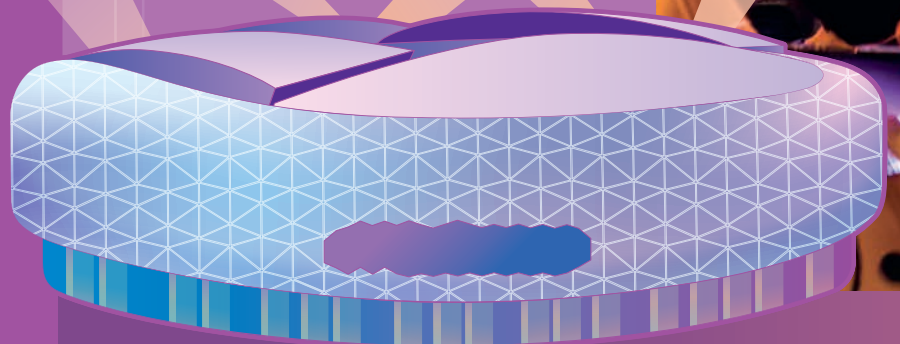


4

Leverage Hong Kong's International Advantages







Background

Hong Kong boasts its distinctive advantage of enjoying the strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world. We should maintain our international characteristics to best position Hong Kong in serving the country and providing our city with the strongest foundation to pursue its own development.

As reflected in the last two Policy Addresses, we spared no effort in pressing ahead with the establishment of the International Organization for Mediation's headquarters, which opened in Hong Kong in October 2025, signifying an important step in Hong Kong's journey to becoming a global legal hub. Hong Kong gives full play to the unique advantages of its bilingual common law system, using both Chinese and English under "One Country, Two Systems" and contributing to the upholding of the impartial international rule of law and order, with its dispute-resolution rules and mechanisms aligned with international standards. By enhancing our diversified and high-end dispute resolution services covering litigation, arbitration and mediation, pooling top legal talent and strengthening the alignment of rules and mechanisms with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, we will provide Mainland enterprises with the first-class international legal services they need when going global.

Strengthening the intellectual property (IP) protection regime is of vital importance in driving technological innovation and developing our cultural and creative industries. To ensure solid legal protection of outcomes from research and development, innovation, cultural and creative efforts, we will continue to promote the patents, trademarks, registered designs and copyright regimes, strengthen the in-house examination capacity under the original grant patent system, and make registration more efficient and convenient. We also promote IP valuation and financing, reduce IP trading costs and nurture talent in IP management and commercialisation. We will continue to consolidate the foundations for developing a regional IP trading centre.

Since the promulgation of the National 14th Five-Year Plan, our country has supported Hong Kong's development as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. With a unique background as a cultural melting point of East and West infrastructure, Hong Kong has long served as a bridge linking China and the international community. Hong Kong is among the world's top three arts-trading centres. We will further our efforts in advancing the establishment of a premium arts trading hub and reinforce our role as an international arts-trading platform. A strategic cultural investment, the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is also one of the world's largest cultural hubs. We will continue to support the WKCD in boosting the development of the cultural industry.

4

Leverage Hong Kong's International Advantages

Deepen the Development of an International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre

Build a Global Capital of Mediation to support the work of the International Organization for Mediation

- Continue to render full support to the work of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) headquartered in Hong Kong, including the general assembly and annual forum of the Governing Council of Contracting States to be held in Hong Kong in end-2026, and give priority consideration to the inclusion of the IOMed as a dispute resolution option in government contracts involving international commercial matters and international agreements to which the HKSAR is a party. (DoJ)
- Welcome the IOMed in accepting disputes in emerging industries, including commodity trading and space economy. (DoJ)
- Spearhead initiatives to promote “mediate first” to resolve disputes, including continuing to implement the incorporation of mediation clauses in all government contracts. (DoJ)

Expand the mediation culture

- The Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation will continue to provide mediation skills training for property management personnel to help them resolve neighbourhood disputes, such as those arising from water seepage in buildings. (DoJ)
- Launch the “three-tier mechanism for resolving building management disputes” in 2027. (HYAB)
- Facilitate the orderly implementation of the Basic Housing Unit regime, introduce the “Pro-bono Mediation Service Scheme for the Basic Housing Unit Regime” by end-2026 to resolve disputes between stakeholders. (HB)

- The Consumer Council will launch a pilot scheme on mediation to help consumers and traders resolve consumption disputes. (CEDB)
- Accept the seven recommendations made by the Working Group on Mediation Regulatory System and introduce a bill into the Legislative Council by end-2026, allowing the parties involved to apply for appointment of mediators by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited in case of failure to reach a consensus on the choice of mediators. (DoJ)

Support the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in establishing a presence in Hong Kong

- With 2026 marking the centenary of the establishment of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, strive for the establishment of its inaugural overseas liaison office in Hong Kong, which will mark its first presence outside its seat in Rome since its founding, highlighting Hong Kong's strategic position. (DoJ)

International Commercial Court

- Support the Judiciary in advancing the development of the International Commercial Court and inviting judges from other common law jurisdictions to adjudicate international commercial cases through more efficient procedures, with a view to complementing Hong Kong's existing international arbitration and mediation services and further consolidating Hong Kong's status as a major jurisdiction for handling international commercial litigation. (DoJ)

Advance the construction of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building

- Press ahead with preparatory work for the construction of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building, with construction targeted to begin by end-2027. (DoJ)

Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy

- The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy will organise a wider variety of programmes, explore conducting research on cross-jurisdictional topics covering common law and other legal systems, and organise high-end international seminars on a regular basis, with a view to developing into a legal capacity building centre for our country and the international community, particularly for Belt and Road countries, as well as a hub for the training, exchange and gathering of high-calibre legal talent. (DoJ)

Enhance Hong Kong's status as world's most preferred arbitration seat

- With reference to the recommendations of the Working Group on Arbitration Law Reform, strive to complete the legislative amendments for the Arbitration Ordinance within 2027 to continue to enhance Hong Kong's arbitration legal framework. (DoJ)
- Continue to implement the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors, and explore co-operation with international and regional sports associations to develop Hong Kong into an international sports dispute-resolution centre. (DoJ)

Rule of Law Education (ROLE) Ambassadors

- Continue to encourage the ROLE Ambassadors to play their role in promoting rule of law education in the community by providing assistance and support for their participation in or organisation of practical activities for promoting the rule of law, and continue to optimise and fine-tune the scheme based on the implementation. (DoJ)

Develop a Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Trading Centre

Protection of IP rights

- Proactively plan to update the local registered designs regime in 2027, such as commencing the drafting work to amend the primary legislation. (CEDB)
- Continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in Hong Kong. (CEDB)

Promote IP valuation and financing

- Prepare to launch the next phase of the IP financing sandbox with broader participation and more practical applications, based on market response. (CEDB)

External promotion

- The Business of IP Asia Forum scheduled for November 2026, with IP financing as the theme, will bring together experts from different places to pursue development opportunities. The forum will once again feature a business matching session to facilitate connection between Hong Kong IP professional services providers and Mainland enterprises, thereby supporting Mainland enterprises in leveraging Hong Kong as a platform to pursue IP trading globally. (CEDB)
- Continue to facilitate nominations of Hong Kong enterprises to compete for the China Patent Award, as a way to enhance the credibility and value of their patents. (CEDB)

Develop and expand the patent examination team

- Develop and expand the patent examination team, strengthen in-house examination capacity for original grant patents in major technology fields, and roll out pilot facilitation measures for the relevant original grant patent applications in 2027. (CEDB)

Launch the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Academy

- Officially launch the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Academy in the fourth quarter of 2026 to provide more systematic on-the-job talent training programmes with a higher level of recognition, raising the IP literacy of practitioners in sectors such as technological innovation, cultural and creative industries, commerce and industry, and professional services. (CEDB)

Formulate a regulatory framework for local patent agents

- Launch a public consultation on the regulation of local patent agency services within 2026, and formulate specific legislative proposals in 2027. (CEDB)

Reduce IP trading costs

- Introduce a bill within 2026 to implement tax deduction arrangements for capital expenditure incurred in purchasing IP rights or for the licence to use IP rights, to support IP trading's development. (CEDB)

Deepen top-level planning

- Establish the "Strategy Committee on Intellectual Property Trading Development", bringing together representatives from innovation, technology and the creative industries, as well as from commerce and industry, IP professional services and other sectors to assist the Government in formulating strategies and support measures for the promotion of IP trading. (CEDB)

Develop an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange

Boost the development of the cultural industry

- Scheduled to open in 2027, the WestK Performing Arts Centre will feature four more performance venues built to the highest international theatre standards. (CSTB)

- The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) will continue to tour exhibitions around the world and in the Mainland to showcase exhibitions and collections of M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum, as well as staging tour performances of performing arts programmes. For example, M+ is organising the "Geoffrey Bawa: Architecture for the Senses" exhibition in Germany in September 2026, while the WKCD is planning tour performances of "The Impossible Trial — a musical" in the Mainland in 2027. (CSTB)
- The Hong Kong Palace Museum will present its precious collections on overseas tours, including Australia and Uzbekistan, in the coming two years to promote traditional Chinese culture. (CSTB)
- The WestK Academy will, in 2027, continue to roll out short courses for the professional development of practitioners of local, Mainland and international arts and cultural organisations and young talents in the arts and culture and creative industries. (CSTB)
- Organise arts technology spotlight project at the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in 2027-28 to reinforce the centre's position as a flagship performance venue for long-running performances and arts technology in Hong Kong. (CSTB)
- Actively make good use of the five-year collaboration arrangement with Art Basel and explore measures to continuously strengthen Hong Kong's status as an international art trading platform. (CSTB)

Advance the establishment of a premium arts trading hub

- Complete a study on arts-trading centre within 2026 to consolidate our advantages. (CSTB)
- The West Kowloon Cultural District is set to welcome its first Mainland arts auction house in 2026. (CSTB)
- The WestK Academy will organise an international fellowship programme for auctioneers with Mainland trade association, and offer courses on Chinese arts and heritage conservation. (CSTB)

Reform funding for arts groups

- Inject \$200 million into the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Arts Portion). (CSTB)
- Introduce a funding and in-and-out mechanism for major performing arts groups (MPAGs) tied to their performance and artistic merit while maintaining the current overall funding level, so as to encourage innovation among MPAGs, and provide opportunities for medium-sized arts groups with consistently outstanding performance to become MPAGs. (CSTB)
- Continue to run the Pilot Scheme on the Use of School Venues by Arts Groups. (CSTB)

Construct a second Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' campus

- The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to take forward the temporary campus extension in Chai Wan and its long-term plan to construct a second campus in the Northern Metropolis. (CSTB)