

MESSAGE

We remain firmly committed to the full and faithful implementation of the Basic Law and the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. In the coming year, we will continue to advise other bureaux and departments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to ensure that they comply with the requirements set out in the Basic Law in the formulation and implementation of policy. We will also continue to provide other bureaux and departments with advice and assistance in the further development of a cordial and constructive working relationship with our Mainland counterparts.




Since Macao’s reunification in December 1999, it has, like Hong Kong, become a special administrative region directly under the Central People’s Government. We will facilitate our official contacts with the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and ensure that such contacts will be smooth and effective, and in a manner commensurate with the constitutional status of the two Special Administrative Regions.

We will develop our democratic institutions in accordance with the framework set out in the Basic Law. Our immediate tasks are to introduce a bill into the Legislative Council in mid-2001 to provide for the election of the second-term Chief Executive and to study how to formulate proposals on a political party law for public consultation. We will also continue to explore how we can capitalise on evolving technology to improve the quality of our electoral services.

I am delighted to present this Policy Objective booklet, which sets out the key initiatives of my Bureau and our commitments in these areas. My colleagues and I will do our best to achieve the targets set out in this booklet, and to maintain public confidence in the constitutional arrangements of the HKSAR.

We welcome your views on this booklet and suggestions for further improvement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, fluid, overlapping loops and a final horizontal stroke at the bottom right.

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

Confidence in the Constitutional Arrangements

**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 relationships with the Central People’s Government (CPG), other Mainland 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

We will also continue to work on other aspects of the Key Result Areas (KRAs) as detailed in the following sections.

Progress

In the past 12 months, we have facilitated and advised colleagues in other bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government on the implementation of the Basic Law in their respective areas of work, on managing our relationship with the CPG and other Mainland authorities in accordance with the Basic Law, and on enhancing the mutual understanding between HKSAR officials and their Mainland counterparts through visits and exchanges. We have also facilitated the promotion of the understanding of the Basic Law and provided secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC).

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.

On the electoral front, with the enactment of the District Councils Ordinance in March 1999, the first District Councils (DCs) election was held on 28 November 1999. Over 816 000 voters cast their votes in the election, representing a turnout rate of 35.82%. This surpassed the figure for the previous District Board election held in 1994.

In the past year, we have also devoted much effort to organising the second-term Legislative Council (LegCo) election. In collaboration with various departments and bureaux, we conducted a large-scale voter registration campaign with a special focus on young people from mid-January to mid-March 2000. After this two-month exercise, we saw an increase in the number of registered voters to over 3 million. More than 35% of the new voters are young people aged between 18 and 25.

To ensure that our elections would continue to be conducted fairly, openly and honestly and free from corrupt and illegal conduct, we introduced the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Bill which was enacted in February 2000. It replaced the outdated Corrupt and Illegal Practices Ordinance.

The poll for the second-term LegCo election took place on 10 September 2000, preceded by the Election Committee subsector election held on 9 July 2000. More than 1 330 000 voters cast their votes. The elections were conducted fairly, openly and honestly.

The Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Ordinance was enacted in December 1999. Amongst other things, it transferred the property, rights, liabilities, functions and powers of the Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) to the HKSAR Government and the relevant statutory bodies after the dissolution of PMCs on 31 December 1999. A new framework is now in place to take charge of the delivery of municipal services. The role of the DCs in advising on and monitoring municipal services delivery has also been enhanced.

We also achieved the following progress in our five KRAs.

1 Ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law and promote 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 also facilitated the promotion of the Basic Law and provided effective secretariat support to BLPSC. We have co-ordinated the implementation of the action plans endorsed by the Committee, including the activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. We have also commissioned a survey to gauge the community's level of understanding of the Basic Law and identify better means to promote understanding of the Basic Law. We have continued to operate a Basic Law Homepage to provide Basic Law related information over the Internet.

2 Ensure that the existing and new channels of communication and co-operation with the Mainland authorities function smoothly and effectively

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 other 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 within the HKSAR Government for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System.

