

政策及策略 POLICY AND STRATEGY

法律援助辅助计划的检讨

在讨论行政当局所提交「就评定法律援助申请人财务资格的准则每五年进行一次的检讨」建议的过程中，本局要求「法律援助范围兴趣小组」检视「法律援助辅助计划」（下称「辅助计划」）的涵盖范围。经过详细商议兴趣小组的研究报告后，本局在2010年12月将其建议提交行政长官。行政当局在研究本局的意见和建议，以及相关持份者的见解后，在2011年3月通知本局其对扩大「辅助计划」的立场，亦于立法会司法及法律事务委员会（下称「事务委员会」）在2012年3月28日的会议上，提交了具体的建议。行政当局建议：

- (a) 扩大「辅助计划」以涵盖下列类别的申索，其申索金额应超过港币\$60,000，以及申请人须缴付较高的申请费和分担费：
 - i. 涉及有关执业会计师、建筑师、注册专业工程师、注册专业测量师、认可土地测量师、注册专业规划师、园境师，以及地产代理专业疏忽的申索；

REVIEW OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME

In the course of the discussion of the Administration's recommendations from the five-yearly review, the Council requested the Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid to also examine the scope of Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme (SLAS). After careful deliberation of the report of the Interest Group, the Council forwarded its recommendations to the Chief Executive in December 2010. In March 2011, the Administration, after taking into account the Council's advice and recommendations, as well as views from relevant stakeholders, informed the Council of their position on the expansion of SLAS and submitted a proposal to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council (LegCo) for consideration at its meeting on 28 March 2011. The Administration proposed that:

- (a) The scope of SLAS be expanded to cover claims of the following categories, with claim amounts exceeding \$60,000, using an enhanced rate of application fee and contribution:
 - i. professional negligence claims against Certified Public Accountants, Architects, Registered Professional Engineers, Registered Professional Surveyors, Authorized Land Surveyors, Registered Professional Planners, Landscape Architects and Estate Agents;

- ii. 因销售保险产品而引起的申索；以及
 - iii. 就销售一手住宅物业向发展商提出的申索；
- (b) 上文(a)分段所述新涵盖个案的法律援助申请费及分担费比率修订如下：
- i. 申请费增至港币\$5,000；
 - ii. 中期分担费比率订为受助人经评估财务资源的百分之十，但在任何情况下，均不得少于香港法例第91B章《法律援助（评定资源及分担费用）规例》第14(a)条所订明在「辅助计划」下受助人现行须缴付的中期分担费；以及
 - iii. 最终分担费比率增加至讨回财产价值的百分之二十，如案件在委聘大律师出庭前获得和解，则分担费比率为百分之十五；
- (c) 上文(b)分段所述增加申请费和分担费比率的安排，亦适用于现时有关医疗、牙科或法律这三种专业疏忽的申索；
- ii. claims arising from sale of insurance products; and
 - iii. claims against developers in the sale of first-hand residential properties;
- (b) The application fee and rates of contribution for the new types of cases in item (a) above be revised as follows:
- i. the application fee be increased to \$5,000;
 - ii. the interim contribution rate be set at 10% of the assessed financial resources of the aided person, but in any event not less than the current interim contribution payable by the aided persons under SLAS as set out in Regulation 14(a) of the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources and Contributions) Regulations (Cap. 91B); and
 - iii. the final contribution rate be increased to 20% of the value of property recovered, and to 15% where a claim is settled prior to delivery of a brief for attendance at trial to counsel;
- (c) The enhanced application fee and rates of contribution as set out in item (b) above be also applied to the existing three types of professional negligence claims against the medical, dental or legal professions;
- (d) Employees' claims on appeals from the Labour Tribunal, regardless of claim amounts, be covered under the expanded SLAS using the existing rates of application fee and contribution;
- (e) A study be conducted on amending the Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91) with a view to enabling money claims in derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts be covered under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme (OLAS) when fraud,



