

**Welcome Remarks by Mr. Roden Tong,
President of the Law Society of Hong Kong
at the International Conference of Legal Regulators 2025**

Dr. Horace Cheung, Dr. Kelvin Wong, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome and Introduction

1. It is a distinct honor and privilege to welcome you all to the International Conference of Legal Regulators 2025. On behalf of The Law Society of Hong Kong, I extend our warmest greetings to each of you, and express our sincere appreciation for your presence and steadfast support for legal development and regulatory excellence.
2. This occasion is especially significant, as it marks the first time this prestigious international event is hosted in Hong Kong—a city renowned for its robust legal system, international connectivity, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law.
3. Hong Kong stands at the crossroads of East and West, serving as a global financial centre and a leading legal hub.
4. Under the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, Hong Kong remains the only common law jurisdiction within China, and uniquely, the world’s only bilingual common law jurisdiction in both Chinese and English.
5. Our city’s blend of common law tradition, global connections, and dynamic regulatory environment provides fertile ground for rethinking regulatory models and exploring innovative approaches.

6. The Law Society of Hong Kong, which I represent, serves as both the self-regulatory body and professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong, representing over 13,000 members and 900 law firms. This year, as we celebrate 118 years since the founding of the Law Society, hosting the Conference is testament to our city's enduring role as a legal hub in the international community.

Global Participation and Attendance Statistics

7. As we gather here today, it is encouraging to recognise the international nature of this conference. The Conference has long served as a vital platform for legal regulators, academics, and professional representatives to exchange ideas, share best practices, and generate collaborative solutions.
8. This year, we are honored to welcome over 100 legal regulators from more than 19 jurisdictions including the United Kingdom, Germany, United States, Singapore, Oman, South Africa, Australia, and many others reflecting a truly global spectrum of legal expertise and regulatory insight.
9. These numbers underscore our collective commitment to advancing legal regulation worldwide. Through our shared experiences and collaborative spirit, this Conference serves as a vital platform for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and generating innovative solutions.

Recent Presidential Engagements: Strengthening Global Legal Dialogue

10. Over the past year, I have had the privilege to engage with international legal leaders and institutions, further strengthening our ties and broadening our perspectives.

11. In August 2025, I undertook a duty visit to India, where I spoke at the 35th Summit of Presidents of Law Associations of Asia (POLA) and the 2nd New Delhi International Rule of Law Convention. There, I joined fellow international speakers in addressing the complex challenges posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and social media, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding legal ethics and integrity in the digital age.
12. Most recently, I attended the Opening of the Legal Year 2025 in England and Wales, meeting with senior representatives of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Our discussions focused on the evolution of legal practice structures, pathways for solicitors in both jurisdictions, and the growing impact of technology on legal practice.
13. These exchanges have reinforced our shared commitment to building bridges across legal systems, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting regulatory excellence and innovation.

Conference Theme and Global Relevance

14. The theme of this year's Conference, "New Ways to Regulate in a Changing World?", is both timely and globally relevant.
15. We are witnessing a period of profound transformation in the legal landscape. The rise of artificial intelligence, the proliferation of digital platforms, and the increasing complexity of cross-border legal practice are reshaping how legal services are delivered and how they must be regulated.
16. As regulators, we are not merely observers; we are architects of trust, accountability, and justice. We are called upon to anticipate change, lead with foresight and adaptability, and uphold the highest standards of integrity.

17. We must adapt, innovate, and walk together to ensure that our legal framework remains relevant, inclusive, and effective.

18. In Hong Kong, the Law Society has implemented a series of reform initiatives to enhance trust and accountability. These include the regular publication of complaint-related information and decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, as well as streamlining complaint-handling processes to ensure greater transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness.

Programme Highlights

19. To help us navigate various changes facing legal regulators, the International Conference of Legal Regulators 2025 offers a rich and diverse agenda, reflecting the complexity of the issues we face and the breadth of expertise among our participants. The programme is designed to address the evolving challenges in legal regulation, spark meaningful dialogue, and inspire practical solutions.

20. Key topics include:

- The concept of “independence” for regulators (on which I am honoured to be a speaker),
- Cross-border legal practice risks,
- Client loyalty,
- Strategic litigation,
- Anti-money laundering compliance,
- Cybersecurity in the era of AI,
- Promoting diversity and wellbeing,
- Expanding access to justice through innovation and technology.

21. These sessions are designed to spark meaningful dialogue, inspire practical solutions, and provide opportunities for the exchange of valuable knowledge and experience.

Call to Engage and Collaborate

22. As we embark on this Conference, I encourage all of you to take full advantage of the programme, the networking opportunities, and the cultural experiences that Hong Kong has to offer. Let this Conference be not only a forum for learning but a catalyst for innovation and connection.

23. In closing, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organising committee, our speakers, partners, and every individual who has contributed to making this event possible. Your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated.

24. Let us begin this journey together with open minds, bold ideas, and a shared commitment to shaping the future of legal regulation.

25. Thank you, and I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring Conference.