

Standing Committee on External Affairs

The Standing Committee on External Affairs has a busy year in 2012 having launched some new initiatives and stepped up efforts in reaching out to the international legal communities. There were changes in the membership of the Standing Committee: one member resigned in February and two new members were co-opted in March. This report sets out the major initiatives and activities coordinated by the Standing Committee.

Members of the Standing Committee and their meeting attendance during the year:

Melissa K. PANG, JP (<i>Chairman</i>)	(11/12)	Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH (<i>joined in March 2012</i>)	(5/10)
Mr. Joseph C.W. LI (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	(9/12)	Kenneth H.S. NG	(10/12)
Billy W.Y. MA (<i>resigned in February</i>)	(0/2)	Thomas S.C. SO (<i>joined in March</i>)	(7/10)
Chak Man CHAN	(11/12)	Philip W.C. WONG	(11/12)
Nicholas H.F. CHAN	(9/12)	Ann M.S. YEUNG	(8/12)
Elaine Y.L. HO	(9/12)	Henry K.W. YIP	(9/12)
Stephen W.S. HUNG	(12/12)	Stephen Reed W.Y. YAP	(10/12)
Frederick K.C. KAN	(9/12)		

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

MAJOR PROJECTS/EVENTS

Law Week 2012

A Helpline 8200 8002 for solicitors to provide up to 1 hour free legal advice to the general public was the main feature of *Law Week 2012*. The Helpline was set up for creating a platform for two purposes: (i) for solicitors to contribute to the community by volunteering free legal advisory service; and (ii) for generating potential business opportunities for members who had signed up as panellists attending to enquiries received through the Helpline.

The Helpline covered four areas of law, namely: Personal Injury, Family law, legal matters concerning Small and Medium-enterprises and general legal matters. Efforts were made to publicise the Helpline number through advertisements on trams, at bus shelters, MTR stations and trains, as well as sponsored messages on radio and television services. As a result of such efforts, close to 1,400 calls were received during the three-month period of operation from October 2012 to January 2013. More than 100 solicitors have volunteered as panellists for the Helpline.

Whilst in operation in early October, the Helpline service was officially announced at the opening ceremony of the *Law Week* on 27 October at the Central Plaza, Wanchai. Officiating guests included: The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma; the Hon Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC, JP; Legislative Councilor for the Legal Functional Constituency; Chairman of Legal Aid Services Council; Director of Legal Aid Department and representatives from the two branches of the legal profession. Members of the Helpline Panel were also invited to attend the opening ceremony.

Law Week 2012 has created an impact in the community with a well-planned publicity campaign and the launch of the Helpline service. The event also received substantial media coverage. Responses to the Helpline service were so overwhelming that consideration is being given to making two service a permanent one after re-conclusion of the event.

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Law Week 2012 could not be a big success without the support of the Council, and all solicitors on the Helpline Panel as well as the contributions and valuable inputs from the *Law Week 2012* Organising Committee Members.

Members of the Law Week 2012 Organising Committee:

Thomas S.T. SO (*Chairman*)

Ann M.S. YEUNG (*Vice Chairman*)

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Melissa K. PANG

Nadine LAI

Arthur Y.Y. LAW

Cammie LEUNG

Nancy B.Y. LEUNG

Maggie Y.T. TSUI

Cecilia G. WONG

Nathan S.K. WONG

Sauw YIM

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Teen Talk

For the third consecutive year, *Teen Talk*, the largest discussion platform for secondary school students from Forms 4 to 6 to freely express their views on different legal issues, was staged at the AsiaWorld Expo on 8 December.

Same as last year, *Teen Talk* received funding support from the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to cover part of the expenses incurred. This year, a record high of 2,200 students from 77 schools, 220 facilitators comprising solicitors, trainee solicitors and law students participated in the event.

Bearing the theme of “Law, Respect and Tolerance”, *Teen Talk* provided a superb platform allowing The Law Society to promote legal knowledge among the young generation and its members to share their legal expertise with the students. Participating students actively engaged in group discussions focusing on the theme which they might come across in their daily lives. The one-day event included a variety of interactive activities, ranging from videos depicting freedom of expression, cyber bullying, police power to mediation role-play and a mock trial.

Throughout the day, students have demonstrated keen interest in the discussion topics and were enthusiastic in expressing their thoughts or participating in the role play and mock trial. School teachers attending the event also spoke highly of the event in that it did not only contribute to the personal growth of the students, but also enriched their legal knowledge and awareness of their obligations as responsible citizens.

Members of the Teen Talk 2012 Organising Committee

Kenneth H.S. NG (*Chairman*)

Nicholas H.F. CHAN (*Vice-Chairman*)

Stephen HUNG

Cecilia K.W. WONG

Melissa K. PANG

Nadine LAI

Cammie K.Y. LEUNG

Winnie W.S. LO

Asha SHARMA

SHUM Ka Ming

Annie L.O. WAT

Annie P.Y. WONG

Ann M.S. YEUNG

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Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year

The Law Society was honoured to receive over 40 overseas and PRC bar leaders from Australia, Cambodia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Japan, Korea, France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Macau, Mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore, Taipei and the United States attending the *Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year* in Hong Kong on 9 January.

A series of hospitality programmes were arranged for the visitors during their stay in Hong Kong, including visits to the new LegCo Complex Office of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Centre of Anti-Corruption Studies. A separate half-day programme was also arranged for the accompanying persons when the bar leaders attended to formal businesses, namely, a city tour and a cooking class.

In the afternoon of 9 January, the bar leaders gathered for a Presidents' Roundtable at which stimulating ideas were exchanged on how globalisation and changes in the world economy have opened doors to new legal services markets and new modes of practice; and the growing importance of the dispute resolution market around the world.

