

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Standing Committee on External Affairs ("SCEA") oversees the promotion of the objects and overall image of The Law Society. It assists The Law Society in fostering a good relationship with various sections of the local community by organising different projects and events; as well as the relationships with the Mainland and other international legal fraternities.

2014 remained an eventful year for the Standing Committee. Through its three sub-committees; namely, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee, the International Legal Affairs Committee and the Community Relations Committee, SCEA had coordinated a lot of events and activities which required innovative and thought-provoking ideas. All these events turned out to be hugely successful both in terms of the number of participants as well as the feedback received. In view of the rapid developments in the trend of globalisation of the legal market, it is imperative that The Law Society should reach out to the international legal community in order to raise the visibility of the Hong Kong legal profession. It is also the duty of The Law Society to promote the understanding of and respect for the rule of law by the general public in Hong Kong. A lot of the activities held locally were to serve this purpose.

There had been some changes in the membership of the SCEA during the year under review. Mr. Simon Lai, Ms. Daphne Lo and Ms. Nadine Lai joined as members from February.

### Members of the Standing Committee and their meeting attendances during the year:

Huen WONG ( <i>Chair</i> )	12/12	Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH	2/12
Joseph C.W. LI ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> )	8/12	Daphne F.Y. LO ( <i>joined in February</i> )	8/11
CHAN Chak Ming	4/12	Kenneth H.S. NG	8/12
Nick CHAN	10/12	Thomas S.T. SO	6/12
Junius K.Y. HO	7/12	Philip W.C. WONG	9/12
Stephen W.S. HUNG	11/12	Stephen R. YAP	8/12
Frederick K.C. KAN	5/12	Ann M.S. YEUNG	9/12
Nadine LAI ( <i>joined in February</i> )	10/11	Henry K.W. YIP	10/12
Simon S.C. LAI ( <i>joined in February</i> )	7/11		

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

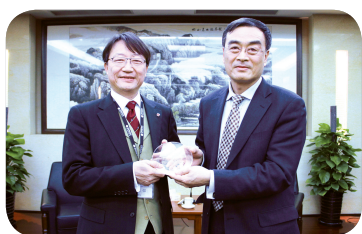
Below are highlights of events and activities coordinated by the Standing Committee during the year under review:

### Council Visit to Beijing

10 Council members and the Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to the Mainland authorities in Beijing from 6 to 8 January, including the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and the Committee for the Hong Kong Basic Law & Committee for the Macao Basic Law under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress ("NPCSC").

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Council Members and the Secretary General met with senior officials of the Mainland authorities including Mr. Li Fei, Chairman of Committee for the Hong Kong Basic Law under NPCSC, Mr. Du Chun, Head of Lawyers Administration Department of the Ministry of Justice, and Mr. Feng Wei, Member of Party Leadership Group of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council. Council Members also visited the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. Ms. Cathy Chu, Director of the Office, briefed Council Members on the active role of the Office in promoting professional services of Hong Kong to mainland enterprises.





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### Council Visit to Shanghai

A delegation consisting of nine Council Members visited Shanghai from 3 to 5 August. The delegates visited the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce and representatives of the Shanghai Lawyers Association and the Shanghai Bureau of Justice. They took the opportunity to discuss the latest development in the legal profession in both Shanghai and Hong Kong and the opening up of the legal profession in Shanghai drawing reference to Hong Kong's experience.



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### *Law Week 2014*

As a flagship project of The Law Society, *Law Week 2014* took the format of television roller features and radio programme promoting various areas of practice that were relevant to all walks of life. These were broadcast in the closing credit of TVB's evening sitcom at around 8:30 pm on weekdays aired on TVB Jade service during December; and on Commercial Radio 1 from 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm on every Monday and Tuesday in December.

By presenting *Law Week* on television and radio programme, The Law Society was able to reach out to the wider community spreading knowledge of the law. Our tasks involved research on various practice areas, scripting, casting of solicitors to appear in the features, and coordination of the production schedule and post-production editing. The event could hardly be accomplished such success without the staunch support of our members including the *Law Week 2014* Organising Committee. As in previous years, the Opening Ceremony of *Law Week 2014* was staged at the Summit Hall of the AsiaWorld Expo, coinciding with another major project of The Law Society, *Teen Talk*, held on 29 November. The Hon. Chief Justice, Geoffrey Ma; The Hon. Secretary for Justice, Rimsky Yuen, SC; Mr. Dennis Kwok, Legislative Council Member (Legal Functional Constituency); Mr. Thomas Edward Kwong, Director of Legal Aid; and Mr. Selwyn Yu, Vice President of Hong Kong Bar Association were invited as officiating guests with President Stephen Hung and Ms. Ann Yeung, Chairlady of *Law Week 2014* Organising Committee.

