

2020

Standing Committee on External Affairs



HP INC.

THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



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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 different sectors of the community in Hong Kong.

The Standing Committee works closely with its three Committees, namely, the Community Relations Committee, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee and the International Legal Affairs Committee. While large-scale physical events were put on hold under the pandemic, the Standing Committee continued to organise events in other formats.

With the process of globalisation accelerating, particularly for the legal industry, it is essential for The Law Society to actively reach out to the international legal community in order to facilitate the profession to practise in collaborations with legal practitioners overseas. It is crucial that The Law Society to promote the understanding of and respect for the rule of law. Activities held have been directed towards serving such purposes.

It is also the duty of The Law Society to promote legal awareness within the community in Hong Kong. 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 Robert Rhoda retired from Chair and joined as member together with Council members Janet Pang and Jonathan Ross in June. Meanwhile, Council member Denis Brock joined as Chair in June; while Mr. Nathan Wong joined as member in October. Ms. Nadine Lai, Ms. Daphne Lo, Mr. Philip Wong and Ms. Ann Yeung retired from the Committee.

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

Ceremonial Opening of Legal Year 2020 in Hong Kong

The Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2020 in Hong Kong (“OLY”) was held on 13 January. Representatives from around 60 overseas lawyers associations and international legal organisations from 18 jurisdictions gathered in Hong Kong to experience and witness this solemn ceremony.

Apart from attending the OLY ceremony at City Hall, the overseas delegates were invited to participate in a series of activities jointly organised by The Law Society and Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”) on 12 – 13 January, including a Presidents’ Roundtable on 12 January; and a Leadership Insights Session, luncheon and dinner reception on 13 January.

The theme of the Presidents’ Roundtable was “Sailing through Challenging Times”. Participants exchanged ideas on what bar associations and law societies could do to lead their members to play their part in defending the rule of law and facilitating the fair administration of justice effectively and how they could engage relevant stakeholders to enhance the impact of their work in these challenging times. At the Leadership Insights Session, we were honoured to have the

Hon Financial Secretary Paul Chan to be the keynote speaker to share his insights on the theme of “Opportunities for Hong Kong and Hong Kong’s Role in the Greater Bay Area”.

Council Visit to Beijing

The Law Society Council pays an annual courtesy visit to Beijing to provide updates on the work of The Law Society and to exchange views with Mainland authorities on issues relevant to the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong. Normally, meetings with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the Hong Kong Basic Law Committee, the Ministry of Justice, the All China Lawyers Association and the Supreme People's Court will be arranged during the courtesy visit.

However, this year's trip was postponed due to the pandemic.

Song Production to Support Medical Profession and Community

In light of the pandemic, The Law Society initiated the participation of a number of professional bodies in production of a song titled <疫境同行> with the support of the Voice Entertainment Group. The song production aimed at promoting, through music, the positive values of love, care and unity in the community when faced with the challenges arising from the outbreak of COVID-19 and supporting the medical profession which is in the frontline selflessly fighting for the health of the people of Hong Kong. The song has been broadcast on various channels since 8 March in the hope of injecting positive energy into the community.

The Law Society would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Dental Association, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Hong Kong Medical Association, and the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Ltd (CASH) for their support in the song production.

Presidents’ Roundtable – “Resilience through COVID-19”

To step up the communication within the global legal community while maintaining social distancing, The Law Society has taken the lead to organise a Presidents’ Roundtable by video conferencing on 27 April, with the theme “Resilience through COVID-19”. 10 speakers were invited to share the current challenges, solutions and even opportunities the legal profession in different jurisdictions are facing during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 71 head delegates from 57 overseas lawyers associations and international legal bodies coming from 31 jurisdictions in five continents took part in the event.

Law Week 2020

The Law Society has been organising the *Law Week* since 1991, which embodies the aspiration of The Law Society to provide fuller legal knowledge and to promote legal services to the community.

Themed “Fighting the Pandemic with the Power of Legal Knowledge”, *Law Week 2020* is committed to caring for the public’s social well-being while promoting legal knowledge. A two-day free legal advice programme was held on 31 October and 1 November at the Covered Piazza of Times Square in Causeway Bay. A team of volunteer lawyers offered free legal advice for over 200 citizens on legal matters covering a wide range of topics.

