

## MESSAGE

Four years after the reunification, the realisation of the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “a high degree of autonomy” and “Hong Kong people running Hong Kong” has been widely recognised as a fact. We are determined to ensure that this remains the case and we remain committed to the full and faithful implementation of the Basic Law. We will continue to facilitate official exchanges between bureaux and departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and their Mainland counterparts, and will help to further develop our cordial and effective working relationship with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. We will continue to enhance our communication and co-operation with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR to ensure that all foreign and external affairs matters relating to the HKSAR are handled in accordance with the Basic Law and in the interest of the region.

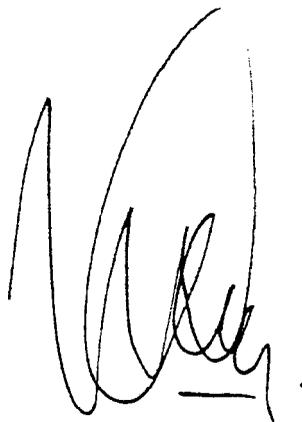


On the development of our political structure, between now and 2007, there are two milestones in constitutional development, namely, the 2002 Chief Executive Election and 2004 Legislative Council Election. We will review the experience of these two elections before deciding the way forward. Our immediate task is to make practical arrangements for the election of the second term Chief Executive in March 2002. We will ensure that the election is held fairly, openly, honestly and in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law.

We will provide quality input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced.

I am pleased to present this Policy Objective booklet, which sets out the key initiatives and commitments of my Bureau, as well as the progress made on our previous pledges. We will endeavour to deliver on all

commitments, and to contribute to the continued stability and prosperity of the HKSAR. I hope this booklet can help you understand our policy objective and commitments better and I welcome your suggestions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, sweeping loops and a final horizontal stroke, followed by a period.

(Michael M. Y. Suen)  
Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

# **Confidence in the Constitutional Arrangements**

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**Policy Objective  
and  
Key Result Areas**

# CONFIDENCE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Our Policy Objective is to maintain confidence in the constitutional arrangements of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

## Overall Targets

Our targets this year in pursuing this Policy Objective are –

- to secure community confidence in the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” and the full and faithful implementation of the Basic Law
- to maintain cordial and constructive working relationship with the Central People’s Government (CPG), other Mainland authorities (including provincial and municipal authorities), and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, having regard to Hong Kong’s constitutional status as a Special Administrative Region directly under the CPG
- to ensure that the electoral arrangements are open, fair, honest, acceptable to the community and comply fully with the Basic Law

## Progress

In the past year, we have advised colleagues in other bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government on the implementation of the Basic Law in their respective areas of work, assisted them in developing a good working relationship with the CPG and other Mainland authorities in accordance with the Basic Law, and co-ordinated efforts to promote mutual understanding between HKSAR officials and their Mainland counterparts through visits and other exchanges. On matters relating to the conduct of HKSAR’s external affairs, we remain the focal point of contact between the HKSAR Government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR (MFA Office), and have continued to facilitate the active participation of the HKSAR in the international arena in a manner which reflects our high degree of autonomy and is consistent with the Basic Law.

We have continued to facilitate the promotion of the Basic Law and provide secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC). We are also embarking on a publicity campaign to enhance public awareness of specific provisions of the Basic Law.

On the electoral front, we introduced the Chief Executive Election Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in March 2001. It was enacted by the LegCo in July 2001. The Ordinance provides the legal framework for conducting the Chief Executive election fairly, openly and honestly. It also puts in place a mechanism for updating the membership of the Election Committee before the Chief Executive election in March 2002. We are making practical arrangements for the Election Committee subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive election to be held early next year.

To better reflect our work in the coming year, we will introduce an additional Key Result Area (KRA) –

- Provide input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced.

We achieved the following progress in our four KRAs set last year.