In addition to the kick-off ceremony, a mock admission ceremony was presented before an audience of over 1,000 secondary school students and teachers. The admission ceremony illustrated the commitment made by lawyers to the legal profession as well as to the community in upholding the rule of law.

The huge success of *Law Week 2014* was attributed to the support by the Organising Committee, the officiating guests, the Council, the Legal Aid Department and the Secretariat.





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### Members of the *Law Week 2014* Organising Committee:

Ann M.S. YEUNG (*Chair*)  
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG (*Vice-Chair*)  
Stanley W.L. CHAN  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Sebastian KO  
William C.Y. KONG  
Nadine LAI  
Arthur Y.Y. LAW

Daphne F.Y. LO  
Daniel K.M. SHUM  
Michelle W.T. TSOI  
Maggie Y.T. TSUI  
Cecilia G. WONG  
Louise K.F. WONG  
Nathan S.K. WONG  
Sauw YIM

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### *Teen Talk 2014*

*Teen Talk 2014* concluded with great success. On 29 November at AsiaWorld Expo, solicitor volunteers who served as facilitators to guide over 1,000 Forms 4 to 6 students and teachers from schools in 18 districts participated in *Teen Talk 2014*. The aim was to better equip our next generation with the necessary legal knowledge and moral grounding to lead and serve the society. Students are encouraged to speak their mind and improve their multi-dimensional critical thinking skills during group discussions. More than 7,000 students have benefited from attending this meaningful Law Society event since its inception.

This year, around 60 students were selected to go on stage to participate in a debate led by Vice Presidents Thomas So and Melissa Pang. The Best Debate Team was judged by all participants in the venue by the volume of their applause.

In parallel with the student discussions, The Law Society conducted seminars for teachers to enrich their legal knowledge in the areas of “Triad-related Crimes, Assault & Violence-Related Crimes and Sexual Offences”, “Theft and Drug-related Crimes” and “Internet-related Crimes”.

To better engage students before and after the all-day event, The Law Society has launched a *Teen Talk* Facebook Fans Page to promote legal knowledge amongst teenagers. An online writing competition called “I have a say in Law!” was held from mid-October to late November, encouraging students to express their views on legal issues presented in the videos.

Same as in previous years, *Teen Talk* received funding support from the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to cover part of the expenses incurred.

It was a demanding task to organise a project of this scale, and it could not have been implemented so smoothly and it not been for the strong leadership of the Organising Committee and the much-appreciated support from more than 130 solicitors and law students who volunteered to act as facilitators in the event.

### **Members of the *Teen Talk 2014* Organising Committee:**

Nick CHAN (*Chair*)  
Annie P.Y. WONG (*Vice-Chair*)  
Flora W.S. CHAN  
Serina K.S. CHAN  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Nadine LAI  
Cammie K.Y. LEUNG

Daniel K.M. SHUM  
SHUM Hin Han  
Lucia S.L. SUN  
James K.T. WONG  
Grace Y.T. YEUNG  
Henry P.H. YU

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### Spring Reception

The Spring Reception, an annual event that topped the priority list of tasks that the Standing Committee has undertaken in 2014, was held on 11 February. Over 200 guests including government signatories, senior partners of firms, and representatives from foreign consulates, Council and committee members as well as members of The Law Society attended.

The festive event represents a gesture of appreciation by The Law Society for the support rendered by government officials, practitioners and other working partners and friends towards the work of The Law Society.





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### Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year

The Law Society received about 40 overseas and mainland bar leaders from Australia, United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Japan, Mainland China, Malaysia and Taiwan at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year (“OLY”) in Hong Kong on 13 January. Besides attending the OLY, the visiting guests also attended a luncheon and a dinner jointly hosted by The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association, a Presidents’ Roundtable chaired by then-President Ambrose Lam as well as other activities organised by The Law Society including visits to the Legislative Council and the Law Reform Commission.