3 Facilitate the 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 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. Up to September 2000, we have taken part in about 200 international conferences limited to states as part of the People's Republic of China's delegation. We also participated on our own, using the name "Hong Kong, China", in more than 3 600 international conferences not limited to states, including conferences whose participants were limited to governments as well as conferences whose participants were not limited to governments. As an indication, more than half of the conferences we attended on our own in the first two quarters of 2000 were limited to governments. Since reunification, a number of major international conferences and meetings were held in the HKSAR, including the 1997 World Bank Group/International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings, World Trade Organisation (WTO) Seminar for the Asian Region on "WTO and the Multilateral Trading System" in 1998, World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Asian Regional Symposium in 1998 and the Third Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in Asia-Pacific Region in 1999. Future important conferences to be held in the HKSAR include the International Telecommunication Union Telecom Asia 2000 scheduled for December 2000. Since reunification, we have negotiated and concluded 50 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 targets in 1999 were to conduct a major voter registration exercise in early 2000 and to make practical arrangements for the conduct of the LegCo election in 2000. We also pledged to ensure that our elections would remain open, fair and honest, and recognised as such by the community.

The Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance was enacted in February 2000 to ensure that our elections would be conducted fairly, openly and honestly and free from corrupt and illegal conduct.

With the completion of a major voter registration exercise conducted from mid-January to mid-March 2000, the number of registered voters

soared to over 3 million. In the run-up to the second-term LegCo election, we launched a large-scale publicity campaign to enlist community-wide support and encourage voters to vote on polling day. The election was successfully held on 10 September 2000, with over 1 330 000 registered voters casting their votes. The election was conducted on a fair, open and honest basis, in accordance with the framework laid down in the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance.

5 Implement necessary changes to the structure and functions of district organisations

The Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Ordinance was enacted in December 1999 to effect the transfer of the property, rights, liabilities, functions and powers of the PMCs to the HKSAR Government and the relevant statutory bodies after 31 December 1999. A new bureau was established and two departments were re-structured in January 2000 to improve co-ordination and service delivery in the areas of food safety and environmental hygiene as well as leisure and culture after the reorganisation. Eighteen DCs with expanded advisory and monitoring roles on municipal services were set up in January 2000 following the first DCs election held in November 1999.

Now that the entire reorganisation exercise has been completed, we will remove this KRA from our future reports.

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.

1

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

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) facilitates and 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). CAB will commission a survey at the end of 2000 or in early 2001 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. We will improve the design and contents of the Basic Law Homepage. We will also launch a focussed and intensive publicity programme in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 to increase the public’s understanding of specific provisions of the Basic Law.

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 advice to bureaux and departments so as 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.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative *	Target
<p>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</p> <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>	<p>To carry out the survey at the end of 2000 or in early 2001</p>
<p>To improve the design and contents of the Basic Law Homepage</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To complete the improvement exercise within 2000-2001</p>
<p>To launch a focussed and intensive publicity programme to increase people’s understanding of specific provisions of the Basic Law</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To carry out the publicity programme in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003</p>

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

2

Facilitate the maintenance and further development of cordial and constructive working relationships with the Central People's Government, other Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government

Bureaux and departments have established extensive working contacts with their Mainland counterparts in the relevant fields. Our working relationship with the Central People's Government (CPG) and other Mainland authorities has further developed after reunification. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) will continue to advise bureaux and departments on matters concerning the working relationship between the 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, including those at the provincial and municipal levels. We will further strengthen official visit programmes to and from the Mainland to enhance mutual understanding between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities.

CAB acts as the HKSAR Government's co-ordinator in the Cross-Boundary Liaison System and the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference. We 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 the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference to identify new areas of co-operation between the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial People's Government.

The Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) was established in December 1999. Like the HKSAR, it 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 in 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 relationships with the CPG, other Mainland authorities and the MSAR Government remain 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.