- (d) 不论申索金额多少，扩大「辅助计划」以纳入就劳资审裁处对雇员申索所作裁决提出的上诉，并采用现行申请费及分担费水平；
- (e) 研究修订《法律援助条例》第91章，以期将在销售证券衍生工具、货币期货或其他期货合约时因涉及欺诈、失实陈述 / 欺骗情况而引起的金钱申索纳入普通法律援助计划（下称「普通计划」）的涵盖范围；及
- (f) 提请立法会财务委员会批准，注资1亿元予「辅助计划」基金，以便扩大「辅助计划」的涵盖范围。

在2011年12月，本局亦获知会当局对扩大「辅助计划」涵盖范围的其他建议的意见，该意见详列如下：

(a) 与衍生工具有关的申索

鉴于结构性金融产品在本港日益流行，当局同意将销售证券衍生工具、货币期货或其他期货合约时因涉及欺诈、失实陈述 / 欺骗情况而引起的金钱申索纳入「普通计划」的涵盖范围。

(b) 少数份数拥有对物业发展商就强制售卖大厦单位的申索

当局认为不应扩展「辅助计划」涵盖这类申索，理由如下：

- i. 观乎土地审裁处过往作出的裁决，批出强制售卖令的机会甚高。假若这个趋势持续，获批法律援助的少数份数拥有人败诉并

misrepresentation/deception is involved at the time of purchase; and

- (f) The approval of Finance Committee be sought to inject \$100 million into the SLAS Fund to facilitate the expansion of the scope of SLAS.

The Council was also informed of the Administration's views on other proposals to expand SLAS in December 2011. Their views were:

(a) Derivatives Claims

Noting that structured financial products were increasingly commonplace in Hong Kong, the Administration agreed to include money claims in derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts to be covered under the OLAS when fraud, misrepresentation or deception was involved at the time of purchase.

(b) Claims against Property Developers by Minority Owners in respect of Compulsory Sales of Building Units

The Administration did not agree expanding SLAS to cover this type of claims for the following reasons:

- i. As evidenced in the past rulings of the Lands Tribunal (Tribunal), the chance of granting a compulsory sale order was very high. Assuming that this trend would continue, the chance of a minority owner granted with legal aid losing the case and having to bear all the costs was very high. This would be inconsistent with the self-financing principle of SLAS.
- ii. Very often, a minority owner who appeared before the Tribunal sought to resist the majority owner's application for compulsory sale or, if the application was to be granted, the terms

须承担全数讼费的机会亦甚高。这有违「辅助计划」自负盈亏的原则。

- ii. 很多时候，少数份数拥有人反对多数份数拥有人的强制售卖申请，或如其强制售卖申请已获批准，则反对售卖的条件和条款，所争议的事项多数与估值而非法律事宜有关，并且不涉及金钱的赔偿。

无论如何，当局将会继续提供行政支援予这些因重建发展而可能受强制售卖影响的旧楼业主，例如调解服务、以年长业主为对象的外展支援服务，及加强公众教育。

(c) 对销售商品及提供服务的申索

当局不同意把对销售商品及提供服务的申索纳入「辅助计划」，因为这类申索所涉赔偿金额一般不大，而所涉讼费却往往远超赔偿额。如案件败诉，辅助计划基金便须承担双方的讼费，对基金的影响甚大。此外，消费者委员会辖下有消费者诉讼基金，会为涉及重大消费者利益或对消费者影响深远的特选个案，提供援助。因此，我们相信相关的消费者权益已获充分照顾。

当局于2012年3月向立法会发出预告，表示会动议一项决议项，落实修订《法律援助条例》的建议，以扩大「普通计划」和「辅助计划」涵盖范围。

and conditions for the sale. The issues in debate were often related more to valuation rather than legal matters, and no monetary damages were involved.

