chairman and former Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Zhang Fushang. President Huen Wong and Council Member Mr. Thomas So briefed the visitors on the activities of the Law Society including its works on disciplinary and conduct matters;
- 37 senior judges from different provinces and cities in the Mainland met with Law Society representatives for a briefing on the function of the Law Society and the legal profession in Hong Kong; and
- Mr. Song Xiaojang, Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of the Chongqing Lawyers Association and other members of the Committee who were in Hong Kong on a mission to study the disciplinary and conduct measures adopted for the legal profession in Hong Kong. Mr. Thomas So, Council Member and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Compliance briefed the visitors on these matters.

- The Deputy Minister of the Hunan Provincial Justice Bureau Mr. Tang Yunjing and members of the Hunan Lawyers Association including their president Mr. Yang Jianwei, Vice President Mr. Gao Xiangrong and Secretary General Mr. Zhao Aiwu paid a courtesy call to the Law Society. The delegation met with Vice-President of the Law Society Mr. Junius Ho and MLAC member Ms. Elsie Leung to discuss the prospects for collaboration between lawyers from Hunan and Hong Kong, as well as provision of training opportunities for young lawyers. Following the meeting, members of the Hunan delegation visited Woo Kwan Lee & Lo, P. C. Woo & Co., and Deacons for briefings on the operation of Hong Kong firms.
- 30 lawyers from the Jiangsu province attended a lecture presented by President Huen Wong covering the role, structure and functions of the Law Society as the professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong. The lecture was part of a training programme organized by HKU SPACE for the purpose of acquainting the PRC lawyers with the legal system in Hong Kong.
- Seven Mainland officials from Zhejiang, Shenzhen, Nanjing and Chongqing under an attachment programme arranged by the Department of Justice visited the Law Society.
- A delegation of attesting officers from Beijing led by Ms. He Min, Vice Director of the Department of Directing Lawyers & Notarization, Ministry of Justice, PRC, and 23 Mainland officials on a study tour in Hong Kong arranged by the China Overseas Friendship Association visited the Law Society. President Huen Wong introduced the latest development of the Hong Kong legal profession during the meeting with the delegation.

Other Mainland parties who had visited the Law Society during the year under review were:

- Members of the Logistic Committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association
- Representatives from the Chongqing Youth Federation
- Representatives from the United Zhejiang Residents Association (HK) Limited
- Students from the Shantou University Law School
- Members of the Qingdao Lawyers Association
- Members of the Young Lawyers Committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association
- Professors from the Peking University Law School

Visits to the Mainland

In an attempt to reach out to the Mainland lawyers, Vice-President Mr. Junius Ho and members of the MLAC visited Hefei, Anhui in May to renew ties with the Anhui Lawyers Association and Hefei Lawyers Association. At a seminar jointly held with the Anhui Lawyers Association on 21 May, the latest development of the legal profession in both regions and the property law in Hong Kong were discussed.

In June, MLAC coordinated a meeting between Council Members of the Law Society and the Shenzhen Lawyers Association in Shenzhen. The two parties met to discuss collaborations between Hong Kong and Shenzhen lawyers, development of the Qianhai project, and establishment of a cross-border Helpline to provide free legal advisory service to residents from both cities in need of legal assistance in resolving cross-border issues. The two parties also agreed to form a Joint Working Party to oversee the implementation of initiatives discussed. The Working Party has met twice since.

Standing Committee on External Affairs

In August, MLAC members Mr. Ip Shing Hing and Mr. Wilfred Tsui attended the annual Straits Law Forum in Fuzhou representing the Law Society.

In late September, three members of the MLAC, two representatives from law firms, and the Secretary General of the Law Society attended the 3rd Western China Lawyers Development Forum held in Nanning, Guangxi. The Chief Delegate Mr. Junius Ho also spoke at one of the sessions at the Forum giving an overview of the legal profession in Hong Kong and discussing prospects for collaboration between lawyers from Hong Kong and regions in Western China.

