

**For discussion  
on 15 January 2018**

**Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Promotion of the Basic Law**

**PURPOSE**

This paper sets out the work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on promoting the Basic Law.

**PROMOTION OF THE BASIC LAW**

**The Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law**

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution), the HKSAR was established and the National People's Congress (NPC) enacted the Basic Law of the HKSAR, prescribing the systems to be practised in the HKSAR and stating clearly that the basic policies of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy will be implemented in Hong Kong. The Basic Law is a national law and has a constitutional status under the legal system in the HKSAR.

3. The Constitution and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR and provide the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to let the general public have a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law.

4. On promotion of the Basic Law, the Basic Law Promotion

Steering Committee (BLPSC) led by the Chief Secretary of Administration was established in 1998. It provides the necessary steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law and coordinates the promotional and educational efforts of various parties concerned both in the Government and in the community. Five working groups are set up under the Steering Committee, namely, Working Group (“WG”) on Local Community; WG on Teachers and Students; WG on Civil Servants; WG on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and WG on Overseas Community. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), the Education Bureau (EDB), the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), the Trade and Industry Department (TID) and the Information Services Department (ISD) provide secretariat services to the five working groups respectively and assist the working groups in organising activities to promote the Basic Law to the respective sectors. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the BLPSC organised the “Basic Law Seminar in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” in November last year and invited Mr LI Fei, Chairman of the HKSAR Basic Law Committee under the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress to be the keynote speaker on the topic of “The role and mission of Hong Kong, as a special administrative region of China, under the Constitution and the Basic Law”.

5. Moreover, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been promoting a comprehensive and thorough public understanding of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law via various means, including organising large-scale thematic seminars; promotion through the electronic media (such as Internet and smart-phone applications); organising regular roving exhibitions at the district level; arranging the Basic Law mobile resource centres to pay visits to different districts and schools; and providing sponsorship to community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various Basic Law promotional activities, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, etc. Last year, we set up a new website “Basic Law Court Case Database” which contains court cases, judgments and judicial explanations related to the Basic Law, so that members of the public may have convenient access through simple search engine functions to understand the provision and contents of the

Basic Law through these court cases. The database also includes other interesting and practical information such as "Basic Law Questions and Answers" and a "Basic Law Time Capsule" to enhance the interest of various sectors of the community in understanding the Basic Law.

6. Among the various sectors, the Government especially attaches importance to the education and promotion work on the Basic Law for students/young people and public officers. Students/young people are the future of our community and the core pillars of Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. They need to fully and correctly understand the Basic Law. On the other hand, public officers as a member of the governing team shoulder the task of thoroughly implementing the Basic Law in Hong Kong and thus have the responsibility to have an in-depth understanding of the Basic Law for the successful implementation of "one country, two systems" in the HKSAR. The focus and content of the Basic Law education and promotion work carried out by the HKSAR Government for students/young people and public officers are detailed in the ensuing paragraphs.

### **Basic Law Education for Students**

7. The existing policies of Basic Law education implemented by the EDB aim at setting out clear goals for promoting Basic Law education through a systematic, "multi-pronged" and co-ordinated approach, so that all primary school and secondary school students understand related concepts of the Basic Law and the principle of "one country, two systems". In the recent five school years (i.e. from the 2012/13 school year to the 2016/17 school year), the EDB has adopted the following strategies to enhance students' understanding of the Basic Law.

#### *Curriculum and learning and teaching resources*

8. Learning contents relating to the Basic Law are inherent in relevant Key Learning Areas/subjects, including General Studies at the primary level; and Chinese History, History, Life and Society and Liberal Studies at the secondary level. In these subjects, the Basic Law-related contents or topics help strengthen students' understanding of the Basic Law. An overview of the latest developments in Basic Law-related

curriculum contents and learning and teaching resources at the primary and secondary levels is provided in paragraphs 9-12 below.

9. At the primary level, the *General Studies for Primary Schools Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – 6)* (2017) provides examples of curriculum planning as well as learning and teaching for teachers' reference in order to enable students to understand the relationship between the Basic Law and their daily lives, and to foster their affection and appreciation for the history and culture of our country.

10. At the secondary level, the EDB issued EDB Circular Memorandum No. 76/2017 on 31 May 2017 to inform schools of the uploading of the *Secondary Education Curriculum Guide* (the Guide) and its implementation details, and on the same day released the *Insider's Perspective "Learning to Learn 2+"* highlighting the major renewed emphases of the secondary education curriculum, which include strengthening values education (including moral and civic education and Basic Law education). In an appendix of the Guide, a planning and self-evaluation tool for Basic Law education is provided as reference to help schools holistically review their current implementation of Basic Law education and identify areas for improvement as well as a means to facilitate better planning of Basic Law education by schools.