Nevertheless, the Administration agreed to continue to provide administrative support to owners of old buildings who might be involved in compulsory sale for redevelopment cases, such as mediation service, outreach support service for elderly owners and enhanced public education

(c) Claims against Sale of Goods and Provision of Services

The Administration did not agree to expand SLAS to this type of claims because not much contribution was expected to be generated from successful cases since such claims generally involved small amounts of money. On the other hand, the litigation costs involved usually far exceeded the value of the damages. One lost case could have a significant impact on the SLAS Fund which had to bear the costs of both sides. Furthermore, the Consumer Council had the Consumer Legal Action Fund to provide assistance in selected cases where significant consumer interests or issues of a substantial impact on consumers were involved. It was believed that consumer interests in that regard had been taken care of.

To implement the proposed amendments to Legal Aid Ordinance for the expansion of OLAS and SLAS, the Administration gave notice in March 2012 to move a proposed resolution at LegCo.

法律援助的独立性

除了向政府建议法援政策外，本局亦须就「建立一个独立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性」向行政长官提出建议。

如去年年报所载，本局辖下成立了「法律援助独立性工作小组」（下称「工作小组」），以便计划和督导顾问研究。「工作小组」由林家礼博士任主席，成员包括洪为民博士、狄朗尼大律师和黄吴洁华律师。在2011年3月，递交了顾问研究意向书的顾问公司/机构/大学均获邀提交建议书；在审议各建议书后，德勤企业管理咨询(香港)有限公司（下称「德勤」）获委任负责研究在香港建立一个独立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性。

与「德勤」的顾问研究合约在2011年10月31日签订，此后，「工作小组」定期与顾问会面，讨论应采纳的研究方法和研究结果。

为量度法律援助的独立性程度，顾问将从四方面研究，分别是制度、财政、运作和管治。研究将涵盖成立一个独立的法援管理局的考虑因素及下列事项：

- (a) 法律援助署的独立性；
- (b) 海外司法管辖区内法律援助工作的独立性；及
- (c) 持份者的观感。

通过文献回顾、新闻研究，以及与法援

INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL AID

Apart from advising the Government on legal aid policy, the Council is also tasked to advise the Chief Executive on "the feasibility and desirability of the establishment of an independent legal aid authority".

As mentioned in the last report, the Working Party on Independence of Legal Aid [Working Party] was formed under the Council to plan and steer the consultancy study. The Working Party was led by Dr L G LAM and comprised members Dr Witman HUNG, Mr Michael DELANEY and Mrs Cecilia WONG. In March 2011, the consulting firms/institutions/ universities that had expressed interest in undertaking the study were invited to submit proposal. After considering the proposals, Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited was commissioned to undertake the study on the feasibility and desirability of establishing an independent legal aid authority in Hong Kong.

The consultancy agreement with Deloitte was made on 31 October 2011. Since then the Working Party met with the consultants on a regular basis to discuss the approach and methodology adopted as well as findings of the study.

To measure the degree of independence, four dimensions of legal aid independence have been defined. They are institutional, financial, operational and governance. The study will cover the findings on the following areas and the considerations for establishing an independent legal aid authority:

- (a) Independence of the Legal Aid Department (LAD);
- (b) Independence of legal aid practices in overseas jurisdictions; and
- (c) Stakeholders' perceptions.



业界的主要持份者 – 包括法律业界人士、立法会议员、社区团体、政府部门和公共团体的代表、工会、区议会成员、记者、学者、政党、法律援助署员工和法援局成员等的直接对话，顾问公司确立以实例为证的研究方法，去检视现时法援行政独立性的水平，以及了解持份者对法援独立性的期望。

为比较和对比香港法援行政的强项和弱点，以及详细考虑如何改善个别情况，顾问亦研究其他海外法援制度，包括奉行普通法的司法管辖区 – 英格兰和威尔斯、苏格兰、北爱尔兰、爱尔兰、新西兰、加拿大、安大略和澳洲新南威尔斯省，以及大陆法系管辖区 – 荷兰和芬兰。

鉴于市民大众为主要的法援服务使用者，顾问公司通过大规模电话调查，以收集他们的意见。从未使用过法援服务的市民的意见，会与现时或过去曾使用法援服务人士（即法援申请人）的意见互相比较和分析，法援申请人的意见则

Through literature review, news research and direct conversations with key stakeholders in the legal aid administration – including legal practitioners, legislators, community groups, representatives of Government departments and public bodies, trade unions, district council members, reporters, academics, political parties, LAD staff and Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) members – the consultants have developed an evidence-based approach to examine the current level of independence in legal aid administration, as well as to map stakeholders' expectations of legal aid independence.