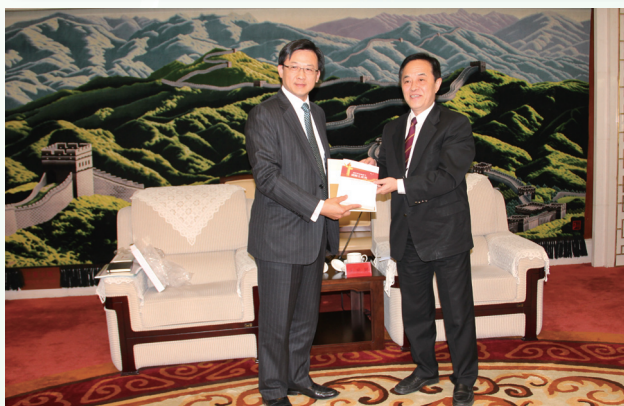
Apart from the formal businesses, The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association ("Bar Association") jointly hosted a lunch and a dinner for the visitors facilitating networking among them and members of the two local in less formal settings. The then Hon Secretary for Justice Wong Yan-lung, SC, joined the dinner as a special guest.



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Council visit to Beijing

A delegation of the Law Society Council led by the then President Junius Ho visited Beijing from 8 to 10 April 2012. The delegation has met with officials from the Hong Kong & Macao Affairs Office, the Basic Law Committee of the National People's Congress, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Justice, All China Lawyers Association and Beijing Lawyers Association on 20 and 21 December 2012. The delegation discussed various matters relating to the development of Hong Kong legal profession with the Mainland officials during the Beijing trip.



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Spring Reception

The annual Spring Reception was held on 21 January 2012 at the Peking Garden Restaurant. Over 260 guests including the Chief Justice, the Secretary for Justice, members of Legislative Council, Heads of various departments of the HKSAR Government, as well as representatives from other professional bodies and members of the Law Society attended the reception.



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Sizzling Escapade

One of the main responsibilities of the Standing Committee is to foster closer relationship between The Law Society and external parties including other professional bodies, whether through meetings or ad hoc events; as well as facilitate networking among members of the professional bodies. To achieve such purpose, the Standing Committee organised a summer party for Law Society members and members of other professional bodies, Shenzhen Lawyers Association and Macau Bar Association at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 4 August. A Working Group was set up to take charge of the organisation of the event.

With unlimited drinks, party foods and hot music, the dance club theme party was attended by over 300 people. While the event served the purpose of fostering relationship among the participants, it also constituted a charity gesture as entrance fee collected in the evening was donated to Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service for providing hot meal services to the underprivileged in Sham Shui Po, Wanchai and Tsuen Wan districts. The total sum of donation amounted to HK\$95,950.

Members of the Sizzling Escapade Working Group:

Nadine LAI (*Chairman*)
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO
Boris S.W. YIP

Priscilla T.T. WONG
TAI Kam Cheung
Alda TSANG
T.C. CHAN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs



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Media Relations

The Law Society has always maintained an amiable relationship with the press and other media representatives, either by hosting media luncheons, organising meet-the-press sessions, or cooperating with media companies on special projects.

In February, the then President Junius Ho hosted a spring gathering for reporters; and in May when there was a change of leadership in the Council, the newly elected President Dieter Yih, JP and the two Vice Presidents Ambrose Lam and Stephen Hung met with reporters from both the print and electronic media. Luncheons with the editorial teams of SCMP, Sing Tao and the Standard were subsequently arranged to foster relationship with the journalists. The luncheons and briefing sessions allowed The Law Society representatives an opportunity to familiarise with the editorial policy or approach the press or electronic media took in news reporting; as well as promoting Law Society's activities.



In November, The Law Society hosted a press conference announcing the results of the study on the development of Hong Kong's legal profession in the Qianhai area, and its recommendations on how to further its members' interest in developing their practices in Qianhai.



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From time to time, the President and members of The Law Society were approached by reporters for comments on issues concerning or relevant to the legal profession including public policies that might have an impact on the rule of law in Hong Kong. While Council Members had experience in dealing with reporters, there was a demand for polishing their skills in handling interviews, whether over telephone or in person more effectively. To meet such need, a media training workshop was organised for Council Members in September. Veteran journalist Mr. Michael Chugani was there to share his expertise through role plays showing how to deal with pushing reporters or programme hosts and techniques in handling difficult questions, whether at one-on-one interviews or at press conferences.



The Law Society also fostered relationship with the media by supporting activities they hosted such as the *Inter-collegiate Debate Competition* organised by Radio-Hong Kong, by sponsoring programmes for broadcast on the electronic media such as a 13-episode radio series titled "*Tips for Doing Business*" for broadcast on Metro's multi-media platform every Friday

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evenings from 9 pm to 9:30 pm from 27 January. small and medium enterprise (“SME”) operators or owners and members of the general public who intended to develop their business as Hong Kong or in the mainland were the target audience. The 13-episode radio series covered the following topics:

Epi. #	Topic/Content
1.	Introduction of Law Society’s work in SME area supplemented by statistics on HK SMEs, and issues facing HK SMEs
2.	Formation of a SME and related issues 中小企成立形式及法律、公司董事權責、入股須知
3.	Company structure and operation 公司架構與運作
4.	Arbitration 仲裁
5.	SME capital raising and financing, supporting services for start-up 中小企融資、借貸抵押、創業支援服務
6.	Labour law in Hong Kong 香港勞工法
7.	PRC labour law 內地勞工法
8.	Sale & purchase of properties and tenancy in HK 香港物業買賣、租務
9.	Sale & purchase of properties and tenancy in Mainland China 內地物業買賣、租務
10.	Tips for SMEs for starting up business in the Mainland 中小企在內地創業集資須知
11.	Intellectual Property 知識產權
12.	Sale and purchase of companies 買賣公司
13.	SME Helpline service 律師會中小企熱線服務

To tie in with the broadcast of the radio programme, The Law Society has also set up a SME Helpline: 2840 1011. SME owners or operators may call the Helpline for up to 1 hour of free legal advice on legal issues relevant to SME operations.

