

## Third Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference held virtually (with photo)

Following the success of the second Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference held online last year on December 11, the third Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference was also held online due to pandemic prevention this afternoon (December 10).

Those attending the third Joint Conference included the Director-General of the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province, Mr Chen Xudong; the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; and the Secretary for Administration and Justice of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, Mr Cheong Weng Chon.

At the meeting, the three parties endorsed both the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards and the GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice. The three parties further agreed to follow up on the establishment of the GBA Mediation Rules at the working level. In addition, the three parties actively exchanged views regarding arbitration, the support of Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners practicing as lawyers in the nine Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and exchange and mutual learning within the three legal departments.

Speaking at the Joint Conference, Ms Cheng pointed out that the three parties should make good use of the Joint Conference infrastructure in order to facilitate the harmonisation of the systems and laws in the Greater Bay Area, which will then contribute to its high-quality development. Ms Cheng also encouraged Hong Kong legal practitioners who passed the GBA Legal Professional Examination to deliver their legal services to individuals and corporations in need competently and diligently, thereby dedicating their professionalism to serving the nation's needs.

Ms Cheng expressed gratitude to the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province for setting up the third Joint Conference. She said she looked forward to the fourth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference, which will be held in Hong Kong next year. She expected to personally meet delegates from the other two sides by then.

