

Standing Committee on External Affairs



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

2018

The Standing Committee on External Affairs (“SCEA”) oversees promotion of the objectives and overall image of The Law Society. It assists The Law Society in fostering a good relationship with stakeholders, including relevant institutions in the Mainland and Hong Kong as well as various international legal fraternities, and of course, also various sectors of the community in Hong Kong.

The Standing Committee works closely with its four Sub-Committees, namely, the Community Relations Committee, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee, the International Legal Affairs Committee and the Public Policy Committee. During the year, a large number of successful events have been organised, and some events have commanded an overwhelming number of participants and very positive feedback.

In view of the rapid globalisation of the legal market, it is imperative that The Law Society should reach out to the international legal community in order to raise the profile and the visibility of the Hong Kong legal profession. It is also the duty of The Law Society to promote the understanding of and respect for the rule of law. Activities held have been directed towards serving such purposes.

Our local Hong Kong community continues to be an integral part of our work. We provided support to many non-government organisations through giving seminars and organising members of The Law Society to participate in their events.

During the year, then-Council Member Huen Wong retired from the Standing Committee in June and Council Members C.M. Chan and Pierre Chan joined in October.

Below are highlights of the events and activities coordinated by the Standing Committee during the year:

Council Visit to Beijing

The Council paid an annual courtesy visit to Beijing from 9 to 10 April. Led by then President Thomas So, the delegation of 16 persons met with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the Basic Law Committee, the Supreme People’s Court, the China Federation of Industrial Economics, the Ministry of Justice and the All China Lawyers Association. Taking the opportunity, the delegation provided an update on the work of the Law Society and exchanged views with relevant Mainland authorities on a wide range of topics from the development of Hong Kong’s legal system, participation of Hong Kong practitioners in Belt and Road related projects to various current affairs issues.

Law Week 2018

The Law Society has been organising the *Law Week* since 1991, which evinces the aspiration of The Law Society to provide fuller legal knowledge and to promote legal services in the community. Themed as “Law in the Community”, this year’s *Law Week* featured a wide range of activities from offering free legal advice to producing short videos to enhance legal knowledge in the community.

A Free Legal Advice Programme was organised on 13 and 14 October at Hopewell Centre in Wanchai. Over 50 solicitors and trainee lawyers joined as volunteers to offer free legal advice to general public, and more than 320 enquiries were received during the two days. Besides, four legal community legal talks were held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on 8 and 9 December, attracting around 220 attendees.

Children programme was organised on 6 October and 1 December with the support of Young Solicitors' Group, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. The programme aimed at nurturing children to be law-abiding citizens and broadening their horizons through interacting with Law Society volunteers. Around 50 volunteers participated in this programme and shared a wonderful time reading stories and playing games with 90 primary students.

A Joint Opening Ceremony with *Teen Talk 2018* was held on 17 November. The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and the Hon Frank Chan, Secretary for Transport and Housing, together with eminent leaders of the society acted as officiating guests of the event.

To fulfil our mission to bring legal knowledge to the community, Law Week Organising Committee ("OC") made use of videos and social media channels including Facebook and Instagram to promote legal knowledge to the public. President and Council Members were invited to participate in the production of short videos on legal topics, featuring "Basic Law", "Animal Law", "Criminal Law", "Family Law", and "Enduring Power of Attorney and Guardianship". In addition, The Law Society also engaged the public to produce videos by conducting street interviews, aimed at correcting common misconceptions on legal topics.

The huge success of *Law Week 2018* was attributable to the tireless effort of the OC and the staunch support of the Council and the guests of the event. The Law Society would like to express its sincere thanks for the sponsorship from the Legal Aid Department.

Teen Talk 2018

Teen Talk has always been one of the flagship events of The Law Society, focusing on serving young people and the broader community. Around 1,000 students from 118 school teams participated in the 2018 event, including International Baccalaureate schools.

Teen Talk 2018 was held over four days, with the first event "Basic Law and Legislative Procedure Talk" held at the Large Moot Court of The University of Hong Kong on 6 October. The Hon Andrew Leung, President of the Legislative Council, and Immediate-Past-President Thomas So spoke at the event and shared their knowledge about the Basic Law, Hong Kong legal system, law-making process and the work of the Legislative Council with 300 students.

The second event, "Mock Council Debate", was completed over two weekends in October at the Legislative Council Complex. The Debate involved students role-playing as legislators to express their views on the draft bill on children's rights, or as public officers to speak on the principles and intent of the bill, and to respond to questions.