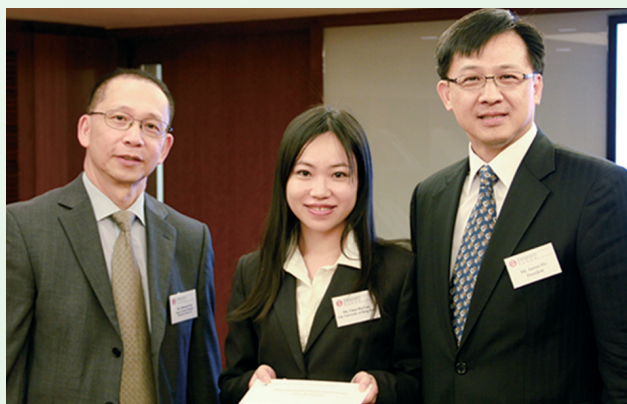
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Law Society of Hong Kong and Bloomsbury Book Prizes 2011/12 Presentation Ceremony

Winners of this year's *Law Society and Bloomsbury Book Prizes 2011/12*, namely, students from the law schools of the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the City University of Hong Kong, received their prizes at a presentation ceremony on 7 March.

The then President Junius Ho and the Deputy General Manager of Bloomsbury Book Ltd. presented the prizes to the students. Also present are the Deputy Head of the Department of Professional Legal Education of the University of Hong Kong; Assistant PCLL Programme Director of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; PCLL Programme leader of City University of Hong Kong, PCLL Associate Programme Leader of City University of Hong Kong and Secretary General of The Law Society.



Hong Kong Council of Volunteering ("HKCOV")

Representing The Law Society, the Standing Committee Chairman sits in the HKCOV as a member. The Law Society also supports the *Hong Kong Volunteers Charter*, an initiative of the HKCOV in promoting further development of volunteering in Hong Kong. In response to HKCOV's appeal to promote the Charter, a web banner with a hyperlink to the Charter will be uploaded to The Law Society Homepage. The Charter will also be circulated to general members.

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Collaboration with The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups ("HKFYG")

During the year, The Law Society has cooperated with the HKFYG Youth Crime Prevention Centre to help at-risk youths to become law-abiding citizens in Hong Kong. Law Society members volunteered in contributing articles for the Youth Law website managed by HKFYG, and appearing in a series of one-minuters covering various legal issues that young people should be aware of. The Law Society also nominated speakers for conducting seminars for HKFYG frontline workers so that the latter would be equipped with the necessary legal knowledge in handling their young clients.



Corporate souvenirs

The Standing Committee is also responsible for ordering corporate souvenirs for use by The Law Society on all occasions. During the year under review, a Working Group was formed to review collection of existing corporate souvenirs and to identify suitable types of souvenirs for future use. The Working Group met three times during the year and its recommendation for producing canvas bags, cuff links, crystal plaques and PVC bear key chains as corporate souvenirs for external parties or individuals was endorsed by the Standing Committee.

Members of the Corporate Souvenirs Working Group:

Stephen W.S. HUNG (*Chairman*)
Nicholas H.F. CHAN
Eliza CHEUNG

Melissa K. PANG
Ann M.S. YEUNG
Henry K.W. YIP

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Corporate brochures and video

During the year, the Standing Committee also oversaw the production of a set of new corporate brochures covering facts about The Law Society, the solicitor's branch of the legal profession in Hong Kong, types of legal services provided by solicitor's firms and their competitive edges in serving the needs of potential clients, local and overseas. These brochures were distributed at meetings with visitors, at events held in Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and at international conferences to potential users in need of legal advisory services in Hong Kong.

The corporate video introducing The Law Society, its functions and its works were updated when a new Council assumed office in May. The video was displayed at meetings with visitors, at road shows promoting Hong Kong legal services and other appropriate occasions. The video was also uploaded to The Law Society official website for public viewing.

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Other activities coordinated under the Standing Committee

From time to time, The Law Society were invited by various local organisations and schools to nominate speakers and/or representatives meet with their members either for promoting solicitors' services or for the purpose of introducing the works of The Law Society.

In May, Past President Michael Lintern-Smith was invited to be a speaker sharing how foreign businessmen intending to develop business in Hong Kong and mainland China may leverage on Hong Kong's competitive edges for China operations using professional advice available in Hong Kong.

In June, Past President Lester Huang spoke at an information session hosted by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Co. Ltd for a delegation from the Silicon Valley, USA.

During the year, The Law Society has also received visits by students from local universities and secondary schools.



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PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AREA

All projects and activities meant to foster relationship between The Law Society and various community groups fell within the responsibility of the Community Relations Committee ("CRC"), a Sub-Committee under the Standing Committee. The projects and activities were also meant to promote The Law Society as a caring organisation and solicitors as caring individuals. In this year, CRC had served youngsters, elderly and the general public through a wide range of activities.

Members of the Community Relations Committee:

Philip W.C. WONG (<i>Chairman</i>)	James K.T. WONG
MAK Hon-ming (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Nathan S.K. WONG
Melissa K. PANG	Patricia WIJAYA
Nicholas H. F. CHAN	Judy W.C. YAM
Isabella W.H. CHAN	Sauw YIM
Serina K.S. CHAN	Doreen Y.F. KONG
Nadine LAI	Stanley W.L. CHAN (<i>joined in October</i>)
Victor C.K. YAU	Maggie Y.T. TSUI (<i>joined in October</i>)
Ann M.S. YEUNG	Eric C.H. HEUNG (<i>resigned in August</i>)
Cecilia G. WONG	Peter K.C. YIP (<i>resigned in January</i>)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Smart Book on Law

CRC launched a new initiative in 2012, i.e. production of a Smart Book containing articles published in the Sing Tao "Legal Mailbox" Column covering legal matters that average folks and businesses may encounter, 10,000 Smart Book was published in February and were distributed to students, teachers and principals, members of NGOs at talks or as souvenirs or as gifts at special events. The booklets were also sent to related organisations so that their members may refer to the information cited in the articles in case they come across certain legal issues and need answers. Arrangement was also made to distribute the booklets at exhibitions/trade events organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") and to visitors from the Mainland and Taiwan.

Apart from spreading legal knowledge, the Smart Book also constitute an effective PR tool in promoting solicitors' practices and The Law Society's effort in educating the public on various aspects of the law. The task of producing the Smart Book was the concerted effort of the CRC Members who were involved in the selection of the articles and proof-reading the copies intended for print. A second edition would follow as stock for the maiden edition is running short.

