

## **Report of the Special Committee on International Relations**

The Special Committee on International Relations provides advice and assistance to the Bar Council on matters involving various aspects of its international relations, as part of the process of promoting co-operative and friendly relationships with members of legal professions in other countries and of enhancing mutual understanding among common law and civil law jurisdictions.

In 2014, the Special Committee's activities included:

- **Myanmar Legal Capacity Building Conference – 13-15 February 2014:** On behalf of the Bar Council Colin Wright and the Committee Chair attended a 3 day legal conference in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, organised by the IBA's Human Rights Institute and hosted by the Myanmar Parliamentary Committee on Rule of Law and Tranquility. Approximately 180 Myanmar lawyers attended the Nay Pyi Taw conference as well as representatives from various Myanmar international organisations, Myanmar law-related non-governmental organizations, representatives of the Bar Associations of Australia, England & Wales, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United States and of LexisNexis. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a keynote address on the first day of the event. On the second day of the event, international and regional speakers including on behalf of the Bar Council spoke about '*Bar Association's Best Practices: An International and Regional Approach*'. The balance of the second day and the third day of the event consisted of breakout sessions led by national and international facilitators including the Bar Council's representatives.
- **Indo-China Legal Services Road Show – 19-21 February 2014:** On behalf of the Bar Council the Committee Chair participated in a 3 day road show, led by Mr. Rimsky Yuen SC, Secretary for Justice, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and organized by the Hong Kong Department of Justice (the "DOJ") with the support of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (the "HKTDC") and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (the "HKETO"). Ms. Teresa Cheng SC participated, in her capacity as the Chair of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. Participants in the February 2014 Indo-China Legal Services Roadshow included representatives of the Hong Kong Law Society and various arbitral institutions. Two seminars were organized in Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh respectively, to promote Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services. A series of side meetings with senior officials, bar association members and arbitration centres were also held. Around 160 legal professionals and businessmen and women attended the Ho Chi Minh Seminar from Vietnam. Around 200 legal professionals and businessmen and women attended the Phnom Penh seminar.
- **Myanmar Legal Services Roadshow - 28 and 29 August 2014:** On behalf of the Bar Council Anthony Houghton SC, Douglas Clark and the Committee Chair participated in the Legal Services Roadshow to Myanmar led by Mr Frank Poon JP, Solicitor General, and organized by the DOJ with the support of the HKTDC and the HKETO. The other participants in the August 2014 Myanmar Legal Services Roadshow included representatives of the Hong Kong Law Society and various arbitral institutions. Mr. Dennis Kwok

participated in his capacity as a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council representing the legal functional constituency. A seminar was organized in Yangon to promote Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services which more than 150 people from Myanmar attended. A series of side meetings were also held.

- **LAWASIA, Bangkok - 3-6 October 2014:** the Special Committee's Chair participated in the annual LAWASIA Council meeting in Bangkok on 3 October 2014 as an alternate to the Bar Council Chairman. Mr. James McGowan attended the LAWASIA conference from 3 to 6 October 2014.

Members of the Special Committee met from time to time to discuss the outcome of its various activities. Members will be meeting in early 2015 to discuss recommendations to the Bar Council for possible 2015 activities.

As Chair, I would like thank the Members of the Special Committee for their work on behalf of the Bar in 2014.

**Membership:** Kim M Rooney (Chair), Peter Duncan SC, Roxanne Ismail SC, James McGowan, Firoz Nasir, Hectar Pun, Colin Wright, Isaac Chan and Douglas Clark.

Kim M. Rooney  
Chair  
Special Committee on International  
Relations

31 December 2014