

(Translation)

**The People's Government of the
Shenzhen Municipality**

**Department of Justice of the Hong
Kong Special Administrative Region**

Co-operative Arrangement on Legal Matters

For reference only

Whereas under the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020), the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation and other documents, emphasis is placed on strengthening cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, and in order to implement pilot measures and to enhance communication, liaison and exchanges on legal matters between the two regions, as well as to facilitate cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and the effective implementation of the relevant measures of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and its Supplements, the People's Government of the Shenzhen Municipality and the Department of Justice of Hong Kong have reached a consensus after consultation and agreed on the following Arrangement:

1. Major Objectives and Principles of Cooperation

Both sides agree to set up a legal cooperation mechanism between the Governments of Shenzhen and Hong Kong to provide a platform for high-level exchanges for government organs and the legal profession of the two regions. In compliance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and in adherence to the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", the two sides shall, through the cooperation mechanism, facilitate the cooperation and exchanges on legal matters of the Governments and the development of the related legal environment, establish a working relationship based on mutual benefit, promote the development of legal and arbitration services in Qianhai and other areas, as well as foster active exchanges and cooperation of the legal and arbitration professionals of the two regions.

2. Key Areas of Cooperation

(1) The two sides shall give each other prompt notice on major legal issues which may be of relevance to the other side and may consult the other where necessary.

(2) Each side may seek the assistance of the other in providing legal information and precedent cases necessary for understanding and making reference to the relevant laws of the other side in its legislative process.

(3) The two sides shall engage in prompt communication and exchanges on legal issues relating to Shenzhen-Hong Kong cooperation projects, in particular the promotion of modern services in the Qianhai Area, and where necessary, jointly conduct study and examination as well as exchange views and make recommendations on the resolution of related legal issues.

(4) Subject to the availability of legal resources of the two sides, both sides shall make arrangements for mutual exchanges and training of staff as well as to facilitate visits and training of staff of the other side.

3. Major Forms of Cooperation

(1) A joint conference system for legal cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong shall be set up under which high-level officials of both sides shall meet once every year to examine important issues including legal cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and the development of the legal environment in the Qianhai Area.

(2) Relevant task force on legal cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong shall be established as necessary for exchanges and communication on legal matters in relation to the cooperation between the two sides, and where necessary representatives and experts from the legal, arbitration, mediation or other communities in the Mainland, Shenzhen and Hong Kong may be invited to take part in the study and examination of the related legal issues.

(3) Subject to the availability of resources, the two sides may jointly organise forums and seminars on legal cooperation as necessary for the members of the legal, arbitration, mediation or other communities in both regions with a view to enhancing the standard of professional services of both regions.

4. Cooperation Mechanism

To facilitate timely communication and liaison between the two sides on matters relating to the Arrangement and relevant cooperation projects, both sides agree that the Legislative Affairs Office of the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the Legal Policy Division of the Department of Justice of Hong Kong shall be the organs for liaison. Each side shall designate liaison officers who shall be responsible for the liaison and facilitate timely exchange of information.

5. Amendment of the Arrangement

Where necessary, the Arrangement may be amended in writing as agreed by both sides after consultation.

6. Duration of the Arrangement

The Arrangement shall be operative for five years from the date it comes into effect. Upon expiry, it may continue to be in operation by way of exchange of correspondence as agreed by both sides after consultation.

7. Commencement of the Arrangement

The Arrangement in the Chinese language signed in quadruplicate (two copies each of the traditional and simplified Chinese versions) in Hong Kong this 25th day of November 2011, shall come into effect on the day of signature.

Chen Yingchun
Vice-Mayor
People's Government of the
Shenzhen Municipality

Wong Yan Lung
Secretary for Justice
Department of Justice of the
Hong Kong Special
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