"Path Builders" Mentorship Programme

Launched in 2009, The Law Society's "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme aims to encourage mentees to develop positive thinking and stay away from drugs through regular mentor-mentee gatherings. The programme was in its 4th phase in 2012 and the launching ceremony was held on 14 July at the Caritas Community Hall with the Commissioner for Narcotics as the officiating guest.

This year, 136 mentors (comprising of solicitors and members from professional bodies) and close to 120 mentees from 22 secondary schools in the Yuen Long, Tai Po, North and Shamshuipo District joined the programme. Participating professional bodies include: the Bar Association, Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff, Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants ("ACCA") Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Association of Banks, Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Medical Association and Hong Kong Institute of Planners.

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The following activities have also been arranged:

- Visit to Elder's Home in Ping Shek Estate
- Visit to LegCo Complex, High Court and Info Drug Center
- Attending *Law Week 2012* Opening Ceremony

In January, a "Celebrity Talk" featuring Former Secretary for Justice Elsie Leung and President Dieter Yih the President as guest speakers sharing their academic and career experience was organised for mentees from Phase 3 of the programme.

Members of the "Path Builders" Mentorship Programme Working Group:

Judy W.C. YAM (Chairman)

MAK Hon-ming (Vice-Chairman)

Melissa K. PANG

Isabella W.H. CHAN

Serina K.S. CHAN

Nadine LAI

Arthur Y.Y. LAW

SAUW Yim

Stella C.T. TONG

Nathan S.K. WONG

Victor C.K. YAU

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“Legal Mailbox” Column in Sing Tao Daily

Since the Column was launched in 2006, solicitors on the “Legal Mail Box” Panel have been contributing articles for the Column which was published in Sing Tao Daily on every Monday. Before publication, all articles submitted by the authors were vetted by a Working Group under the CRC to ensure its accuracy and updatedness. Last year, the vetting system was enhanced to have writers to put on a roster to ensure continuous supply of the articles. The modified system went smoothly.

To recognise the contribution of the writers, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to each writer at the year-end social gathering for writers and speakers.

Members of the Sing Tao “Legal Mailbox” Working Group:

Patricia WIJAYA (*Chairman*)
MAK Hon-ming
Doreen Y.F. KONG
Nadine LAI

Maggie Y.T. TSUI
James K.T. WONG
Nathan S.K. WONG

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“Law and New Generation” Programme and Community Talks

The Law Society received invitations from schools and non-government organisations to nominate solicitors to deliver talks for their students or members. CRC was responsible for the coordination of the talks.

The speakers received a nominal travel allowance and were also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their contributions at the year-end social gathering of writers and speakers.

Members of the “Law and New Generation” Programme and Community Talks Working Group

Ann M.S. YEUNG (*Chairman*)
James K.T. WONG (*Vice-Chairman*)
MAK Hon-ming
Nicholas H. F. CHAN

Stanley W.L. CHAN
TAM Man Kam
Frederick C.K. HUI
Cecilia G. Wong

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Talk Series for School Headmasters and Teachers

The Law Society has worked closely with schools through organising different projects and activities. At the request of school headmasters, CRC has organised a series of talks for school headmasters and teaching staff at schools operated by Caritas and Po Leung Kuk, as well as members of the Kowloon Region School Heads Association. The talks were well-received by the audience.

Members of Talk Series For School Headmasters and Teachers Working Group:

Cecilia G. WONG (*Chairman*)
James K.T. WONG (*Vice-Chairman*)
MAK Hon-ming
Nicholas H. F. CHAN

Stanley W.L. CHAN
TAM Man Kam
Frederick C.K. Hui
Ann M.S. YEUNG

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Mental Health Programme

Following the success of the *Mental Health Forum* held in July 2011, The Law Society has established relationships with non profit-making organisations serving mental health patients and/or their families and has arranged over 10 Mental Health Talks in the year under the coordination of the Mental Health Programme Working Group.

Members of the Mental Health Programme Working Group:

Cap S.C. CHAN (*until March*)
Isabella W.H. CHAN (*Chairman*)
Alex W.L. CHAN (*joined June*)
Anthony W.M KWAN (*joined June*)
MAK Hon-ming
Melissa K. PANG

Douglas K.L. TANG (*until May*)
Maggie Y.T. TSUI
Philip W.C. WONG
Victor C.K. YAU
Matthew K.W. YIM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs



Elderly Services

This year, CRC has decided to put more efforts on serving the senior people in the local community. Two activities have been held in the year, namely:

- Visiting elderly members of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Chan Han Home for the Elderly in Ma On Shan in June; and
- Visiting senior citizens at the Elder's Home in Ping Shek Estate in September

The above activities were opened to general members and law firm staff offering them opportunities to engage in community services. Both visits received positive response from participating lawyers and firm staff and more similar activities will be organised in the coming year.

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Members of the Elderly Services Working Group:

SAUW Yim (Chairman)

Doreen Y.F. KONG

Nadine LAI

James K.T. WONG

Nathan S.K. WONG

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PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS AREA

Formerly known as the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee, the Committee was renamed the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee ("GCLAC") in April with its Terms of Reference extended to cover legal affairs not only in the mainland and Hong Kong but also those in Macau and Taiwan. The changes are meant to cope with the overall development of the markets in the Greater China Region.

Members of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee

Ambrose S.K. LAM (Chairman)

Emily Y. M. LAM (Vice-Chairman)

TSUI Kei Ping (Vice-Chairman)

James K.T. WONG (Vice-Chairman)

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

Thomas S.T. SO (joined in June 2012)

Charles C. C. CHAU

Hugo S.K. CHAN

Kenneth Y.H. CHAN

Rico W.K. CHAN

Neville C.H. CHENG

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Hannah C.L. HA

IP Shing Hing

Carmen W. M. KAN

Fred K.C. KAN (joined in August)

Benny P.T. KONG (resigned in July)

William C.W. LAM

Brian C.S. LEUNG

Elsie O.S. LEUNG

Alexandra D.W. LO

Henry Y.H. WAI

Christine P.W. WONG

Tony Y.H. YEN

Simon S.M. YEUNG

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

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Rebranding exercise

The GCLAC rebranding kicked off at a cocktail reception on 12 July at the Helena May. It was well-attended by the Council and Committee Members, guests from overseas chambers, trade associations, consulate generals, professional bodies and HKSARG as well as representatives from Mainland and Taiwan organisations with offices in Hong Kong.

