

政策及策略 POLICY AND STRATEGY

法律援助輔助計劃的檢討

在討論行政當局所提交「就評定法律援助申請人財務資格的準則每五年進行一次的檢討」建議的過程中，本局要求「法律援助範圍興趣小組」檢視「法律援助輔助計劃」（下稱「輔助計劃」）的涵蓋範圍。經過詳細商議興趣小組的研究報告後，本局在2010年12月將其建議提交行政長官。行政當局在研究本局的意見和建議，以及相關持份者的見解後，在2011年3月通知本局其對擴大「輔助計劃」的立場，亦於立法會司法及法律事務委員會（下稱「事務委員會」）在2012年3月28日的會議上，提交了具體的建議。行政當局建議：

- (a) 擴大「輔助計劃」以涵蓋下列類別的申索，其申索金額應超過港幣\$60,000，以及申請人須繳付較高的申請費和分擔費：
 - i. 涉及有關執業會計師、建築師、註冊專業工程師、註冊專業測量師、認可土地測量師、註冊專業規劃師、園境師，以及地產代理專業疏忽的申索；

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. 因銷售保險產品而引起的申索；以及
 - iii. 就銷售一手住宅物業向發展商提出的申索；
- (b) 上文(a)分段所述新涵蓋個案的法律申請費及分擔費比率修訂如下：
- i. 申請費增至港幣\$5,000；
 - ii. 中期分擔費比率訂為受助人經評估財務資源的百分之十，但在任何情況下，均不得少於香港法例第91B章《法律援助（評定資源及分擔費用）規例》第14(a)條所訂明在「輔助計劃」下受助人現行須繳付的中期分擔費；以及
 - iii. 最終分擔費比率增加至討回財產價值的百分之二十，如案件在委聘大律師出庭前獲得和解，則分擔費比率為百分之十五；
- (c) 上文(b)分段所述增加申請費和分擔費比率的安排，亦適用於現時有關醫療、牙科或法律這三種專業疏忽的申索；
- 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) 不論申索金額多少，擴大「輔助計劃」以納入就勞資審裁處對僱員申索所作裁決提出的上訴，並採用現行申請費及分擔費水平；
- (e) 研究修訂《法律援助條例》第91章，以期將在銷售證券衍生工具、貨幣期貨或其他期貨合約時因涉及欺詐、失實陳述／欺騙情況而引起的金錢申索納入普通法律援助計劃（下稱「普通計劃」）的涵蓋範圍；及
- (f) 提請立法會財務委員會批准，注資1億元予「輔助計劃」基金，以便擴大「輔助計劃」的涵蓋範圍。

在2011年12月，本局亦獲知會當局對擴大「輔助計劃」涵蓋範圍的其他建議的意見，該意見詳列如下：

(a) 與衍生工具有關的申索

鑑於結構性金融產品在本港日益流行，當局同意將銷售證券衍生工具、貨幣期貨或其他期貨合約時因涉及欺詐、失實陳述／欺騙情況而引起的金錢申索納入「普通計劃」的涵蓋範圍。

(b) 少數份數擁有人對物業發展商就強制售賣大廈單位的申索

當局認為不應擴展「輔助計劃」涵蓋這類申索，理由如下：

- i. 觀乎土地審裁處過往作出的裁決，批出強制售賣令的機會甚高。假若這個趨勢持續，獲批法援的少數份數擁有人敗訴並

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

須承擔全數訟費的機會亦甚高。這有違「輔助計劃」自負盈虧的原則。

- ii. 很多時候，少數份數擁有人反對多數份數擁有人強制售賣申請，或如其強制售賣申請已獲批准，則反對售賣的條件和條款，所爭議的事項多數與估值而非法律事宜有關，並且不涉及金錢的賠償。

無論如何，當局將會繼續提供行政支援予這些因重建發展而可能受強制售賣影響的舊樓業主，例如調解服務、以年長業主為對象的外展支援服務，及加強公眾教育。

(c) 對銷售商品及提供服務的申索

當局不同意把對銷售商品及提供服務的申索納入「輔助計劃」，因為這類申索所涉賠償金額一般不大，而所涉訟費卻往往遠超賠償額。如案件敗訴，輔助計劃基金便須承擔雙方的訟費，對基金的影響甚大。此外，消費者委員會轄下有消費者訴訟基金，會為涉及重大消費者利益或對消費者影響深遠的特選個案，提供援助。因此，我們相信相關的消費者權益已獲充分照顧。

當局於2012年3月向立法會發出預告，表示會動議一項決議項，落實修訂《法律援助條例》的建議，以擴大「普通計劃」和「輔助計劃」涵蓋範圍。

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.

