

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 20 October 2006)

**Proposed
timing for
discussion**

Items carried forward from the 2005-06 session

1. Applicability of HKSAR laws to offices set up by the Central People's Government in HKSAR

The item was discussed at a number of meetings of the Panel since 1998, and last discussed on 26 June 2001.

To be confirmed
by the Admin

In response to the Panel's request for an update on the item and advice on the timing for reverting to the Panel, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs advised on 26 November 2004 and 30 September 2005 that the relevant policy bureaux and departments would introduce the legislative amendments in due course, having regard to competing legislative priorities. The Administration would consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) when concrete legislative proposals were formulated.

2. Review of provision of legal aid services

In October 2001, the Panel formed a Working Group to examine the relevant ordinances and subsidiary legislation concerning the provision of legal aid services in order to identify issues for the purpose of review and to make recommendations where appropriate. A list of issues for review (LC Paper No. CB(2)2646/01-02) was endorsed by the Panel and sent to the Director of Administration (D of Adm) for consideration on 1 August 2002.

November 2006

At a number of meetings held in 2003, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's responses to issues such as scope of legal aid, financial eligibility limits for legal aid applicants, assessment of financial resources and legal aid in criminal proceedings (LC Paper No. CB(2)2581/02-03(03)).

A number of meetings were held by the Panel to discuss the findings of the annual (2002 – 2005) and biennial (2002 and 2004) reviews of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants and the five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing financial eligibility of legal aid applicants completed in May 2003.

At the meeting on 23 January 2006, Hon KWONG Chi-kin urged the Administration to extend the Director of Legal Aid's exemption power to waive the financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants to cover cases pertaining to the provisions in the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57). The Chairman suggested that the Panel could discuss issues related to legal aid when it considered the Administration's response to the Consultation Paper on Conditional Fees published by the Subcommittee of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) at a future meeting. The Administration's response to the Subcommittee of LRC was issued to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)3152/05-06(01) on 5 October 2006.

In her letter dated 29 September 2006, D of Adm proposed to consult the Panel on the findings of the 2006 annual and biennial review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants in November 2006.

3. Criminal legal aid fees system

The issue of criminal legal aid fees system was raised by the Bar Association and Law Society at the Panel meetings on 23 June and 29 July 2003 when the item on "Review of provision of legal aid services" was discussed. The two legal professional bodies were of the view that the existing system was outdated and should be reviewed.

To be confirmed
by D of Adm

The Panel received submissions from the Bar Association and the Law Society respectively (issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1588/04-05(01) on 18 May 2005 and CB(2)1793/04-05(01) on 6 June 2005). The Administration was also urged to expedite the review of the criminal legal aid fees system by a working party as suggested by the Chief Justice (CJ).

The Panel also noted the view of the Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) that there was a need to review the Rules (letter from the Chairman of LASC to D of Adm issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)260/05-06(01) on 1 November 2005).

The Panel discussed this item at the meeting on 15 December 2005. D of Adm informed members that the Administration would invite representatives from the two legal professional bodies, the Judiciary, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Legal Aid Department before Christmas for joint discussion on the review. The Administration was requested to report progress of the review to the Panel in six months' time.

D of Admin reported progress to the Panel in May 2006. D of Adm

advised on 29 September 2006 that it had held four meetings with the relevant stakeholders since March 2006 to discuss the details of an improved system. D of Admin will report to the Panel again on further developments as soon as practicable.

4. Court procedure for repossession of premises

At the meeting on 22 July 2002, the Panel agreed to follow up the item referred by the Bills Committee on Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill 2001. The Bills Committee considered that a fast-track procedure might have to be worked out for landlords to claim repossession of premises, particularly in the event of repeated defaults in payment of rent by tenants. Additional manpower and financial resources might be required to facilitate the courts in handling these claims.

November 2006

At the Panel meetings on 29 January and 24 May 2004, the Judiciary Administration briefed the Panel on the measures introduced within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary to streamline the court procedure for repossession of premises. The Judiciary Administration also informed the Panel that CJ had directed that the Lands Tribunal Rules (LTR) as a whole should be reviewed, and the Panel would be consulted when the review was completed.