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

Initiative	Target
To advise on and facilitate official exchanges with the MSAR Government <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau)</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

3

Facilitate the 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. Specifically, we provide advice on HKSAR's participation in international organisations, the application of international agreements to the HKSAR, the need to obtain the Central People's Government's authorisation for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements, the participation in and hosting of international conferences, 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 responsible bureaux and departments in the HKSAR Government to obtain the necessary authorisations through the MFA Office. Since reunification, the HKSAR Government has signed some 50 bilateral agreements with foreign countries in various fields (including air services, reciprocal juridical assistance, visa abolition and customs co-operation) and continued to participate actively in international organisations and conferences. The HKSAR has, as before, been fully accepted and supported by our partners in the international community.

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 for the community to decide on 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, the Legislative Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1999 was enacted to provide for the legal basis for the conduct of the second-term LegCo election. The Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance and various pieces of subsidiary legislation were also enacted to set out a regulatory and procedural framework. The second-term LegCo election was held on 10 September 2000 in accordance with the requirements of these pieces of legislation. Over 1 330 000 registered voters cast their votes. This represents a turnout rate of 43.57%. Under the supervision of the Electoral Affairs Commission, the election was conducted in a fair, open and honest manner.

We are now conducting a comprehensive review of the practical arrangements for the election, with a view to identifying appropriate measures to further improve the arrangements for the next round of elections. We are studying the various systems of government currently adopted in other parts of the world, with a view to developing a system that best suits the HKSAR's interests. We are also examining the feasibility and desirability of introducing a political party law to the HKSAR.

Our targets for the coming year are to introduce the Chief Executive Election Bill into LegCo, and depending on the outcome of our study on the feasibility and desirability of introducing a political party law, to formulate legislative proposals for public consultation. We also aim to

examine measures to provide better electoral services for voters. We will identify feasible measures to maintain the updatedness of the electoral roll and examine ways to upgrade the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office. We will also study the feasibility of using more technology to improve our voting and counting processes.

The Panel on Constitutional Affairs of the first-term LegCo has produced a report on the development of the political system of the HKSAR. We will study the recommendations in consultation with relevant bureaux and departments. It remains our hope that by 2007, a mature view will have emerged in the community on the development of the political system after 2007.

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

- The formulation of legislative proposals for the election of the second-term Chief Executive in 2002 in accordance with the requirements in the Basic Law. Our target is to introduce a Bill into LegCo in mid-2001.
- The practicability of new electoral arrangements for the next round of elections. We are now conducting a comprehensive review of the practical arrangements for the second-term LegCo election. We are at the same time conducting a study to examine ways to upgrade the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office, including the feasibility of using more technology to improve our voting and counting processes. Our target is to identify new measures which are practical and convenient to both voters and candidates, for implementation in the next round of elections.
- The formulation of legislative proposals on a political party law for consultation with LegCo. We are studying the feasibility and desirability of introducing a political party law. Our target is to draw up legislative proposals for public consultation.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	Target
<p>To formulate legislative proposals for the election of the second-term Chief Executive in 2002 in accordance with the Basic Law</p> <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>	<p>To introduce a Chief Executive Election Bill into the Legislative Council in mid-2001</p>
<p>To study the recommendations of the report on the development of the political system of the HKSAR prepared by the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To study the recommendations in consultation with relevant bureaux and departments</p>
<p>To maintain the records of electors in voter registers as up-to-date as practicable</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To identify and consider feasible measures and work out an implementation plan in 2001</p>
<p>To examine the feasibility of introducing an automatic voter registration system</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To identify problems associated with automatic registration and work out possible solutions in 2001</p>
<p>To examine the desirability and feasibility of using more technology to improve our voting and counting processes</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To examine this together with the outcome of the study to upgrade the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office, and to recommend the way forward in 2002</p>

Confidence in the Constitutional Arrangements

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 –

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"> ● the requirements and arrangements for reporting to the Central People’s Government (CPG) (e.g. laws enacted, budget documents, etc.) ● the application of national laws to the HKSAR in accordance with the Basic Law ● matters relating to the CPG/HKSAR Government relationship in respect of the Adaptation of Laws <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i> ● 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> ● 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> 	<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>