法律援助的獨立性

除了向政府建議法援政策外，本局亦須就「建立一個獨立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性」向行政長官提出建議。

如去年年報所載，本局轄下成立了「法律援助獨立性工作小組」（下稱「工作小組」），以便計劃和督導顧問研究。「工作小組」由林家禮博士任主席，成員包括洪為民博士、狄朗尼大律師和黃吳潔華律師。在2011年3月，遞交了顧問研究意向書的顧問公司/機構/大學均獲邀提交建議書；在審議各建議書後，德勤企業管理諮詢(香港)有限公司（下稱「德勤」）獲委任負責研究在香港建立一個獨立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性。

與「德勤」的顧問研究合約在2011年10月31日簽訂，此後，「工作小組」定期與顧問會面，討論應採納的研究方法和研究結果。

為量度法律援助的獨立性程度，顧問將從四方面研究，分別是制度、財政、運作和管治。研究將涵蓋成立一個獨立的法援管理局的考慮因素及下列事項：

- (a) 法律援助署的獨立性；
- (b) 海外司法管轄區內法律援助工作的獨立性；及
- (c) 持份者的觀感。

通過文獻回顧、新聞研究，以及與法援

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.



業界的主要持份者 – 包括法律業界人士、立法會議員、社區團體、政府部門和公共團體的代表、工會、區議會成員、記者、學者、政黨、法律援助署員工和法援局成員等的直接對話，顧問公司確立以實例為證的研究方法，去檢視現時法援行政獨立性的水平，以及了解持份者對法援獨立性的期望。

為比較和對比香港法援行政的強項和弱點，以及詳細考慮如何改善個別情況，顧問亦研究其他海外法援制度，包括奉行普通法的司法管轄區 – 英格蘭和威爾斯、蘇格蘭、北愛爾蘭、愛爾蘭、新西蘭、加拿大、安大略和澳洲新南威爾斯省，以及大陸法系管轄區 – 荷蘭和芬蘭。

鑑於市民大眾為主要的法援服務使用者，顧問公司通過大規模電話調查，以收集他們的意見。從未使用過法援服務的市民的意見，會與現時或過去曾使用法援服務人士（即法援申請人）的意見互相比較和分析，法援申請人的意見則

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.

通過問卷調查方式收集。兩種調查方法均以隨機抽樣方式選出調查對象。

顧問公司已於2012年1月和3月分別提交初期和中期報告，並將在完成研究後提交最終報告給本局。

為被警方拘留人士提供法律諮詢服務

目前，幾乎所有被拘留人士在被拘留後至被帶上裁判法院前這段期間，都會遭到有關執法機構的查問，還會被記錄口供，該份口供會在審訊時被用作呈堂證供，但被拘留人士在這段時間並不得到法律援助。

有鑑於此，本局要求「法律援助範圍興趣小組」（下稱「興趣小組」）研究法律援助服務應否擴大涵蓋為被香港執法機構拘留的人士提供法律諮詢服務，包括未正式被拘捕但獲邀協助調查的「被拘留人士」。

「興趣小組」由李嘉蓮大律師任主席，本局成員狄朗尼大律師及洪為民博士亦



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

參與有關該諮詢服務的討論。「興趣小組」分別在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日舉行了五次會議，參與該研究的「興趣小組」成員背景廣泛，包括學者（在法律專業和社會研究領域）、會計師、建築師、大律師、醫生、牙醫、工程師、環境顧問、資訊科技顧問、園境師、不同社會服務範疇的工作者、律師和測量師。為推動資訊交流和鼓勵全面諮詢，「興趣小組」邀請了有關持份者，包括法律援助署、當值律師服務、香港警務處、香港海關、入境處、廉政公署、香港大律師公會和香港律師會參與討論，各機構均有派出代表出席一次或以上會議。

在討論過程中，「興趣小組」成員獲悉蘇格蘭在其最高法院（上議院）於2010年10月25日判決 *Cadder 訴 HM Advocate* 一案後所取得的經驗。在 *Cadder* 一案，最高法院認為檢察部門是依賴在問話期間得到的認罪證供提出檢控，但該份證供是被拘留人士在未獲法律意見前提供的，這點與被拘留者應得到公平審訊的權利互不相容。*Cadder* 一案凸顯蘇格蘭在此段期間有提供法援的需要，隨後其法律援助服務亦因此相應擴展。國際法援組織主席 Alan Paterson 教授在本局於2011年5月舉辦的「兩岸四地法律援助研討會」的演說中曾提及這個判決，儘管蘇格蘭和香港在拘捕程序上有所不同，但 *Cadder* 一案為「興趣小組」詳細研究香港的情況，提供了足夠的推動力。

「興趣小組」同時獲悉，香港雖然保留了普通法沉默權，但一個「獲邀」到警局及 / 或「協助警方調查」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

