法援局自成立以来,一直与负责制定法律援助(法援)政策及管理法律援助署的政策局保持密切联系。在2020-2021年间,政府告知本局关于政府就不同法援议题提出的建议或表达的立场,包括呈交立法会司法及法律事务委员会的文件,这些文件涉及法援申请人财务资格限额的周年检讨及有关法援的政策措施。

本局主席在 2020 年 12 月 23 日为香港律师会主办的「法律周 2020」暨「青 Teen 讲场」10 周年网上开幕礼担任主礼嘉宾。「法律周」是一项年度活动,旨在宣传法律服务和提高市民的法律知识,而「青 Teen 讲场」是香港律师会的另一项旗舰活动,旨在提供一个能与香港律师互动的平台,向年轻一代推广法律教育。

除此之外,本局注意到个别立法会议员及部分市民近期对一些法律援助议题存有误解,部分针对法律援助政策的偏见甚或在社交媒体广泛流传。为积极提升香港法律援助服务的正面形象,本局主席和法律援助署署长(法援署署长)于2021年2月曾接受星岛集团的访问,相关的文章并于三月初在《东周刊》、《星岛日报》和《英文虎报》上发布。

Since its establishment, the LASC has been maintaining regular contacts with the government bureau responsible for formulating legal aid policy and housekeeping the Legal Aid Department. In 2020-2021, the Council was kept informed by the Government on its proposals or positions in relation to legal aid issues, including the papers submitted to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of Legislative Council concerning the annual review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants and the policy initiatives in respect of legal aid.

On 23 December 2020, the Council Chairman officiated at the Joint Opening Ceremony of Teen Talk 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Law Week 2020 online, which was launched by the Law Society of Hong Kong. Law Week has been organised annually to promote legal services and enhance the legal knowledge of the general public while Teen Talk is another flagship event of the Law Society of Hong Kong aiming at promoting legal education amongst younger generation through an interactive forum with Hong Kong lawyers.

Apart from the above, the Council noted that there have been recent concerns from some Legislative Council Members and members of the public on some misconception of certain legal aid issues. Some of the biased opinions against the provision of legal aid policy may even go viral through social media. To proactively reinforce the positive image of legal aid services in Hong Kong, the Chairman and the Director of Legal Aid (DLA) had been interviewed by Sing Tao Group in February 2021 and relevant articles were published on the East Week, Sing Tao Daily and the Standard in early March.

同时,本局亦进一步优化网站,优化后的网站引入了多项新功能,主要包括可相容流动装置的版本、符合无障碍准则以及弹出特别公告的通知视窗,预计未来可为市民提供更多有关法律援助的最新资讯。

本局将致力厘清社会上一些有关法援制度的 误解,为市民提供更多关于法援制度真实和 正面的讯息。 Meanwhile, the Council has taken the opportunity to revamp the website. The revamped website introduced various new features, including but not limited to production of a mobile-friendly version, compliance with accessibility standards, and creation of pop-up notification window special announcement. It is expected to provide more updates in relation to legal aid provision for public's information in future.

The Council would endeavor to put persistent and conscious effort in dispelling the fallacies of public beliefs and presenting the truth of the legal aid system to the public.