11. The development of learning and teaching resources also keeps up with the times. For primary schools, the EDB developed *The Basic Law Learning Package* in as early as 2011. The EDB also created the webpage *Learning the Basic Law, Building a Better Home*, which provides multiple-choice questions and games for primary school students to serve as extended learning activities or to help consolidate their learning. The EDB produced and disseminated the teaching resource *Let's Learn the Basic Law: Effective Use of the Learning Package* in September 2015 and is developing for upper primary school students the *Basic Law Video Teaching Resource Package*, which will be released in 2018.

12. For secondary schools, the EDB developed in the 2015/16 school year the e-book *Understanding the Law, Access to Justice - Basic Law Learning Package (Junior Secondary)*; *The Web on Assessment for Basic*

*Law Education (Junior Secondary)[For teachers' use]* for teachers' downloading and use. *The Basic Law Online Assessment (Junior Secondary) [For students' use]* was also developed for students' self-assessment, which recorded the user rate of 110 319 times in the 2016/17 school year. In addition, the EDB has also developed a 15-hour independent module "Constitution and the Basic Law". Its associated learning and teaching resources, which are intended to support Basic Law education at the junior secondary level, have been uploaded to the EDB website since 1 June 2017. In the meantime, the *Basic Law Knowledge Enhancement Online Course for Secondary School Teachers* has been offered since June 2017 to enhance teachers' knowledge and understanding of the Basic Law. So far, about 500 teachers have completed the course. At the senior secondary level, the *Liberal Studies Curriculum Resources Booklet Series: Hong Kong Today*, which contains enhanced Basic Law-related contents, was uploaded to the EDB website in May 2017. In support of curriculum development, the EDB will continue to develop learning and teaching resources, including an online course for students' self-learning, which incorporates interesting and interactive online resources to promote students' interest in learning the Basic Law.

### *Students' learning activities*

13. Through interesting and meaningful learning activities, schools can facilitate students in learning the Basic Law and understanding its spirit. To encourage primary and secondary school students to read materials related to the Basic Law, the EDB, Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited and Hong Kong Education City have been jointly organising the Basic Law Territory-wide Inter-school Competition for primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong since 2015, with a total of 32 000 student participants from 314 schools over the past three years. The competition is well received and supported in the school sector.

14. To mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, the EDB organised "the Basic Law Territory-wide Inter-school Competition Extended Learning Activities cum Study Tour" in July 2017 for 100 primary students and 11 teachers nominated by the winning schools of the Competition over the past three years. The study

tour, including a local visit and a visit to Beijing, aims at enriching students' experiences in learning the Basic Law. The study tour will become a regular event organised by the EDB and be extended to secondary schools so as to deepen students' learning of the Basic Law in a sustained manner. To cater for secondary school students' interest in multimedia production, the EDB organised "Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR cum Basic Law Student Short Video Competition" from August to November 2017, with a view to enabling students to demonstrate in a flexible and creative way their understanding of the Basic Law and the development of the HKSAR. The entries show that students could draw on their daily lives and present the connection between the Basic Law and their daily lives. The Award Presentation Ceremony cum Sharing Session of the Basic Law Student Short Video Competition was smoothly held on 30 November 2017. In addition, the "Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest" organised in 2017 revolved around the theme of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, with questions about the Basic Law included in the quiz.

#### *Mainland exchange programmes for students*

15. The EDB organises Mainland exchange programmes for students to enhance their understanding of the country's development from multiple perspectives through engaging them in life-wide learning activities. By doing so, it is hoped that students can reflect upon the roles and responsibilities of their own and Hong Kong in the country's development so as to have a better grasp of the opportunities and challenges ahead. The five Mainland exchange programmes include "The Historical Figures and Events of Dongguan and Zhongshan", "An Exploration into the History and Culture of Nanjing", "An Exploration into the Economic Development and Guangdong-Hong Kong Co-operation in Nansha and Qianhai", "An Exploration into the Prospect of Further Studies and Employment in the Mainland and Macau" and "An Exploration into the History and Culture of Guangzhou and Dongguan in Guangdong". Learning elements and site visits to enhance students' understanding of the Basic Law have been incorporated into the exchange programmes, thus allowing them to connect what they have learned in the activities with the contents of the Basic Law. As at the 2016/2017 school year, altogether about 15 800 student participants enrolled on the

five Mainland exchange programmes. The EDB will continue to organise the five exchange programmes above.

