[Expert Advisory Group on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services holds first meeting (with photos)](#)

     The Expert Advisory Group on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services (EAG), established by the Department of Justice (DoJ) earlier this month, held its first meeting today (October 31). During the meeting, the EAG considered and endorsed its terms of reference and discussed future work and issues for follow-up.

     The EAG, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, and with the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan, as the vice-chairman, comprises experts from the legal and dispute resolution services sector. It advises the DoJ in respect of the promotion and development of the legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong for a term of three years. Its terms of reference are as follows:

1. Considering, formulating and advising on the overall strategies and initiatives for the promotion and development of Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services in and outside Hong Kong;
2. Advising on the wider use of out-of-court dispute resolution services (including mediation and arbitration) in Hong Kong;
3. Serving as a forum for raising and discussing such issues as may be of concern to the legal and dispute resolution sector to enhance Hong Kong as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region; and
4. Considering and dealing with such other matters as may be incidental to any of the matters stated above.

     Meanwhile, the Working Group on Mediation Regulatory System, chaired by Mr Lam and vice-chaired by Mr Cheung, has also been established this October for a term of two years. Members of the Working Group will advise the DoJ on the mediation regulation regime in Hong Kong, including reviewing and making recommendations to reform or improve the current regime in relation to matters such as accreditation and disciplinary matters.
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     The membership lists of the EAG and the Working Group are attached in Annexes 1 and 2.