The main event of *Teen Talk 2018* was held at the Kowloon Bay International Trade and Exhibition Centre on 17 November, attracting over 800 participants including honourable guests, secondary school students, Law Society members and media friends. The whole day event included the Joint Opening Ceremony with *Law Week 2018*, followed by the Basic Law Quiz and the Grand Final of the Mock Council Debate. Students had the opportunity to voice their opinions on children's issues and rights in Hong Kong and to engage in open exchange with our lawyer facilitators.

Council Member and the Teen Talk OC Chairman Roden Tong would like to express his heartfelt thanks to the OC members and over 120 Law Society member facilitators who volunteered themselves to participate in the programme to pass legal knowledge to the younger generation as well as the support of the Law Society Secretariat to make the event another year of success. Same as in previous years, *Teen Talk* received funding support from the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to cover part of the expenses incurred.

Spring Reception

The Law Society Spring Reception was held on 26 February. We were very much honoured by the presence of The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and the Hon Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng, SC as our Guests of Honour. Over 330 distinguished guests and Law Society members attended this delightful event.

The festive event represents a gesture of appreciation by The Law Society for the support rendered by government officials, practitioners and other working partners and friends towards the work of The Law Society.

Ceremonial Opening of Legal Year 2018

The Law Society was honoured to receive over 60 leaders in the legal profession from various countries including Australia, Brunei, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, United Kingdom and United States at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year in Hong Kong on 8 January. Head delegates joined the Presidents' Roundtable for a fruitful exchange session on the topic of "Enhancing Competition and Talent Retention". Other hospitality programmes included a luncheon and a dinner jointly hosted by The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association.

Law Society Annual Cocktail

Over 570 guests and Law Society members gathered at The Law Society Annual Cocktail Reception on 28 November held at the Hong Kong Club, including our Guests of Honour, The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, the Hon Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng, SC, and Solicitor General Wesley Wong, SC.

The Law Society of Hong Kong and Bloomsbury Books Prizes Presentation Ceremony

The Law Society of Hong Kong and Bloomsbury Book Prizes Presentation Ceremony is an annual event where law students from the University of Hong Kong ("HKU"), the Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK"), and the City University of Hong Kong ("CityU") received their prizes. This year the ceremony was held on 11 July and President Melissa Pang presented the prizes to the winners.

Ms Julienne Jen, Principal Lecturer of Department of Professional Legal Education of HKU; Mr Christopher Knight, PCLL Programme Director of Faculty of Law of CUHK; and Mr Jack Burke, Senior Teaching Fellow of School of Law of CityU attended the ceremony and shared the joyful moment with the students and their family members.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee (“CRC”) is responsible for fostering relations between The Law Society and various organisations in the local community, with a view to encouraging participation in community activities, organise school talks to promote knowledge about the legal profession and project the corporate image of The Law Society as a Caring Organisation.

The membership of CRC underwent some changes. One member retired and the CRC now comprises 16 members.

During the year under review, members of the CRC continued its work with schools, local communities and non-government organisations. Below are highlights of their work:

CRC Christmas Gathering

On 14 December, CRC hosted a Christmas Gathering for its Committee Members, Working Group Members, writers, speakers, volunteers, mentors, and guests who have rendered significant support towards the work of the CRC and its four working groups.

WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNITY TALKS AND SERVICES

Since 2017, the Working Group started to reach out to ethnic minorities and low-income families and introduce basic legal knowledge to them. An event for low-income families was held on 15 September with the support of HKSXH Lady MacLehose Centre. 12 Law Society members paired up with members from the Centre to attend the talk on employees’ compensation claim and personal injuries. A visit to the Legislative Council was also arranged on the same day.

To promote the coherence between the Law Society with the community, the Working Group also organised various activities aimed at promoting harmonisation, including a home visit to the elderly, a visit to children in Po Leung Kuk and a Christmas gathering for the elderly with a legal talk on “Wills and Probate, Advanced Directives and Enduring Power of Attorney”. Totally around 160 members and their families and friends participated.

WORKING GROUP ON “LEGAL PIONEER” MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Since the facelift of the former “Path Building” Mentorship Programme in 2013 to the current “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship Programme, over 1,000 students have already benefited from the Programme.