At its meeting on 25 April 2005, the Panel discussed the Judiciary Administration's paper on the review of both the Lands Tribunal Ordinance and the LTR (LC Paper No. CB(2)1320/04-05(02)).

The Judiciary Administration advised on 29 September 2006 that it had just completed its consultation with the two legal professional bodies, and was finalizing the measures to be introduced to streamline the court procedure for repossession of premises. It proposed to revert to the Panel in November 2006.

5. Budgetary arrangement for the Judiciary

The Research Report on "Budgetary arrangements for overseas judiciaries" prepared by RLSD and the Administration's paper explaining the budgetary arrangements for the Judiciary were discussed at the meeting on 24 November 2003.

Second quarter of 2007

The Panel considered that the Judiciary's budgetary arrangement should be reviewed to build in clearer institutional safeguards to ensure that judicial independence was not subject to executive influence, and that the Judiciary was provided with adequate resources for the proper administration of justice. The Panel had made a number of suggestions for the consideration of the Administration and the Judiciary, such as

there should be a general rule against reduction of the Judiciary budgetary provision and the Judiciary should have autonomy to determine its budget based on objective yardsticks.

The Administration agreed to adopt a revised budgetary arrangement for the Judiciary's draft Estimates for 2006-2007 and to extend the revised arrangement as a standing practice for the coming Estimates.

However, the Administration did not agree to members' suggestion that there should be a general rule or practice against reduction of the Judiciary's budgetary provision, as the Administration could not rule out the need for downward adjustments to the Judiciary's funding provision having regard to overall economic constraints. As regards the suggestion that the Judiciary should have autonomy to determine its budget on the basis of some objective yardsticks or predetermined formulae, both the Administration and the Judiciary advised that they would adopt an open mind on any suggested measures within the parameters of the Basic Law. However, as the revised budgetary arrangement had just been in place and had worked satisfactorily, the situation would be closely monitored before they would consider whether any further measures were necessary.

The Judiciary Administration advised in September 2006 that it would submit a paper to the Panel in the second quarter of 2007.

6. Professional Indemnity Scheme of the Law Society

In response to the request of the Subcommittee on Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) (Amendment) Rules 2001, the Law Society agreed to conduct an independent review of the insurance arrangement under its Professional Indemnity Scheme. The purpose of the review was to consider whether at the end of the five-year reinsurance contract (expiring on 30 September 2005) the Law Society should maintain the existing mutual scheme with or without amendment, or to demutualise the scheme and put into effect such other options as might be proposed as a result of the review. In its report to the House Committee on 26 October 2001, the Subcommittee recommended that this Panel should follow up the progress of the review.

Early 2007

At the meeting on 18 December 2003, the Law Society briefed the Panel on the "Review Report on Insurance Arrangements of the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Scheme" prepared by Willis. The Panel discussed the matter at two subsequent meetings on 26 April and 14 June 2004 respectively.

At the meeting on 22 November 2004, the Law Society informed the Panel that its members had voted for a Qualifying Insurers Scheme

(QIS) to replace the existing scheme, and it would proceed with the drafting of the relevant rules to implement the new scheme.

At the meeting on 27 June 2005, the Law Society briefed the Panel on the proposed QIS and provided a copy of the 4th draft of the Solicitors' Professional Indemnity Qualifying Insurance Rules. The Panel was advised that a more realistic date for implementing a QIS would be 1 October 2006.

The Law Society updated the Panel on the progress on the implementation of the QIS at the meeting on 27 March 2006. The Panel noted that the Administration had indicated its support in principle of the QIS, subject to the conditions set out in its letter dated 16 February 2006 to the Law Society (LC Paper No. CB(2)1204/05-06(03)).