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### The Law Society of Hong Kong & Bloomsbury Books Prizes Presentation Ceremony

The Law Society of Hong Kong and Bloomsbury Books Prizes Presentation Ceremony is an annual event during which law students from the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the City University of Hong Kong received their prizes at The Law Society Clubhouse. This year the ceremony was held on 17 March.

The Law Society and the Bloomsbury Books Ltd. were represented by then Vice-President Stephen Hung and General Manager Mr. Edmund Lau at the ceremony respectively. Some students came with their parents to celebrate their achievement.



### Participation in the TVB Programme “I Want to Run My Own Business”

The Law Society was invited to collaborate with TVB by nominating solicitors to provide advice on business proposals submitted by persons who intended to start up their own businesses in the programme called “I Want to Run My Own Business”. Nine members were nominated to participate in the shooting. The programme was broadcast from February to April.





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### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (“CRC”)

The CRC is a Sub-Committee under the Standing Committee with mandate to foster relationship with various community groups for the purpose of promoting The Law Society as a caring organisation and solicitors as caring individuals. As in previous years, CRC continued its effort in coordinating regular programmes and ad hoc events for various sections of the community through a wide range of activities.

The membership of CRC also underwent some changes. Four existing members were re-appointed for another term of three years and there were two new members.

#### CRC Christmas Gathering

On 10 December, CRC hosted a Christmas Gathering for all Committee Members, Working Group Members, writers, speakers, volunteers, mentors, and guests who have rendered significant support towards the work of the CRC and its working groups.



#### Members of the Committee:

Philip W.C. WONG (*Chair*)  
Ann M.S. YEUNG (*Vice-Chair*)  
Nick CHAN  
Serina K.S. CHAN  
Stanley W.L. CHAN  
Nadine LAI  
Arthur Y.Y. LAW  
SAUW Yim

Michelle W.T. TSOI  
Maggie Y.T. TSUI  
Patricia WIJAYA  
Cecilia G. WONG  
James K.T. WONG  
Nathan S.K. WONG  
Judy W.C. YAM  
Victor C.K. YAU

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During the year under review, members of CRC continued work with schools, local communities and non-government organisations. Below are highlights of their work:

### Working Group on Community Talks and Services

On 21 September, the Working Group held the “Lawesome” Community Fun Day in Lok Fu Plaza. The event was a new initiative of CRC aiming at further reaching out to our community while promoting legal knowledge. The event started with the remarks by Ms. Annie Tam, Permanent Secretary for Labour & Welfare, Labour and Welfare Bureau and concluded with tremendous success with over 200 visitors spending a joyful afternoon in learning legal knowledge from a fresh perspective. Five non-governmental organisations co-organised booth games with the Working Group.

The Working Group also launched a few initiatives in the year under review, such as talks on different legal issues and elderly visits. Three elderly visits to Nam Cheong, Shau Kei Wan and Kwun Tong have been organised, totally more than 100 members and their families and friends participated.







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### Members of the Working Group:

Maggie Y.T. TSUI (*Chair*)

SAUW Yim (*Vice-Chair*)

Stanley W.L. CHAN

Anthony W.M. KWAN

Nadine LAI

Stephanie W.Y. LAU (*joined in October*)

Daniel K.M. SHUM (*joined in October*)

Michelle W.T. TSOI (*joined in March*)

James K.T. WONG

Nathan S.K. WONG

Cassandra K.C. WU (*joined in October*)

Victor C.K. YAU

Jackie N.M. YEUNG (*joined in March*)

Matthew K.W. YIM

Henry P.H. YU (*joined in October*)

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### Working Group on “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship Programme

Having evolved from the former “Path Builders” Mentorship Programme, the Phase 5 programme under its renewed name “Legal Pioneer” was concluded successfully. A total of 14 groups of secondary school students actively participated in the programme. Taking an innovative form of micro-film competition, the topics of the Phase 5 programme covered three legal related subjects, namely “privacy”, “derivative works” and “cyber bullying”. Each group was assigned one of the topics and produced a micro-film. Their efforts were presented before the “Judging Session” held on 24 May at the Youth Square, Chai Wan. 12 micro-films and 2 sets of display board were featured. Around 100 guests comprising Council Members of The Law Society, CRC members, mentors and mentees supported the event.

