

**Standing** 5  
**Committee on** 1  
**External** 0  
**Affairs** 2



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 sectors of the local community as well as the relationships with the Mainland and other international legal fraternities by organising a variety of projects and events.

2015 was a phenomenal year for the Standing Committee. With the combined effort of the Standing Committee and its three sub-committees; namely, the Community Relations Committee, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee, and the International Legal Affairs Committee, a lot more events and activities had taken place during the reporting year. Many of these events and activities demand innovative, riveting and bold ideas. Full commitment from members of these committees are also required. All these events turned out to be hugely successful.

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.

The local community continues to be an integral part of our work. We support many non-government organisations by providing seminars and inviting members of The Law Society to participate in their events.

During the year, there had been some changes in the membership of the SCEA. Past President Dieter Yih joined as a member from January and resigned in December. Mr. Kenneth Choy, Ms. Carmen Kan, Mr. Robert Rhoda, Ms. Maggie Tsui and Mr. James Wong joined from March while Vice-President Melissa Pang joined from August.

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

### **Council Visit to Taiwan**

President Stephen Hung led a 17-person delegation comprising members of the Council, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee and the Secretariat to visit Taichung and Taipei from 8 to 10 April. The delegation was received by various government departments and judicial institutions, such as the Control Yuan, Taiwan Ministry of Justice, Mainland Affairs Council and Straits Exchange Foundation, exchanging updates on the new developments of commerce and legal services in both jurisdictions. The delegation also visited the local legal organisations, namely the Taiwan Bar Association, the Taipei Bar Association and the Taichung Bar Association, to discuss possible cooperation with The Law Society, such as professional training.

## Council Visit to Beijing and Tianjin

The Council visited Beijing and Tianjin from 2 to 8 August. The delegation visited the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), and held a joint meeting with the Ministry of Justice and All China Lawyers Association in Beijing to discuss topics such as the issues encountered by Hong Kong lawyers in developing their career in the Mainland, and how to enhance the co-operation between the two jurisdictions. The Council also visited the Tianjin Free Trade Zone Binhai Central Business District Area.

## Council Visit to Seoul

A delegation of 13 Council Members visited Seoul from 1 to 4 December. During the visit, the delegates had productive exchanges with the Korean Bar Association and other organisations including Korea's Ministry of Justice, the Embassy of the PRC in the Republic of Korea in Seoul and the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, and gained a better understanding of the progress of the legal market liberalisation in Korea.

## Law Week 2015

*Law Week* was first introduced by The Law Society in 1991 to promote legal knowledge and legal services in the community. It is an annual event and in each of the past 24 years, new features were introduced to meet the needs of different social segments.

In 2015, the Opening Ceremony of *Law Week* was held at the Tamar Park on 28 November, coinciding with *Teen Talk*, another flagship programme of The Law Society to promote legal education to younger generations. The Hon. Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and The Hon. Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC together with eminent leaders of the community were invited as officiating guests for the event.

As a flagship project of The Law Society, *Law Week 2015* was also presented through television roller features and programmes on the radio imparting legal knowledge in a practical manner relevant and applicable to all walks of life. These were broadcast in the closing credit of TVB's evening sitcom at around 8:30pm and on Commercial Radio 1 on weekdays during the month of December.

Apart from using the traditional promotional channels, namely radio programme, TV roller features, community events and school talks, *Law Week 2015* also launched the promotion programmes through the multi-media platform to broaden the audience spectrum.

The success of *Law Week 2015* was attributable to the tireless effort of the Organising Committee and the staunch support of the Council and the officiating guests for the event. The Law Society was also grateful for the sponsorship from the Legal Aid Department ("LAD").

## *Teen Talk 2015*

*Teen Talk* is one of the flagship events of The Law Society promoting legal knowledge and legal services to mainly the younger generation in community. The event set a new record with the participation of a total of 126 school teams from over 80 schools in 18 districts.

