

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

**Policy Initiative of
the Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office**

INTRODUCTION

The 2006-07 Policy Agenda sets out the Government's new and on-going policy initiatives up to June 2007. This note describes the initiative in the Policy Agenda that relates to the Administration Wing, and highlights those items on which we intend to brief the Panel in this legislative session.

2006-07 POLICY AGENDA

Effective Governance

Initiative

Promote legislation to implement the arrangement for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in specific commercial matters with the Mainland.

2. On 14 July 2006, the Secretary of Justice and the representative of the Supreme People's Court signed the Arrangement for Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments in Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR Pursuant to Choice of Court Agreements between Parties Concerned. The Department of Justice will introduce the Mainland Judgment (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill in this legislative session.

OTHER ONGOING MEASURES

3. We are conducting the 2006 review of the financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants. We intend to consult the Panel in November 2006.

4. We last reported the progress of the review of criminal legal aid fee system in our letter of 15 May 2006. Four meetings have been

held with representatives of the two legal professional bodies and the Judiciary since March 2006. We are now in active discussion with the stakeholders on the details of an improved system. We will report to the Panel on further developments as soon as practicable.

5. We provided the Panel with an interim update on the progress of the pilot scheme on mediation of legally aided matrimonial cases (the Pilot Scheme) on 22 May 2006. We aim to complete the final evaluation of the Pilot Scheme by mid 2007 and to revert to the Panel before the end of the legislative session.

Administration Wing
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

October 2006