In its letter dated 18 May 2006, the Law Society informed the Panel that its members had voted by a large majority not to replace the existing Professional Indemnity Scheme by a QIS at its Extraordinary General Meeting on 27 April 2006. The Law Society had set up a Professional Indemnity Scheme Review Working Party to identify any deficiencies in the existing scheme, consider how they might be remedied, and make appropriate recommendations (LC Paper No. CB(2)2079/05-06(01)). The Panel has requested the Law Society to revert to the Panel on further developments in due course. The Law Society advised in its letter dated 5 June 2006 that the Working Party would report back to the Law Society Council in six months.

7. Review of legislative provisions containing the drafting formula "to the satisfaction" of an enforcement agency

The item was referred by the Subcommittee on proposed resolution under section 7 of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and discussed by the Panel on 18 December 2003. October 2006

The Panel requested DOJ to undertake an analysis of the judgment of the Court of First Instance on the Lam Geotechnics case with a view to assessing the extent of its impact on existing legislative provisions containing similar drafting formula, before deciding whether it should proceed to conduct a comprehensive review on the legislative provisions.

At the Panel's meeting on 12 July 2005, DOJ informed the Panel that it had identified 86 provisions in subsidiary legislation and 10 provisions in principal legislation containing drafting formulas similar to the phrase "to the satisfaction of". It appeared that the elements of offence under those provisions were not clearly set out.

The Administration conducted an internal consultation, and briefed the Panel on the outcome at the meeting on 24 April 2006. The Administration considered that the “to the satisfaction of” requirement should be retained so as to ensure public safety. A general statutory provision would be introduced in each of the 96 provisions, and the drafting of section 306(3) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) would be adopted. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel after consulting the relevant bureaux on the amendments to each of the 96 provisions and on the issues raised by members at the meeting.

DOJ has proposed to revert to the Panel in October 2006.

8. Development of Hong Kong as a legal services centre

The item was discussed by the Panel at its meeting on 22 March 2004. At the meeting, DOJ briefed the Panel on, among other things, the undertaking of a consultancy study on the demand for and supply of legal and related services in Hong Kong. DOJ provided supplementary information on the cost of the consultancy study, the consultant selected to conduct the study and other relevant details after the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)3139/03-04(01)).

December 2006

At the meeting of the Chairman with the Administration on 3 November 2004, DOJ advised that the consultancy study had begun, and the first report by the Consultants was expected to be available after July 2005. It was agreed that the matter should be followed up in the 2005-2006 session.

This item was originally scheduled for discussion on 24 July 2006 but deferred to the 2007-2008 session at the request of the Administration. At the meeting on 12 October 2006, a member suggested to discuss the item in December 2006.

9. Transcript fees

Issues relating to the fee charging mechanism for production of transcripts of court proceedings and the impact of transcript fees on litigants' ability to pursue appeals were first discussed at the Panel meeting on 23 June 2003, and followed up at the meeting on 28 June 2004. The Panel requested the Judiciary Administration to consider, inter alia, standardising the fee charging mechanism for both criminal and civil appeal cases, and specifying clear policy guidelines on the circumstances under which the court might exercise discretion to waive the transcript fees in appeal cases.

December
2006/January
2007

The Judiciary Administration briefed the Panel on its proposals on how the fees for transcript and record of proceedings at all levels of court should be set and administered on 15 December 2005. Members and the Law Society had expressed reservation about the proposed revised fees. The Panel requested the Judiciary Administration to reconsider whether the proposed fees could be further reduced, and defer the implementation date pending further discussion on the matter by the Panel. The Chairman also requested the Judiciary Administration to provide a table to set out the fees proposed for different types of transcript, the types of transcript which were subject to the waiver mechanism, and those which would be supplied to the parties without charge for members' reference.

The Judiciary Administration advised in September 2006 that it intended to consult the two legal professional bodies on the revised charges before reverting to the Panel in December 2006/January 2007.

10. Juvenile justice system

On the recommendation of this Panel and the Panel on Security, a Subcommittee was formed by the House Committee on 7 November 2003 to follow up the policy issues arising from the review on juvenile justice system.