Given the success of Phase 5 programme and the growing popularity of micro-film production, the Working Group has carried this theme forward to the Phase 6 programme, with 4 new legal topics, namely “IP infringement”, “sexual harassment and prevention”, “defamation” and “cyber theft”. Having expanded the school network to Kwun Tong and Shatin districts in this phase, 13 new groups of secondary school students have joined Phase 6.

Phase 6 has been officially launched on 11 October at the Lingnan University. The Working Group was honoured to have Ms. Elsie Leung, Deputy Director of HKSAR Basic Law Committee and Former Secretary of Justice to be the guest of honour. Together with The President of The Law Society, CRC members and 100 mentees, the event started with a presentation of certificates to the Phase 5 graduates and concluded with a micro-film training workshop conducted by Mr. Vincent Ho, a well-known micro-film director. After the launch, each group would work closely with their designated mentors as a team and produce a micro-film.

### Members of the Working Group:

Judy W.C. YAM (*Chair*)

Nathan S.K. WONG (*Vice-Chair*)

Serina K.S. CHAN

Nadine LAI

Arthur Y.Y. LAW

MAK Hon Ming

SAUW Yim

Victor C.K. YAU

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### Working Group on Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks

This is a regular programme coordinated by CRC and has been running for 11 years since 2003 with the aim to enrich secondary school students' legal knowledge. Apart from talks for students, the Working Group offered talks to school principals, teachers and administrators on legal matters that they may encounter in their work.

This year, the Working Group adopted a more pro-active approach to reach out to all secondary schools in Hong Kong by launching a massive school talk campaign. The first Phase of the programme received good response from schools, followed by the second phase scheduled from February to July 2015. A new set of standard presentation material was developed for this purpose.

A "Speaker's Group" of solicitors take turns to deliver talks at school.



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### Members of the Working Group:

Serina K.S. CHAN (*Chair*)  
 Nadine LAI (*Vice-Chair*)  
 Nick CHAN  
 Stanley W.L. CHAN  
 Joseph C.K. HO (*joined in October*)

Frederick C.K. HUI  
 Cecilia G. WONG  
 James K.T. WONG  
 Cassandra K.C. WU (*joined in March*)  
 Ann M.S. YEUNG

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### Working Group on “Sing Tao Legal Mailbox”

CRC also assumes another important task of coordinating contribution of articles amongst Law Society members for publication in the “Legal Mailbox” weekly column in a local newspaper, Sing Tao Daily, every Monday throughout the year. In 2014, over 50 articles were published.

A Working Group formed under CRC was responsible for reviewing all articles submitted to ensure relevancy of the subject matter and accuracy of the factual information cited by the authors.

In response to feedback received about the first edition of Smart Book published in 2012, the Working Group was working on the second edition which would include selected articles from the period of 2012 to 2014. Since 2012, over 14,000 copies have been distributed to students, teachers and principals, members of NGOs at talks.

### Members of the Working Group:

Cecilia G. WONG (*Chair*)

Stanley W.L. CHAN (*Vice-Chair*)

Katherine J.R. HUANG (*joined in October*)

Nadine LAI

Albert M.K. SO (*joined in October*)

Michelle W.T. TSOI (*joined in March*)

James K.T. WONG

Nathan S.K. WONG

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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (“GCLAC”)

2014 was a fruitful year for the GCLAC. The Committee received more than 34 groups of visitors compared to 25 groups in 2013. It also organised or participated in 17 outbound visits to 9 cities, including a Legal Service workshop in Jiangsu and the biannual Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Qingdao as a co-organiser. The 4th “Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum” held during the year also received overwhelming positive responses. The frequent exchange between GCLAC and legal bodies in the region reflects the increasing maturity of cross-strait exchanges within the greater China area.

There were changes in the membership of the GCLAC by end of 2014. Five members, Mr. Charles Chau, Mr. Simon Ip, Ms. Elsie Leung, Ms. Carmen Kan and Mr. Tony Yen retired from the Committee. Then-President Mr. Ambrose Lam, Mr. Eric Lui, Mr. Brian Ho, Ms. Catherine Mun and Mr. Patrick Mak were co-opted to fill the vacancies. Three members, Mr. James Wong, Mr. William Lam and Ms. Alexandra Lo were co-opted back to serve on the Committee.