Apart from physical service, *Law Week 2020* also organised online activities for the general public to acquire legal knowledge from home. Five sessions of free community talks covering daily legal topics were held with voluntary solicitors sharing their expertise to enhance the public’s everyday life legal knowledge. Solicitors also took part in shooting videos to introduce legal knowledge under various scenarios. The public can view the videos on our social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channel.

The Law Society would like to express its sincere thanks for the sponsorship from the Legal Aid Department, the tireless effort of the Organising Committee and the staunch support of the Council.

Teen Talk 10th Anniversary

Aiming to nurture the younger generation, The Law Society organises *Teen Talk* in the past decade to provide an interactive learning platform to enhance social awareness and interest in law among adolescents. Over the years, more than 10,000 local students have participated in *Teen Talk*.

Teen Talk is amongst the annual flagship programmes of The Law Society. Themed with a law-related subject every year, *Teen Talk* organises a wide range of activities for student participants to take part in. Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, *Teen Talk* adopted the theme “Law & Enforcement” to promote the significance of law and discipline as well as mutual respect. Despite the unanticipated development of the pandemic, *Teen Talk 10th Anniversary* presented dynamic activities online and offline to enhance students’ legal knowledge, understanding of their rights and duties, as well as analytical skills on social affairs from different perspectives in a fun and exciting way.

Key activities include “Legal Knowledge Smart Challenge Online”, “Teen Talk 10th Anniversary & Law Week Opening Ceremony and Basic Law Talk”, and “Law & Enforcement Guided Visits to Disciplined Services Department” to be held in 2021. Over 4,000 students from 73 schools participated in the activities.

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, the CRC organises talks and mentorship programmes for schools to promote knowledge about the legal profession and project the corporate image of The Law Society as a Caring Organisation.

Membership of the CRC underwent a few changes. The Chair and two members retired while eight new members joined the Committee. With the new Chair and Vice-Chair succeeding the leadership, the CRC is now comprised of 20 persons.

Over the year, though large-scale gatherings were prohibited and physical activities were put on hold, the CRC continued its work against the pandemic to serve different parties of the community through new channels. Below are highlights of their work:

SUB-COMMITTEE 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 from 110 schools have benefited from the Programme by establishing bonds with group mentors and student mentees.

This year, instead of traditional day camp, the Sub-Committee presented a comprehensive online programme to enhance students’ understanding of the legal industry, analytical skills and legal knowledge. Five solicitors serving in different areas of the legal field took a series of videos to introduce their roles and working environment. A webinar on internet-related crimes was held to explain common crimes that youngsters may encounter on the internet. Two animations about online-shopping traps were created, each with an open question for student mentees to analyse the daily-life legal issues under the guidance of mentors. Upon completion of assigned tasks, student mentees would be awarded book coupons and a certificate as an encouragement.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LAW AND NEW GENERATION PROGRAMME AND SCHOOL TALKS

As a regular programme aiming to enriching secondary school students’ legal knowledge, school talks has been recruiting qualified solicitors as speakers to give talks to students on different topics since 2013. Despite the fact that face-to-face lessons were suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19, a total of 12 virtual talks were held through different online platforms.

Apart from talks for secondary students, the Sub-Committee also offered talks to school principals, teachers and administrators, as well as government organisations, to share knowledge on legal matters at work.

To encourage Law Society members to become speakers to share their knowledge with students and teaching staff, a Speakers’ Gathering was held on 20 November at The Law Society. Over 30 members participated in the gathering to hear sharing and exchange views from experienced members. Applications for joining the speakers panel were received after the event.

At the end of the year, a certificate of appreciation was presented to speakers as a recognition of their contribution.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SING TAO “LEGAL MAILBOX”

The CRC also assumed another important task of coordinating contribution of articles amongst Law Society members for publication in the weekly column Sing Tao “Legal Mailbox” every

Monday. Topics covered a wide range of everyday life legal issues to promote general legal knowledge to the public.

The Sub-Committee is responsible for recruiting writers, reviewing submitted articles to ensure relevancy of the subject matter and accuracy of the factual information cited by the authors, and coordinating the publication. At the end of each year, writers who had contributed articles would receive a certificate as a token of appreciation.

In 2020, 49 articles were published, timely legal topics related to the pandemic were also covered.

GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

As a Committee under the SCEA, the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee (“GCLAC”) is dedicated in promoting the image of Hong Kong legal industry in the Greater China region. Throughout the year, the GCLAC actively organised and participated in various events to create a platform for lawyers in Hong Kong to explore and navigate new opportunities in the Mainland, Taiwan and Macau.

Under the pandemic, the GCLAC engaged in a number of conferences and seminars in Greater China through virtual platforms, and made continuous effort to exchange with lawyers associations and legal professional bodies in the region. To help nurture the next generation of lawyers and provide working platform for young lawyers, the GCLAC also held virtual lectures for Mainland lawyers and law students, as well as the annual *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum*.

Online Lectures for Peking University Law Students

Riding on the success of the inaugural course in 2019, The Law Society and the Peking University Law School jointly organised another 32-hour online course for students of the Law School in May and June 2020. Under the theme “An Introduction to Legal Services and Risk Management for Cross-border Transactions”, introduction to commercial crimes was included this year as a new element to enhance students’ awareness on anti-money laundering.

The well-received courses were taught by various Law Society members, including Vice-President and Chairman of the GCLAC C.M. Chan, Council Members Careen Wong and Christopher Yu, Past President Ambrose Lam, as well as former Council Members Nick Chan and Cecilia Wong.

Straits Law Forum

The Law Society has jointly organised the *Straits Law Forum* with a number of academic and professional bodies since 2003 to promote exchanges between legal professionals and academics from the Mainland, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong. In 2020, the forum was held in Fuzhou on 18 August under the theme “Application of Civil Code”. In light of the pandemic, a speech prepared by President Melissa Pang was read by a forum representative at the opening ceremony. Meanwhile, Immediate Past President Thomas So and Council Member Karen Lam joined the forum virtually.

Visit to Tainan

Organised by the Taiwan Bar Association, the annual Celebration Ceremony for Taiwan Lawyers was held in Tainan from 5 to 6 September. GCLAC member Ronald Kan, who was in Taiwan, gave a speech at the event and made valuable exchanges with local lawyers on behalf of The Law Society.

Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Online Seminar

To mark the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services organised an online seminar under the title “‘Dual Circulation’ Strategy – Greater Bay Area Development – Future for Hong Kong Professionals” on 18 November. As a member body of the Coalition, The Law Society was one of the supporting organisations for the event. President Melissa Pang served as the moderator of the event, while Immediate Past President Thomas So spoke about the opportunities arising from the latest national policies for local solicitors. The event attracted close to 250 professionals across different industries.

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2020

The *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* is an annual flagship event organised by The Law Society which aims to create a platform for lawyers from the Mainland, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong to exchange. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the forum, which concluded successfully online on 4 December in the form of webinar, and drew a record-high turnout, with the participation of over 500 legal professionals from the Greater China region.

Themed under “Young Lawyers’ New Opportunities in a Changing World”, the forum featured a Main Forum and three sub-sessions, spotlighting law firm management, wealth succession and dispute resolution as session highlights. In light of the growing importance of the Greater Bay Area, Mr. Tommy Yuen, Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, was invited to give a thematic presentation on the topic.

In addition to holding the forum by webinar, The Law Society designed commemorative stamps to celebrate the event’s 10th anniversary.

Formation of the Greater China Legal Affairs Young Solicitors Interest Group

To encourage young members’ involvement in legal affairs in relation to the Greater China region, as well as to assist them to explore and develop business opportunities within the region, the GCLAC formed the Greater China Legal Affairs Young Solicitors Interest Group in June. The Interest Group consists of members with less than five years of post-qualification experience, and is tasked to make recommendations on assisting young members to grasp opportunities in the Greater China region.

THE GREATER BAY AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

The Greater Bay Area, which comprises the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong, Macau and the nine municipalities in Guangdong Province, is one of the most notable

urbanisation initiatives in China, enjoying the unique strengths of “One Country, Two Systems” within three jurisdictions.

To grasp the opportunities under the Greater Bay Area and keep track of the regions’ updates, the GCLAC formed a working group on the Greater Bay Area in June 2017. With the development of the Greater Bay Area entering into a stage of full-fledged implementation, the GCLAC reformed the working group as the “Greater Bay Area Sub-Committee” in March 2020.

Joint Meetings for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area

To foster closer ties within the legal services industry and tap the potential of distinctive cluster advantages in the Greater Bay Area, The Law Society and lawyers associations in the Greater Bay Area established a joint meeting system in December 2018, to be chaired by Guangdong Lawyers Association, The Law Society and Macau Lawyers Association on a rotational basis. During the year, the fourth and the fifth meetings were held on 11 July and 17 October respectively.