能沒有被告知其保持沉默的權利；在查問開始前，執法人員未有作出或未能適時作出有關警誡，該人士可能在不知情的情況下自證其罪，因此，在很多刑事案件中，辯方會挑戰在審問期間取得的口供的自願性，審訊時間因而延長，成本亦相應增加。

為了深入考慮為被扣留人士提供法律諮詢服務的可行性、範疇和提供服務的方法，「興趣小組」進行了一個研究，比較在五個司法管轄區－英格蘭和威爾斯、蘇格蘭、台灣、新西蘭和加拿大安大略省，對被拘留者所提供的法援服務。

在考慮所有相關事宜後，「興趣小組」總結認為有必要向被拘留人士提供法援服務，以保障拘留人士的權利，他們認為應同樣提供法律援助予那些「獲邀」協助調查但未正式被拘捕的人士。雖然小組成員未能就有關法律援助的程度達成共識（尤其在提供法律諮詢外，法援應否擴展至在查問期間提供律師代表被拘留人士），「興趣小組」成員一致贊成建立一個試驗計劃，以擴大有關的法援服務。鑑於執法機構的顧慮和在運作時可能遇到的困難，「興趣小組」認為漸進引入試驗計劃會是一個實際的解決辦法。

「興趣小組」在收集成員對有關建議的意見後，將會提交報告。本局在審閱報告後，會於適當時間向行政長官提交建議。

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年度工作計劃

本局2011至2012年的工作計劃內容如下：

a. 法援範疇

「法律援助範圍興趣小組」（下稱「興趣小組」）完成了「法律援助輔助計劃的檢討」研究，而當局亦已在2011年3月將其建議提交立法會。「興趣小組」會研究其他建議，包括為被警方拘留人士提供法律諮詢服務的可行性和可取性，以保障其法律權利。

b. 法律援助的獨立性

本局為建立一個獨立的法律援助管理局的可行性及可取性進行顧問研究，由林家禮博士擔任主席的「法律援助的獨立性」工作小組已邀請有興趣的機構提交計劃書。研究預期會在2011年年底開始，本局會監察此計劃的進度，並在必要時提供協助。

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. 社區法律服務中心

一個由林家禮博士擔任主席的工作小組，已制定研究社區法律服務的方法。在搜集社區對法律服務的需求，以及現時由不同非政府組織提供的服務等資料後，工作小組會分析現時服務的範疇，並確定現有服務和需求間的差距，從而建議如何改善服務，以填補落差的部份。

d. 無律師代表訴訟人

在法庭，無律師代表訴訟人的數目日益增加，令人關注正義是否能得到伸張。本局會研究此課題，並考慮作出適當的回應。

e. 協助涉及勞資糾紛的僱員

不少的職工會和立法會議員分別就低收入僱員在勞資糾紛中所遇到的困難表示關注，本局會研究此課題，並制定合適的回應。

f. 調解研討會

本局曾舉辦兩個主題為「法援與民生」的法援研討會，第一個在2006年11月舉行，而第二個則在2008年3月舉行。第三個以「調解」為主題的研討會在2010年4月舉行。該等研討會為參加者提供平台就香港的法援服務交流意見，尤其可以增加服務使用者和從業員對特定範疇的關注。所有研討會均得到熱烈回應。有見及此，本局決定在2012年舉辦另一個研討會。

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. 兩岸四地法律援助研討會

一般人皆認同國際法援會議為法援決策者、法援機構的管理人員和從業員，提供了一個非常有用的平台，檢討和比較彼此的法援政策和管理方法，同時亦提供機會讓不同的法援機構和研究人員建立網絡。本局在2011年5月27日舉辦了一個兩岸四地法援研討會，邀請了中國內地、台灣、澳門和香港的代表參加，旨在透過研討會促進四地法援決策者、從業員和研究人員相互交流，為有需要人士提供優質的法援服務。

h. 興趣小組

本局成立了兩個興趣小組－「法律援助範圍興趣小組」和「法援申請程序及監察外判制度興趣小組」，成員由法律專業人士、非政府組織代表、區議會成員、學者、社工和其他專業人士組成。在2011年2月，本局再招募興趣小組成員，吸納更多不同界別的人士加入，以推動興趣小組的工作。本局會與興趣小組成員保持密切聯繫，在適當時候尋求他們對法律援助和相關課題的意見。

i. 國際法律援助組織研討會

本局曾參與2005年、2007年和2009年國際法律援助組織雙年研討會。這些研討會提供了一個有用的平台，去討論法律援助的基本原則、比較不同的法援制度和交流經驗。本局會參加在2011年6月於芬蘭舉行的國際法律援助組織研討會。

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.