

Teen Talk GBA Study Tour 2025

“Deepening Legal Cooperation, Youth Shaping Tomorrow”

5 July 2025

Shenzhen Bay Sports Center

**Welcome Remarks by
Mr Roden Tong, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong**

Deputy Secretary for Justice Dr Horace CHEUNG

Deputy Director CAO Hai Lei

Director-General LIU Chunhua

Distinguished guests, fellow members, students and friends

Good morning.

It is a true pleasure to welcome you all to the Teen Talk Greater Bay Area Study Tour 2025.

Today, we gather not just to kick off a programme, but to begin a journey — one that I hope will be both eye-opening and inspiring for each of you.

Teen Talk is more than an event. It is a platform for young minds to explore the law, understand its role in society, and discover how legal systems shape the world we live in.

Since its launch in 2009, this programme has reached over 18,000 students, nurturing empathy, critical thinking, and a deep respect for the rule of law.

For me, Teen Talk is also deeply personal. I had the privilege of serving as a solicitor facilitator in the inaugural event back in 2010. Later, I chaired the Organising Committee for three consecutive terms starting in 2017.

During those years, I had the joy of bringing students to the High Court for a moot court competition based on a hypothetical case, and to the Legislative Council for a mock debate in the chambers, where they stepped into the shoes of legislators and government officials. That year, we chose “Children’s Rights” as our theme — a powerful reminder of the law’s role in protecting the most vulnerable.

In 2019, during one of Hong Kong’s most challenging periods, we felt a strong responsibility to safeguard the rule of law. Teen Talk responded with resilience and purpose. For its 10th anniversary, we adopted the theme “Law & Enforcement” and organised 26 visits across seven disciplined services departments. It was a bold and meaningful step one that reaffirmed our commitment to legal education and civic engagement.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to mentor many students through Teen Talk. And while I have shared my knowledge with them, I have learned just as much, if not more, from their energy, curiosity, and fresh perspectives. These experiences have enriched my life in ways I never expected, and I’m truly grateful.

For those who know me well, you’ll understand how much I value youth development. I don’t just support these programmes — I treasure them. And today is especially meaningful, as one of my lovely mentees has flown back from the UK to join us here in Shenzhen, standing alongside all of you — our bright, passionate students.

This year, we received over 130 applications, and 80 of you were selected. That speaks volumes about your potential and your commitment. Congratulations! This is a precious opportunity, and I hope it becomes a milestone in your lifelong learning journey.

This Study Tour is thoughtfully designed to deepen your understanding of the legal systems across the GBA and to inspire your interest in the law. You’ll visit key legal institutions like the Qianhai People’s Court and the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration. You’ll engage in discussions, explore legal frameworks, and experience firsthand how law operates across borders. And you’ll do all of this in English reflecting Hong Kong’s unique position as the only common law jurisdiction in our country.

You'll also be guided by a team of volunteer solicitors — mentors who are here to share not just their legal knowledge, but their life experiences. I encourage you to ask questions, challenge ideas, and embrace every moment. Step out of your comfort zones. Be bold. Be curious. This is your chance to grow, not just as students, but as future leaders.

To our partners and supporters especially the Justice Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, our distinguished guests, and the dedicated Organising Committee, thank you for making this possible. And to our volunteer solicitors, your generosity and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Students — you are not just participants in this tour. You are tomorrow's changemakers. I hope this experience will ignite your passion for the law and inspire you to make a positive impact in your communities and beyond.

Wishing you all a meaningful and unforgettable journey in Shenzhen. Thank you.