

Farewell Dinner for Korean Internship Programme 2025

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

1 August 2025 | Hong Kong Cricket Club

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1. Good evening, distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends,
 2. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Farewell Dinner of the Korean Internship Programme 2025. Despite the less-than-ideal weather at the outset, your commitment and enthusiasm have made this year's programme a resounding success. Thank you for being here to celebrate this meaningful milestone.
 3. Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to our Korean guests:
 - Mr Uh, Director General of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA);
 - Mr Chang, Director of The Korean Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong;
 - Our young legal interns and students from Korea;
 - Representatives from hosting law firms and corporations;
 - And our Council and committee members from The Law Society of Hong Kong.

4. The Law Society of Hong Kong is a statutory self-regulatory body entrusted not only with safeguarding the interests of our members but also with upholding our accountability to the public. This dual responsibility is central to our mission. We are committed to maintaining the integrity and excellence of the legal profession, while also ensuring that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of society.
5. One of our most important obligations is to nurture the next generation of legal professionals. We believe that Hong Kong's legal community must be among the most internationally minded in the world. This internship programme is a testament to that belief. It provides young lawyers with invaluable exposure to our legal system, our professional standards, and our culture of service.
6. Since its inception in 2014, the Korean Internship Programme has grown steadily. This year, we welcomed 18 bright and promising legal minds. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the participating law firms and corporations for their generous support and mentorship. Your contributions have helped shape the future of these young professionals.
7. Some of our interns are unable to join us tonight due to upcoming exams. While we'll miss their presence, their commitment to academic excellence is commendable. Let us send them our best wishes and look forward to celebrating their achievements in due course.

8. I trust that my colleagues at the Law Society have provided you with a warm welcome and insightful briefings on Hong Kong's legal and judicial systems. For those seeking international legal experience, Hong Kong offers a unique platform. As a leading centre for legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, our city provides diverse opportunities for growth and collaboration.
9. I hope your visits to the Basic Law Library, the eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre, and the AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre were enriching. Online Dispute Resolution is rapidly gaining prominence, and your exposure to these institutions will serve you well in your future careers.
10. We are grateful to Mr Nick Chan, Director of AALCO; Dr Thomas So, Chairman of eBRAM; Mr Dennis Cai, Deputy Director of AALCO; and Mr Albert Leung, Acting CEO and CTO of eBRAM, for their hospitality and support. Please join me in giving them and their teams a round of applause.
11. The Law Society is deeply committed to fostering global connections and continuous professional development. Programmes like this not only benefit our interns but also strengthen the legal ties between Hong Kong and Korea. Through mutual exchange and collaboration, we build a more connected and resilient legal community.

12. I was particularly pleased to see some of you participate in the YSG Think Tank 2025 Pitching Day last Saturday. Themed “Balancing Protection and Innovation: The Future of Sports IP in Hong Kong,” this flagship event provided a platform for young lawyers to engage in meaningful dialogue and share perspectives. Such exchanges are vital to the evolution of our profession.
13. As President, one of my key priorities is to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the legal profession. That means promoting diversity, inclusion, and global engagement. Supporting initiatives like this internship programme is not just a duty - it is a privilege.
14. To our Korean interns: I hope your time in Hong Kong has been rewarding. The practical experience you’ve gained here will deepen your understanding of our legal system and prepare you for the challenges ahead. I encourage you to share your experiences when you return home and carry forward the spirit of collaboration in your future careers.
15. On behalf of The Law Society of Hong Kong, I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. Thank you once again for being part of this journey and please enjoy the evening.