

Committee & Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

2016



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

BELT AND ROAD COMMITTEE

The Belt and Road Initiative (“The Initiative”) launched by the Chinese government aims to promote economic cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road routes to the benefit of all. The Belt and Road Committee (“BRC”) was convened at the end of 2015 to explore opportunities arising from The Initiative for members. The BRC set up 4 Subgroups in March to take charge of different areas of its work, namely: (1) to get updates on government policy on The Initiative; (2) to reach out to overseas law associations covered by The Initiative; (3) to consider possible initiatives to harmonise trade and business law; and (4) to organise joint conferences or events with overseas law associations.

The Law Society actively participated in Belt and Road related conferences / seminars in 2016 and took the opportunities to reach out and promote the Hong Kong legal system and legal profession to other legal professional bodies in countries covered by The Initiative. These conferences and seminars include:

Date	Event Name	Location
23 Jan	Seminar on “The Belt and Road Initiative from an International Perspective” by the Maritime Silk Road Society	Hong Kong
24 – 25 Feb	Seminars on the promotion of Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services co-organised by Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”)	Guiyang & Xi’an
12 Apr	Seminar on Hong Kong's legal and arbitration services co-organised by Department of Justice and Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in Wuhan	Wuhan
18 May	Belt and Road Summit hosted by the HKTDC	Hong Kong
8 Jun	Seminar by Deputy Commissioner Hu Jianzhong of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in HKSAR on Belt and Road Initiative, Hong Kong	Hong Kong
12-15 Aug	29 th LAWASIA Golden Jubilee Conference	Colombo
21 Sep	Inaugural Silk Road Legal Services Forum Department of Justice of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Xinjiang International Expo Administration and Xinjiang Lawyers Association	Urumqi, Xinjiang
21 – 23 Sep	International Malaysian Law Conference	Kuala Lumpur

26-27 Sep	Legal Cooperation Forum themed “Foster the Belt and Road Initiative and development of free trade zones; and strengthen the legal services cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau” hosted by the Guangzhou Lawyers Association	Guangzhou
28 Sep	Meeting with HKSAR Belt and Road Office	Hong Kong
4 Oct	Meeting with Secretary for Justice	Hong Kong
21 Nov	Meeting with Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and Belt and Road Office	Hong Kong
30 Nov	Seminar on “One Belt One Road and a Prosperous Africa” by the Maritime Silk Road Society	Hong Kong
7 Dec	Global Association of Chinese-Speaking Lawyers Opening Ceremony and Forum	Qianhai
15 Dec	Public seminar on “Inter-relationship between the Silk Roads and the Belt and Road” by Professor Liu Yingsheng, the Maritime Silk Road Society	Hong Kong

Four monthly luncheons were organised from August to December to arm members with knowledge or updated information related to regulations, trade and developments of different Belt and Road countries. Consul-Generals and representatives of Chamber of Commerce from Indonesia, Malaysia and Israel were invited to be the luncheon speakers.

The Law Society set up a panel of law firms under the HKTDC Belt and Road Portal to provide one-to-one free investment related advisory service to businesses.

HONOURS COMMITTEE

The Committee met on one occasion. In accordance with the Nomination Guidelines, the Committee considered candidates for admission to the Law Society’s Roll of Honour and for admission as an Honorary Member of The Law Society.

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Law Society held in May, upon recommendation of the Honours Committee, the Council admitted Mr. Fred Kan and Mr. Herbert Tsoi to the Roll of Honour of The Law Society.

WORKING PARTY ON LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS (“LLPs”)

Part IIAAA of the *Legal Practitioners Ordinance* which introduced limited liability partnerships for law firms in Hong Kong commenced its operation on 1 March. The

Working Party focused its work on introducing the provisions in the legislation to the general membership. The Working Party conducted three briefing sessions on 22 January, 3 February and 5 May. The presentation materials were posted on the website of the Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited (“Academy”) accessible to the public for information.

In addition, the Information Packages on LLPs for Hong Kong law firms and foreign law firms as well as pamphlets on LLPs in bilingual text prepared by the Working Party were posted on the Law Society website from 20 January.

The pamphlets on LLPs were also printed and placed at the reception of the Law Society offices for members to distribute to their clients.