

# Standing Committee on Policy and Resources



THE  
**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF HONG KONG  
香港律師會

2018

The Standing Committee on Policy and Resources is responsible for overseeing the finance and administration of The Law Society, as well as formulating policy strategies for consideration by the Council.

During the year, the Standing Committee convened on 10 occasions. It reviewed and monitored the annual budget, income and expenditure as well as the registration and compliance statistics of The Law Society. It also oversaw the human resources and personnel aspects of The Law Society including staff employment matters and salary review. The Standing Committee also considered matters relating to applications for funding of projects undertaken by The Law Society, nominations of representatives on external organisations, invitations to sponsor or support events and functions organised by external organisations and the selection of service providers for The Law Society. The Standing Committee also made recommendations on the composition and chairmanship of other Standing Committees for the Council's consideration. In 2018, the Standing Committee also considered the recommendations by the Working Party on The Law Society IT Systems in relation to the revamp of The Law Society's membership database system and website as well as by the InnoTech Committee in facilitating the legal profession to use technology effectively in their practices, and the renovation of The Law Society premises, and the amendment of the relevant Standing Orders of The Law Society in relation to the annual review of committee membership.

## **HONG KONG LAWYER EDITORIAL BOARD**

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The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*, which contains analysis of recent law and legal practice-specific advice, with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong.

Members of the *Hong Kong Lawyer* Editorial Board ("the Editorial Board") meet at least once a month to discuss and identify topics of interest to the profession. The Editorial Board has continued to work closely with the publisher of *Hong Kong Lawyer* ("the Journal") to monitor the overall quality and standard of the publication and the official website.

With the digital version of *Hong Kong Lawyer* available on both the Law Society App and the Hong Kong Lawyer website, members as well as other legal professionals can read it online via a computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. Not only does it contain the same content as the print journal, it also contains additional insights, legal news and articles that are exclusive online. The online version is also searchable with hyperlinked sources. The e-Journal thus provides a good source of reference for research purposes. Individual stories (or the entire journal) can also be conveniently shared via social media and email.

Given the upward trend of digital reading, the online readership of the Journal has been steadily increasing. From November onwards, The Law Society ceased distributing print copies to our members residing outside Hong Kong and individual members of the Hong

Kong Bar Association. Instead, they are notified of the journal's publication by email every month with the provision of a link to the online version.

The print copies of the Journal are distributed to members of The Law Society with local addresses, judges, government departments, law related organisations, as well as China/overseas law societies/barrister associations. It is also available at the major airport lounges in Hong Kong to reach out to international readers so that they may have better understanding of the legal environment in Hong Kong.

## **WORKING PARTY ON THE LAW SOCIETY IT SYSTEMS**

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The Working Party continued to monitor the contractor appointment process for The Law Society's project ("Revamp Project") to revamp its Membership Database System and Website System this year. The Revamp Project aims, inter alia, to include new features in a revamped system with enhanced functionalities and user-friendliness to better meet with The Law Society's operational needs and improve operational performance. It is also hoped that the new system will improve members' experience in using The Law Society services e.g. by enabling online applications and payment.

The Working Party completed the tender evaluation process for the appointment of contractor and reviewed and endorsed the tender evaluation report which set out and compared the proposals of various vendors, their supporting attributes and the pros and cons for engaging each of them to assist The Law Society to undertake the Revamp Project. It put forward the tender evaluation report and its recommendations on the choice of contractor to the SCPR for consideration and assisted in the contractual negotiation process with various shortlisted vendors.

The Working Party will continue to assist in the contractor appointment process in 2019 and help monitor the project development after the contractor appointment.

## **WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF THE LAW SOCIETY'S MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

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The Working Party was tasked by the Council to review and update the Memorandum and Articles of Association ("M&A") of The Law Society.

At the recommendations of the Working Party, the review and updating exercise involves modernising The Law Society's existing M&A to align them with the requirements of the new *Companies Ordinance*, Cap. 622, incorporating proposed amendments that had been considered in the past but not pursued, dealing with identified anomalies in the M&A provisions as well as updating the M&A to meet with up-to-date corporate governance standards.

The Working Party met on four occasions and members also exchanged views by email

circulation throughout the year to continue the effort in the review exercise. The Working Party reviewed the legal advice of The Law Society's external legal advisor and his proposed amendments to The Law Society's constitution article-by-article. The Working Party will continue its effort in this regard and expects to be able to complete the review work and submit its recommendations to the Council in 2019.