#### Members of the Committee:

Thomas S.T. SO (*Chair*)  
Emily Y.M. LAM (*Vice-Chair*)  
Wilfred K.P. TSUI (*Vice-Chair*)  
James K.T. WONG (*Vice-Chair until October*)  
Hugo S.K. CHAN  
Kenneth Y.H. CHAN  
Rico W.K. CHAN  
Charles C.C. CHAU (*resigned in November*)  
Neville C.H. CHENG  
Franki W.C. CHEUNG  
Anthony W.K. CHOW  
Hannah C.L. HA  
Brian P.C. HO (*joined in December*)  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
IP Shing Hing (*retired in November*)

Carmen W.M. KAN (*resigned in December*)  
Fred K.C. KAN  
William C.W. LAM  
Ambrose S.K. LAM (*joined in December*)  
Eric C.H. LUI (*joined in December*)  
Brian C.S. LEUNG  
Elsie O.S. LEUNG (*retired in November*)  
Alexandra D.W. LO  
Patrick K.W. MAK (*joined in December*)  
Catherine L.M. MUN (*joined in December*)  
Sylvia W.Y. SIU  
Henry. Y.H. WAI  
Tony Y.H. YEN (*retired in November*)  
Simon S.M. YEUNG

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#### Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum

The 4th “Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum” was successfully held on 16 and 17 October. It is an annual event co-hosted by GCLAC and the Young Solicitors’ Group. This year, the theme of the forum was how young lawyers could grasp the opportunities of globalisation for a promising future. It attracted over 200 attendees from 26 provinces and cities in the Mainland, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong.

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Participants also visited the Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”) and joined the welcome reception. Furthermore, chief delegates of 20 lawyers associations attended the roundtable conference to discuss and share views on topics of common interest, such as how globalization of economy affects legal services and what lawyers associations can do to equip the young professionals to embrace the challenges.





## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



### Members of “Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum” Organising Committee:

James K.T. Wong (*Chair*)  
 Thomas S.T. So (*Advisor*)  
 Charles C.C. Chau (*Advisor*)  
 Neville C.H. Cheng  
 Daniel K.M. Shum  
 Vicky W.K. Man  
 Raymond C.P. Siu  
 Brian P.C. Ho  
 Heidi H.Y. Chui  
 Edwin W.Y. Kwok  
 Daniel W.C. Leung

William C.Y. Kong  
 Dennis S.K. Hu  
 Nadine Lai  
 Louise K.F. Wong  
 Shum Hin Han  
 Maggie Y.T. Tsui  
 Cami K.Y. Leung  
 Joanne N.W. Wong  
 Karen H.L. Wong  
 Olivia H.Y. Kung  
 Dantes W.C. Leung

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### The Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Qingdao

A delegation of 17 members led by President Stephen Hung, participated in the Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Qingdao. This biennial legal industry event was jointly organised by seven institutions including, among others, the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") and The Law Society.

Seven of our delegates participated as the moderators and as speakers at five sessions of the forum, explaining to over 700 representatives from Mainland enterprises and the local legal profession the legal and management issues on risks associated with investing in Hong Kong and overseas, as well as promoting Hong Kong's arbitration services.



### Business Mission to Jiangsu

The 3-day business mission was co-organised by The Law Society and HKTDC. A delegation of 22 members including five Law Society representatives visited Nanjing and Suzhou from 26 to 28 March. One of the key events during this trip was a legal services workshop which promotes Hong Kong legal services to the local enterprises in Jiangsu.



### Signing of Cooperation Agreements

This year, The Law Society signed a new Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Shenzhen Lawyers Association on 30 December to pave the way for cooperation between the two parties especially in the training aspect.



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### Participation in Mainland Events

Throughout the year, GCLAC organised and participated in the following key activities in the Mainland to promote and to research on the market for Hong Kong legal services:

#### Seminars on “Judicial Reform in China”

Two seminars on “Judicial Reform in China” co-organised with the City University of Hong Kong were launched in January and May respectively.

#### Secondment Programme for Dalian Young Lawyers

Four Dalian young lawyers joined a 3-week Secondment Programme at Hong Kong law firms during April and May.