To compare and contrast the identified strengths and weaknesses in Hong Kong's legal aid administration and to consider how particular areas can be improved, the consultants have looked into overseas legal aid practices, including common law jurisdictions - England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, New Zealand, Ontario, and New South Wales, as well as civil law jurisdictions - the Netherlands and Finland.

Given that it is members of the general public who will be the key users of legal aid services, the consultants have solicited their views through a large-scale telephone survey.

通过问卷调查方式收集。两种调查方法均以随机抽样方式选出调查对象。

顾问公司已于2012年1月和3月分别提交初期和中期报告，并将在完成研究后提交最终报告给本局。

为被警方拘留人士提供法律咨询服务

目前，几乎所有被拘留人士在被拘留后至被带上裁判法院前这段期间，都会遭到有关执法机构的查问，还会被记录口供，该份口供会在审讯时被用作呈堂证供，但被拘留人士在这段时间并不得到法律援助。

有鉴于此，本局要求「法律援助范围兴趣小组」（下称「兴趣小组」）研究法律援助服务应否扩大涵盖为被香港执法机构拘留的人士提供法律咨询服务，包括未正式被拘捕但获邀协助调查的「被拘留人士」。

「兴趣小组」由李嘉莲大律师任主席，本局成员狄朗尼大律师及洪为民博士亦



Opinions from the general public who have never used the LAD's service have been analysed and compared with the views from existing or previous legal aid service users i.e. legal aid applicants. Views of legal aid applicants have been collected through a paper-based survey. Respondents for both surveys were selected at random.

The consultants submitted the report on preliminary findings in January 2012 and the interim report in March 2012. The consultants will prepare the final report after completing the study.

LEGAL ADVICE TO DETAINEES AT POLICE STATION

At present, there is no legal aid provided to cover the period after detention but prior to the detainee being brought before a Magistrate. Almost invariably, a detainee would be interviewed by the law enforcement agency concerned during this period and frequently a statement would be recorded and tendered as evidence at trial.

In view of these circumstances, the Council invited the Interest Group on the Scope of Legal Aid (IG) to study whether legal aid should be extended to cover legal assistance for persons detained by the law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong ("the Detainee Issue"). The study included "detainees" not formally arrested but invited to assist in enquiries.

The IG was chaired by Ms Corinne REMEDIOS. Council members Mr Michael DELANEY and Dr Witman HUNG also participated in the discussion on the Detainee Issue. The IG met on a total of five occasions: 17 November 2009, 6 September 2011, 11 October 2011, 6 December 2011 and 21 February 2012. The IG members participated in the Study came from a wide spectrum including academics (in the

参与有关该咨询服务的讨论。「兴趣小组」分别在2009年11月17日、2011年9月6日、2011年10月11日、2011年12月6日和2012年2月21日举行了五次会议，参与该研究的「兴趣小组」成员背景广泛，包括学者（在法律专业和社会研究领域）、会计师、建筑师、大律师、医生、牙医、工程师、环境顾问、资讯科技顾问、园境师、不同社会服务范畴的工作者、律师和测量师。为推动资讯交流和鼓励全面咨询，「兴趣小组」邀请了有关持份者，包括法律援助署、当值律师服务、香港警务处、香港海关、入境处、廉政公署、香港大律师公会和香港律师会参与讨论，各机构均有派出代表出席一次或以上会议。