This year, nine school teams with over 100 participating secondary school students joined the “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship microfilm production on 21 July at the Chiang Chen Studio Theatre of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Each team produced a five-minute microfilm on the topic of “Cyber Crime”. The Law Society members took up the role as mentors to provide guidance and legal advice to the students, the mentees, to create microfilms.

The judging panel selected a number of quality works based on the overall presentation, relevance, participation and creativity. President Melissa Pang, being one of the judging panel members, was

impressed by the work of students and encouraged them to keep pursuing their dreams in law. More than 100 guests, including CRC Chairman Philip Wong, CRC Vice-Chairlady Ann Yeung, “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship Programme Working Group Chairman Nathan Wong and Mr. John Chong, Honorary Consultant of the Academy of Film of the Hong Kong Baptist University, participated in the event.

WORKING GROUP ON LAW AND NEW GENERATION PROGRAMME AND SCHOOL TALKS

This has been a regular programme coordinated by CRC since 2003, aiming to enriching secondary school students’ legal knowledge. Apart from talks for secondary students, the Working Group also offered talks to school principals, teachers and administrators on legal matters that they may encounter in their work as well as to non-profit organisations such as Po Leung Kuk.

The Working Group has adopted a pro-active approach by reaching out to secondary schools in Hong Kong including schools with International Baccalaureate Programmes. The programme received positive response from schools.

To encourage Law Society members to act as speakers and share their knowledge with students and teaching staff, the Working Group hosted a Speakers’ Gathering on 11 September at the Law Society. Over 30 members participated in the Gathering and many showed interest in joining the panel to speak at school talks.

At the end of each year, all speakers would receive a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their contribution.

WORKING GROUP ON “SING TAO LEGAL MAILBOX”

CRC also assumed another important task of coordinating contribution of articles amongst Law Society members for publication in the “Legal Mailbox”, a weekly column in a local newspaper, Sing Tao Daily, every Monday throughout the year.

A Working Group formed under CRC is responsible for reviewing all articles submitted to ensure relevancy of the subject matter and accuracy of the factual information cited by the authors.

At the end of each year, all writers would receive a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their contribution.

GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Greater China Legal Affairs Committee (“GCLAC”), a Sub-Committee of the SCEA, focuses on promoting the image of Hong Kong legal industry in the Greater China region. Through organising and participating in various activities and visits, the GCLAC creates a platform for lawyers in Hong Kong to explore and navigate new opportunities in Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau.

During 2018, the GCLAC actively engaged in a number of conferences and seminars in Greater China, and exchanged with lawyers associations and other legal professional bodies in the region. Three visits to the Guangdong province, covering all cities in relation to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (“the Greater Bay Area”), were particularly organised to promote cooperation among lawyers associations within the area.

Visits to the Greater Bay Area

The Law Society organised three delegation visits to the Greater Bay Area in May, August and December respectively, covering all nine Greater Bay Area cities within the region. During the visits, the delegations met with representatives from Guangdong Lawyers Association and municipal lawyers associations of the cities. Apart from updating each other on the latest development of local legal profession, the associations were keen on strengthening ties and cooperation and various Memoranda of Understandings were signed or discussed following the meetings.

Through these visits, the delegations deepened their understanding of lawyers associations in various cities, such as their demands for legal services in Hong Kong, in addition to the opportunities and challenges that Hong Kong lawyers may face in the legal service industry in the Mainland.

Subsequently, representatives of the relevant lawyers associations attended the first joint meeting for lawyers associations in the Greater Bay Area held in Guangzhou on 15 December. The joint meeting aimed to gather the lawyers associations in the Greater Bay Area regularly to discuss issues related to the industry’s development, in addition to fostering cooperation and exchanges. A five-member delegation led by Vice-President C.M. Chan attended the joint meeting.

During the meeting, representatives also signed the “Joint Meeting System for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area” and read the “Manifesto by Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area”, undertaking to bring together the strengths of lawyers in the three places in order to promote the region’s legal profession development.

SmartHK in Hangzhou

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTD”) organised the *SmartHK* in Hangzhou on 16 May. As a supporting organisation, The Law Society participated in the event and Mr. Lawrence Yeung, member of the GCLAC, shared his views on preliminary due diligence and transaction risks in the intellectual property industry at a pitching session targeting start-ups. The Law Society and two Hong Kong law firms set up exhibition booths at the event to introduce to visitors how Hong Kong lawyers can help Mainland companies expand their businesses and promote Hong Kong’s professional legal services.

Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Guangzhou

The 5th *Hong Kong Legal Services Forum* themed “From Bay Area to International Arena”, was held in Guangzhou on 5 September. As one of the co-organisers, The Law Society sent an 18-member delegation led by President Melissa Pang to participate in the forum as speakers and moderators.

The informative forum covered various topics including cross-border risk management for enterprises when investing in the Greater Bay Area and exploring overseas markets, Hong Kong's role as a "deal maker" and "dispute resolver", as well as the professional services offered by the Hong Kong legal profession to Mainland enterprises.

A record attendance of more than 1,200 representatives from Guangdong's legal, political and business sectors joined the event. Meanwhile, 13 law firms participated in the business matching session to promote Hong Kong legal services to the local enterprises.

Visit to Kaohsiung and Taoyuan

Led by Vice-President C.M. Chan, a delegation of four members visited Taiwan from 7 to 9 September to attend the Celebration Ceremony of Kaohsiung Bar Association and the Taiwan Lawyers Gathering organised by the Taiwan Bar Association in Kaohsiung and Taoyuan respectively. The delegation made valuable exchanges with local lawyers and Mr. Chan was invited to speak at both events.

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2018

The *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* is a flagship event organised by The Law Society for lawyers from the Mainland, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong annually. The 8th Forum was successfully held on 26 October, attracting more than 265 participants from 33 lawyers associations, a record high since its inception in 2011.

Under the theme "Legal Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges", the Forum featured one plenary and three breakout sessions. Representatives from legal and business sectors were invited to share their experiences and insights on topics such as succession planning and wealth management services, anti-money laundering and cross-border crimes, as well as corporate finance of the four regions. A "speed-dating" session was launched this year to allow attendees to speak on the career development of young lawyers and the soft skills required. The Law Society also arranged visits to various organisations and a welcome reception for the participants.

The forum provided a valuable platform for young lawyers from the four regions to gain a better understanding on the profession's latest trends and equip them for future challenges and opportunities.

Shanghai Lujiazui Law Forum

At the invitation of Shanghai Bar Association, The Law Society participated in the 10th Lujiazui Law Forum in Shanghai on 14 November, which spotlighted international dispute resolution this year. Immediate-Past-President Thomas So attended the event and shared his insights on the development of international dispute resolution centre. Mr. Norris Yang, member of the Mediation Committee, spoke on topics related to expert mediation.

Participation in Conferences and Meetings in the Greater China Region

In 2018, the GCLAC organised or participated in more than 30 outbound events in the Greater China region. The following list outlines the events with involvement of The Law Society delegates:

Date	Event	Location
7 – 8 January	The 10th Chinese Lawyers Forum	Shenzhen
9 January	Inauguration Ceremony of the Qianhai Belt and Road Legal Services Federation	Qianhai
20 – 21 January	The Greater Bay Area Lawyers and Enterprises Exchange Event	Dongguan
10 – 11 March	2018 Chinese Enterprise Rights Protection Summit	Nantong
19 – 23 March	HKTDC Hong Kong Cross-Border Investment Services Mission	Tianjin and Qingdao
23 – 24 March	Taichung Bar Association Annual General Meeting and the 70th Jubilee Celebration Ceremony	Taichung
10 – 11 May	The First Visit to the Greater Bay Area	Guangzhou, Foshan and Zhaoqing
16 May	HKTDC <i>SmartHK</i>	Hangzhou
17 May	The Guangxi Liaison Unit of the HKSAR Government Seminar on Hong Kong Legal and Arbitration Services	Nanning
1 – 2 June	Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Visit to the Greater Bay Area	Guangzhou and Zhuhai
1 – 3 July	The Ministry of Justice and China Law Society Forum on the Belt and Road Legal Cooperation	Beijing
18 – 20 July	Hong Kong Legal Services Forum Promotional Trip	Guangzhou, Foshan and Zhaoqing
1 August	Cocktail Reception in Celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Guangzhou
14 – 15 August	The Second Visit to the Greater Bay Area	Shenzhen, Dongguan and Huizhou
18 August	Straits Law Forum	Fuzhou
5 September	Hong Kong Legal Services Forum	Guangzhou
7 September	Kaohsiung Bar Association Celebration Ceremony	Kaohsiung
8 – 9 September	Taiwan Lawyers Gathering and Taiwan Bar Association Celebration Ceremony	Taoyuan
16 September	CIETAC Hong Kong's Day of Arbitration Field	Beijing