* 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 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><i>(CAB)</i></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><i>(1998 and 1997)</i></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><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To co-ordinate HKSAR Government's input as necessary into the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG)</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To provide accurate and up-to-date information in a timely manner to the Chinese JLG Office as necessary to prepare for meetings until 1 January 2000</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We have successfully completed the target of co-ordinating HKSAR Government's input as necessary to the Chinese JLG Office.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</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 <i>(CAB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i> ● To facilitate the conduct of discussions with the Mainland authorities to establish arrangements for mutual juridical assistance such as service of judicial documents <i>(1998)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have provided sound advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law. ● 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 have commenced. <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

2

Ensure that the existing and new channels of communication and co-operation with the Mainland authorities function smoothly and effectively

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 advise bureaux and departments on developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with their Mainland counterparts, by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● advising on the proper handling of official contacts with the Mainland authorities, and as necessary assisting in making such contacts ● 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 <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle ● To encourage as appropriate direct contacts between HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts ● To encourage as appropriate official visits by HKSAR Government officials to the Mainland <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.</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 <i>(CAB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To ensure the smooth functioning of these channels ● To co-ordinate discussion of major issues of co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong at the Joint Conference and between the relevant experts <i>(1998)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have continued to act as the co-ordinator within the HKSAR Government for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System. ● The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection under the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference was held in June 2000. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

3

Facilitate the 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"> ● advise on the full implementation of international rights and obligations arising from the international agreements applicable to the HKSAR ● consolidate views within the HKSAR Government on the application of international agreements to the HKSAR ● 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 	<p>To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle <i>(1998 and 1997)</i></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 as well as the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● advise on matters relating to the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps ● advise on matters relating to the establishment in the HKSAR of foreign semi-official missions which requires CPG's permission ● advise on matters relating to HKSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences and the hosting of international conferences <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"> ● 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 ● 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 <p><i>(CAB)</i></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><i>(1998)</i></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 make suitable practical arrangements for the smooth conduct of the first District Councils election <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To conduct the election on 28 November 1999 <i>(1999)</i>	The election was held on 28 November 1999. <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To make suitable practical arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Legislative Council (LegCo) election in 2000 <i>(CAB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To conduct a large-scale voter registration exercise in early 2000 ● To launch a large-scale publicity campaign in mid-2000 to publicise the election and enhance community awareness of, and participation in, the election ● To conduct the election in September 2000 <i>(1999 and 1998)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A large-scale voter registration campaign was conducted from mid-January to mid-March 2000. As a result of this campaign, the number of registered voters increased to over 3 million. ● To promote the second-term LegCo election, we conducted a territory-wide publicity campaign from June to September 2000. ● The second-term LegCo election, which took place on 10 September 2000, attracted more than 1 330 000 voters casting their votes. <i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To study the feasibility of upgrading the computer system in the Registration and Electoral Office with a view to improving services provided to electors</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To commence the feasibility study in 2000</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>The study started in March 2000. We are now studying the recommendations with a view to working out an implementation plan.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</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</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To commence a study of the government systems of various places in the world in 2000</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>We have started the study after the second-term LegCo election.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<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</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>We have started the study after the second-term LegCo election.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

5

Implement necessary changes to the structure and functions of district organisations

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 formulate changes to the structure, functions, funding arrangements, executive support and composition of district organisations following the public consultation exercise. This will involve –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● introducing legislation to give effect to the changes of district organisations ● implementing organisational and functional changes to the two municipal services departments and possibly other government agencies <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>	<p>To complete the changes by the end of 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The District Councils Ordinance and the Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Ordinance were enacted in March and December 1999 respectively. A new structure is now in place to oversee the service delivery in the areas of food safety and environmental hygiene as well as leisure and culture after the reorganisation.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To make arrangements for the smooth conduct of the District Councils election. These will include publicising the election to enhance community awareness of, and participation in, the election</p> <p><i>(CAB)</i></p>	<p>To conduct the election in the last quarter of 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The election was held on 28 November 1999.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>