

Foreword

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The Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (“CBLPSC”, formerly known as the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee) was established in 1998. Under the leadership of the Chief Secretary for Administration, CBLPSC provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations.

The Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors (“ICPWG”) under the CBLPSC promotes the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law among the industrial, commercial and professional sectors. As the convenor of the ICPWG, I understand that the Working Group shoulders an important mission to promote the Basic Law. Many people would say “good wine needs no bush”, which means things of good quality do not need to be advertised. However, information asymmetry and the proliferation of fake information in today’s society have caused misconceptions among many people, and that is the main reason why we need promotion. Dissemination of correct messages is thus an important task of the Basic Law promotion.

As a lawyer, I reckon that the implementation of “one country, two systems” has been successful and the rule of law in Hong Kong has been widely praised in the international community. Since China’s resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, Hong Kong’s rule of law has been rated in the front rank by various international studies such as the “Worldwide Governance Indicators” of the World Bank Group, the “Global Competitiveness Report” of the World Economic Forum, and the “Rule of Law Index” of the World Justice Project.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the motherland. Therefore, it is an important milestone and an appropriate occasion to review the past and look to the future. On 1 July 1997, China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. Undoubtedly, “one country, two systems” is an unprecedented innovation that safeguards China’s sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintains long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao. As President Xi mentioned on 1 July 2022, Hong Kong’s constitutional order based on the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law of the HKSAR has been maintained in a steady and sound manner. The “one country, two systems” principle conforms to the region’s constitutional status. Moreover, it is in the interest of Hong Kong residents’ democratic rights and the region’s prosperity and stability, securing a bright future for the region.

Quite a number of my friends have asked how Hong Kong will be after 2047 and whether Hong Kong’s way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years. In July 2022, President Xi clearly stated that ‘there is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run’. This statement has given us a strong assurance. Hong Kong is the only place which implements common law in China. In the past 25 years, Hong Kong’s economy has been thriving, its status as an international financial, shipping, and trading centre has been firmly upheld, and its innovative science and technology industries have been booming. In addition, Hong Kong remains one of the most liberal and open economies in the world. It maintains a world-class business environment and the existing laws including the common law are practised. We should continue to implement the “one country, two systems” principle faithfully.

Regarding promotional work, the ICPWG has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to promote “one country, two systems”, the Constitution and the Basic Law among the industrial, commercial and professional sectors, including feature articles, videos, social media, seminars, exhibitions, and short-distance trips and visits. Also, people from different fields of the industrial, commercial and professional sectors are invited to share their experience and views on the Basic Law from different perspectives, with a view to disseminating messages to people in Hong Kong and the international community about the opportunities brought to them by the Basic Law and “one country, two systems”. I sincerely hope that in the coming days, every people in Hong Kong can become an ambassador in promoting the Basic Law and tell the good stories of Hong Kong to the world.

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