	Practice	
27 – 28 October	Annual Forum for Foreign-related Chinese Legal Talents cum Belt and Road Legal Services Forum	Chengdu
6 November	The China International Import Expo	Shanghai
14 November	<i>The 10th Lujiazui Law Forum</i>	Shanghai
19 November, 18 and 24 December	Lectures for Guangdong Trainee Lawyers	Guangzhou
3 – 4 December	The Third Visit to the Greater Bay Area	Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhuhai
4 December	Inauguration Ceremony of Shenzhen-Hong Kong Legal Services In-depth Cooperation Zone	Shenzhen
5 December	Roundtable Meeting on the Cooperation and Development of Professional Services in the Greater Bay Area	Guangzhou
14 December	Seminar on Hainan Free Trade Zone	Haikou
15 December	Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area	Guangzhou
18 December	30th Anniversary Celebration of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association	Shenzhen
20 December	Seminar on Development of Rule of Law in the Greater Bay Area	Shenzhen

Visitors from the Greater China Region

In 2018, the GCLAC received over 30 groups of visitors with close to 400 guests from the Greater China region for meetings and networking activities. Distinguished guests included senior judges, government officials, representatives from various provincial and municipal lawyers associations and business organisations. The list of visiting organisations is as follows:

Month	Visiting Organisation
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed Attesting Officers from Guizhou • The Supreme People's Court • Taipei Bar Association
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaohsiung Bar Association • Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials from Tianhe District of Guangzhou
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heilongjiang Mudanjiang Lawyers Association • Zhongshan Intermediate Court
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese Senior Judges
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainland law students
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China Legal Service (Hong Kong) Limited
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Taipei University of Business • The United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee • China Law Society • Shenzhen Lawyers Association
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qingdao Lawyers Association • Guangdong Department of Justice • Zhejiang Provincial Department of Justice • National Judges College • China Case Law Society • Chinese Senior Judges
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shenzhen Qianhai Cooperation Zone People's Court • Inner Mongolia Notaries • Guangzhou Commission of Commerce • Guangzhou Bureau of Justice • Guangzhou Lawyers Association • Jiangxi Notaries
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jinan Lawyers Association • Chinese Academy of Social Science • Ningbo Lawyers Association • Guangzhou Lawyers Association (Nansha Lawyers Working Committee) • Guangdong Youth Federation (Legal Sector) • Yunnan Intellectuals Association

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The International Legal Affairs Committee (“ILAC”) is a committee established under the SCEA and is responsible for coordinating activities in the international arena so as to develop, maintain and establish relations with bar associations, law societies and other law-related associations overseas for the purpose of promoting The Law Society as a professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong.

The Law Society actively participated in international conferences and seminars and reached out to other legal professional bodies around the world throughout the year.

Korean and Japanese Internship Programmes

Two-week internship programmes were launched under the Korean and Japanese internship programmes during 3 to 18 January and 7 to 22 March respectively to strengthen the relationship between the legal professions in Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. With the support of the Korean Bar Association, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and Japan Federation of Bar Associations (“JFBA”), The Law Society received one Korean lawyer, four Korean law students as well as four Japanese lawyers to attend the internship programmes in Hong Kong in 2018. Interns from Korea and Japan were able to work in Hong Kong law firms with the generous support of our members and their firms. Concurrently, two Hong Kong lawyers worked as interns in Korean and Japanese law firms for two weeks.

During these programmes, the interns visited the Legislative Council and the High Court to enhance their understanding of the Hong Kong’s legal system and services. The Korean interns also joined the *OLY 2018* at the City Hall on 8 January, where they were able to mingle with local legal practitioners as well as heads of overseas bar associations and law societies.

Symposium on Constitutional Law in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Co-organised by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Malaysian Bar, the “Symposium on Constitution Law: Rule of Law in Jeopardy” was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 10 to 11 January.

At the invitation of the Malaysian Bar, Vice-President Amirali Nasir and then-Council Member Mark Daly participated in the symposium on behalf of The Law Society and shared their insights on “Roles and Responsibilities of an Independent Judiciary in a Democracy” on 10 January and “Access to Justice” on 11 January respectively.

Hong Kong Business Mission to Cambodia and Vietnam

At the invitation of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government, Immediate Past President Thomas So attended the Hong Kong Business Mission to Cambodia and Vietnam together with other head delegates from various businesses and professional sectors from 19 to 23 March.

