



The Belt and Road Initiative

Ms Melissa Pang, President

Mr Stephen Hung, Past President and Council Member

The Law Society of Hong Kong

6 September 2019



Belt and Road Initiative

- Launched by the Chinese government in 2013
- To promote economic co-operation among countries and regions along the Belt and Road routes
- Involves over 65 countries - jointly account for:
 - around 62% of the world's population
 - around 30% of the world's GDP
- Arrangement between the National Development and Reform Commission and HKSAR Government for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative (signed in December 2017)



Latest Development of the Belt and Road Initiative

- Under the theme “Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”, the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in Beijing on 25-27 April 2019 to promote the development of the initiative.
- On 5 March 2019, Premier Li Keqiang said in his annual work report that the Central Government would support Hong Kong and Macao in seizing the vast opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area development, capitalising on their respective advantages, and deepening their mutually beneficial cooperation with the Mainland.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce, China’s foreign direct investment (“FDI”) rose by 4.2% to USD 129.8 billion in 2018. Meanwhile, Hong Kong was the largest offshore RMB clearing centre in 2018, processing about 79% of the world’s RMB payments.

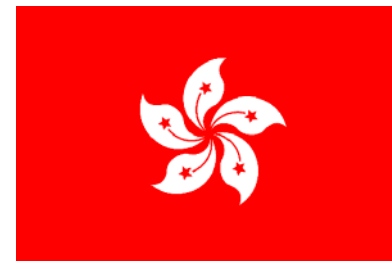


Hong Kong as a Gateway –

WHY?



Hong Kong



- Founding member of WTO
- Member of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- A popular venue for hosting regional headquarters or representative offices
- 17 Economic and Trade Offices set up by the HKSAR Government
- 8 Free Trade Agreements (“FTA”) with China, New Zealand, European Free Trade Association, Chile, Macao, ASEAN, Georgia and Australia



Strategic Geographic Location

- Point-to-point air transportation:
 - Asia's key markets within 4 hours
 - Half of the world's population in 5 hours
 - 120 airlines to 220 locations worldwide
 - Onward connections for sea and land transportation
 - high-frequency air cargo services connected to all regions in the world
- Three-runway system
- Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge



Sources: City University of Hong Kong



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

World's Freest Economy

- Hong Kong Government policy of “market driven with minimal government interference”
- Free trade & free enterprise – no tariffs, no quotas, no exceptions, no nationality restrictions on corporate or sectoral ownership
- Strong emphasis on rule of law and fair market
- Free import and export of capital funds
- Free repatriation of funds – no restrictions on capital flows into and out of Hong Kong
- No foreign currency regulations
- Ranked first in terms of economic freedom for 25 years according to the Heritage Foundation
- Ranked No.4 globally on the ease of doing business according to the World Bank Group's Doing Business 2019 Report



The Law Society's work

- Belt and Road Committee
- Belt and Road Conferences
- Legal Technology - eBRAM

Belt and Road Committee (“BRC”)

- Established in December 2015 to explore opportunities for members arising from the Initiative.
- The scope of work included:
 - a) to update the Committee on government policy on the Initiative;
 - b) to reach out to overseas lawyers associations covered by the Initiative;
 - c) to consider possible initiatives to harmonise trade and business law; and
 - d) to organise joint conferences or events with overseas lawyers associations.

1st Belt and Road Conference (May 2017)

- Theme: “The Belt and Road: A Catalyst for Connectivity, Convergence and Collaboration”
- Attended by around 600 delegates from jurisdictions along the Belt and Road
- 39 lawyers’ associations from 24 jurisdictions signed the “**Hong Kong Manifesto**”, pledging to promote synergy, strategic partnership and collaboration amongst the signing members



2nd Belt and Road Conference (September 2018)

- Theme: “The ABC to Building a Smart Belt and Road: Law and Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cloud”
- Attended by over 650 delegates from jurisdictions along the Belt and Road
- 34 lawyers’ associations from 17 jurisdictions signed the “**LawTech Alliance**”, which all have the common goal of ensuring that the profession will take advantage of legal tech in an ethical, professional and responsible manner, and promoting a shared ethical Artificial Intelligence (“A.I.”) framework for lawyers from the Belt and Road regions.