To be confirmed
by the Admin

The Subcommittee's report was endorsed by the House Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2004 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2895/03-04). The Subcommittee recommended that the Administration should report to the relevant Panels on the following issues in the 2004-2005 legislative session –

- (a) the effectiveness of the enhanced support measures introduced by the Administration since October 2003; and
- (b) the outcome of the review on the development of a new juvenile justice system incorporating the principles and practices of restorative justice.

Where appropriate, the Panel(s) might recommend to the House Committee the setting up of a subcommittee to follow up the relevant issues.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child issued its concluding observations on 30 September 2005 after consideration of the report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee has made a number of recommendations relating to criminal responsibility and legal protection of a child in its

concluding observations. At its meeting on 8 November 2005, the Panel on Home Affairs agreed that the relevant recommendations should be referred to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services for follow-up.

Enhanced support resources for unruly children and young offenders

The Administration provided a paper setting out the progress and effectiveness of the enhanced support measures targeting at unruly children and young offenders (circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2508/04-05(01) on 31 August 2005).

Development of a new juvenile justice system

As regards the issue of development of a new juvenile justice system incorporating principles and practices of restorative justice, the Administration advised that it was a more complex matter and deliberations among bureaux and departments were still ongoing (LC Paper No. CB(2)1760/04-05(01) issued on 2 June 2005).

11. Limited liability for professional practices

At its meeting on 31 March 2005, the Panel considered the Research Report on “Limited Liability Partnership and Liability Capping Legislation for the Practice of Law in Selected Places” (RP04/04-05) and a submission made by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) on professional liability reform in Hong Kong.

To be decided by
the Panel

The Panel continued discussion on the relevant issues at its meeting on 23 May 2005, with particular reference to the report prepared by the Law Society’s Working Party on Limited Liability Partnership. DOJ advised the Panel that it would prepare a paper on the subject matter for the consideration of the Policy Committee in about six months’ time.

The Consumer Council, which was represented at the Panel meeting on 31 March 2005, submitted its preliminary views on the issue of limited liability partnership to the Panel in a letter dated 24 June 2005 (circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2210/04-05(01)).

At the meeting on 27 March 2006, the Administration informed members that it had decided that no further studies would be carried out into proposals on limitation of liability to pay compensation during the remainder of the Chief Executive (CE)’s term of office. Members, the Law Society and the HKICPA were disappointed at the Administration’s decision and agreed to relay members’ views to the Financial Secretary for consideration (LC Paper No. CB(2)1645/05-06(01)). On 16 May 2006, the Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury replied on behalf of the Financial Secretary, reiterating that the Administration had already taken account of all the arguments put forth by the relevant professional organizations as well as views expressed by the Panel in arriving at the decision that no further studies would be carried out into the proposals for limiting liability during the remainder of CE's term of office (LC paper No. CB(2)2061/05-06(01)).

12. Solicitors' rights of audience

The item was proposed by the Law Society.

To be confirmed
by JA

In June 2004, CJ appointed the Working Party on Solicitors' Right of Audience to consider whether solicitors' existing rights of audience should be extended and if so, the mechanism for dealing with the grant of extended rights of audience to solicitors.

On 9 June 2006, the Working Party issued a Consultation Paper on Solicitors' Rights of Audience to solicit public views on whether solicitors should be granted extended rights of audience in the higher courts of Hong Kong (issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2312/05-06(01)). The consultation period runs until 31 August 2006.

The Judiciary Administration advised in September 2006 that it would advise the Panel of the proposed timing of discussion having regard to the work plan of CJ's working party.

13. Reform of the law of arbitration

At its meeting on 27 June 2005, the Panel discussed the proposal made in the Report issued by the Committee on Hong Kong Arbitration Law of The Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators to apply the Model Law of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to both domestic and international arbitrations in Hong Kong. The implementation of the proposal would result in a unitary regime whereby the distinction between the two types of arbitrations in the Arbitration Ordinance would be abolished.

Second half of the
session

The Panel supported the Administration to proceed to the next stage of formation of a working group to draft legislation and to issue the draft legislation as a consultative document. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on progress and development in due course.

This item was originally scheduled for discussion on 26 June 2006 but has been deferred to the 2007-2008 session at the request of the

Administration.