The Law Society representatives who attended the two meetings included President Melissa Pang, Vice-President and GCLAC Chairman C.M. Chan, Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Greater Bay Area Sub-Committee Thomas So, Secretary General Heidi Chu, as well as the Vice-Chairmen and members of the GCLAC. Topics of interests were discussed at the meetings, including the Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination for Hong Kong and Macau lawyers to practise in the region, cross-border cooperation, and regular trainings on cross-border legal matters.

Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area

During the year, the GCLAC held its first online seminar on 26 September for lawyers in the Greater Bay Area to promote exchanges on legal topics among lawyers in the region. Prominent speakers from Guangdong Province, Macau and Hong Kong were invited to share on topics related to laws of succession, particularly on issues concerning cross-border practices. The seminar was well-received and attracted more than 100 lawyers.

Organisation and Participation of Events in the Greater China Region

The following table outlines the events organised or co-organised by the GCLAC in 2020, in addition to the list of events that The Law Society delegates attended virtually:

Date	Event
21 March	Online Lecture for The Chinese University of Hong Kong
23, 30 & 31 May, 6 June	Online Lectures for Peking University Law School
11 July	The Fourth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area
5 August	Gathering for the Greater China Legal Affairs Young Solicitors Interest Group
6 August	Our Hong Kong Foundation’s Online Forum on China’s Judicial Reform and “Smart Courts”
18 August	Straits Law Forum

5-6 September	The Annual Celebration Ceremony for Taiwan Lawyers
26 September	Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area - Laws of Succession
29 September	HKTDC's Webinar on Hong Kong Professional Services
17 October	The Fifth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area
29 October	Hong Kong Academy of Management's Webinar on Opportunities and Risks under the Greater Bay Area
18 November	Online Seminar by the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services on "Dual Circulation" Strategy – Greater Bay Area Development – Future for Hong Kong Professionals"
19 November	The Ministry of Justice's Online Briefing on Legal Professional Examination to practise Mainland law in the Greater Bay Area
4 December	The 10 th Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum
7 December	The Qianhai Belt and Road Legal Services Federation's Online Seminar on Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination
16 December	The Legal Education Fund Limited's Online Seminar on Laws for Cross-Border Succession

Meetings in relation to Greater China Matters

In 2020, meetings were mostly conducted virtually in light of the pandemic. The GCLAC met with four groups of delegations on Greater China matters:

Date	Visiting Organisation
7 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shenzhen Municipal People's Government
28 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
14 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> InvestHK
27 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

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 organisations 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/ seminars and reached out to other legal professional bodies around the world throughout the year.

Korean Internship Programme 2020

With the continual support of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea and the Korean Bar Association, the two-week Korean internship programme between Hong Kong and Korea was held for its seventh year during 8 to 23 January. Four Korean law students underwent their

two-week internship training in local law firms, while one Hong Kong lawyer committed to her internship training in Korea concurrently.

An orientation briefing and visits to the Independent Commission Against Corruption and High Court were organised to provide the Korean interns with a better understanding of the Hong Kong legal system and services. The interns also joined the OLY ceremony at the City Hall on 13 January, in which they were able to mingle with the local legal practitioners as well as heads of overseas bar associations and law societies.

LAWASIA Human Rights Webinar Series 2020

The LAWASIA organised its inaugural “LAWASIA Human Rights Webinar Series 2020” with three webinars on 2, 9 and 16 June. Representing The Law Society, Vice-President Amirali Nasir and Council Member Mark Daly attended and spoke at the first webinar themed “Access to Justice during the COVID-19 Pandemic” on 2 June and the second webinar themed “Government Accountability during COVID-19: The Citizens’ Right to Know” on 9 June respectively to share the situation in Hong Kong during the pandemic.

German Federal Bar online Bar Leaders’ Roundtable

President Melissa Pang was invited by the German Federal Bar to speak at its online Bar Leaders’ Roundtable entitled “COVID-19 an issue of the Legal Profession” on 9 June. Taking this opportunity, President shared the initiatives taken by The Law Society to support the legal profession and our members amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Over 80 bar leaders across 50 jurisdictions attended the event.

