

DoJ holds first roundtable to promote sector's understanding of lawtech (with photos)

The Department of Justice (DoJ) today (June 12) held the first round of LexGoTech Roundtable, engaging legal professionals from the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Small and Medium Law Firms Association of Hong Kong to explore the opportunities and challenges brought about by lawtech and artificial intelligence. The President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr Roden Tong, also attended to support and delivered a speech to encourage the sector to actively participate in and promote the application of lawtech.

During the roundtable, participants exchanged views on the risks associated with the use of lawtech and discussed how to embrace the era of artificial intelligence through policies, hardware and software upgrades, and capability building. Member of the Consultation Group on LawTech Development and Executive Director of LITE Lab@HKU of the University of Hong Kong, Mr Brian Tang, shared the latest developments in the application of lawtech and artificial intelligence in legal services. LITE Lab@HKU is a new interdisciplinary and experiential programme led by the Faculty of Law and the Department of Computer Science of the University of Hong Kong, aimed at fostering the integration of law, innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. Members of the Consultation Group, Ms Stephanie Siu, Mr Jonathan Voo, and Ms Sharyn Ch'ang, also participated in the roundtable and guided the group discussions.

The Deputy Secretary for Justice and Chairman of the Consultation Group, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, said that the legal sector in Hong Kong is welcoming a new era, with lawtech reshaping the delivery of legal services. He said that lawtech will strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong's legal professional services and solidify the city's position as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.

The DoJ established the Consultation Group earlier this year, comprising representatives from the legal and dispute resolution sector, law schools and experts on lawtech applications, to explore ways to promote the integration of legal services and lawtech in Hong Kong, Dr Cheung added.

He also noted that, to further enhance the sector's understanding of the application of lawtech, the DoJ organised the roundtable following the Consultation Group's recommendations and plans to hold a series of related events this year. In the long term, the DoJ will promote the connection between lawtech service providers and legal practitioners, enhance the capabilities of legal professionals in lawtech, and disrupt traditional work models in the legal sector to create an ecosystem conducive to the development of lawtech in Hong Kong.

Dr Cheung also said that the DoJ has been sparing no effort to promote lawtech and support the development of online dispute resolution and transaction platforms. The DoJ has also launched the LawTech Fund and the Hong Kong Legal Cloud services to subsidise small and medium-sized law firms and chambers in enhancing their information technology capabilities, benefitting over 4 000 local legal professionals to date.