Mr. So was also invited to join the panel discussion of “Hong Kong: Your Partner in Exploring New Business Opportunities” at the Luncheon Seminar on 21 March in Ho Chi Minh City to share

his views on the core competencies of Hong Kong’s legal services and what Hong Kong professional services could offer to explore new markets.

Joint Seminar with Osaka Bar Association (“OBA”)

Led by Vice-President of OBA, a delegation of 12 members visited Hong Kong on 2 and 3 May. Riding on this opportunity, The Law Society and OBA jointly organised a half-day seminar entitled “Doing Business in Hong Kong and Japan” on 3 May. Representatives from The Law Society, OBA, the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry were invited to exchange market intelligence on doing business in Hong Kong and Japan, particularly in Osaka. The seminar was well attended by around 70 participants.

The European Association of Lawyers – Association Européenne des Avocats (“AEA-EAL”) Conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan

On behalf of The Law Society, Vice President C. M. Chan attended the AEA-EAL Conference entitled “Advocates 2018 – Improving the Quality of Legal Assistance” in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 15 to 16 June.

Mr. Chan was invited to share his insights on the professional standard and ethical issues of legal profession in Hong Kong at the conference.

Chinese General Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong (“CGCCHK”) Forum in Paris, France

Invited by the CGCCHK, Immediate-Past-President Thomas So attended the forum entitled “France, China and Hong Kong Business Partnership” held in Paris, France on 20 June.

With the rapid development and increasing use of modern technologies, Mr. So highlighted the commonalities between IT and Fintech, the related legal issues and why Hong Kong is the preferred centre for international dispute resolution in the technology era.

Visit to Almaty and 1st Astana International Financial Centre (“AIFC”) Law Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan

Representing The Law Society, Vice-President Amirali Nasir and Past President Michael Lintern-Smith attended the 1st AIFC Law Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan on 4 July and witnessed the official launch of the AIFC on 5 July.

Taking this opportunity, the delegates met with representatives from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, the AIFC Authority, the law faculty of a local university and the local bar associations in Almaty and Astana. They also introduced Hong Kong’s “One Country, Two Systems” regime and promoted Hong Kong as an international financial centre with a robust legal system and quality legal services.

29th Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (“POLA”) Conference in Canberra, Australia

President Melissa Pang and Secretary General Heidi Chu attended the 29th POLA Conference in Canberra, Sydney from 2 to 3 August. Other participants included Presidents and Vice Presidents of the legal professional bodies in Australia, Mainland China, Japan, South Korea, India, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Fiji, New Zealand, Malaysia, Mongolia and Singapore. Views were exchanged on topical issues relevant to the legal profession including the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession, business and human rights, inclusion and diversity as well as anti-corruption and transparency.

President and Secretary General renewed the Law Society’s firm commitment to continue to act in support of the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession and to promote equality, inclusion and diversity in our home jurisdictions. The efforts of the different approaches presented at the Conference also reiterated the importance attached to the role of anti-corruption and transparency initiatives in supporting the Rule of Law in the region.

International Malaysia Law Conference (“IMLC”) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Hosted by the Malaysian Bar, the IMLC was held from 14 to 17 August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Law Society took the opportunity to conduct a session entitled “Collaborate for Success: Capturing Belt and Road Opportunities through Financing in Hong Kong” at the conference. The session highlighted the financial aspect of the Belt and Road Initiative and how enterprises can raise capital through collaborating with professionals in Hong Kong.

On behalf of The Law Society, Vice-President Amirali Nasir and Council Member Simon Lai attended the IMLC and spoke at The Law Society’s session. They shared their insights on why Hong Kong is the ideal venue for capturing Belt and Road opportunities through financing and fund raising in Hong Kong, and provided updates on new IPO developments such as dual-shares listing.

31st LAWASIA Annual Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia

President Melissa Pang, Vice-Presidents Amirali Nasir and C. M. Chan, and Secretary General Heidi Chu attended the 31st LAWASIA Annual Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 2 to 5 November. At the LAWASIA Council Meeting on 2 November, President was re-elected as the LAWASIA Vice President for the term of 2018/2019.

Invited by the LAWASIA, President spoke at the Bar Leaders’ Forum entitled “Promoting Inclusivity, Equality, Moderation and Security” on 3 November and talked about diversity and inclusion. Vice-President Amirali Nasir acted as the co-moderator at the Belt and Road session sponsored by The Law Society on 3 November.