GCLAC also launched a new “Greater China Desk” webpage on Law Society’s Homepage. The webpage contained information on the legal profession in the Greater China region, updates on relevant legislation in the region and business data that would be useful to both lawyers and potential users of legal advisory services provided by solicitors. In the long run, it is hoped that the webpage would constitute an online forum through which firms may be able to promote their services online and attract business enquiries or referrals.

In addition to the above efforts to publicise the new identity of GCLAC, a seminar on “Building Reputation in a Noisy Marketplace” presented by a seasoned public relations and marketing expert was held on 1 June. The seminar provided useful tips to practitioners on the effective means to market themselves or promote their practices online or through other means. Close to 70 members attended the seminar.



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Cross Strait Three Regions Young Lawyers Forum

GCLAC co-hosted the 2nd *Cross Strait Three Regions Young Lawyers Forum* with the the Yong Solicitors' Group on 13 October for the 2nd consecutive year. Bearing the theme of "A Global Perspective: Cross Mergers & Acquisition", the Forum attracted more than 150 lawyers from 19 mainland provinces and cities as well as young lawyers from Taiwan and Hong Kong. An impressive line-up of speakers was also presented at the Forum with Solicitors-General of the Department of Justice ("DOJ"), JP as the officiating guest at the main forum, and other prominent speakers from Taiwan, the Mainland and Hong Kong in the main and breakout sessions.

For the first time, a roundtable discussion amongst the chief delegates of all participating bar associations was held on the day before the Forum was held. The Roundtable provided a superb forum for sharing information on the latest development in the legal profession in difference regions particularly issues facing young lawyers in their practice; and discussion on fostering mutual cooperation.

Networking opportunities were also offered at a cocktail reception held on the day before the Forum and the luncheon held on the event day. Highlights of the Forum were subsequently covered in a post-event press supplement in Wen Wei Po.

Members of "Cross Strait Three Regions Young Lawyers Forum" Organising Committee

Mr. Charles C.C. CHAU (*Chairman*)
Mr. Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Advisor*)
Mr. Hugo S.K. CHAN (*Advisor*)
Mr. Neville C.H. CHENG
Ms. Anita Y.Y. KWOK
Ms. Nadine LAI

Ms. Clare K.Y. LI
Mr. Raymond C.B. SIU
Mr. Tai Kam CHEUNG
Ms. Christine P.W. WONG
Ms. Priscilla T.T. WONG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs



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Hong Kong Legal Services Forum 2012

Under the coordination of GCLAC, The Law Society, as a supporting organisation, participated in the "Hong Kong Legal Services Forum 2012" hosted by the DOJ of the HKSARG in Guangzhou on 13 September. The Forum was staged to promote Hong Kong legal and arbitration services to enterprises in the Mainland and other potential users of such services. Under the theme of "Think Global, Think Hong Kong", the Forum was targeted at those mainland companies in Guangdong Province who intended to "go global" by venturing into the world markets using Hong Kong as the platform. It also offered opportunities for Hong Kong law firms to showcase their services to potential mainland users, particularly those who wish to use Hong Kong as a platform to expand their businesses in the global markets.

The Forum attracted over 600 participants including The Law Society delegation 20 firms have also participated in a business matching session held immediately after the breakout session promoting Hong Kong legal services. Representatives from these firms attended to enquiries from the mainland participants on the spot.



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“Smart Hong Kong” Road Show in Hangzhou

Vice Presidents Ambrose Lam and Stephen Hung together with eight Law Society members participated in the “Smart HK — Hangzhou” organised by the HKTDC and supported by the Hangzhou Municipal Government, local trade organisations and The Law Society on 30-31 August. Three Hong Kong firms and The Law Society each took up a promotional counter to introduce Hong Kong legal advisory services to business people based in Hangzhou and other major cities in Zhejiang Province.

Vice President Ambrose Lam spoke at a seminar attended by over 200 mainland businessmen who were interested in the kind of legal services provided by Hong Kong law firms, or who have business interest in Hong Kong and in need of such services. Mr. Lam was also interviewed by Hong Kong press after speaking at the seminar.

Before taking part in the Hangzhou Road Show, the Law Society delegation visited Ningbo on 28–29 August to renew ties with the Ningbo Lawyers Association with whom The Law Society has signed a cooperation agreement back in 2002. The delegation was warmly greeted by the Deputy Head of the local Justice Bureau, the President and officers of the Ningbo Lawyers Association. The two parties also organised a joint seminar featuring speakers from The Law Society introducing the types of legal services that Hong Kong lawyers can offer to business from Ningbo if they wish to expand their business in overseas markets.

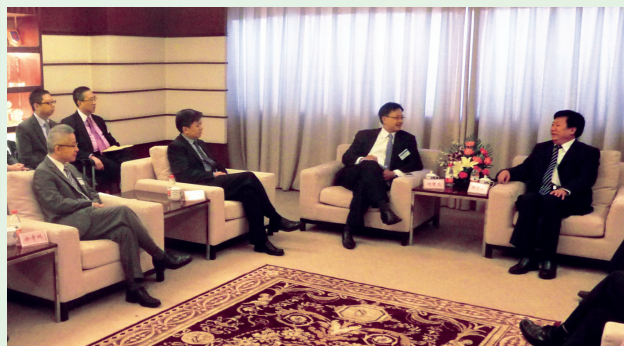


Standing Committee on External Affairs

Business Mission to Chongqing

From 31 October to 2 November, a 12-member delegation of The Law Society was in Chongqing on a mission to explore business opportunities for Hong Kong law firms. The mission was jointly organised by The Law Society, the HKTDC and Chongqing Lawyers Association. Over 200 representatives of Chongqing enterprises attended a seminar titled “*Hong Kong Legal Services — Open the Door to International Trade*”. The participants had shown much interest in the speakers’ presentations on topics covering legal aspects of foreign investments by Mainland enterprises; strategies for foreign mergers, acquisitions and financing; resolving commercial disputes by means of arbitration and mediation; the importance of protecting intellectual property rights to foreign investment; strengthening cooperation between Hong Kong lawyers and Chongqing lawyers and promoting foreign investments by Mainland enterprises. Some Chongqing law firms indicated their wishes to establish associations with Hong Kong law firms or setting up offices in Hong Kong.