## **1 Ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law and promote better understanding of the Basic Law**

We have provided sound, consistent and practical advice to colleagues in other bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government on the implementation of the Basic Law in their respective areas of work. We have continued to facilitate the promotion of the Basic Law and provide effective secretariat support to the BLPSC. We commissioned a private market research company to conduct a survey in the last quarter of 2000 to assess public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, evaluate the effectiveness of past promotional efforts and identify effective means for promoting the Basic Law. The findings of the survey were presented to the BLPSC and provided useful data for formulating future promotional strategies and plans. We have improved the design and contents of the Basic Law Homepage. We have employed a PR company to help plan and design a publicity campaign in 2001-2002 to increase public awareness of specific provisions of

the Basic Law. We have also assisted in the setting up of a Basic Law Reference Collection in the Hong Kong Central Library.

## **2 Facilitate the maintenance and further development of cordial and constructive working relationship with the Central People's Government, other Mainland authorities (including provincial and municipal authorities) and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government**

We have continued to maintain a cordial and constructive working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council on matters relating to contacts between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities. The existing and new channels of communication and co-operation with the Mainland authorities function smoothly and effectively. Bureaux and departments have further enhanced mutual understanding with their Mainland counterparts through visits and various exchange programmes.

We have also continued to play the role of the co-ordinator for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System.

Since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region in December 1999, we have been assisting various bureaux and departments in the HKSAR Government in developing official contacts with their counterparts in Macao.

## **3 Facilitate HKSAR's continued and active participation in the international arena**

We have provided sound advice to colleagues in other bureaux and departments in the handling of HKSAR's external affairs to ensure full compliance with the Basic Law and to meet the practical needs of Hong Kong as an international city.

Since the reunification, the HKSAR has continued to participate actively in the international arena and our co-operation with the MFA Office has been smooth and effective. In the past 12 months, representatives of the HKSAR Government took part in about 72 international conferences limited to states as members of delegations of the People's Republic of China and participated separately, using

the name “Hong Kong, China”, in about 680 inter-governmental conferences that were not limited to states. Representatives of the HKSAR Government also participated actively in international conferences that were open also to non-governmental organisations and individuals.

The HKSAR has continued to host major international conferences and meetings. Recent examples include the International Telecommunication Union Telecom Asia 2000 in December 2000 and the Fortune Global Forum in May 2001. Major conferences to be held in the next few months include the East Asia Economic Summit 2001 in October 2001, the 10th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities and the 14th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council, both in November 2001.

Bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government have joined a wide range of international organisations to exchange expertise and experience, and to enhance co-operation on many different matters, such as trade and customs co-operation, anti-money laundering, maritime safety, narcotics control, etc.

Over 200 international agreements are currently applicable to the HKSAR, of which over 80 are applicable to the HKSAR but not to the Mainland. Since the reunification, the HKSAR Government has negotiated and concluded 65 binding bilateral agreements with foreign states and regions in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Basic Law.

#### **4 Ensure continual development of the electoral systems**

Our target in 2000 was to introduce the Chief Executive Election Bill into the Legislative Council. The Chief Executive Election Ordinance was enacted in July 2001. The provisions of the Ordinance follow the blueprint and requirements set out in the Basic Law. We are making practical arrangements for the election in March 2002.

We have also pledged to examine measures to provide better electoral services for voters. In this regard, we have completed a feasibility study on the upgrading of the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office. We have also examined the desirability and feasibility of using more technology in our voting and counting processes in the study.

Progress on each previously announced initiative under the above KRAs is set out in the “Detailed Progress” section of this report.

## **Looking Forward**

To achieve our overall targets this year, we will undertake the following initiatives and targets under the respective KRAs for the coming year.

The Basic Law provides guarantees in accordance with the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “a high degree of autonomy” and “Hong Kong people running Hong Kong”. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Basic Law. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) advises colleagues in other bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government on the implementation of the Basic Law in their respective areas of work.