Evolving from the previous single-day forum format, *Teen Talk 2015* was held over 3 days, with round one, the “Legal Scenario Play Competition”, completed over two weekends in early November. Under the guidance of Law Society members, the students discussed common privacy, legal and ethical issues encountered in real-life scenarios. Those teams with outstanding performance were admitted to advance to the finale held at the Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section) on 28 November.

President Stephen Hung who was deeply involved in the planning of the programme said that the interactive elements of *Teen Talk 2015* presented a more engaging learning platform to students, including the first-ever outdoor “Legal Knowledge Orienteering Race”. The race challenged students’ understanding of legal terminology and the law, as well as their problem-solving skills in daily-life scenarios.

Over 60 members of The Law Society served as facilitators to lead over 50 school teams and 300 students to complete various tasks by applying their knowledge in solving legal and privacy problems, encouraging them to engage in critical thinking, sharing and learning from diverse perspectives and teamwork. The Organising Committee (“OC”) was grateful to the Hon. Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC who officiated the kick-off ceremony, and Privacy Commissioner Stephen Wong for joining the Decoding Privacy Panel Discussion with President Stephen Hung and Council Member and OC Chairman Nick Chan on legal and privacy matters, enhancing students’ awareness on these issues.

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.

Without the dedicated effort of the OC chaired by Mr. Nick Chan and vice-chaired by Ms. Nadine Lai and Mr. Roden Tong, members, students, schools, volunteers and The Law Society Secretariat, *Teen Talk 2015* would not have been so successful.

## **Spring Reception**

The annual Spring Reception was held on 2 March. We were very much honoured by the presence of the Hon. Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and the Hon. Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC as our Guests of Honour. Over 260 distinguished guests and Law Society members attended this delightful event.

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.

## **Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year**

The Law Society was honoured to receive about 96 overseas and the Mainland bar leaders from Australia, United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Japan, Mainland China, Malaysia and Taiwan attending the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year (“OLY”) in Hong Kong on 12 January. Besides attending the OLY ceremony, 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 Vice-President Melissa Pang as well as other activities organised by The Law Society including visiting the Securities and Futures Commission and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited.

## **Law Society Annual Cocktail**

Over 400 guests and Law Society members attended The Law Society Annual Cocktail Reception on 23 November held at the Hong Kong Club. Our Guests of Honor were the Hon. Chief Executive C.Y. Leung, the Hon. Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, and the Hon. Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC.

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

The Law Society of Hong Kong and Bloomsbury Book Prizes Presentation Ceremony is an annual event during which law students from the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”), and the City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”) were finally recognised for their outstanding academic performance. This year the ceremony was held on 17 March.

The Law Society and Bloomsbury Book Ltd. were represented by President Stephen Hung and Bloomsbury’s General Manager Edmund Lau at the ceremony respectively. Also present at the ceremony were Mr. Gary Meggitt, Associate Professor of Department of Professional Legal Education of HKU; Mr. Christopher Knight, Deputy Programme Director of PCLL, Faculty of Law of CUHK; Prof. Lin Feng, Associate Dean of School of Law of CityU; and Mr. Peter Chan, Teaching Fellow of School of Law of CityU. Family members of the winners also attended the ceremony, sharing the joy and achievements of the winning students.

## **Participation in the Metro Radio Programme “Viva Counselor”**

The Law Society was invited to collaborate with the Media Radio by nominating solicitors to speak on topics of public concerns covering legal practice areas like Criminal, Basic Law, Matrimonial, Money Lending, Cyber Crimes, Intellectual Property, Privacy, Personal Injury, New Territories Land, Judicial Review, Reversed Mortgage, and Competition Law. 12 members were nominated to participate in the radio show. The programme was broadcast from June to October.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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The Community Relations Committee (“CRC”) was responsible for fostering relations between The Law Society and various organisations in the local community with a view to encouraging participation in community activities and charity work among solicitors to enhance the corporate image of The Law Society as a caring organisation.