Throughout the three-day programme, The Law Society delegation also met with members of the Chongqing Lawyers Association, officials of the Chongqing Justice Bureau, and representatives from the Chongqing Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The Industry and Commerce Association of Chongqing City and law firms in Chongqing. The highly successful mission went a long way toward raising awareness among enterprises in Chongqing of the Hong Kong legal service industry and the advantages of making investments in Hong Kong, and also towards creating new opportunities for the Hong Kong legal profession in Chongqing.



Standing Committee on External Affairs

Courtesy visit to Taipei and Kaohsiung

A Taiwan Sub-group was formed under GCLAC this year with a mandate to explore the Taiwan markets and to promote Hong Kong legal services to Taiwan companies, especially those who have business interest in mainland China or intend to develop their business in Hong Kong or in mainland China through Hong Kong.

Three members of the Taiwan Sub-group made a courtesy visit to Kaohsiung and Taipei between 25 to 28 November. They met officials from the Mainland Affairs Council of the Executive Yuan, the Ministry of Justice and the Straits Exchange Foundation in Taipei, the Vice Mayor of Kaohsiung, representatives from the New Taipei Importers & Exporters Chamber of Commerce, Kaohsiung Commerce & Trade Development Association, Kaohsiung Chamber of Industry, and the bar associations in Taipei and Kaohsiung. They also made a courtesy call to the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office.

This trip was fruitful in terms of establishing relationship with the parties concerned and preparing The Law Society for a formal visit to Taiwan sometime in 2013. The trip also allowed The Law Society to acquire a better understanding of Taiwan's business and trade policies and regulations, the business and legal needs of Taiwan companies especially when they intend to start up business in Hong Kong and professional exchanges between lawyers from Hong Kong and Taiwan in areas of arbitration and cross border investment projects.

Members of the Taiwan Sub-Group:

Kenneth CHAN
IP Shing Hing
Ambrose S.K. LAM

Elsie LEUNG
HENRY Y.H. WAI

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Participation in Mainland events

Throughout the year, GCLAC organised the following activities in the mainland:

- On 1 April, the then President Junius Ho acted as a speaker at the Advanced Training Workshop organised by the Guangzhou Lawyers Association in Chong Hua. Over 50 young lawyers in Guangzhou attended the workshop where Mr. Ho shared facts about young lawyers in Hong Kong and issues likely facing young lawyers in their practice. Jeff Wong, a Trainee Solicitor from Hong Kong accompanied Mr. Ho on this trip.
- From 25 to 28 May, a Law Society delegation comprising GCLAC Members, and a member of the Mainland Interest Group under the GCLAC visited Tianjin for meetings with the Tianjin Justice Bureau, Tianjin Bar Association, Tianjin Certified Public Accountants, Tianjin Enterprise Confederation and Tianjin Chamber of Commerce. They headed for Beijing for participating in the "Mainland — Hong Kong Services Industry Symposium" hosted by the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with HKTDC.
- On 25 August, Law Society representatives attended the "Guangdong — HK Lawyers Exchange Forum" in Nansha where PRC and Hong Kong lawyers discussed the prospects of forming associations between their firms and issues arising from the association.

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Professional Services Development Programme for Hong Kong and PRC lawyers

Five lawyers from Hainan seconded to Hong Kong law firms for a period of four weeks under the *Professional Services Development Programme*.

Under the programme, Hong Kong lawyers were also offered secondments in PRC firms. During the period from 23 to 27 April, five Hong Kong lawyers were seconded to law firms in Guangzhou. This was the last of the four batches of Hong Kong lawyers attending secondment programme in the Mainland. Upon completion of their secondment, they shared their experience in *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Seminars on China-related legal issues

GCLAC had organised seminars covering China law and related legal issues as follows:

- On 13 January, five Hainan lawyers spoke on the latest development in legal practices relating to tourism, litigation, property transactions in Hainan. 66 members of The Law Society attended the lunch seminar.
- On 2 June, three PRC lawyers from Guangzhou and Shenzhen acted as speakers at a seminar sharing practical knowledge on China law practice and transactions involving foreign investment in the Mainland. 88 participants had attended the seminar.

Outbound mission to Germany with Mainland companies

In early May, Vice President Ambrose Lam joined a HKTDC mission to Germany promoting Hong Kong legal services to both the Mainland enterprises who were on the same mission and to German companies in Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich.



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Mainland visitors

In 2012, The Law Society received the following parties from the Mainland:

27 March	44 officers from Shenzhen Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Shenzhen Personnel Public Service Centre, Shenzhen Technician College, Shenzhen Development & Reform Commission and other government departments attending a training programme arranged by the Hong Kong Poly University
28 March	A delegation from the Qingdao Lawyers Association
25 April	Representatives from the Foshan Justice Bureau and the Foshan Lawyers Association
18 April	29 mainland delegates led by the Secretary of the United Front Work Department
10 May	Madam Hu Zejun, Deputy Attorney General of The Supreme People's Procuratorate of PRC
10 May	32 Mainland senior judges attending the "5th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior judges" arranged by the City University of Hong Kong
22 May	A group of Mainland officials attended The Academy of Chinese Culture Contextual Learning in English Programme organised by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Management & Executive Development Centre and sponsored by SHKP Kwoks' Foundation
28 May	20 mainland officials attending a seminar hosted by China Overseas Friendship Association
6 June	President and Secretary General of Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission)
11 June	14 mainland officials attending the "Training Scheme in Common Law for Mainland Officials 2011/12" organised by the Department of Justice
21 June	A delegation from the Zhejiang Lawyers Association
22 June	Representatives from the Zhuhai Lawyers Association
6 July	37 delegates from Gansu Justice Bureau and Gansu Lawyers Association