The Basic Law is our constitutional document. It is important for the community to be well-informed about its provisions and appreciate its significance for Hong Kong as a highly autonomous special administrative region of the People’s Republic of China. CAB facilitates the promotion of the Basic Law and provides secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC). Apart from co-ordinating the implementation of the action plans endorsed by the BLPSC, we are embarking on a publicity campaign, which will run from 2001-2002 to 2002-2003, to increase public awareness of specific provisions of the Basic Law. We will again commission a survey in early 2002 to assess public understanding of the Basic Law, evaluate the effectiveness of past promotional efforts and identify effective means to promote the Basic Law. We will continue to update the Basic Law Homepage to include as much information about Basic Law-related matters as possible.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The soundness, consistency and practicability of advice provided. Our target is to provide sound, consistent and practicable advice to bureaux and departments to help ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law.
- The effectiveness of support provided to the BLPSC and the co-ordination of implementation of the action plans endorsed by the Committee. Our target is to continue to provide quality secretariat support to the BLPSC and effective co-ordination of promotional efforts to ensure that the Administration’s resources are used in the most cost-effective manner.

- Level of public awareness of the provisions of the Basic Law. Our target is to enhance public understanding of the provisions of the Basic Law that most affect their livelihood.

We will pursue the following new initiative and target to deliver results in this area –

Initiative *	Target
To conduct another survey to assess public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, evaluate the effectiveness of past promotional efforts and identify means to promote the Basic Law <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau)</i>	To carry out the survey in the first half of 2002

\* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

# 2

## **Facilitate the maintenance and further development of cordial and constructive working relationship with the Central People's Government, other Mainland authorities (including provincial and municipal authorities) and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government**

Bureaux and departments have established extensive working contacts with their Mainland counterparts in the relevant fields. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) will continue to advise bureaux and departments on matters concerning the working relationship between the Central People's Government (CPG) and the HKSAR Government to ensure that these established channels function smoothly and effectively.

With the assistance and support of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, we will continue to assist bureaux and departments to establish new channels of communication and develop an effective working relationship with the relevant Mainland authorities. We will further promote a better understanding between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities through reciprocal official visits.

CAB acts as the co-ordinator in the Cross-Boundary Liaison System and the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference. Relevant bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government will continue to make use of the Cross-Boundary Liaison System to resolve day-to-day operational issues affecting both sides of the boundary, and liaise with the Guangdong Provincial People's Government in the context of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference to identify new areas of co-operation.

Like the HKSAR, the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) is a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China which enjoys a high degree of autonomy and comes directly under the CPG. It is in the mutual interests of the two SARs to establish a cordial and constructive working relationship. Our policy is to develop and maintain our relations with the MSAR Government in the spirit of mutual respect and equality. In the coming year, we will continue to assist various bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government in developing official contacts with their counterparts in Macao.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The working relationship with the CPG, other Mainland authorities and the MSAR Government remains cordial and constructive. Our target is to ensure the continued development of a cordial and constructive working relationship with them.
- The existing and new channels of communication and co-operation with the Mainland authorities and the MSAR Government function smoothly and effectively. Our target is to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of these channels.
- The HKSAR Government's mutual understanding with the Mainland authorities and the MSAR Government is further enhanced, and our liaison and contacts with them further strengthened. Our target is to further strengthen our liaison and contacts with them.

# 3

## Facilitate HKSAR's continued and active participation in the international arena

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) keeps an overview of the conduct of HKSAR's external affairs to ensure compliance with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law, consistency of approach and uniformity of practice.

We will continue to advise bureaux and departments on the application of international agreements to the HKSAR, the capacity in which representatives of the HKSAR Government should participate in international organisations and conferences, as well as the hosting of international conferences in the HKSAR. We will also provide advice on the establishment of official/semi-official missions by foreign states and offices by international organisations in the HKSAR, and matters relating to the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps.

As the focal point of contact between the HKSAR Government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR (MFA Office), CAB maintains effective communication with the various departments of the MFA Office. Where the Central People's Government's authorisations for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements are required under the Basic Law, we will assist the relevant bureaux and departments to obtain the necessary authorisations through the MFA Office.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The soundness, consistency and practicability of advice provided. Our target is to continue to provide sound, consistent and practicable advice to bureaux and departments to help ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law.
- The working relationship with the MFA Office remains cordial and constructive. Our target is to further develop and strengthen our working relationship with the MFA Office.