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

### Moot Court Competition for Secondary School Students

The Moot Court Competition for Secondary School Students 2015-16 was organised by the Rotary Club (the New Territories) and the Institute of Vocational Education. The Law Society was a supporting organisation alongside with the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Association for Business Education. The event has been held every year since 2012. It encourages secondary school students of Form Three and above to learn the law and strengthens their awareness of the Rule of Law. CRC Chairman Philip Wong was appointed as a member of the Organising Committee.

### CRC Christmas Gathering

On 7 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.

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

## WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNITY TALKS AND SERVICES

Encouraged by positive responses on the previous “Lawesome” Community Fun Day event, the Working Group brought fun and joy to the Tin Shui Wai community this year on 27 September. The event began with remarks from our officiating guest, Mr Stephen Sui, Under Secretary for Labour & Welfare, Labour and Welfare Bureau. President Stephen Hung, Chairman of CRC Philip Wong and members of Working Group together with representatives of five non-governmental organisations gathered at Tin Shui Shopping Mall in Tin Shui Wai, to officiate the opening ceremony of the “Lawesome” Community Fun Day. The event aimed at reaching out to our community while promoting legal knowledge. It concluded with tremendous success with over 300 visitors spending a joyful afternoon in knowing more about the law from a practical perspective.

The Working Group also launched a few initiatives in the year under review, such as talks on different legal issues and elderly visits. Two elderly visits to Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan and a visit to children in Po Leung Kuk have been organised, totally more than 100

members and their families and friends participated.

## **WORKING GROUP ON “LEGAL PIONEER” MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

The Phase 6 programme was concluded successfully, in which a total of 12 groups from 80 secondary school students competed for the championship of “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship microfilm production on 11 July at Media 21 in Aberdeen. Each group was assigned one of the four topics, namely Defamation, Cyber Theft, Intellectual Property Infringement and Preventions and Remedies to Sexual Harassment for the production of a microfilm. The Law Society members took up the role as mentors to provide guidance and advice to the student mentees in the microfilm production.

The judging panel selected the champion, the first runner-up and the second runner-up, as well as “My Favourite Project”, “The Best Legal Content” and “The Most Creative Project” based on the overall presentation, relevance, participation and creativity. More than 100 guests, including Vice-President Melissa Pang, CRC members, mentors and mentees, participated in the event.

The Phase 7 Opening Ceremony was held on 31 October at the Chiang Chen Studio in the Polytechnic University. It was attended by two officiating guests, namely Mr. Wesley Wong, Solicitor General of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and Mr. Laurie Lo, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs Bureau. Past President and Council Member Junius Ho and CRC Chairman Philip Wong represented The Law Society in the Ceremony to present certificates to student participants and souvenirs to officiating guests respectively, followed by the microfilm training workshop conducted by Mr. Man Shu Shum, Associate Director of Academy of Film, Baptist University of Hong Kong to the participants. The event concluded with a discussion session between the mentees and the mentors. Approximately 120 mentees (secondary school students) and 40 mentors attended the Ceremony.

## **WORKING GROUP ON LAW AND NEW GENERATION PROGRAMME AND SCHOOL TALKS**

This is a regular programme coordinated by CRC and has been held for 12 years since 2003. Its aim is to enrich secondary school students’ legal knowledge. Apart from talks for secondary students, the Working Group also offered talks to school principals, teachers and administrators on legal matters to organisations, such as Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Hong Chi Association.

The Working Group has adopted a more pro-active approach to reach out to all secondary schools in Hong Kong by launching a massive school talk campaign since 2014. The programme has received good response from schools. The Working Group will continue the programme and a new set of standard presentation material in English will be developed this year.

At the end of each year, all speakers would receive a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their contribution.

## **WORKING GROUP ON “SING TAO LEGAL MAILBOX”**

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

A Working Group formed under CRC is responsible for reviewing all articles submitted to ensure relevancy of the subject matter and accuracy of the factual information cited by the authors. At the end of each year, all writers would receive a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their contribution.