2nd Belt and Road Conference



Past events

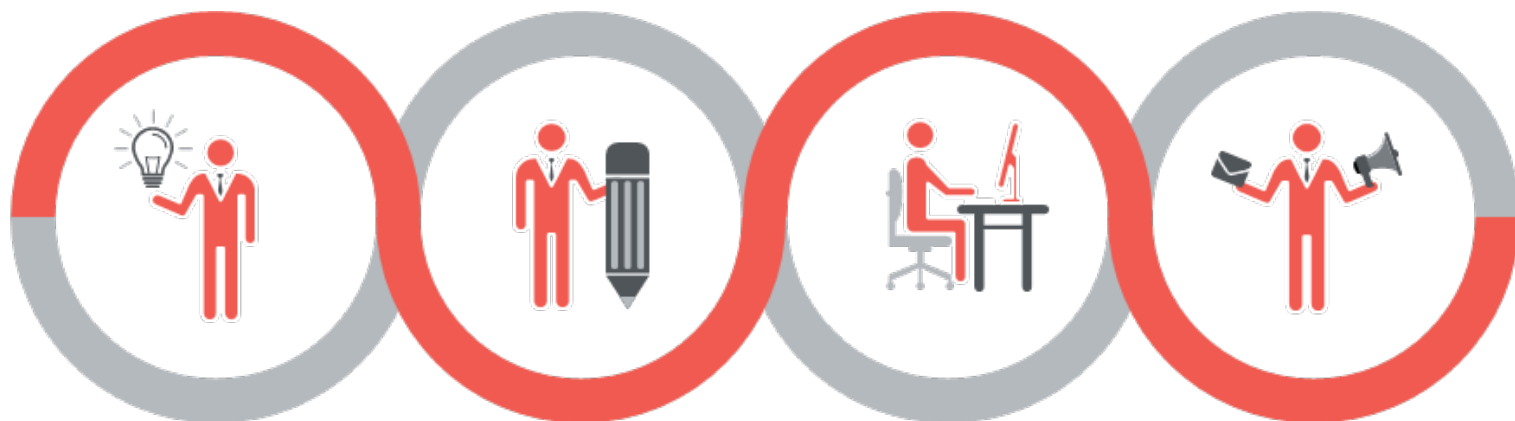
Date	Event name	Location
2016 – 2019	Belt and Road Summits by the HKSAR Government and Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Hong Kong
August 2019	2 nd China (Guangdong) “Belt and Road” Legal Services Forum organised by the Guangdong Lawyers Association	Guangzhou
April 2019	2 nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation organised by the Chinese Central Government	Beijing
February 2018	Seminar on “Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative – Leveraging Hong Kong’s Advantages, Meeting the Country’s Needs” by the HKSAR Government and the Belt and Road General Chamber of Commerce	Beijing



InnoTech Law Hackathon

- Organised by the Law Society's InnoTech Committee on 28 September 2018, riding on the Belt and Road Conference
 - Theme: Belt and Road Justice Challenge
 - Almost 150 individuals in 30 teams signed up
 - The first Hackathon focusing on access to justice challenges in the Belt and Road Region
- The Hackathons are part of the Law Society's initiative to enhance technology competency in the law and promote legal innovation
- Show that there is a great interest in developing a technology-focused community for promoting access to justice in Hong Kong and the Belt and Road Region

Legal technology – eBRAM



USING LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Merging the best of the legal profession and technology industry

DEAL MAKING

Providing platform for Deal making

ODR

Online platform for full conciliation, arbitration and mediation service

DOMAIN KNOWLEDGE SPECIFIC TRANSLATION

Break down communication barrier

Cost-effective and secure, with confidentiality and privacy by design, serving the Belt & Road & beyond!





32nd LAWASIA Conference

Harmonisation through Synergy

6 – 8 November 2019 | Hong Kong SAR

Register NOW!



www.lawasia2019.com



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會



LAWASIA

THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



THANK YOU

The Law Society of Hong Kong

For inquiries

Phone: +852 2846 0500

Email: adceag@hklawsoc.org.hk



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會