在讨论过程中，「兴趣小组」成员获悉苏格兰在其最高法院（上议院）于2010年10月25日判决 *Cadder 诉 HM Advocate* 一案后所取得的经验。在 *Cadder* 一案，最高法院认为检察部门是依赖在问话期间得到的认罪证供提出检控，但该份证供是被拘留人士在未获法律意见前提供的，这点与被拘留者应得到公平审讯的权利互不相容。*Cadder* 一案凸显苏格兰在此段期间有提供法援的需要，随后其法律援助服务亦因此相应扩展。国际法援组织主席 Alan Paterson 教授在本局于2011年5月举办的「两岸四地法律援助研讨会」的演说中曾提及这个判决，尽管苏格兰和香港在拘捕程序上有所不同，但 *Cadder* 一案为「兴趣小组」详细研究香港的情况，提供了足够的推动力。

「兴趣小组」同时获悉，香港虽然保留了普通法沉默权，但一个「获邀」到警局及 / 或「协助警方调查」的人士，可

legal as well as social studies fields), accountants, an architect, barristers, a doctor, a dentist, engineers, an environmental consultant, an information technology consultant, a landscape architect, various members of the social services field, solicitors, and surveyors. To promote the exchange of information and to encourage proper consultation, the IG invited the attendance of stakeholders, including the Legal Aid Department, Duty Lawyer Service, Hong Kong Police Force, Customs and Excise Department, Immigration Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong Bar Association, and the Law Society of Hong Kong, all of whom sent representatives to attend one or more meetings.

During the discussion, IG members were briefed on the experience in Scotland following the decision of Supreme Court (the House of Lords) in *Cadder v HM Advocate* on 25 October 2010. In *Cadder*, the Supreme Court held inter alia that the prosecution's reliance on admissions made by a detainee who had been interviewed by the police, without access to legal advice before the interview began, could be incompatible with the detainee's right to a fair trial. *Cadder* highlighted the need for legal aid in Scotland to cover this period and subsequently legal aid was extended accordingly. Such decision was also highlighted in the speech made by Professor Alan Paterson, who is the Chairperson of the International Legal Aid Group, at the Cross-Strait Legal Aid Conference organised by the Council in May 2011. Although there are differences in the Scottish and the Hong Kong procedure upon arrest, *Cadder* provided sufficient impetus for the IG to critically examine the Hong Kong Position.

The IG was given to know that although Hong Kong has retained the common law right of silence, a person may be "invited" to attend a police station and/or asked to "assist the police in enquiries" without being informed of his right to silence. A caution may not be administered from the outset of questioning and by the time the law enforcement officer is required to administer the caution. The person may

能没有被告知其保持沉默的权利；在查问开始前，执法人员未有作出或未能适时作出有关警诫，该人士可能在不知情的情况下自证其罪，因此，在很多刑事案件中，辩方会挑战在审问期间取得的口供的自愿性，审讯时间因而延长，成本亦相应增加。

为了深入考虑为被扣留人士提供法律咨询服务的可行性、范畴和提供服务的方法，「兴趣小组」进行了一个研究，比较在五个司法管辖区－英格兰和威尔斯、苏格兰、台湾、新西兰和加拿大安大略省，对被拘留者所提供的法律援助服务。

在考虑所有相关事宜后，「兴趣小组」总结认为有必要向被拘留人士提供法律援助服务，以保障拘留人士的权利，他们认为应同样提供法律援助予那些「获邀」协助调查但未正式被拘捕的人士。虽然小组成员未能就有关法律援助的程度达成共识（尤其在提供法律咨询外，法援应否扩展至在查问期间提供律师代表被拘留人士），「兴趣小组」成员一致赞成建立一个试验计划，以扩大有关的法律援助服务。鉴于执法机构的顾虑和在运作时可能遇到的困难，「兴趣小组」认为渐进引入试验计划会是一个实际的解决办法。

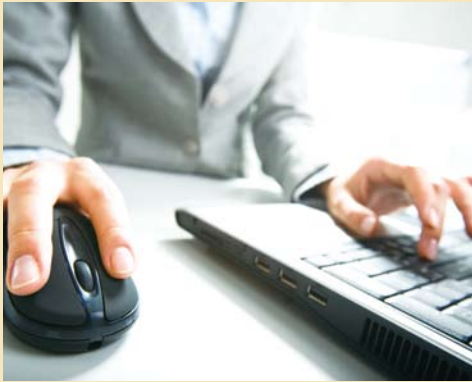
「兴趣小组」在收集成员对有关建议的意见后，将会提交报告。本局在审阅报告后，会于适当时间向行政长官提交建议。

unwittingly have incriminated himself. Hence there are many criminal cases where defendants challenge the voluntariness of a statement taken upon interrogation, thus prolonging the trial and increasing costs.