An updated 2015 version of the Smart Book was published in December, comprising 60 selected articles published in Sing Tao Daily from 2012 to 2015. A total of 10,000 copies were printed for distribution to students, teachers and principals, members of non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) at talks and exhibitions to promote the solicitor’s profession and to enrich the public’s legal knowledge.

## **GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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The Greater China Legal Affairs Committee (“GCLAC”) received 27 groups of a total of around 300 visitors in 2015. They included representatives of judiciary departments, lawyers associations, law schools as well as business organisations from Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. The Committee organised or participated in 17 outbound visits to 13 cities, including a Legal Service seminar in Wuhan, courtesy visits to Taichung, Taipei, Beijing, Tianjin and the Qianhai Free Trade Zone to explore new opportunities for Hong Kong lawyers and foster relationship with counterparts in these regions.

As in the previous year, the Committee co-organised *the 5th Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* with the Young Solicitors’ Group. The event provided a platform for information exchange among the 180 participants and speakers from the Greater China area.

There were changes in the membership of the GCLAC by the end of 2015. Three members, Mr. Hugo Chan, Mr. Brian Leung and Mr. Simon Yeung retired from the Committee and members were grateful for their valuable contribution during their term of service on the Committee.

On the other hand, Ms. Natalia Cheung, Mr. Ronald Kan and Mr. Lawrence Yeung were co-opted to fill the vacancies. Two retiring members, Mr. Rico Chan and Mr. Neville Cheng, continue their services at GCLAC by re-co-option.



## ***Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum***

The 5th Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum co-hosted by GCLAC and the Young Solicitors' Group was successfully held on 22 and 23 October. There were over 180 attendees including prominent speakers from 20 provinces and cities of Mainland China, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong. The discussion at the Forum focused on how young solicitors could prepare themselves for the opportunities arising from the "Belt and Road" initiative. Officiating guests included The Hon. Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, SC, President Stephen Hung and heads of the lawyers associations of the four regions, namely Mr Ou Yongliang, Vice-President of the All China Lawyers Association, Mr Lee Chia-ching, then-President of the Taiwan Bar Association and Mr Paulino Comandante, Secretary General of the Macau Lawyers Association. During this flagship event, The Law Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Taichung Bar Association to strengthen the relationship and enhance opportunities for co-operation and exchange between the two associations.

The participants also visited the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Legislative Council to understand better the law enforcement and the legislative procedures in Hong Kong. The chief delegates of 15 lawyers associations attended a roundtable meeting to exchange views on topics of common interest, such as, how lawyers associations should equip their young members to advance their career under the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

## ***Cocktail Reception***

GCLAC hosted a cocktail reception on 23 January. More than 70 attendees, including members of the Council, SCEA and GCLAC, general members, and representatives from various organisations also working on Greater China affairs attended the event. In his speech, Mr. Du Chun, Director of China Legal Services (HK) Ltd. encouraged Hong Kong lawyers to collaborate with mainland lawyers to provide mainland enterprises quality legal services.

## ***Smarthk in Jinan***

The Law Society joined *Smarthk* event, organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC"), in Jinan on 27 and 28 May as a supporting organisation. The Law Society and five Hong Kong law firms set up booths at the exhibition to promote Hong Kong legal services, answering inquiries from local enterprises and practitioners. Ms Betty Tam, a Hong Kong solicitor, represented The Law Society to give a presentation on the investment environment in North America and the legal issues relating to outbound investments.

## ***ACLA Forum in Guangzhou***

The Law Society and the All China Lawyers Association co-organised a Forum on legal issues arising from the free trade zone on 5 June in Guangdong. A delegation of 10 members led by President Stephen Hung attended the Forum and three delegates gave

presentations at the Forum.

