

Annual Report



*for the period from 1 January 2010
to 31 December 2010*



HONG KONG
ACADEMY of LAW
香港法律專業學會

AIMS

Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited (“Academy”) was incorporated on 2 September 2008 as a company limited by guarantee and its charitable status was confirmed by the Inland Revenue Department shortly after its incorporation.

The Academy is promoted by The Law Society of Hong Kong and is dedicated to reaching out and promoting law through education and training to the Law Society Members and to the local and international communities.

The main aims of the Academy are:

- (a) to raise public awareness of the rule of law and other core values of the legal profession;
- (b) to enhance public interest in the learning of law and to promote law as a “public profession”;
- (c) to nurture social awareness of the connection between law and other community development; and
- (d) to provide pathway guidance to law students and quality development programmes for the profession.

COURSES CONDUCTED

The Academy conducted 468 courses including Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) and Risk Management Education (“RME”) courses during the year. Of the 468 courses, 18 courses were conducted in Putunghua or Cantonese and the remainder in English. The courses attracted the attendance of 13,370 participants.

Some of the highlights of these courses are:

Civil Justice Reform (“CJR”)

CJR has been implemented since April 2009. The Academy, jointly with Hong Kong Bar Association (“Bar”), organised a session on the update of CJR in October 2010. About 490 practitioners attended the session.



The guest speakers (from left to right) – The Honourable Mr. Justice Lam, Mr. Registrar Lung, Mr. Kumar Ramanathan S.C. and Mr. Nigel Francis, Partner of Minter Ellison, presenting at the CJR Training Programme: General Session - CJR Update on 30 October 2010.

The Academy also organised five free specialised training sessions on CJR covering topics like case management, originating process and pleadings, offers to settle, evidence, trials, appeals and costs. About 800 participants attended the specialised training sessions.

Mediation

With the introduction of Practice Direction 31, mediation has increasingly been used as a means of alternative dispute resolution. The Academy offered four general mediation training courses, two family (one basic and one advanced) mediation training courses, two courses on mediation advocacy skills during the year.



The trainers from Bond University, Australia, Professor John Wade (standing on the left) and Ms. Robyn Hooworth (standing on the right) presenting at the first series of General Mediation Training Courses on 23-24 and 26-28 July 2010.

After completion of an approved mediation training course, an applicant must complete two simulated mediation cases and submit the comments of the assessors on the two simulated cases when he/she applies for accreditation as a Law Society General Mediator.

Assessors play an important role in maintaining the standards in the accreditation process.

Mrs. Robyn Hooworth, Senior Visiting Instructor from the Faculty of Law of Bond University, Australia provided formal training in February 2010 to those who wished to attain the skills of an assessor.



Ms. Robyn Hooworth, Senior Visiting Instructor with the Dispute Resolution Centre, Bond University, Australia, conducted the Mediator Assessor Skills Training course on 4 February 2010.

Training Programme on Convention Against Torture (“CAT”) Claims and Refugee Law

The Government has put in place a publicly-funded legal assistance scheme through the Duty Lawyer Service, the CAT Scheme to assist claimants who have made a claim to the Immigration Department under Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. To prepare practitioners to represent claimants under the CAT Scheme, the Academy organised a second series of *CAT Training Programme* in June 2010. Over 90 participants attended the 4-day training.



The panelists (from left to right) - Mr. Peter Barnes, Mr. Mark Daly, Mr. Rodger Haines QC, and Professor Manfred Nowak, having a discussion with the participants in the CAT Training Programme.

Checking Title Deeds and Raising Requisitions

A one-day workshop was organised in September 2010 to provide training and practice in checking titles and raising requisitions based on actual title deeds, training on preparing and considering check list for perusal of titles and on answering common and difficult requisitions on problematic titles.



Guest presenters, Mr. David Wong (sitting) and Mr. Allen Che (standing), conducting the one-day workshop “Checking Title Deeds and Raising Requisitions” on 29 September 2010.

7th Labour Law Conference

The Academy and LAWASIA co-hosted the 7th Labour Law Conference in Hong Kong on 17 and 18 September 2010. 18 speakers from 11 jurisdictions including Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan, China and Australia were invited to speak on labour law and related issues. Over 70 local and overseas delegates attended the Conference.



The Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma delivering an opening speech on the first day of the Conference, together with Mr. Lester Huang JP, President of LAWASIA (sitting on the right), Mr. Huen Wong, JP, President of The Law Society (sitting on the left) and Mr. Bernard Banks, Chair of the LAWASIA Labour Law Committee (sitting in the middle).

Pathway guidance

In July 2010, the Academy held a sharing session with law students working as interns in law firms in Hong Kong. Mr Huen Wong, President of the Law Society, led a panel of experienced practitioners to share their insights in the many career options open to law students. Each Panel guest has a successful career in a different law-related field – Mr Huen Wong in private practice, Ms. Elsie Leung, G.B.M, J.P, is Deputy Director, Hong Kong Basic Law Committee, Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of PRC, and former Secretary for Justice; and Mr. Kenneth Ng, is Head of Legal and Compliance, The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.

About 92 interns and some trainee solicitors from 22 law firms participated in the sharing session.



Mr. Huen Wong, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong welcomed the interns at the Sharing Session with Interns on 19 July 2010.