To enable an in depth consideration as to feasibility, scope and delivery of legal advice to detainees, a comparative study of the provision of legal aid for legal assistance to detainees in five overseas jurisdictions namely England and Wales, Scotland, Taiwan, New Zealand and Ontario, Canada was commissioned by the IG.

Having taken into account all relevant issues, the IG concluded that legal aid for legal assistance was necessary to protect the rights of detainees. They considered that the provision for legal assistance should equally apply to those persons “invited” to assist in investigations without formal arrest. Although a consensus was not reached on the extent of such assistance, (particularly whether aid should extend not only to legal advice but also to representation of the detainee during the interview), IG members were unanimously in favour of setting up a pilot scheme to extend legal aid accordingly. In view of the concerns expressed by the law enforcement agencies and the possible operational difficulties, the IG considered that an incremental introduction would be a practical solution to be adopted by the pilot scheme.

A report will be prepared by the IG after soliciting views from its members on the proposals. The Council will consider the report and make recommendations to the Chief Executive as appropriate.



本局2011至2012年度工作计划

本局2011至2012年的工作计划内容如下：

a. 法律援助范畴

「法律援助范围兴趣小组」（下称「兴趣小组」）完成了「法律援助辅助计划的检讨」研究，而当局亦已在2011年3月将其建议提交立法会。「兴趣小组」会研究其他建议，包括为被警方拘留人士提供法律咨询服务的可行性和可取性，以保障其法律权利。

b. 法律援助的独立性

本局为建立一个独立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性进行顾问研究，由林家礼博士担任主席的「法律援助的独立性」工作小组已邀请有兴趣的机构提交计划书。研究预期会在2011年年底开始，本局会监察此计划的进度，并在必要时提供协助。

COUNCIL'S WORK PLAN FOR 2011/2012

The Council's work plan for 2011/2012 included the following activities:

a. Scope of Legal Aid

The Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid finished its study on the Review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme (SLAS) and the Administration has put forth its recommendations to the Legislative Council in March 2011. The Interest Group will look into other outstanding propositions, including the possibility and desirability in providing legal advice to arrested persons at Police stations to help protect their legal right.

b. Independence of Legal Aid

The Council will conduct a Consultancy Study on the Feasibility and Desirability of establishing an Independent Legal Aid Authority, and the Working Party on Consultancy Study on Independence of Legal Aid, chaired by Dr L G LAM, has invited interested parties to submit proposals. The study will commence by the end of 2011. The Council will monitor the progress of this project and provide assistance, where necessary.

c. Community Legal Services Centre

The Working Party led by Dr L G LAM has laid down the study approach for Community Legal Services. After gathering information about the needs in the community and the current services provided by various non-governmental organisations (NGOs), it would analyze the current spectrum of services, identify the gap between the provision and the requirement and make recommendations on how to enhance the service to fill the gap.

c. 社区法律服务中心

一个由林家礼博士担任主席的工作小组，已制定研究社区法律服务的方法。在搜集社区对法律服务的需求，以及现时由不同非政府组织提供的服务等资料后，工作小组会分析现时服务的范畴，并确定现有服务和需求间的差距，从而建议如何改善服务，以填补落差的部份。

