

**GBA Legal and Business Symposium**

**(粵港澳大灣區法律企業交流會)**

**16 September 2025, Macau**

**Opening Speech by Mr Roden Tong**

**President of The Law Society of Hong Kong**

Dear

**Dr the Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, BBS, JP**

**Deputy Director Mr Huang**

**The Hon Mr Algernon Yau, JP**

**Mr Cheng**

**Mr Francis Lui Yiu Tung, BBS**

**President Vong**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning! It is my great honor to represent The Law Society of Hong Kong at today's Greater Bay Area Legal and Business Symposium, organized by the International Probono Legal Services Association (IPLSA).
2. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers and, in particular, to Chairman Junius Ho for their vision and dedication in bringing us together for this important occasion.
3. I wish to highlight that the International Probono Legal Services Association (IPLSA) is a recognized charitable organization under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (IRO) in the Hong Kong SAR, and is also one of the statutory voting bodies for the legal sector within the Hong Kong Election Committee. This official status not only affirms IPLSA's credibility and commitment to public service, but also reflects the high standards of integrity and accountability that we, as legal professionals, strive to uphold. IPLSA has long championed legal education, nurtured talent, and fostered professional exchange values that resonate deeply with The Law Society of Hong Kong.
4. Together, we are united in our commitment to advancing the legal profession, promoting public legal awareness, and upholding the enduring spirit of the rule of law. The Law Society of Hong Kong is proud to support this initiative and welcomes the deepening cooperation among legal professionals across the Greater Bay Area. Our shared commitment to the rule of law is the foundation upon which the region's prosperity and stability are built.

5. Since our establishment, The Law Society has been dedicated to the professional development and exchange of legal practitioners, actively engaging at local, national, and international levels. We firmly believe that professionalism is the cornerstone of the legal system - essential not only for the sustained development of the GBA, but also for the nation's progress in the rule of law and modernisation.
6. To meet the challenges of our time, we need legal professionals with international vision, specialized expertise, and a strong sense of social responsibility. It is through our collective efforts that we can make meaningful contributions to the development of the rule of law in our country.
7. Today's event is not only a platform for exchange, but also marks the Graduation Ceremony of the Sixth National Security Education (Train the Trainers) Program. I warmly congratulate all graduates and thank you for your dedication to national security education.
8. The Law Society of Hong Kong has consistently promoted legal literacy and rule of law education, especially among the younger generation. Since early 2024, we have launched educational seminars on national security legislation, reaching over 7,600 students across 30 secondary schools. Through flagship events like the "Teen Talk Forum" and "Law Week," as well as free school legal lectures, we are nurturing a culture of compliance and respect for the law.
9. The Greater Bay Area represents a tremendous opportunity for Hong Kong's legal sector. With the introduction of the GBA Legal Professional Examination, Hong Kong solicitors can now hold dual qualifications in both common law and civil law systems, enabling closer collaboration with Mainland lawyers and providing robust cross-border legal protection for enterprises.
10. As of August, there are approximately 600 GBA lawyers, with 70% being Hong Kong solicitors. There are now 32 partnership associations in Guangdong Province, reflecting the growing integration and cooperation within the region.
11. Premier Li Qiang's reaffirmation of the central government's support for GBA integration, and the emphasis on deeper international cooperation, further inspire us to leverage Hong Kong's unique strengths - our common law system, international outlook, and professional expertise to serve as a bridge between the GBA and the world.
12. Hong Kong's status as the world's only bilingual common law jurisdiction gives us a unique international standing. For Hong Kong lawyers, contributing to the high-quality development of the GBA is both an opportunity and a solemn responsibility.
13. Our collaboration with lawyer associations in the GBA, exemplified by the Joint Meeting System established in 2018, continues to foster exchanges and promote the legal services

industry. The Joint Meetings for the Lawyers Associations saw fruitful discussions and the sharing of practical experiences among our three regions.

14. Internationally, The Law Society of Hong Kong remains an active participant in the global legal community. This year, we have participated The 6<sup>th</sup> International Lawyers' Forum in Berlin, Business Visit led by Chief Executive of the HKSAR to Qatar and Kuwait, and recently, just last month, the 2nd New Delhi International Rule of Law Convention in India etc., where we introduced Hong Kong's legal system and the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" to legal leaders from around the world.
15. These experiences demonstrate how Hong Kong's legal sector can serve as a "super connector," facilitating both internal integration and external connectivity, and supporting Mainland enterprises in their global endeavors.
16. In closing, I once again thank the International Probono Legal Services Association (IPLSA) and Dr Ho for organising this meaningful event. I wish the symposium every success and hope that all participants will be inspired by today's exchanges, working together to advance the rule of law in the Greater Bay Area to new heights. Thank you.