14. Maximum sentence for offence of perverting the course of justice

DOJ proposed to consult the Panel on the issue of revising the sentencing limit in section 101I of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221). It would prepare and circulate a public consultation paper seeking the views of interested parties including the legal profession, the law schools and the Judiciary Administration. The consultation process was expected to be completed in mid-2005.

November 2006

At the meeting on 22 May 2006, DOJ briefed the Panel on its proposed amendment to section 101I of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) to remove the limit for the maximum period of imprisonment of seven years for an offence of doing an act tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice, and to provide for such an offence to be punishable by fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court. Some members expressed reservation on the basis for granting such a discretion to the court. At the request of the Panel, DOJ undertook to provide information on the maximum years of imprisonment for the offence of perverting the course of public justice and the sentences imposed by the courts in other common law jurisdictions; as well as the relevant case law.

15. Enforcement of judgment in civil cases

The issue of enforcement of Labour Tribunal awards, among other things, was examined by the Judiciary's Working Party on the Review of the Labour Tribunal. The Report issued by the Working Party in June 2004 was considered at a number of joint meetings of this Panel and the Panel on Manpower.

October 2006

The Chairman wrote to D of Adm on 11 March 2005 to seek the Administration's views on, inter alia, how the existing mechanism of enforcement of court judgments in civil cases in general, and in labour and matrimonial cases in particular, could be improved. In its reply dated 19 September 2006 (issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)3092/05-06(01) on 26 September 2006), the Administration advised that since Principal Officials were each responsible for specific policy portfolios, if the Panel identified problems in enforcing judgments in specific areas, they would be glad to help refer the matter to the relevant bureaux, for them to consider the need to introduce appropriate measures to address the specific problems, taking account of policy and resources consideration. At the meeting on 12 October 2006, members agreed to discuss the issue at the regular meeting on 23 October 2006.

16. Recovery agents

An Executive Summary and a report from the Special Committee on Recovery Agents of the Bar Association was circulated to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1516/04-05(01) on 10 May 2005 (Appendix I to the report was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1646/04-05 on 23 May 2005). A circular on "Recovery Agents" issued by the Law Society to its members was circulated to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1609/04-05(01) on 19 May 2005.

Second half of the session

The Panel discussed this item at its meeting on 28 November 2005. The Administration subsequently provided a paper to explain the measures implemented to prevent illegal activities of recovery agents and its policy on recovery agents, which was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1560/05-06(01) on 28 March 2006.

In view of the on-going investigation by the Police of certain suspected cases, the on-going consultation regarding conditional fees which might have a bearing on the policy regarding recovery agents, and the current developments of the statutory framework to regulate recovery agent activities in the UK, the Administration proposed to continue to monitor the situation in Hong Kong and the UK before deciding the way forward.

17. Pilot Scheme on mediation of legally aided matrimonial cases

At the special meeting of the Panel on 17 October 2005 when members received a briefing on CE's Policy Address 2005/2006 by D of Adm, some members expressed concern about the small number of cases referred to the Legal Aid Department (LAD)'s Pilot Scheme and proceeded to mediation since the Scheme was launched on 15 March 2005.

End of 2006-2007 LegCo session

The Panel considered the Administration's interim progress report on the Pilot Scheme at the meeting on 22 May 2006. The Administration aimed to conduct a final evaluation of the Pilot Scheme in around mid 2007 and to report to the Panel before the end of the 2006-2007 session. The Administration also agreed to provide information on the relevant schemes of the Administration and Judiciary to the Panel (paragraphs 30 and 39 of the minutes of meeting on 22 May 2006 refer).

18. Civil Justice Reform

The Final Report of the Working Party on Civil Justice Reform was published on 3 March 2004, with a total of 150 recommendations. On

December 2006

19 March 2004, CJ announced that he had accepted all the recommendations made by the Working Party. It was expected that it would take two to three years to implement the recommendations.

