



From the President



20 February 2025

Dear Fellow Members,

Belt and Road Cross-professional Forum

On 14 February 2025, I was invited to participate in the Plenary Roundtable of the Belt and Road Cross-professional Forum organised by the Belt and Road Office under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. In the roundtable, I talked about how Hong Kong legal professional services function as a two-way springboard linking the Belt and Road and the Mainland China markets. I also explained how Hong Kong solicitors can help enterprises effectively handle legal risks in unfamiliar jurisdictions.

The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (“CEPA”) is a free trade agreement signed between the Mainland and Hong Kong in 2003. The two sides have agreed to enhance economic and technical cooperation in various areas with a view to supporting the development between the two places, and promoting the cooperation in the economic and trade areas of the “Belt and Road” Initiative and Sub-regional Cooperation.

The CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services (“Services Agreement”) basically achieved liberalisation of trade in services between the Mainland and Hong Kong. The Mainland and Hong Kong signed an agreement on 21 November 2019 to amend the Services Agreement and add new liberalisation measures which have been implemented since 1 June 2020. The two sides signed an agreement on 9 October 2024 to make further amendments to the Services Agreement (“Amendment Agreement II”) for implementation on 1 March 2025. The Amendment Agreement II introduces new liberalisation measures across a number of services sectors. The new liberalisation measures make it easier for Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to set up enterprises and develop business in the Mainland, including the nine Pearl River Delta municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

You can learn about the essential information about CEPA and the Amendment Agreement II from a [leaflet](#) titled “Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement” issued by the Trade and Industry Department.