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6 July	15 officials from Dongguan and professors from the Law Faculty, Shantou University
9 July	Young lawyers from Zhejiang
11 July	13 law students from Shantou University
13 July	48 law students from the mainland referred by the Legal Education Trust Fund Limited
13 July	8 postgraduate law students from Beijing University
17 July	35 mainland officials and businessmen from Guangzhou
26 July	5 lawyers from Chongqing
31 July	A delegation from Guangdong comprising members of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of CPPCC, Department of Justice, Guangdong and Guangdong Lawyers Association
1 August	Members of the International and Hong Kong — Macau — Taiwan Working Committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association
18 September	5 mainland lawyers from the PRC firm, King & Capital and officials from the China Legal Services (HK) Limited
10 October	13 China-appointed attesting officers from Fujian and Jiangxi, and twenty lawyers from Chongqing
1 November	Twelve officials from the Legislative Affairs Office of Guangzhou Municipal Government and other government departments in Guangzhou
5 December	Teachers and students from the Faculty of Law and Politics of the Beijing Geely University
6 December	A delegation from Guangzhou Lawyers Association
17 December	Members of the Practice Disputes Mediation Committee, Members and Lawyers Working Committee and Trainees' Appraisal Management Committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association
20 December	Mr. Hao Chiyong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Justice of PRC



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“Mainland Column” in Hong Kong Lawyer

GCLAC contributed five articles to the “Mainland Column” of The Law Society’s official publication *Hong Kong Lawyer* in 2012, namely:

Month	Topics of the article
January	The 9th China Lawyers Forum: afterthoughts of two young lawyers
March	One-week secondment to Shenzhen law firms
June	One-week secondment to Beijing law firms
July	Secondments to Guangzhou law firms: experiences and gains
October	The Hong Kong Legal Services Road show in Qingdao, Shandong — A mission to promote Hong Kong legal services in the Greater China region

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS ARES

The involvement of The Law Society representatives in international affairs and the network with legal professional bodies around the world has been further enhanced this year. The International Legal Affairs Committee, a sub-committee under the Standing Committee, was responsible for coordinating these activities.

Members of the International Legal Affairs Committee

Joseph C.W. LI (<i>Chairman</i>)	Geoffrey S. GREEN
Gavin P. NESBITT (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)	GU Jing
Melissa K. PANG	Frederick K.C. KAN
Lester G. HUANG	Alan H. LINNING
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	Cynthia Y.S. TANG
CHAN Chak Ming	Jean H.C. WONG
Jeckle CHIU	Philip W.C. WONG
Kenneth Y. CHOY	

Secretary: Assistant Director of Communications & External Affairs

Standing Committee on External Affairs

Law Society Membership to International Legal Organisations

The table below sets out The Law Society's membership to various international organisations and its representatives to these organisations:

Organisations	Membership status	Law Society representatives
Commonwealth Lawyers Association	Corporate	Nil
Bar Issues Commission of International Bar Association	Corporate	Mr. Dieter Yih (in his capacity as the President of The Law Society) Mr. Ambrose Lam (in his capacity as a Council Member of The Law Society) Ms. Heidi Chu (as the Permanent Liaison Officer of The Law Society)
Policy Committee of the Bar Issues Commission of International Bar Association		Mr. Ambrose Lam
Inter-Pacific Bar Association	Individual membership for Law Society representatives	Mr. Dieter Yih (in his capacity as the President of The Law Society) Mr. Ambrose Lam (in his capacity as the Vice President of The Law Society)
LAWASIA	— Corporate — Individual membership for Law Society representative	Ms. Melissa Pang (member of LAWASIA EXCO)
Union Internationale des Avocats	— Corporate — Individual membership for Law Society representatives	Mr. Huen Wong (member of UIA Governing Board) Mr. Fred Kan (Regional Secretary — Region XIV (Asia), China)

Study Mission to Myanmar

Myanmar has become the focus of the world as it opens up its economy to attract foreign investments in the country. The Law Society made a maiden trip to Myanmar from 15 to 18 July, The Law Society delegation comprised 15 members led by President Dieter Yih.

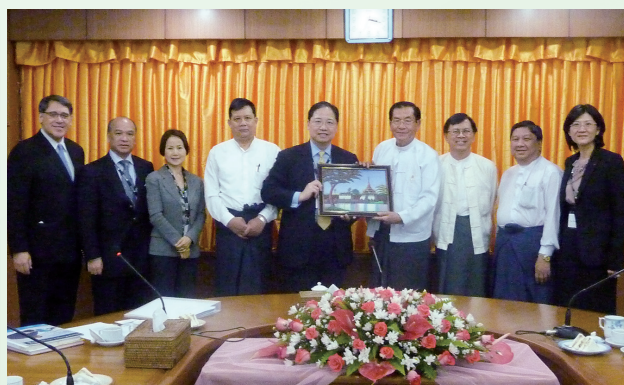
The study mission to Myanmar was fruitful in that relationship with government officials and lawyers in the country was fostered, useful information about Myanmar's law reforms, legal infrastructure, judicial system, economic development and areas of business where Hong Kong practitioners may offer their legal expertise were collected.

Standing Committee on External Affairs

During their stay in Myanmar, The Law Society delegates met with the Attorney-General of Myanmar, the Director-General of the Supreme Court, the Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and members of the Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry. At the meetings, The Law Society delegation was given to understand that Myanmar is opening up its market to the world offering tax and trade concessions in certain trades. Professional exchanges between lawyers were also welcome.

The trip to Myanmar may have been short, but everyone returned home safe and with information that may be useful for their practice.

Prior to the Study Mission, representatives from The Law Society visited the office of the Consulate General of the Union of Myanmar (HKSAR & Macao) and they were greeted by the Consul General. At the meeting, Law Society representatives expressed intention to establish a strictly professional and business relationship with the legal profession in Myanmar.



Standing Committee on External Affairs

“Think Global Think Hong Kong” — Tokyo & Osaka, Japan

On 15 and 17 May, HKTDC staged a large-scale road show — “Think Global Think Hong Kong” in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, respectively promoting Hong Kong’s capabilities in helping Japanese companies reaching out to mainland China, Asia and rest of the world. More than 1,600 participants mainly Japanese business leaders, government officials and members of the business communities from Tokyo and Osaka participated in the event.



