

Confidence in the Constitutional Arrangements

Detailed Progress

I Ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law and promote better understanding of the Basic Law

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position †
To conduct another survey to assess public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, evaluate the effectiveness of past promotional efforts and identify means to promote the Basic Law <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To carry out the survey in the first half of 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	We reviewed the timing for carrying out the survey in consultation with the Census and Statistics Department and decided that the survey should be included in the Department's Thematic Household Survey in the last quarter of 2002. Survey now in progress. <i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i>
To launch a focused and intensive publicity programme to increase people's understanding of specific provisions of the Basic Law <i>(CAB)</i>	To carry out the publicity programme in 2001–2002 and 2002–2003 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

† the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate and advise bureaux and departments on the full and faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law including —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the requirements and arrangements for reporting to the Central People's Government (CPG) (e.g. laws enacted, budget documents, etc.) ● the application of national laws to the HKSAR in accordance with the Basic Law ● matters relating to the CPG/HKSAR Government relationship in respect of the Adaptation of Laws <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i> ● To co-ordinate and consolidate the HKSAR Government's views on any proposed amendments to the list of national laws in Annex III to the Basic Law <i>(1998 and 1997)</i> ● To assume a co-ordinating role and reflect the views of relevant policy bureaux and departments relating to the requirements in the Basic Law for consultation between the CPG and the HKSAR Government <i>(1997)</i> 	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate HKSAR's discussions with the relevant Mainland authorities on the establishment of mutual juridical assistance (in criminal, civil and commercial matters) in accordance with the Basic Law</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law <p>(1998 and 1997)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To facilitate the conduct of discussions with the Mainland authorities to establish arrangements for mutual juridical assistance such as service of judicial documents <p>(1998)</p>	<p>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</p>
<p>To facilitate the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law and provide secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and co-ordinate the implementation of the action plans endorsed by the Committee</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To provide quality secretariat support to the Committee, and to facilitate and co-ordinate promotional activities organised by bureaux and departments</p> <p>(1998 and 1997)</p>	<p>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</p>

2 Facilitate the maintenance and further development of cordial and constructive working relationship with the Central People’s Government, other Mainland authorities (including provincial and municipal authorities) and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To advise on and facilitate official exchanges with the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To help ensure that official exchanges with the MSAR Government are smooth and effective and conducted in the spirit of mutual respect and equality <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To advise bureaux and departments on developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with their Mainland counterparts, by — ● advising on the proper handling of official contacts with the Mainland authorities, and as necessary assisting in making such contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” principle ● To encourage as appropriate direct contacts between HKSAR Government officials and their Mainland counterparts 	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encouraging bureaux and departments to visit the Mainland or to organise visits to the HKSAR by Mainland officials, and advise them on the arrangements relating to the visits <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To encourage as appropriate official visits by HKSAR Government officials to the Mainland <p>(1998)</p>	
<p>To strengthen ties between the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong authorities by acting as the HKSAR Government's co-ordinator for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference and the Cross-Boundary Liaison System</p> <p>(CAB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To ensure the smooth functioning of these channels ● To co-ordinate discussion of major issues of co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong at the Joint Conference and between the relevant experts <p>(1998)</p>	<p>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</p>

3 Facilitate HKSAR's continued and active participation in the international arena

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To facilitate and advise on the conduct of HKSAR's external affairs. Specifically, to —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● advise on the full implementation of international rights and obligations arising from the international agreements applicable to the HKSAR● consolidate views within the HKSAR Government on the application of international agreements to the HKSAR● advise on the need to obtain the authorisation of the Central People's Government (CPG) for the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements with foreign states, regions and international organisations	<p>To provide advice which is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the "One Country, Two Systems" principle</p> <p><i>(1998 and 1997)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● advise on matters relating to the implementation of consular conventions in the HKSAR and the management of the consular corps ● advise on matters relating to the establishment in the HKSAR of foreign semi-official missions which requires CPG's permission ● advise on matters relating to HKSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences and the hosting of international conferences <p><i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i></p>		

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To develop further our working relationship with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR (MFA Office) by —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● acting as the focal point of contact between the HKSAR Government and the MFA Office on matters relating to the conduct of HKSAR’s external affairs, or foreign affairs relating to the HKSAR ● consolidating information provided or requests made by the HKSAR Government to the MFA Office where the subject matters cut across more than one policy area <p>(CAB)</p>	<p>To ensure the HKSAR Government maintains a cordial and constructive working relationship with the MFA Office that is consistent with the “One Country, Two Systems” principle</p> <p>(1998)</p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>

4 Ensure continual development of the electoral systems

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To make suitable practical arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Chief Executive election <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB))</i>	To conduct the election on 24 March 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To maintain the records of electors in voter registers as up-to-date as practicable <i>(CAB)</i>	To identify and consider feasible measures and work out an implementation plan in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To examine the feasibility of introducing an automatic voter registration system <i>(CAB)</i>	To identify problems associated with automatic registration and work out possible solutions in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	We have identified issues associated with automatic voter registration and are considering the way forward. We will convey our position to the Legislative Council (LegCo) when we present the amendment bill for the 2004 LegCo elections. <i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i>
To examine the desirability and feasibility of a political party law in the light of our evolving electoral systems and the political situation of Hong Kong <i>(CAB)</i>	To commence the study after the LegCo election in 2000, with a view to assessing the desirability and feasibility of a political party law <i>(1999)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

5 Provide input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past year. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To provide input and support to the review on how, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the accountability of principal officials for their respective policy portfolios can be enhanced. <i>(Constitutional Affairs Bureau)</i>	To facilitate the satisfactory completion of the review <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>