### **Legal Services Seminar in Wuhan**

GCLAC co-organised a seminar with HKTDC in Wuhan on 2 July to promote to local enterprises and lawyers how Hong Kong legal services could help expand their business overseas. The session was overwhelmed with positive feedback and many attendees found it very useful. The Law Society delegation also took the opportunity to visit the Hubei provincial Department of Justice, Hubei Lawyers Association and Wuhan Economic and Trade Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”).

### **Signing of MOU with Guangdong Lawyers Association and Macau Lawyers Association**

The opening of the Pilot Free Trade Zone in Guangdong is expected to stimulate an increase in cross border investments and business activities, leading to a rising demand on legal services. The Law Society, the Guangdong Lawyers Association and the Macau Lawyers Association entered into a MOU on 21 July to promote exchange and cooperation among lawyers in the three regions.

### **Seminar Organised by China University of Political Science and Law**

At the invitation of the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, three Law Society representatives including President Stephen Hung delivered presentations to 300 students and teachers of the University on 16 October. Their presentations covered professional conduct, operation of law firms, international commercial arbitration and Hong Kong criminal law. The delegates also met with the representatives of All China Lawyers Association in Beijing.

### **Study Trip to Qianhai Free Trade Zone**

The GCLAC and the HKTDC co-organised a study tour to the Qianhai Free Trade Zone on 18 December. 40 attendees visited the Qianhai Exhibition Hall and met with representatives from the Shenzhen Lawyers Association, the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and local industry associations. It was noted that arbitration had become a popular tool for resolving commercial disputes in Shenzhen, and there was a high demand for Hong Kong legal services because of Hong Kong lawyers’ familiarity with the common law system.

### **Visitors from the Mainland, Taiwan and Local Universities**

During the year under review, GCLAC received 27 groups of visitors from Mainland China, Taiwan and local universities. The visitors included officials from the Central Government and the Ministry of Justice, senior judges, representatives from various provincial and municipal lawyers associations and students. These meetings provided a forum for a mutual exchange of views on legal issues and updates of the development of

the legal service sector in different jurisdictions.

## **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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The International Legal Affairs Committee (“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 namely, Mr. Joseph Li, Ms. Jing Gu and Mr Sebastian Ko. Ms. Deborah Fong and Ms. Louise Wong as well as Mr. Fred Kan were co-opted to join the ILAC in October and November respectively. Mr. Alan Linning and Mr. Philip Wong were co-opted back to serve on the Committee.

The Law Society actively participated in international conferences / seminars and reached out to other legal professional bodies around the world throughout 2015.

### **Korean Internship Programme**

A two-week internship programme was launched during 7 to 21 January to strengthen the relationship between the legal jurisdictions in Korea and Hong Kong. With the support of the Korean Bar Association and the Korean Ministry of Justice, 13 Korean law students and young lawyers worked as interns in Hong Kong law firms for two weeks. Legal visits were organised for them during their internship in order to further their understanding of the Hong Kong legal system and the concept of “One Country, Two Systems”.

The interns also joined the OLY at the City Hall on 12 January, in which they were able to mingle with many local legal practitioners. The internship programme was well received by both the Korean interns and Hong Kong law firm sponsors.

### **Global Law Summit in London**

The Law Society was one of the supporting organisations of the Global Law Summit held from 23 to 25 February in London. The Summit marked the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. It was a unique opportunity to commemorate, celebrate and embrace 800 years of legal history which had inspired lawyers and non-lawyers alike for generations.

Representing The Law Society, Vice-President Melissa Pang spoke in a breakfast session under one of the core conference themes – “Law as the Foundation of a Strong and Prosperous Society in Asia”. The session focused on the direct and enduring impact of the Magna Carta in India, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong and the indirect impact in non-common law countries such as China. The influence of the Magna Carta in developed jurisdictions

around the world is well documented, but its enduring influence, and importance, in the developing countries of Asia should not be underestimated.