On 12 April 2006, the Steering Committee on Civil Justice Reform appointed by CJ issued a Consultation Paper on Proposed Legislative Amendments for the Implementation of the Civil Justice Reform to seek views from the legal profession and other interested parties by 12 July 2006. The Judiciary Administration gave a briefing to the Panel on the Consultation Paper at the meeting on 26 June 2006.

The Judiciary Administration advised in September 2006 that it was consolidating and considering all the comments received and aimed to report the outcome of the consultation exercise and the way forward to the Panel in December 2006.

19. Policy relating to recruitment of law draftsmen

At the meeting on 24 April 2006, the Panel expressed concern about the recruitment of draftsmen with experience and competency in drafting legislation in English. It requested DOJ to review its policy relating to recruitment of law draftsmen to the Law Drafting Division of DOJ e.g. to consider, inter alia, relaxing the requirement in respect of Chinese language proficiency for appointment. DOJ agreed to conduct a review on the present arrangements and would let the Panel know its conclusions as soon as possible.

To be confirmed
by DOJ

The Panel also requested DOJ to provide other relevant information (paragraph 64 of the minutes of meeting on 24 April 2006 refers).

20. Review of The Ombudsman Ordinance

At the meeting on 15 December 2005, Hon Emily LAU suggested that the Panel should follow up the review of The Ombudsman Ordinance (Cap. 397) which was being conducted by the Ombudsman. Members agreed to request the Research and Library Services Division to conduct a research study on the purviews of ombudsmen in overseas jurisdictions.

To be confirmed
by D of Adm

At the meeting on 26 June 2006, the Research Report on "Jurisdiction of Ombudsman Systems in Selected Places" was presented to the Panel. The Panel noted that the Ombudsman would complete her review for submission to the Administration in a few months' time.

In response to the Panel's request for a copy of the review report when it

is available, the Administration has advised that if the Ombudsman's proposals involve policy on legislative changes, it will consult the relevant parties on a need basis. As regards the Panel's request that a consultation document be issued to seek public views on the report, the Administration is of the view that the course of actions to be taken will depend on the content of the report and what aspects of the report the public will be interested in. (The Administration's reply was issued to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2688/05-06 on 10 July 2006.)

The Administration advised in September 2006 that it would study the Ombudsman's conclusions when her report was received, and consider consulting the Panel where appropriate.

21. Implementation of a five-day week for the Judiciary

At the meeting on 26 June 2006, the Judiciary Administration briefed the Panel on the implementation of a five-day week in the Judiciary by three phases –

December 2006

- (a) Phase I would commence on 1 July 2006. No court sittings would normally be listed on Saturdays, except for admission ceremonies for senior counsel, barristers and solicitors in the High Court. A five-day week would also apply to those back offices without any interface with members of the public;
- (b) Phase II, which would commence on 1 January 2007, covered services with a public interface where the implementation of a five-day week would require administrative preparations but not legislative amendments. The offices which were likely to be covered under Phase II included libraries and the Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants; and
- (c) Phase III would cover services with a public interface where the implementation of a five-day week would require legislative amendments. These included the court registries and general offices of Magistrates' Courts, Accounts Offices, Bailiffs' Offices, Probate Registry and Oaths and Declarations Office. The implementation of Phase III and its timing would depend on the outcome of the comprehensive study being conducted by the Judiciary Administration on all necessary amendments to legislation as well as Practice Directions.

The Judiciary Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on its final

decision concerning the implementation of a five-day week under Phase II and Phase III in November 2006.

New items proposed

22. Legislative proposals

DOJ proposes to brief the Panel on the main features of the following three bills jointly at around November 2006 before they are introduced into the Council in second half of the session – November 2006

(a) Mainland Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill 2007

This Bill aims to give effect to the "Arrangement on Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong SAR pursuant to Choice of Court Agreements between Parties Concerned" signed on 14 July 2006. The substance of the Arrangement was discussed at the last session.

(b) Domicile Bill 2007

This Bill aims to implement the recommendations made in the Law Reform Commission's Report on Rules for Determining Domicile published in April 2005.

(c) Statue Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2007

This is an "omnibus" bill comprising more than 10 non-controversial amendments to various ordinances.