*Providing schools with the latest information*

16. To help schools have a good grasp of the community resources provided by various organisations (e.g. non-government organisations, government departments, community organisations, tertiary institutions), the EDB disseminates the latest information to schools through multiple channels, including the establishment of “Life-wide Learning Activity Databank” (the Databank). 16 relevant activities regarding the promotion and implementation of the Basic Law have been uploaded to the Databank over the past five school years. In respect of higher education, the EDB gave a brief introduction of the Basic Law to the awardees of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme to prepare them to be the “student ambassadors” for promoting Hong Kong during their overseas study.

*Funding scheme*

17. To promote Basic Law education among tertiary institutions, the EDB implements “The Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutions” (the Scheme) each year to finance related projects proposed by tertiary institutions and their students and staff or other organisations. In the past five years, 19 projects related to the promotion of the Basic Law were funded under the Scheme with an approved fund amounting to around HK\$2 million.

18. The EDB understands the importance of promoting the Basic Law education and disseminates positive messages to students in accordance with the social development and atmosphere. Through curriculum design and organising different activities, the EDB elucidates to the school sector and the public the constitutional status of the Basic Law in Hong Kong, and works closely with schools to deepen students’ understanding of the concepts relating to the Basic Law, the principle of “one country, two systems” and the rule of law with a view to cultivating in them a sense of national identity.

## **Basic Law Promotion and Education for Young People**

19. The WG on Local Community under the BLPSC, the HAB and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) work closely together to promote the Basic Law among the public at the community level. Activities with young people as target participants include the Basic Law Quiz Competition, the Basic Law seminars, publications for young people, thematic exhibitions on and interactive games about the Basic Law in the Civic Education Resource Centre, etc.

20. In addition, the HAB and the CPCE grant sponsorships every year through the Community Participation Scheme and the Co-operation Scheme with District Councils to support civic education activities to be held in the community. In 2017-18, a total of 14 sponsored projects are related to the promotion of the Basic Law, involving a sponsorship amount of about \$1.9 million. They include Basic Law promotional activities with young people as target participants, e.g. the Hong Kong Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme.

## **Basic Law Training for Civil Servants**

### *Basic Law courses*

21. For the purpose of enhancing the understanding of the Basic Law for those who are interested in joining the civil service, the Government has incorporated assessment of Basic Law knowledge into the civil service recruitment process since 2008. As regards serving civil servants, the Civil Service Training and Development Institute (CSTDI) under the CSB organises Basic Law training courses and promotional activities for civil servants at all levels. Bureaux/departments have also incorporated such courses into their respective staff training and development plans.

22. Starting from 2016, the CSTDI has provided Basic Law foundation courses on key concepts and provisions of the Basic Law to all new recruits within three years upon their joining of the civil service. As officers progress further to the managerial level, they will participate in more advanced Basic Law training.



23. The CSTDI also organises thematic seminars on the Basic Law every year where experts are invited to speak on specific topics and related court cases. For example, the CSTDI organised thematic seminars on the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland in 2017, covering topics on the Constitution and the Basic Law, the political structure of HKSAR and related court cases.

#### *Multi-media learning resources*

24. The CSTDI also encourages civil servants to learn the Basic Law through the use of online resources. A “Basic Law Corner” is set up in the Cyber Learning Centre Plus, which offers a variety of multi-media resources such as web courses, quizzes, training course information, videos and seminar recordings, etc. News related to the Basic Law published on the “news.gov.hk” are also uploaded to the “News Update” column. In 2017, a 20th Anniversary Basic Law webpage was set up, with activity updates and a photo album featuring the enactment process of the Basic Law and the important moments of Hong Kong over the past 20 years since its return to the Motherland.

#### *Publications*

25. The Department of Justice, the CMAB and the CSB jointly publish the annual “Basic Law Bulletin”, which features analysis on court cases and work-related topics on the implementation of the Basic Law to deepen civil servants’ understanding of the Basic Law. There is also a “Basic Law Column” in the “Civil Service Newsletter” published by the CSB which provides updates on promotional activities, seminars and newly added e-learning resources.

26. The CSB will review and enhance Basic Law training for civil servants from time to time to strengthen their knowledge on the Constitution and the Basic Law.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

27. Members are welcome to give their views on the promotion of the Basic Law.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**

**Civil Service Bureau**

**Education Bureau**

**Home Affairs Bureau**

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