### **Japanese Internship Programme & Seminar on “Japan Legal Market Focus: From the Hong Kong Lawyers’ Perspective”**

With the support of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, The Law Society organised internship placements in Japan law firms for four Hong Kong lawyers from 27 February to 7 March. The placement offered the four participants a valuable opportunity to enhance their cross-border legal knowledge and enabled members of the two jurisdictions to develop a more extensive professional network.

A seminar on “Japan Legal Market Focus: From the Hong Kong Lawyers’ Perspective” was held in Hong Kong on 27 March. The presentations covered a wide range of topics such as litigation, arbitration, competition law and Japanese law practices. The four internship participants also shared their knowledge of Japanese law practices with the audience, with references to their two-week internship experience in Japan. About 80 members attended the seminar.

### **Inter-Pacific Bar Association (“IPBA”) 25th Annual Meeting and Conference in Hong Kong**

The IPBA 25th Annual Meeting and Conference was held successfully from 6 to 9 May in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Law Society was the chief sponsor of the Conference. The Hong Kong Academy of Law also supported the Conference by sponsoring over 60 participants to attend the Conference. It was a valuable opportunity for Hong Kong practitioners to be able to attend an international conference without having to travel overseas.

The Law Society also set up an on-site consultation booth to promote the work of The Law Society and the Hong Kong legal service industry as a whole and to answer inquiries raised by the Conference participants. Many overseas lawyers were particularly interested in becoming a registered foreign lawyer in Hong Kong.

### **“Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” and Law Society Breakfast sessions in Toronto & Chicago**

President Stephen Hung led a Law Society delegation to attend the HKTDC’s promotional campaign “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” to Toronto and Chicago in June with the important mission to promote Hong Kong legal services to the North American market. “How Hong Kong’s legal framework and services could support Sino-American investment partnerships” and “How Hong Kong’s legal fundamentals could help facilitate deals in general” were discussed at one of the thematic sessions.

Riding on the opportunity, The Law Society hosted two breakfast sessions titled “The Asian Century : A Borderless Trade and Investment Environment in Hong Kong” at Toronto and Chicago respectively. Unique features of Hong Kong under the “One Country,

Two Systems” regime, our competitive advantages as an Asian legal service hub and a venue for international arbitration and mediation were highlighted.

### **International Bar Association (“IBA”) Young Lawyer Programme in Hong Kong**

The Law Society co-organised an IBA Conference entitled “The Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice” with the IBA Young Lawyers’ Committee and the IBA Asia Pacific regional forum for members of The Law Society, trainee solicitors and registered foreign lawyers on 2 September. About 45 young lawyers attended this workshop.

The programme was designed to provide young lawyers with critical insights from experienced legal practitioners and relevant stakeholders through practical training, case studies and roundtable discussions on a list of popular legal issues. Topics included cross-border transaction, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, international arbitration and dispute resolution.

### **DOJ Roadshow to Jakarta**

On 17 September, President Stephen Hung led a Law Society delegation to attend the "In Style • Hong Kong" Symposium in Jakarta, Indonesia, which was organised by HKTDC. In addition to a trade expo showcasing Hong Kong lifestyle brands and a gala dinner welcoming more than 500 prominent officials and business leaders from Indonesia and Hong Kong, the Symposium included a session entitled "Legal and Dispute Resolution: Key for International Trade" which was jointly organised by HKTDC and DOJ. The Law Society also set up a consultation booth at the expo to promote Hong Kong legal services to Indonesian businesses.

The Law Society delegation, together with representatives of DOJ, were also pleased to have the opportunity to meet with Indonesia's Minister of Justice and Human Rights and Attorney General, among other heads of legal institutions, to discuss opportunities for collaboration between Hong Kong and Indonesia.

### **Law Society Breakfast Session on the occasion of IBA Conference in Vienna**

On 5 October, The Law Society held a breakfast session entitled “The Asian Century: A Borderless Trade and Investment Environment in Hong Kong” during the IBA Annual Conference in Vienna.

It was well attended by 90 overseas delegates. Unique features of Hong Kong’s legal system, advantages of doing business in Hong Kong and what Hong Kong can offer as an international arbitration venue were discussed.