#### “Smarthk”, Nanjing

Organised by HKTDC, Smarthk is a series of expos aiming to promote Hong Kong service providers to Mainland enterprises. In May, then President Mr. Ambrose Lam attended a press conference to introduce to the Nanjing reporters how legal services industry in Hong Kong could assist Mainland enterprises “go global”. The roadshow was held in June, which the Law Society and four Hong Kong law firms joined over 100 Hong Kong professional associations and companies to set up exhibition booths to promote Hong Kong legal services. Former Council member and GCLAC member Mr. Charles Chau was invited to speak at a symposium attended by over 600 corporate delegates.



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### Foshan Visit

In November, a 4-member delegation led by the Chairman visited Foshan Lawyers Association to explore the cooperation between legal services industry in Hong Kong and Foshan, and visited Foshan General Chamber of Commerce to introduce how Hong Kong legal services could help Foshan enterprise to develop the business.



### Law firm association seminar, Shenzhen

A delegation of 22 members participated in a Shenzhen seminar on association of law firms between Shenzhen and Hong Kong/Macau law firms in November. Following the two-day meeting, The Law Society delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Shenzhen Lawyers Association.



### Annual Shenzhen — Hong Kong Expats Exchange Conference

President Stephen Hung represented the Law Society to participate in the event in late December to sign a new MOU with Shenzhen Lawyers Association to strengthen the cooperation in training projects for lawyers of both lawyers associations. Vice-President Thomas So and then-President Ambrose Lam also attended the event.





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### Visitors from Mainland, Taiwan and local universities

During the year under review, GCLAC has received 34 groups of visitors from PRC, Taiwan and local universities, including officials from the Central Government, Ministry of Justice, representatives from various provincial and municipal lawyers associations, senior judges, and students. These meetings were useful in strengthening the relationship between The Law Society and parties from the Greater China region.





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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



## INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (“ILAC”)

The ILAC is a committee established under the Standing Committee on External Affairs and is responsible for coordinating activities in the international arena so as to develop and maintain the established relations with the bar associations, law societies and other law-related associations overseas for the purpose of promoting The Law Society as a professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong.

There were changes in the membership of the ILAC during the year. Three members retired from the ILAC this year namely, Mr. Kenneth Choy, Mr. Chan Chak Ming and Ms. Jean Wong. Mr. Sebastian Ko was co-opted to join the ILAC in October.

The Law Society actively participated in international conferences/seminars and reached out to other legal professional bodies around the world throughout the year.

### Members of the Committee:

Joseph C.W. LI (*Chair*)  
Gavin P. NESBITT (*Vice-Chair*)  
Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
Simon CHAN  
Kenneth Y. CHOY (*retired in August*)  
CHAN Chak Ming (*retired in August*)  
Jing GU

Sebastian KO (*joined in October*)  
Alan H. LINNING  
Melissa K. PANG  
Robert C. RHODA  
Cynthia Y.S. TANG  
Philip W.C. WONG  
Jean H.C. WONG (*retired in August*)

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### Legal Seminar in Yangon, Myanmar

To facilitate closer co-operation between the legal professions in Myanmar and Hong Kong, The Law Society led a delegation of 10 members to Myanmar at the end of August. Together with representatives of the Yangon Bar Association (“YBA”), The Law Society co-organised a seminar on titled “Myanmar: Opportunities and Challenges” with the YBA in Yangon on 30 August. Over 160 Myanmar practitioners attended the event.

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The Law Society delegates held fruitful discussions with Myanmar practitioners on various topics including our legal system under “One Country, Two Systems”, legal services on offer in Hong Kong, arbitration, brand building and company law update.

### International Bar Association (“IBA”) Annual Conference in Tokyo and IBA Bar Breakfast Jointly Hosted by The Law Society & Korean Bar Association (“KBA”)

The IBA Annual Conference was held in Tokyo from 19 to 24 October. As the IBA Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of the international legal community, The Law Society hosted a breakfast session jointly with the KBA on 21 October in Tokyo Kaikan. The breakfast session was very popular and over-subscribed. Over 250 legal practitioners from around the world attended our breakfast session entitled “Opportunities and Challenges for International Lawyers in the Asian Century: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”.