Law Society’s session at the Union Internationale des Avocats (“UIA”) 62nd Congress in Porto, Portugal

On behalf of The Law Society, Immediate-Past-President Thomas So, Past President Stephen Hung and Mr. Fred Kan, then-Chairman of the Belt and Road Committee, attended the 62nd UIA

Congress in Porto, Portugal from 30 October to 3 November.

A session entitled “The ABCs to Building a Smart Belt and Road” was held at the Congress on 31 October. Following The Law Society’s 2nd Belt and Road Conference held on 28 September, the session focused on how technologies can enhance the harmonisation of standards as well as providing an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and synchronisation of international laws and cyberlaw in particular.

Participation in International Conferences and Meetings

In 2018, the following visits and attendance of various international conferences and meetings by The Law Society representatives were coordinated under ILAC:

- Attendance by The Law Society delegates including young lawyers to conferences hosted by the IPBA, International Association of Young Lawyers (“AIJA”), International Bar Association (“IBA”), UIA and LAWASIA.
- Attendance to the LAWASIA Executive Committee (“ExCo”) meetings by President Melissa Pang who is The Law Society’s official representative in the ExCo and also re-elected as the Vice President of LAWASIA for the term of 2018/19.
- Attendance to the UIA ExCo meetings by Mr. Fred Kan who is The Law Society’s official representative in the ExCo.
- Attendance to the Opening of the Legal Year of Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, England and Wales, Paris and Malaysia by President Melissa Pang and Vice-President Amirali Nasir.
- Please refer to the following table for the location of the conferences that the delegates from The Law Society attended:

Date	Event	Location
10 – 11 January	Symposium on Constitutional Law	Kuala Lumpur
14 – 16 March	28th IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference	Manila
19 – 23 March	Hong Kong Business Mission to Cambodia and Vietnam	Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City
19 – 21 April	AIJA Transport Law Commission Seminar	Hong Kong
3 May	Joint Seminar with OBA	Hong Kong
15 – 16 June	AEA-EAL Conference	Almaty
20 June	CGCCHK Forum	Paris
2 – 6 July	Visit to Almaty and 1st AIFC Law Conference	Almaty and Astana
26 – 28 July	13th ASEAN Law Association General Assembly and ASEAN Law Conference	Singapore
2 – 3 August	29th POLA Conference	Canberra
14 – 17 August	International Malaysia Law Conference	Kuala Lumpur

28 August – 1 September	56th AIJA Annual Congress	Brussels
29 August – 1 September	IILACE Conference	Ottawa
3 – 5 October	International Conference of Legal Regulators	The Hague
7 – 12 October	IBA Annual Conference	Rome
30 October – 3 November	62nd UIACongress	Porto
1 November	HKTDC “Think Global, Think Hong Kong”	Tokyo
2 – 5 November	31st LAWASIA Annual Conference	Siem Reap

- Riding on the opportunities of attending international activities, meetings were arranged to strengthen The Law Society’s relationship with other overseas organisations. Tabled below is a list of organisations that The Law Society delegates met:

Month	Organisation
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Law Society of Singapore
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Law Association • French National Bar Council • Integrated Bar of the Philippines • The Law Society of Singapore
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Supreme Court of Kazakhstan • AIFC Authority • Baku International Sea Trade Port CJSC • Dubai International Finance Centre Dispute Resolution Authority • Kazakhstan Bar Association • KAZGUU University • Republican Collegiums of Advocates of Kazakhstan
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Law Society of England and Wales
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatian Bar Association
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia • German Federal Bar • Israel Bar Association • JFBA • LAWASIA • Thai Bar Association • The Law Society of Singapore

Overseas Visitors

Throughout the year, The Law Society received a number of overseas visitors. Constructive and fruitful exchanges of ideas were made with overseas visitors from different jurisdictions. Below is a list of overseas visitors.

Month	Visiting Organisation
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commonwealth Lawyers Association• The Law Society of England and Wales• OBA• The Law Society of Brunei Darussalam• Tokyo Bar Association
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japanese media delegation
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIJA• UIA
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russian Federal Chamber of Lawyers
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japan Federation of Bar Associations• LAWASIA
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russia-China Law Society
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIFC Authority
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indonesian Advocates Association (“PERADI”)• Mongolian Bar Association
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delegation from Israel• Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Law Society of Singapore