## **Union Internationale des Avocats (“UIA”) 59th Congress in Valencia**

UIA 59th Congress was held in Valencia, Spain from 28 October to 1 November. President Stephen Hung, Vice-President Melissa Pang, Council Member Joseph Li and Mr. Fred Kan represented The Law Society to attend the Congress.

Vice-President Melissa Pang, representing The Law Society, was one of the panel speakers for two of the sessions during the Congress, namely “Impact of Globalisation and Mobility on Immigration Law” and “Food Law: A Specialist Area for Lawyers” on 29 and 30 October respectively.

The Law Society also took advantage of the opportunity to meet with representatives from overseas professional bodies namely the Hungarian Bar Association, the Madrid Bar Association and the National Chamber of Legal Advisors in Poland to discuss collaboration opportunities and to exchange updates in the legal profession.

## **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 an MOU with each of the Federal Chamber of Lawyers of the Russian Federation (“FCLRF”) and the Okinawa Bar Association (“OBA”) on 6 May. The Law Society looks forward to fostering a closer relationship with FCLRF and OBA and to creating more opportunities for professional exchanges among our respective members.

## **Participation in International Conferences and Meetings**

In 2015, 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 IBA, IPBA, UIA, LAWASIA, American Bar Association (“ABA”), the International Association of Young Lawyers (“AIJA”) and the Commonwealth Law Conference. The delegations were either led by the President or Vice-Presidents.
- Attendance to LAWASIA ExCo meetings by Vice-President Melissa Pang who is The Law Society’s official representative in the ExCo.
- Attendance to the Annual General Meeting of the IPBA by Council Member and Past President Huen Wong who was elected the IPBA President in 2015/16.
- President Stephen Hung also represented The Law Society to attend the ceremonies during the OLY of Singapore and The Law Society of England and 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
23 - 25 February	Global Law Summit	London
18 - 20 March	IBA 4th Asia Pacific Regional Forum Conference	Singapore
26 - 27 March	2nd International Lawyers' Forum	Berlin
12 - 16 April	The 19th Commonwealth Law Conference 2015	Glasgow
6 - 9 May	IPBA 25th Annual Meeting and Conference	Hong Kong
8 - 10 June	HKTDC "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong"	Toronto & Chicago
27 - 28 July	International Legal Regulators Conference	Toronto
30 July - 4 August	ABA Annual Conference	Chicago
14 - 15 August	LAWASIA 9th Employment Law Conference	Hanoi
1 - 5 September	AIJA Congress	London
9 - 12 September	IILACE Annual Conference	Washington DC
16 -18 September	HKTDC "In Style • Hong Kong" & DOJ Roadshow	Jakarta
21 - 27 September	HK Business Delegation to Central Europe	Budapest, Warsaw, Dusseldorf
25 - 27 September	POLA Summit 2015	Goa
4 - 8 October	Hong Kong Infrastructure Development & Real Estate-related Services and Professional Services Mission to Yangon, Myanmar	Yangon
4 - 9 October	IBA Annual Conference & Breakfast session	Vienna
28 October - 1 November	UIA 59th Congress	Valencia
6 - 9 November	LAWASIA 28th Annual Conference	Sydney
16 - 18 November	United Nation Human Right: Committee Against Torture	Geneva

## Overseas Visitors

Throughout the year The Law Society received many overseas visitors, updating each other on developments around the world. Meetings were usually held in The Law Society. Below is a list of the overseas visitors received during the year.

Month	Organisations/ Individual Guests
January	Osaka Bar Association Tokyo Bar Association Union Internationale des Avocats The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia The European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao

February	The Secretary of the State of Cambodia The Secretary General of Hague Conference on Private International Law
April	Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
May	International Bar Association Korean Bar Association Law Society of Singapore Singapore International Mediation Centre
October	World Justice Project
November	The Secretary General of Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Netherlands