



## Press Release

### **4<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Conference “Global Recovery and Harmony through the Belt and Road Initiative”**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Conference, organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong, was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre today (4 November 2021) with speakers and participants from other jurisdictions joining virtually.

As part of “Hong Kong Legal Week 2021”, this year’s Conference was themed on “Global Recovery and Harmony through the Belt and Road Initiative”. In his welcome remarks, the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. C. M. Chan, pointed out that many countries and regions have struggled with unprecedented challenges and disruptions arising from the pandemic over almost two years. Against this background, the Belt and Road Initiative (“BRI”), with its emphasis on jointly creating an open, inclusive and balanced regional economic cooperation architecture that benefits all, can offer a mindset and a practical framework for global connectivity, convergence and collaboration.

Highlighting the vital role of Hong Kong lawyers in the BRI and other cross-jurisdictional practices, Mr. C. M. Chan said, “Reputably, Hong Kong lawyers are well trained to provide a wide range of legal services covering capital markets, banking and finance, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, compliance measures and dispute resolution. The legal services in Hong Kong can therefore provide a one-stop shop for businesses interested in investing in the Greater Bay Area and along the Belt and Road Route.”

In the opening ceremony, the Secretary for Justice, Ms. Teresa Cheng, SC, said, “Under the principle of ‘one country, two systems’ and the BRI, as an international legal, dealmaking and dispute resolution hub, there are immense opportunities for Hong Kong. The Greater Bay Area is significant for the BRI, the inaugural Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination was successfully held in July 2021. After passing the examination and obtaining the relevant practice certificate, eligible Hong Kong legal practitioners would be allowed to provide legal services in the nine Mainland municipalities in the Greater Bay Area on specified civil and commercial matters to which the Mainland laws apply. These legal practitioners will be able to provide comprehensive legal services to enterprises investing in the Greater Bay Area.”

Also officiating the opening ceremony was the Director-General of Legal Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr. Liu Chunhua.

In his keynote speech, the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr. Liu Guangyuan, said,

“Hong Kong is a crucial part of China’s domestic circulation and a key channel of the twin circulations. By deeply engaging in the BRI, Hong Kong could contribute to China’s high-standard opening up and further integrate into the country’s overall development. Legal cooperation is part and parcel of the Belt and Road cooperation. Since many of you are legal professionals, the city of Hong Kong sets a broad stage for you to show your talent and fulfil your potential, and I have every reason to believe that.”

This year’s Conference attracted over 670 registrations from 24 jurisdictions. The event featured government, business and financial leaders across the world sharing their insights on practical and forward-looking topics, ranging from the opportunities and challenges of ongoing initiatives and plans under the BRI, practical guidance for lawyers on how to help businesses to navigate geo-political risks, to how best to strengthen effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms applicable in the BRI jurisdictions.

Since 2017, The Law Society of Hong Kong has held the Belt and Road Conference. It is the first and foremost conference of its kind, dedicated to exploring opportunities and discussing solutions for challenges brought about by the BRI for the legal profession.

### Event Photos



The Law Society of Hong Kong’s 4<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Conference was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre today (4 November 2021) with speakers and participants from other jurisdictions joining virtually.



The President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. C. M. Chan, delivers welcome remarks at the 4<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Conference.