



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

Secretariat: LG2 Floor, High Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong

E-mail: info@hkba.org Website: www.hkba.org

Telephone: 2869 0210 Fax: 2869 0189

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**HKBA's Statement in Response to Proposed Use of the CGO as
Headquarters of the DOJ with space for law-related NGOs**

The Hong Kong Bar Association welcomes the proposal to allocate the West Wing of the Central Government Offices for the use of the Department of Justice and law-related non-governmental organizations.

The centralization of the various internal divisions of the Department of Justice will likely improve intra-and inter-departmental communication, and will no doubt facilitate the efficiency of the Department's service to the government and to the community as a whole.

Further, the provision of space in the Central Government Offices for law-related non-governmental organizations, including organizations to promote arbitration and mediation services, is particularly welcome. The Bar Association is pleased to see the commitment on the part of the Hong Kong SAR Government in taking an active role in fostering the development of international arbitration as part of the mainstream legal services to be provided by Hong Kong legal professionals. We believe that the reservation of premises for housing law-related non-governmental organizations will enhance the resources for training, accreditation, and general collaboration between these organizations and the administration, and will serve to improve the quality and accessibility of legal-related services to the community in the years to come.

香港大律師公會

回應香港特別行政區政府提出重用前中區政府合署西座作為律政署及與

法律相關的非政府組織辦公室方案

香港大律師公會對於香港特別行政區政府提出分配前中區政府合署西座予律政署及與法律相關的非政府組織作為辦公室的方案表示歡迎。

公會認為日後律政署的各部門分佈更集中，將有助提升內部以至跨部門的聯繫，亦必能提高律政署對政府及社會大眾的服務效率。

此外，當局擬於前中區政府合署西座提供部分用地，讓與法律相關的非政府組織，包括促進法律仲裁及調解服務的組織，成立辦事處，公會對此甚表歡迎。香港特別行政區政府積極促進國際仲裁服務的發展，致力推動其成為由本地法律專業人士所提供的一項主流法律服務，公會對此感到高興。公會相信香港特別行政區政府在西座為非政府組織保留辦公室用地，可為各組織加添用於培訓及資格評核的資源，促進各組織相互間及與政府部門的合作，盼能提升與法律相關服務的質素，以令該等服務更為普及。