As a supporting partner to this mega event, a 13-member Law Society delegation led by the then President Junius Ho attended the event in both the Tokyo and Osaka legs. Speakers from The Law Society, provided practical tips to Japanese business professionals at the thematic sessions. Merits of using the services of Hong Kong law firms in establishing businesses in Hong Kong and in mainland China were also presented at the thematic sessions.

The Law Society also took the opportunity to renew friendship with Japan Federation of Bar Associations. The two professional bodies discussed the proposals for an Internship Programme for young lawyers from Japan and Hong Kong as well as a list of “Support Lawyers from Hong Kong” to help Japanese SMEs who may need legal advisory services from Hong Kong lawyers for doing business in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Through the participation in this event, The Law Society fulfilled its mission of exploring new markets and identifying potential business opportunities for members.



Standing Committee on External Affairs

HKTDC outbound missions

In May, Vice President Ambrose Lam joined representatives from Guangdong enterprises on a HKTDC mission to Germany promoting Hong Kong legal services to both the Mainland enterprises and to German companies in Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich.

In September, Immediate Past President Junius Ho joined representatives from Zhejiang enterprises on a HKTDC outbound mission to Japan promoting Hong Kong legal services.

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Tokyo Bar Association

The Law Society and Tokyo Bar Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) on 20 February in Tokyo where a law seminar jointly organised by the two professional bodies was held in celebration of the signing of the MoU. The MoU signed signifies the start of a long-term friendship between the two professional bodies.

A 9-member Law Society delegation led by the then President Junius Ho attended this law seminar in Tokyo, which was attended by around 70 Japanese lawyers and representatives from local Japanese companies. Topics of the seminars included “Hong Kong as a Base for Investment in China” and “Hong Kong as a Forum for Cross-border Business Dispute and Resolution”.

Participation in international conferences and meetings

During the year under review, The Law Society has stepped up its involvement in international conferences and meetings by sending delegations to conferences hosted by the International Bar Association, Union Internationale des Avocats, Inter-Pacific Bar Association, LAWASIA, POLA, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, American Bar Association and All China Lawyers Association. The delegations were either led by the President or Vice Presidents.



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Young lawyers with less than five years of post-qualification experience were also offered sponsorship for participating in international conferences affording them opportunities to acquaint themselves with the latest development in legal practices in different jurisdictions, issues relevant to developing their legal career, and to network with lawyers around the world. During the year, a total of 16 young lawyers attended eight major international conferences. Below is a list of international conferences which The Law Society attended by the young lawyers:

1. Inter-Pacific Bar Association Annual Conference in New Delhi, India (29 February to 3 March)



2. Commonwealth Lawyer Association Regional Law Conference in Sydney, Australia (19 to 22 April)
3. Think Global Think Hong Kong in Tokyo & Osaka, Japan (14 to 18 May)



4. American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, the United States (2 to 8 August)



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5. International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) 50th Annual Congress in Barcelona, Spain (28 August to 1 September)



6. International Bar Association Annual Conference in Dublin, Ireland (29 September to 5 October)



7. Union Internationale des Avocats 55th Annual Congress in Dresden, Germany (31 October to 4 November)



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8. The 25th LAWASIA Conference in Bali, Indonesia (18 to 21 November)



Experience gained by the young lawyers and their observations at the conferences were shared in The Law Society journal *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Overseas visitors

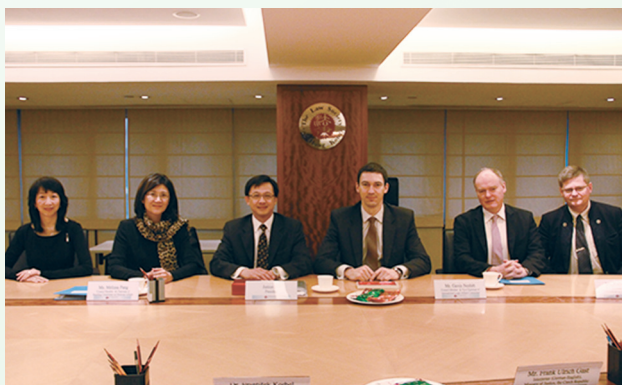
In 2012, the Council, members of the Standing Committee and the International Legal Affairs Committee received groups of overseas visitors as follows:

- On 13 January, Ms. Tiina Astola, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Finland and Ms. Annikki Arponen, Consul-General of Finland in Hong Kong visited The Law Society.



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- On 1 March, Dr. František Korbel, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic visited The Law Society.



- Sixteen members of the Korea Bar Association (“KBA”) led by their President Dr. Shin Young-Moo, and six accompanying persons visited Hong Kong from 9 to 11 March. This was the first official visit by KBA to The Law Society since the two professional bodies signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2011. The KBA delegation attended a meeting with the Council on 9 March to discuss the latest developments on multi-disciplinary practice (MDP) in Korea and in Hong Kong. Amongst the KBA delegates, there were Korean Women Lawyers Association President, Ms. Kim Sam Hwa and Vice President, Ms. Yang Jung Suk.



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- On 18 May, Mr. Guy Harles, President of the Luxembourg Bar Council and Mr. Stephane Karolczuk, a registered foreign lawyer from Luxembourg met with Law Society representatives. The possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between The Law Society and Luxembourg Law Society was discussed.



- On 26 July, a 10-member delegation from the Ministry of Justice, Vietnam, led by Mr. Nguyen Van Bon, Vice Director, Judicial Support Department of the Ministry of Justice, visited The Law Society.



- On 24 September, Mr. Reynah Tang, President of the Law Institute of Victoria and Mr. William Lye, Executive Member of the Victorian Bar visited The Law Society.



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- On 26 October, a delegation of 38 Austrian judges visited The Law Society.



- Mr. Michael Todd, QC, Chairman of the Bar Council of England & Wales visited Hong Kong in November and early December and met with President Dieter Yih and other Council Members.



- On 27 November, Ms. Maria Eugenia Gay and Ms. Marisa Moreno, members of the International Relations Commission of the Spanish National Bar Association, visited The Law Society. They indicated interest in organising a group of SME law firms from Spain to attend an event in Hong Kong in September or October 2013 to facilitate networking and business matching between them and law firms in Hong Kong.



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Communications and External Affairs Department