

*Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2025*  
*25 November 2025 | Charles K. Kao Auditorium, Hong Kong Science Park*

OPENING ADDRESS  
MR RODEN TONG  
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Director-General Liu

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Director Liu

[中國法律服務（香港）有限公司董事長劉長春],

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and our brightest young legal minds:

1. It is my profound privilege to welcome you to the 2025 Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum. Since its inception in 2011, this cornerstone initiative has united legal professionals across Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Macau, and Hong Kong – a testament to our shared commitment to progress.

2. Before I begin, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our **Diamond Sponsors — Fangda Partners, JunZeJun Law Offices, SIT, FUNG, KWONG & SHUM, SOLICITORS, Ms. Jacqueline Qiao, and Wiselaw** — for their generous support, which has made this Forum possible. Your trust and partnership are deeply appreciated. Please join me in a warm round of applause to express our gratitude.
3. Today, we convene under our powerful theme: **“DARE: Data & Digitalisation, AI, Robotics, and E-commerce”**. We gather in this iconic Golden Egg at Hong Kong Science Park to confront the transformative legal challenges and opportunities born of technological revolution.
4. This Forum remains an indispensable catalyst for professional growth, cross-border collaboration, and pioneering insights – essential tools for navigating the digital era’s complexities.
5. A special highlight this morning is the unveiling of the Young Lawyers Manifesto. Nearly 20 representatives from lawyers’ associations across the four regions will redefine **“DARE”** as **“Determination, Accountability, Resilience, and Ethics”**, pledging to proactively harness cutting-edge technologies as instruments that elevate legal service quality and efficiency – never as substitutes for human judgment.
6. As I mentioned in one of the events earlier this year, we operate at the critical intersection of law, technology, and geopolitics. Artificial intelligence, anti-money laundering frameworks, global sanctions, and virtual assets are actively reshaping compliance obligations and redefining

legal leadership. As Asia's premier international financial centre, Hong Kong stands at the epicentre of this seismic shift.

7. Consider this: Just this September, Moody has revealed from its 2025 global study that 91% of the respondents are aware of AI's role in risk and compliance, and 53% are actively using or trialling it, up from just 30% in 2023. These figures underscore not only the accelerating adoption of AI, but also its deepening integration into the heart of legal and compliance functions.
8. As the regulatory body for over 13,000 Hong Kong solicitors, The Law Society's 118-year mission remains unwavering: upholding the highest professional standards. We recognise that navigating this AI-driven landscape requires shared commitment. Thus, we proactively develop robust frameworks: continuously updating our Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct; issuing practical directives like Practice Direction P on anti-money laundering; and publishing forward-thinking resources like our 2024 Position Paper on AI's impact – all emphasizing non-negotiable principles: human oversight, transparency, and ethical governance.
9. But frameworks alone are insufficient. Their power is realised through your expertise and judgment in applying them to complex challenges. Collaboration is paramount.
10. This past month alone exemplifies our commitment: Our "Legal Rendezvous" series convened more than 200 professionals on digital assets;

our In-House Lawyers Conference gathered over 600 global delegates to explore “Innovation, Strategy, and Resilience”; and we proudly hosted the International Conference of Legal Regulators, welcoming over 100 delegates from 19 jurisdictions. These forums transform theory into practice.

11. Now, we turn to today’s critical questions:

- How are national policies shaping the legal landscape of digitalisation?
- As we move toward an AI-powered future, where should the legal boundaries be drawn to foster innovation while safeguarding accountability?
- In the age of robotics, how can the legal ecosystem evolve to support responsible and sustainable digital innovation?
- And in the fast-emerging low-altitude economy, what legal frameworks are needed to ensure trust and fairness in e-commerce?

12. I am pleased to share that the Main forum and the three sessions today will tackle these defining challenges head-on.

13. In closing, remember this: young lawyers are the architects of tomorrow’s legal landscape. While tools evolve, our essence remains constant. Your judgment and ethics are not just enduring – they have never been more vital.

14. Let us connect, innovate and lead. Thank you.