Translation of the “The Hong Kong Solicitor’s Guide to Professional Conduct (Vol.I) (“The Guide”)

The translation of The Guide was first proposed by the Zhejiang Lawyers Association in late 2009 and they have subsequently submitted the initial Chinese copy to MLAC for review in early 2010. After rounds of modifications and final review by MLAC member Mr. Tony Yen, the copy was forwarded to the Law Society’s Guidance Committee for consideration and clearance in August 2010.

Mainland Column

MLAC maintained a “Mainland Column” (“The Column”) in Hong Kong Lawyer, the official journal of the Law Society. Articles published in the column featured highlights of professional exchange activities organized by MLAC, the latest development on legal practice in the Mainland and updates on PRC laws. During the year under review, MLAC published the following articles:

- “Self-regulation for lawyers: afterthoughts following the 2009 Hong Kong training tour” authored by lawyers from Shangdong Guo Hui, Cheng Shou-fa and Han Qiang;
- “Experience in developing Hong Kong-Mainland associated law firms” authored by Mr. Junius Ho, MLAC Chairman and Partner of K.C. Ho & Fong;
- “The framework agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation” contributed by MLAC;
- “Issues arising from the Management Measures for Overseas Investment” co-authored by Ms. Margaret Choi, Partner, and Ng Man Chun, Trainee Solicitor of Sit Fung Kwong & Shum; and
- “The 3rd Western China Lawyers Development Forum: new opportunities from CAFTA” authored by Mr. Junius Ho, MLAC Chairman.

MEDIA RELATIONS

The Law Society remained in the limelight in 2010 as far as media exposure was concerned. The President as the Chief Spokesman of the Law Society was in great demand for commenting on issues or news that were relevant to the legal profession and of public concern. He has addressed numerous enquiries from both the print and electronic media, and attended interviews on camera or on radio services discussing various legal matters ranging from Law Society's initiatives in pursuing Higher Rights of Audience for solicitors, proposal of introducing Limited Liability Partnership in firms, appointment of the new Chief Justice, the acquittal of solicitor Andrew Lam, the Manila hostage incident to constitutional reform package proposed by the HKSAR Government. In his absence or in cases where specialist's views were required, the two Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs or the Chairmen of the Law Society's specialist committees shared the job as spokespersons.

The President's prompt response to enquiries and his readiness to address public issues was welcomed by the media and the legal profession. The media exposure gained had greatly enhanced the positive image of the Law Society as a respected sector of the community.

Apart from entertaining media interviews and enquiries, the Law Society had also issued the following press releases during the year under review, namely:

- A joint statement with the Hong Kong Bar Association on PRC's judicial process in the light of the trial of Zhao Lianhai, a Mainlander arrested by the Mainland authority for staging a rally against the sale of contaminated milk powder by PRC companies;
- A joint statement with the Hong Kong Bar Association citing the views of both branches of the legal profession on the importance of upholding judicial independence in connection with the trial of Amina Bokhary;
- A press release on a Helpline that the Law Society had established for the Manila hostage victims and their families who may be in need of legal assistance;



Standing Committee on External Affairs

- A press release citing the Law Society's views on the passage of the 2012 constitutional reform package by the Legislative Council;
- A press release citing the Law Society's response to the HKSAR Government's proposal for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012;
- A press release on the appointment of the new Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal;
- A press release announcing the re-election of the President of the Law Society in May 2010;
- A press release on the launch of Phase Two of the "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme; and
- A press release on the activities of Law Week 2010.

To keep the President and Council Members abreast with the latest news on legal policies and those concerning the legal profession, the Law Society Secretariat monitored news reports and produced daily news alerts. Summary of the news alerts constituted useful information in preparing the President and Council Members for attending media enquiries/ interviews.

From time to time, reporters were invited to luncheons with the President and Council Members to foster relations and to promote the activities of the Law Society.



Communications & External Affairs Department