d. 无律师代表诉讼人

在法庭，无律师代表诉讼人的数目日益增加，令人关注正义是否能得到伸张。本局会研究此课题，并考虑作出适当的回应。

e. 协助涉及劳资纠纷的雇员

不少的职工会和立法会议员分别就低收入雇员在劳资纠纷中所遇到的困难表示关注，本局会研究此课题，并制定合适的回应。

f. 调解研讨会

本局曾举办两个主题为「法援与民生」的法援研讨会，第一个在2006年11月举行，而第二个则在2008年3月举行。第三个以「调解」为主题的研讨会在2010年4月举行。该等研讨会为参加者提供平台就香港的法援服务交流意见，尤其可以增加服务使用者和从业员对特定范畴的关注。所有研讨会均得到热烈回应。有见及此，本局决定在2012年举办另一个研讨会。

d. Unrepresented litigants

The rising number of unrepresented individuals in court has given rise to a concern about access to justice. The Council will look into the matter and consider what response would be appropriate.

e. Assistance to employees in labour dispute

Concerns have been expressed by various trade unions and legislators about the difficulties faced by low income employees in labour dispute. The Council will study the issue and formulate an appropriate response.

f. Seminar on Mediation

The Council has held two seminars on legal aid entitled "Legal Aid and Livelihood". The first was held in November 2006 and a second one in March 2008. A third seminar on "Mediation" was held in April 2010. The seminar provides a platform for exchange of views on provision of legal aid services in Hong Kong and in particular, to raise the awareness of users or practitioners in certain specific area. All seminars were very well received. In view of the favourable response, the Council will hold another seminar in 2012.

g. Cross-strait Legal Aid Conference

It is generally recognised that international conference on legal aid provides a very useful platform for legal aid policy makers, administrators and practitioners to review and reflect on their legal aid policy and administration. Such occasion will also provide an opportunity to network with other legal aid authorities and researchers. The Council will host a cross-strait four-region legal aid conference in Hong Kong on 27 May 2011 with the participation of Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. The objective of the conference

g. 两岸四地法律援助研讨会

一般人皆认同国际法援会议为法援决策者、法援机构的管理人员和从业员，提供了一个非常有用的平台，检讨和比较彼此的法援政策和管理方法，同时亦提供机会让不同的法援机构和研究人员建立网络。本局在2011年5月27日举办了一个两岸四地法援研讨会，邀请了中国内地、台湾、澳门和香港的代表参加，旨在透过研讨会促进四地法援决策者、从业员和研究人员相互交流，为有需要人士提供优质的法援服务。

h. 兴趣小组

本局成立了两个兴趣小组－「法律援助范围兴趣小组」和「法援申请程序及监察外判制度兴趣小组」，成员由法律专业人士、非政府组织代表、区议会成员、学者、社工和其他专业人士组成。在2011年2月，本局再招募兴趣小组成员，吸纳更多不同界别的人士加入，以推动兴趣小组的工作。本局会与兴趣小组成员保持密切联系，在适当时候寻求他们对法律援助和相关课题的意见。

i. 国际法律援助组织研讨会

本局曾参与2005年、2007年和2009年国际法律援助组织双年研讨会。这些研讨会提供了一个有用的平台，去讨论法律援助的基本原则、比较不同的法援制度和交流经验。本局会参加在2011年6月于芬兰举行的国际法律援助组织研讨会。

is to promote dialogue and foster exchange amongst legal aid policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the four places with a view to providing quality legal aid services to those in need.

h. Interest Groups

The Council has formed two Interest Groups (i) Scope of Legal Aid and (ii) Processing, Assignment and Monitoring of Assigned-out Cases to assist in its work. Members were drawn from the legal profession, representatives of non-governmental organizations, members of District Councils, academics, social workers and other professionals. In February 2011, a membership drive has been launched. Invitation to attract more new members will be issued with a view to casting a wider net and to keep up the momentum of interest. The Council will continue to maintain dialogue with members of the Interest Groups to seek their views on legal aid and related matters as and when appropriate.

i. International Legal Aid Group Conference

The Council participated in the biennial International Legal Aid Group Conference in 2005, 2007 and 2009. These conferences provide a useful forum in discussing the fundamentals of legal aid, in comparing legal aid systems and in sharing experience. The Council will participate in the International Legal Aid Group Conference to be held in Finland in June 2011.