Experienced practitioners from China, Hong Kong, Korea and Singapore shared their insights on the 21<sup>st</sup> century being the Asian century and the role of law societies and bar associations in facilitating their members to grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges ahead.





## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” Roadshow in Paris & Milan

The Law Society was a supporting organisation of “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” in Paris and Milan, a major promotional event organised by HKTDC at the end of October for promoting Hong Kong services in the European market. A five-member Law Society delegation participated in the event.

The Law Society also set up a consultation counter on site with The Law Society delegates answering enquires from foreign participants. Many of the enquiries related to, *inter alia*, (1) setting up companies in Hong Kong and/or China; (2) arbitration service for European companies doing business in Mainland China; (3) patent, copyright and intellectual property; (4) foreign lawyers qualifying in Hong Kong; and (5) the functions of The Law Society.



## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### Visit by the Korean Bar Association

The Law Society first signed a MOU with the KBA in October 2011 for a term of two years and the two parties renewed the MOU in December 2013 for two more years. Under the MOU, the two professional bodies agreed, inter alia, “to promote and maintain close cooperation for the benefits of the lawyers they represent and to promote the rule of law.” A delegation of 15 KBA representatives led by their President We Chul Whan paid their second official visit to The Law Society from 10 to 12 December after their last visit in 2011.

The exchange visits by the two professional bodies under the MOU have enhanced our mutual understanding of the changing legal landscapes in the two territories. Korea is in the process of opening up its legal market under the Free Trade Agreements (“FTA”) with different countries. During a joint session with the KBA held on 11 December, we were able to gain a better insight into the latest development in the legal market in Korea. Pending the conclusion of a FTA between Korea and Mainland China/Hong Kong, Hong Kong lawyers are not yet officially permitted to practise as foreign legal consultants on their own account in Korea. It is hoped that Hong Kong lawyers will be able to practise in Korea in due course once the legal hurdle is overcome.

Visits to other legal organisations such as Department of Justice, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the ICAC and the High Court had been arranged for the KBA delegates during their official visit in Hong Kong.





## STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### Korean and Japanese Internship Programmes

#### Korean Internship Programme (Inbound), 13 to 24 January

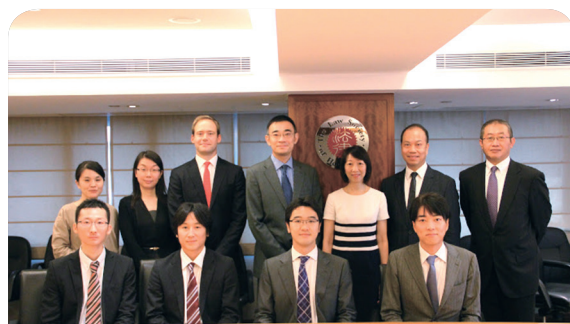
A two-week internship programme was launched at the beginning of the year. The Law Society worked closely with the KBA on an internship programme for placing Korean law students in Hong Kong law firms. 18 Korean law students worked as interns in Hong Kong law firms for two weeks. Legal visits were also organised for them during their internship in order to further their understanding of the Hong Kong legal system. The internship programme was well received by both the Korean interns and Hong Kong law firm sponsors.



#### Japanese Internship Programme (Inbound), 27 October to 7 November

To better foster the collaborative relationship between the legal professions in Japan and Hong Kong, The Law Society worked hand in hand with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations ("JFBA") on an internship programme (inbound and outbound). Under which, four Japanese lawyer-interns (inbound) had already completed a two-week internship in Hong Kong law firms from 27 October to 7 November.

A half day seminar was also organised towards the end of their internship programme on 6 November for the purpose of exchanging legal knowledge and information between the two jurisdictions. Presentations on various topics relating to the Japan and Hong Kong legal markets were delivered both by the Japanese lawyer-interns and local experienced solicitors. Under the reciprocal arrangement of the internship programme, four Hong Kong lawyers (outbound) will be sent to Japan for a similar 2-week internship in February 2015.



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### Agreement with Overseas Bar Associations

As part of the ongoing mission of the ILAC to develop and further the relationship with overseas bar associations and law societies, The Law Society signed two latest agreements with the Osaka Bar Association and the Milan Bar Association this year.