The Basic Law sets out the blueprint for the gradual and orderly progress of our representative institutions. It provides for a steady increase in the number of geographical constituency seats in the Legislative Council (LegCo), from 20 in the first term in 1998, to 24 in the second term in 2000 and to 30 in the third term in 2004. The ultimate aim is the election of all LegCo Members by universal suffrage. The Basic Law provides for a mechanism to change the method for the formation of the LegCo after 2007. The Basic Law also provides for the selection of the Chief Executive ultimately by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures.

In accordance with the blueprint as set out in the Basic Law, we introduced the Chief Executive Election Bill into the LegCo in March 2001. The Bill was enacted in July 2001 and provides the legal basis for the conduct of the election of the Chief Executive. With the enactment of this Ordinance, we are making practical arrangements for the Chief Executive election in 2002. We will make subsidiary legislation to provide for the practical arrangements for the Election Committee subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive election. We will ensure that these elections are fair, open and honest, and recognised as such by the community.

We have completed a study to examine the feasibility of upgrading the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), as well as the feasibility and desirability of using more technology to improve our voting and counting processes. We are also examining the problems associated with an automatic voter registration system, with a view to identifying appropriate measures to solve those problems. We have studied the government systems in other parts of the world. The report on the development of the political system of the HKSAR prepared by the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs provides good reference for our study. We will make available our findings to the LegCo upon completion of our study.

Our targets for the coming year are to make suitable arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Chief Executive election in 2002 and the Election Committee subsector by-elections prior to the election. We also aim to work out an implementation plan to upgrade the computer system of

the REO. We will also continue our study on the feasibility of introducing an automatic registration system.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The making of subsidiary legislation dealing with the Election Committee subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive election. Our target is to complete all the legislative work by end of 2001.
- The organisation of the 2002 Chief Executive election. Our target is to put in place practical arrangements which are convenient to electors and candidates.
- We are studying the problems associated with automatic registration. Our target is to draw up proposals on an automatic registration system.
- The improvement in the computer system in the REO. We have completed the feasibility study on the upgrading of the computer system in the REO. Our target is to work out an implementation plan to carry out the recommendations of the feasibility study.

We will pursue the following new initiative and target to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	Target
To make suitable practical arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Chief Executive election <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau)</i>	To conduct the election on 24 March 2002

# 5

## **Provide input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced**

In the 2000 Policy Address, the Chief Executive said that the Administration should examine how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios could be enhanced. Among other things, the Administration would need to consider devising a compatible system of appointment for these principal officials, setting out their powers and responsibilities and at the same time defining clearly their role in formulating and implementing policies under the new system.

A Steering Group personally chaired by the Chief Executive has been set up to provide overall steer to the review. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been providing input and secretariat support to the Steering Group.

In the coming year, we will continue to provide input and secretariat support to the Steering Group. We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicator –

- The effectiveness of support provided to the Steering Group. Our target is to provide quality secretariat support to the Steering Group.

We will pursue the following new initiative and target to deliver results in this area –

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>
To provide input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced. <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau)</i>	To facilitate the satisfactory completion of the review

# **Confidence in the Constitutional Arrangements**

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## **Detailed Progress**

# 1

## Ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law and promote better understanding of the Basic Law

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

<b>Initiative *</b>	<b>Target #</b>	<b>Present Position +</b>
To conduct a survey to assess public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, evaluate the effectiveness of past promotional efforts and identify effective means to promote the Basic Law  <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To carry out the survey at the end of 2000 or in early 2001  <i>(2000)</i>	The survey was carried out in late 2000, and the findings of the survey were presented to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee in May 2001.  <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To improve the design and contents of the Basic Law Homepage  <i>(CAB)</i>	To complete the improvement exercise within 2000-2001  <i>(2000)</i>	The revamped homepage was put online in November 2000.  <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To launch a focused and intensive publicity programme to increase people's understanding of specific provisions of the Basic Law  <i>(CAB)</i>	To carry out the publicity programme in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003  <i>(2000)</i>	A PR company has been engaged to plan and design publicity programmes for 2001-2002.  <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

\* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

# the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

+ the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate and advise bureaux and departments on the full and faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the requirements and arrangements for reporting to the Central People’s Government (CPG) (e.g. laws enacted, budget documents, etc.)</li> <li>● the application of national laws to the HKSAR in accordance with the Basic Law</li> <li>● matters relating to the CPG/HKSAR Government relationship in respect of the Adaptation of Laws</li> </ul> <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i></li> <li>● To co-ordinate and consolidate the HKSAR Government’s views on any proposed amendments to the list of national laws in Annex III to the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i></li> <li>● To assume a co-ordinating role and reflect the views of relevant policy bureaux and departments relating to the requirements in the Basic Law for consultation between the CPG and the HKSAR Government <i>(1997)</i></li> </ul>	<p>We have provided sound, consistent and practical advice to other bureaux and departments on the implementation of the Basic Law in their respective areas of work. The areas involved include the new constitutional order provided for in the Basic Law, the application of national laws to the HKSAR and the various Basic Law requirements relating to CPG/HKSAR Government relationship.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate HKSAR's discussions with the relevant Mainland authorities on the establishment of mutual juridical assistance (in criminal, civil and commercial matters) in accordance with the Basic Law</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law</li> </ul> <p>(1998 and 1997)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To facilitate the conduct of discussions with the Mainland authorities to establish arrangements for mutual juridical assistance such as service of judicial documents</li> </ul> <p>(1998)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have provided sound advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law.</li> <li>● Arrangements have been made with the Mainland authorities on the reciprocal service of judicial documents in civil and commercial matters and reciprocal enforcement of arbitral awards. Discussions with the Mainland authorities on arrangements for the rendition of fugitive offenders and transfer of sentenced persons between the HKSAR and the Mainland are in progress.</li> </ul> <p>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>
<p>To facilitate the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law and provide secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and co-ordinate the implementation of the action plans endorsed by the Committee</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To provide quality secretariat support to the Committee, and to facilitate and co-ordinate promotional activities organised by bureaux and departments</p> <p>(1998 and 1997)</p>	<p>We have provided effective secretariat support to the Committee and effective co-ordination in the implementation of the action plans endorsed by the Committee.</p> <p>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>

# 2

## **Facilitate the maintenance and further development of cordial and constructive working relationship with the Central People’s Government, other Mainland authorities (including provincial and municipal authorities) and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government**

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
To advise on and facilitate official exchanges with the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To help ensure that official exchanges with the MSAR Government are smooth and effective and conducted in the spirit of mutual respect and equality <i>(2000)</i>	We have continued to advise bureaux and departments on official exchanges with the MSAR Government. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To advise bureaux and departments on developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with their Mainland counterparts, by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● advising on the proper handling of official contacts with the Mainland authorities, and as necessary assisting in making such contacts</li> <li>● encouraging bureaux and departments to visit the Mainland or to organise visits to the HKSAR by Mainland officials, and advise them on the arrangements relating to the visits</li> </ul> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle</li> <li>● To encourage as appropriate direct contacts between HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts</li> <li>● To encourage as appropriate official visits by HKSAR Government officials to the Mainland</li> </ul> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We have continued to advise bureaux and departments in accordance with the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and have updated them on the latest arrangements on how to handle official contacts with the Mainland authorities. As appropriate, we have also facilitated direct contacts between HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts, and assisted in making the necessary arrangements for official visits to the Mainland and vice versa.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To strengthen ties between the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong authorities by acting as the HKSAR Government's co-ordinator for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System (CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To ensure the smooth functioning of these channels</li> <li>● To co-ordinate discussion of major issues of co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong at the Joint Conference and between the relevant experts</li> </ul> <p>(1998)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have continued to act as the co-ordinator for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System.</li> <li>● The fourth plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference was held in July 2001.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

