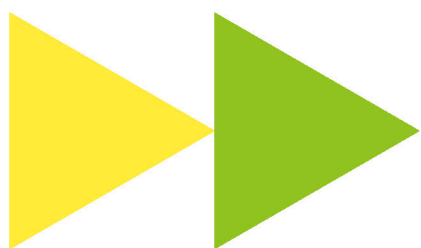


Communication with Stakeholders and Other Legal Aid Bodies



The Administration

The Council maintains regular contacts with the Administration, an important stakeholder of legal aid.

In the past year, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) provided the Council with information on different legal aid issues, including the submissions to LegCo AJLS Panel entitled “Biennial Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees, Prosecution Fees and Duty Lawyer Fees” and “Policy initiatives of the Home Affairs Bureau”. The representatives of HAB also attended the Council meeting to brief and exchange views with Council members on the two submissions.

Legal Aid Foundation, Taiwan

A delegation from the Shilin Branch of Legal Aid Foundation (LAF), Taiwan visited the Council on 13 May 2016. Members of the delegation included Chairman of the LAF, Shilin Branch, its Secretary and fourteen other members. The Assistant Director of Legal Aid (Policy & Development),

Ms Doris LUI, introduced the legal aid services provided by the Legal Aid Department. During the meeting, matters concerning the eligibility criteria for legal aid, costs of legal aid applicant and the application procedures were discussed.

LAF commenced operation on 1 July 2004. It provides the general public with legal aid, with the purpose of defending people's basic litigation rights. Legal aid recipients are those who lack financial means and are unable to receive proper legal protection or exercise their rights; or those who may not lack financial means but should be given aid according to the law, such as those involved in compulsory defense cases (where the minimum punishment of the crime is not less than three years imprisonment; or where the individual's ability to express in court is impeded by intellectual disability). The services of LAF include legal consultation, mediation and settlement, legal documents drafting and representation in court proceedings.

International Legal Aid Group

The International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) is a network of legal aid specialists including chief executives and managers from legal aid commissions, high ranking civil servants and leading academics in over two dozen countries. It is guided by an international steering group with Professor Alan Paterson as its Chair. Its mission is to improve evidence-based policy-making in the field of poverty legal services through discussion and dialogue relating to

international developments in policy and research. ILAG focuses primarily on the particular issues raised in jurisdictions which have established highly developed systems of legal aid. However, it is expanding its brief to include jurisdictions with less developed systems, particularly in jurisdictions close to its conference sites.

On the invitation of ILAG, Council chairman Dr Eric LI Ka Cheung will, on behalf of the Council, attend its conference to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 14 to 16 June 2017.