International Association of Lawyers (“UIA”) Webinar on “Quality for legal services and the role of Bar Associations and Law Societies”

At the invitation of UIA, President Melissa Pang spoke at the UIA webinar entitled “Quality for legal services and the role of Bar Associations and Law Societies” on 13 July. Apart from providing brief introduction of the Hong Kong legal profession, President also covered the following aspects in her speech: (a) meaning of competence; (b) liability of professional misconduct and negligence; (c) measuring quality of legal service; (d) imposing sanctions on bad quality relating to misconduct; and (e) helping members to improve quality.

Hong Kong-Indonesia Webinar

On 18 August, a webinar was jointly organised by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong. The theme was “Riding Ups and Downs: Hong Kong-Indonesia Partnership” which aimed at strengthening partnerships in trade, investment, professional services and technology. It attracted more than 900 registrations from business leaders and professionals in Hong Kong and Indonesia.

On behalf of The Law Society, President Melissa Pang joined the panel discussion on “Discovering New Partnership Opportunities”. Being the only speaker from the legal sector among the other prominent local and Indonesian speakers, President took the opportunity to

share the core competencies of Hong Kong legal services and what Hong Kong professional services can offer to Indonesian enterprises so as to assist them to explore new markets and business opportunities.

58th International Association of Young Lawyers (“AIJA”) Virtual Congress

During 24 to 28 August, Ms. Louise Wong, member of the SCEA and ILAC, participated in the 58th AIJA Virtual Congress on behalf of The Law Society. She took the opportunity to speak at one of the sessions entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in Sustainable Property Development” on 25 August. Further, in line with the Congress’ theme on diversity and inclusion, it is notable that Ms. Wong was the only female speaker on the panel based in Asia.

LAWASIA 2020 Conference Online

Consisting of nine webinars, the LAWASIA 2020 Conference Online opened on 10 September with the Bar Leaders’ LAWASIA Roundtable themed “Bar Issues during the Pandemic in each Jurisdiction”. 18 bar leaders from 11 jurisdictions formed a panel and exchanged information on the recent developments in their respective jurisdictions.

As the moderator, President Melissa Pang took the opportunity to interact with other bar leaders from around the globe, while Vice President C.M. Chan also participated as a panel speakers to share an update on the Hong Kong situation and the work The Law Society had done for our members during the pandemic. The Roundtable attracted more than 300 registrations from 45 jurisdictions.

On 17 September, Vice President Amirali Nasir participated in the “One Belt One Road” Session. Focusing on “Connecting Belt and Road Hubs for Legal, Mediation, Arbitration and Other Infrastructure Development Services”, the session brought together panel speakers from China, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong and Singapore, in which Mr. Nasir took the opportunity to introduce Hong Kong as the Belt and Road Initiative Hub.

Vice President C.M. Chan also spoke at the “Corporate Securities & Investment” Session on 8 October and talked about the compliance challenges for companies with exemptions and effects. Mr. Chan introduced The Law Society’s relief measures, latest arrangements for courts and the Government’s support for the legal profession such as the LawTech Fund, during the session.

UIA Women Bar Leaders’ Day

At the invitation of UIA, President Melissa Pang spoke at the UIA Women Bar Leaders' Day on 16 September. The series of virtual events were dedicated to women bar leaders and were conducted in 3 languages. Ms. Pang joined the English session and shared with the overseas participants The Law Society’s effort in promoting and maintaining diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession in her capacity of the first female President of The Law Society. The webinar attracted around 140 registrations.

French National Bar Council's International Week

Organised by the French National Bar Council, its International Week was held virtually from 19 to 23 October which consisted of a series of webinars about international issues of importance to the legal profession.

Entitled “Future of the legal profession and the major challenges lawyers are facing around the world”, the Roundtable Discussion was one of the highlights of the International Week. President Melissa Pang was invited to join the Roundtable to share her insights on the major trends and challenges under the transformation of legal profession from a Hong Kong perspective.

Joint Session at International Bar Association (“IBA”) 2020 Virtually Together Conference

Co-organised with the HKBA, a session entitled “The Unique Role of Hong Kong as an Arbitration and Mediation Venue for China and the Belt and Road” was held at the IBA 2020 Virtually Together Conference on 16 November with over 140 registrations. The session covered various issues including recent developments in Hong Kong’s international dispute resolution framework, third party funding, arbitrability of intellectual property disputes and how Hong Kong-based lawyers and their clients can benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative and Greater Bay Area.