# 3

## Facilitate HKSAR’s continued and active participation in the international arena

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate and advise on the conduct of HKSAR’s external affairs. Specifically, to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● advise on the full implementation of international rights and obligations arising from the international agreements applicable to the HKSAR</li> <li>● consolidate views within the HKSAR Government on the application of international agreements to the HKSAR</li> <li>● advise on the need to obtain the authorisation of the Central People’s Government (CPG) for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements with foreign states, regions and international organisations</li> </ul>	<p>To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle (1998 and 1997)</p>	<p>We have continued to advise bureaux and departments on the implementation of international rights and obligations arising from the international agreements applicable to the HKSAR, the need to obtain CPG’s authorisation for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements, the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps, the establishment of official/ semi-official missions by foreign states and offices by international organisations in the HKSAR, and HKSAR’s participation in international organisations and conferences and the hosting of international conferences in the HKSAR.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● advise on matters relating to the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps</li> <li>● advise on matters relating to the establishment in the HKSAR of foreign semi-official missions which requires CPG's permission</li> <li>● advise on matters relating to HKSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences and the hosting of international conferences</li> </ul> <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>		

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To develop further our working relationship with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR (MFA Office) by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● acting as the focal point of contact between the HKSAR Government and the MFA Office on matters relating to the conduct of HKSAR’s external affairs, or foreign affairs relating to the HKSAR</li> <li>● consolidating information provided or requests made by the HKSAR Government to the MFA Office where the subject matters cut across more than one policy area</li> </ul> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To ensure the HKSAR Government maintains a cordial and constructive working relationship with the MFA Office that is consistent with the “One Country, Two Systems” principle</p> <p>(1998)</p>	<p>We have continued to be the focal point of contact between the HKSAR Government and the MFA Office on matters relating to HKSAR’s external affairs and foreign affairs relating to the HKSAR. Our co-operation with the MFA Office has been smooth, effective and in compliance with the Basic Law.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

# 4

## Ensure continual development of the electoral systems

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To formulate legislative proposals for the election of the second-term Chief Executive in 2002 in accordance with the Basic Law <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To introduce a Chief Executive Election Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in mid-2001 <i>(2000)</i>	The Chief Executive Election Ordinance was enacted by the LegCo on 11 July 2001. <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To study the recommendations of the report on the development of the political system of the HKSAR prepared by the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs <i>(CAB)</i>	To study the recommendations in consultation with relevant bureaux and departments <i>(2000)</i>	We have reported our views on the recommendations of the report to the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs. <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To maintain the records of electors in voter registers as up-to-date as practicable <i>(CAB)</i>	To identify and consider feasible measures and work out an implementation plan in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	We have pursued this initiative in the course of examining the feasibility of introducing an automatic registration system. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
<p>To examine the feasibility of introducing an automatic voter registration system (CAB)</p>	<p>To identify problems associated with automatic registration and work out possible solutions in 2001 (2000)</p>	<p>We are examining the issues involved in introducing an automatic voter registration system. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To examine the desirability and feasibility of using more technology to improve our voting and counting processes (CAB)</p>	<p>To examine this together with the outcome of the study to upgrade the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office (REO), and to recommend the way forward in 2002 (2000)</p>	<p>We have examined this subject in the feasibility study on upgrading the computer system in the REO. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To study the feasibility of upgrading the computer system in the REO with a view to improving services provided to electors (CAB)</p>	<p>To commence the feasibility study in 2000 (1999)</p>	<p>We have completed the feasibility study. We will work out an implementation plan to carry out the recommendations. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To study the various systems of government currently adopted in other parts of the world, with a view to developing a system which best suits Hong Kong's long-term interests (CAB)</p>	<p>To commence a study of the government systems of various places in the world in 2000 (1999)</p>	<p>We have conducted the study and will report the findings to the LegCo upon the completion of the study. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To examine the desirability and feasibility of a political party law in the light of our evolving electoral systems and the political situation of Hong Kong</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To commence the study after the LegCo election in 2000, with a view to assessing the desirability and feasibility of a political party law</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>We have started the study and are in the course of examining the various issues involved.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>