- The Osaka Bar Association signed a Friendship Agreement with The Law Society on 22 October during the IBA Conference in Tokyo.
- The Milan Bar Association and The Law Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Milan on 29 October during the HKTDC “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” roadshow held in Milan.



Osaka Bar Association Friendship Meeting

### Participation in International Conferences and Meetings

The following visits to and attendance of various international conferences and meetings by The Law Society representatives were coordinated under ILAC:

- Attendance by The Law Society delegates including young lawyers to conferences hosted by the International Bar Association (“IBA”), Union Internationale des Avocats (“UIA”), Inter-Pacific Bar Association (“IPBA”), LawAsia, the Presidents of Law Association in Asia (“POLA”), American Bar Association (“ABA”) and the International Association of Young Lawyers (“AIJA”). The delegations were either led by the President or Vice Presidents.



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- Attendance to LawAsia EXCO meetings by Vice President Melissa Pang who is The Law Society's official representative in the EXCO
- Attendance to the mid-year meeting of the IPBA by Council Member Huen Wong who represented The Law Society in IPBA as its President-elect
- Immediate Past President Mr Ambrose Lam also represented The Law Society to attend the ceremony during the Opening of Legal Year of the Law Society of England & Wales.
- Please refer to the following table for the location of the conferences that the delegates from The Law Society attended:

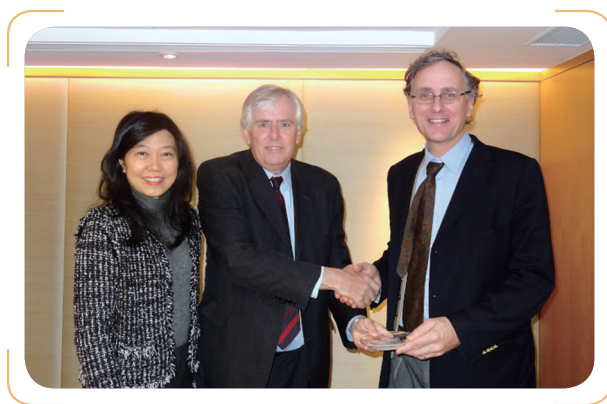
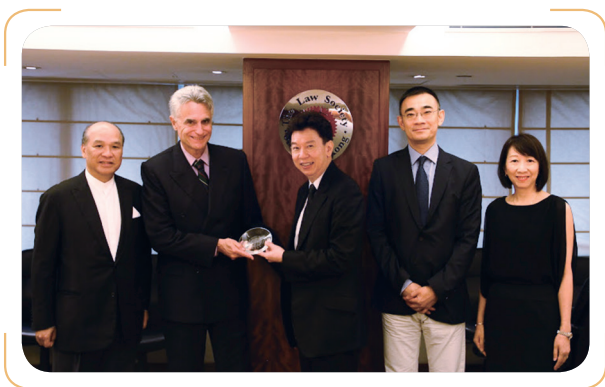
Date	Event Name	Location
8–11 May	IPBA Conference	Vancouver
21–24 May	IBA 9th Annual Bar Leaders Conference & Mid-Year Meetings	Brussels
10–12 June	POLA Conference	Wellington
8–9 Jul	Int'l Legal Regulators Conference	London
8–10 Aug	ABA Annual Meeting	Boston
3–6 Oct	LawAsia Conference	Bangkok
19–24 Oct	IBA Annual Conference	Tokyo
28–30 Oct	Think Asia, Think Hong Kong	Paris & Milan
29 Oct–1 Nov	UIA Congress	Florence

## Overseas Visitors

Throughout the year The Law Society also received a number of overseas visitors. Meetings were usually held in the Council Chamber of The Law Society. Constructive and fruitful exchanges of ideas were made with overseas visitors from different jurisdictions. Below is a list of overseas visitors.

Date	Meeting
February	Meeting with World Trade Organisation
March	Meeting with BVI House Asia
	Meeting with the Korean Bar Association
	Meeting with European Commission
April	Meeting with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korean in Hong Kong
May	Meeting with BVI Financial Services Commission
September	Meeting with American University Washington College of Law
	Meeting with the Bar Council of England and Wales
	Meeting with the Queensland Law Society
October	Meeting with the Bar Council of England and Wales
December	Meeting with St. Louis Asian American Chamber of Commerce
	Meeting with the Korean Bar Association

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Communications and External Affairs Department