Apart from The Law Society and HKBA’s representatives, Mr. Rimsky Yuen SC, Co-Chairperson of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (“HKIAC”), joined the panel to introduce Hong Kong as an arbitration venue and the work of HKIAC under the pandemic.

Joint Webinar with LAWASIA on National Security Law

Jointly organised by The Law Society and the LAWASIA, a webinar entitled “National Security Law for Hong Kong – Balancing Public Order and Civil Liberties” was held on 26 November with over 370 registrants from 38 jurisdictions. The webinar provided an excellent platform for delegates from different sectors globally to have fruitful exchanges with eminent speakers on various aspects of the National Security Law since it came into force in June 2020, including the offences and penalties under the law, the extra-territorial reach of National Security Law offences, the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong courts, the availability of due process and independence of the judiciary.

Representing The Law Society, President Melissa Pang delivered a welcome remarks. Meanwhile, Vice-President Amirali Nasir, Immediate Past President Thomas So and Council Member Mark Daly joined the panel and shared their valuable insights from a Hong Kong perspective with the participants.

Participation in International Conferences and Meetings

In 2020, the following visits and attendance of various international conferences and meetings by The Law Society representatives were coordinated by the ILAC:

- Attendance to virtual conferences hosted by the AIJA, IBA, UIA and LAWASIA by The Law Society delegates.
- Attendance to the LAWASIA Executive Committee (“ExCo”) meetings by President Melissa Pang and Vice-President C.M. Chan who are The Law Society’s official representatives in the ExCo. Ms. Pang is currently the LAWASIA President-Elect, while Mr. Chan was newly elected as an ExCo member for the term of 2020/21.
- Attendance to the UIA ExCo meetings by Vice-President Amirali Nasir who is The Law Society’s official representative in the ExCo. Mr. Nasir was also newly appointed as the UIA Regional Secretary for a term of two years.
- Attendance to the International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives (“IILACE”) meetings by Secretary General who is The Law Society’s official representative at IILACE and also elected as President of IILACE in November 2020.
- Attendance to the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (“CLA”) Council meetings by President Melissa Pang who is The Law Society’s official representative at the CLA.
- Attendance to the AIJA ExCo meetings by Ms. Louise Wong, member of the SCEA and ILAC, who is The Law Society’s official representative at the AIJA. Apart from her current role as the Contact Person representing AIJA in Hong Kong and AIJA’s Asia-Pacific Regional Co-ordinator, Ms. Wong was also elected by the AIJA General Assembly as an ExCo Member for a term of three years until the Annual Congress to be held in the third quarter of 2022.
- Attendance to the Opening of the Legal Year of Singapore; Malaysia; Brunei; Sabah and Sarawak; and England and Wales by President Melissa Pang, Vice-Presidents Amirali Nasir and C.M. Chan.
- Please refer to the following table for the international events that The Law Society delegates attended virtually:

Date	Event
2, 9, 16 June	LAWASIA Human Rights Webinar Series 2020
9 June	German Federal Bar’s online Bar Leaders’ Roundtable
13 July	UIA Webinar on “Quality for legal services and the role of Bar Associations and Law Societies”
18 August	Hong Kong-Indonesia Webinar
24 – 28 August	58 th AIJA Virtual Conference
10 September – 8 October	LAWASIA 2020 Conference Online
16 September	UIA Women Bar Leaders’ Day
21 September	Online Roundtable Discussion of the French National Bar Council

	International Week
8 October	CLA Webinar on “Regulating Lawyers During a Crisis: the Challenges and Opportunities of the Pandemic”
26 – 30 October	International Conference of Legal Regulators 2020 Virtual Conference
28 – 30 October	UIA 2020 Virtual Congress
2 – 27 November	IBA 2020 Virtually Together Conference
20 – 21 November	IILACE Virtual Annual Conference 2020
26 November	Joint Webinar with LAWASIA on National Security Law

Meeting with Overseas Visitors

In view of the pandemic, only eight meetings with overseas visitors were arranged in 2020:

Date	Visiting Organisation
14 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Bar Association • Bar Association of Serbia • Tokyo Bar Association • Paris Bar • Sabah Law Society
16 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao
30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao
23 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portuguese Bar Association (via Zoom)