

Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers 2025
The Future of Lawyers: Innovation, Strategy and Resilience
22 October 2025 (9:00 am-5:00 pm)
Hong Kong Ocean Park Marriott Hotel

Welcome Remarks by Mr Roden Tong
President of The Law Society of Hong Kong
(~ 10 minutes) / 9:10 - 9:20 am

- Deputy Secretary for Justice - Dr the Hon Horace Cheung;
 - Hon Mr Ambrose Lam, Legislative Council Member
 - Distinguished speakers and guests, ladies and gentlemen,
1. Good morning. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the **2025 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers**, the flagship event of The Law Society of Hong Kong's In-House Lawyers Committee since its inception in 2011.
 2. Originally set for September, the conference was postponed due to Super Typhoon Ragasa. Nevertheless, our commitment to this annual platform and to fostering meaningful dialogue remains steadfast. We deeply appreciate your continued support and active participation in

co-creating fresh insights for the in-house legal community.

3. Many of us occupy key decision-making and policy-setting positions in business conglomerates, government, and NGOs.
4. I take immense pride in witnessing the remarkable growth of our in-house community from representing under 20% of the Law Society's membership at our inaugural conference in 2011, to now comprising one-third of our members.
5. This year, we are honored to host around 600 participants from a diverse array of industries, including financial services, retail, technology, telecommunications, transport, public utilities, hospitality, healthcare, and more.
6. We are also delighted to welcome participants from the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions, both in person and online, further enriching the global perspective of our conference.

7. For 14 years, the Law Society has been dedicated to strengthening support for our in-house members, recognising that meaningful interaction is key to fostering engagement and building a connected professional community.
8. Today, I address you as President of the Law Society, but I also speak as someone who has practiced as an in-house lawyer for nearly two decades. I would like to share some reflections that I believe will resonate with many of you.
9. As in-house lawyers, we are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between legal risk and business innovation. We understand the regulatory landscape, commercial realities, and ethical imperatives. We are not merely advisors—we are strategic enablers, guiding our organizations through digital transformation.
10. The theme of today's conference, **“The Future of Lawyers: Innovation, Strategy, and Resilience”** could not be more timely or

relevant.

11. We meet at a pivotal moment in the evolution of our profession. The legal world is undergoing a profound transformation driven by technology, which is reshaping how legal services are delivered, consumed, and understood. At the heart of this transformation lies a critical question: How do we, as legal professionals, remain **relevant, resilient, and responsible** in an age of rapid innovation?

12. At the Law Society, we are committed to supporting you on this journey. This conference is a testament to our recognition of your contributions and our dedication to equipping you with the tools and connections to excel.

13. In addition to thematic seminars and training programs, last year the Law Society published a Position Paper on “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession,” emphasizing the urgent need for timely and proactive action and reform. This initiative aims to guide

the responsible adoption of AI for the benefit of our profession.

14. In-house lawyers are increasingly taking on the role of champions of innovation within the organisations, acting as both legal advisors and risk managers. We are expected to do more with less, move faster, and deliver legal solutions that are both reliable and scalable.
15. With this in mind, the Law Society will continue to explore AI adoption in collaboration with a diverse ecosystem of stakeholders, supporting the advancement of the legal profession and ensuring we remain future-ready.
16. This year, we are excited to introduce a new afternoon stream focused on AI for lawyers, titled *Futuristic in Practice - All-in-AI showcase*, featuring speakers from LawTech solution providers and innovators, such as Datasite, Canon, Lineal, Google, and LawPlus.
17. The parallel stream, “In-House Agility,” will feature distinguished speakers discussing the latest legal developments and regulatory

changes.

18. I understand that choosing between these two streams will be challenging. Rest assured, our In-House Lawyers Committee will continue to foster exchanges and collaboration, supporting our members as always.

19. The future of law is not something that will simply happen to us. It is something we must co-create with courage, curiosity, and a deep commitment to our core values.

20. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed panelists for sharing their time and insights, to our sponsors for their generous support, and to the In-House Lawyers Committee for organizing today's program.

21. Most importantly, I thank each of you for your participation and engagement.

22. I wish you all a fruitful, inspiring, and forward-looking conference.

(~850 words)