The guest panelists, Mr. Kenneth Ng (from the left)and Ms. Elsie Leung Oi-sie, G.M.B, J.P. (on the right), together with Mr. Huen Wong JP (at the center), sharing their experiences at the session.

Pleadings – The Key to Cost-Effective Case Management and Milestones

Mr. Iain Goldrein Q.C., Deputy High Court Judge, Recorder of the Crown Court, England; and Visiting Professor of the Nottingham Law School provided a talk in April 2010 to about 170 participants on cost-effective case management in contentious matters. The topics covered included file management and statement of truth, risk analysis, sanctioned offers, pleadings, witness statements as to fact, managing experts, and skeleton argument.



Mr. Ian Goldrein QC presenting at the course “Pleadings – The Key to Cost-Effective Case Management and Milestones” on 13 April 2010.

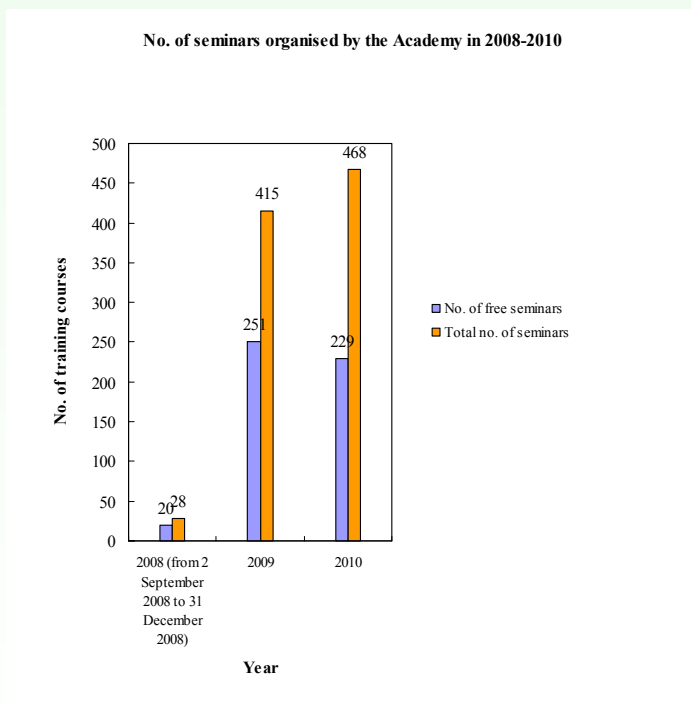
Legislative Council’s Control over the making of Subsidiary Legislation

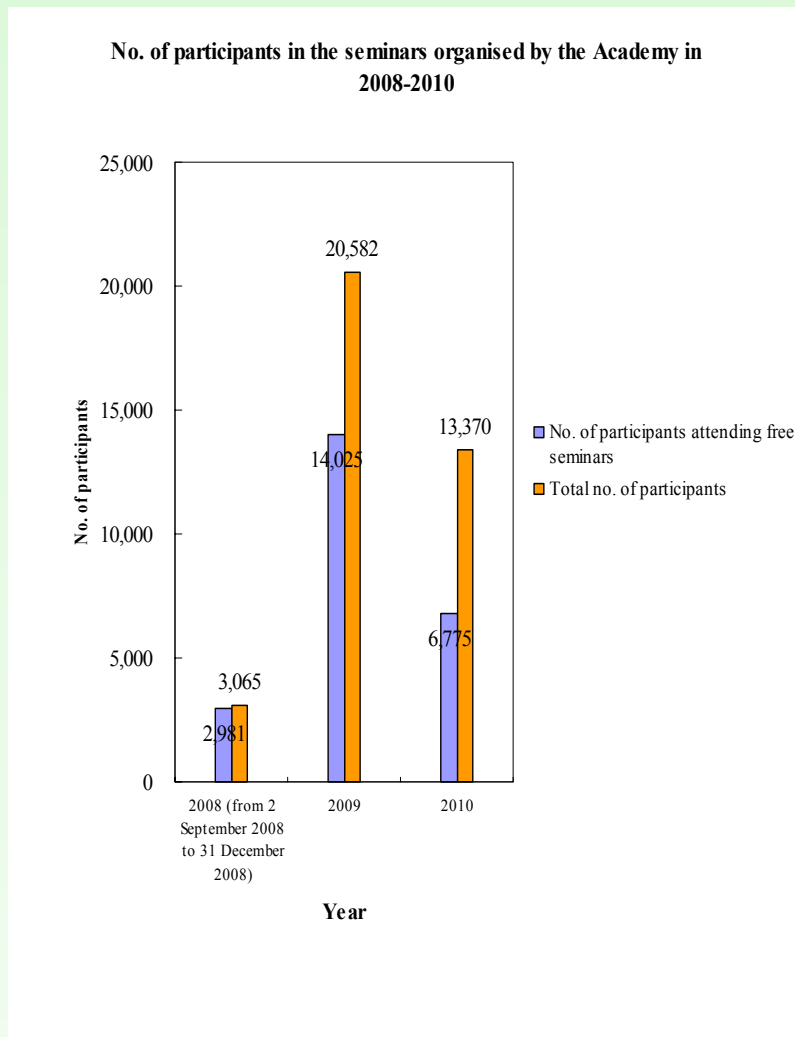
Mr. Jimmy Ma, J.P., Legal Adviser of the Legislative Council Secretariat presented a course on how the Legislative Council exercised its law making powers and functions in relation to the making of subsidiary legislation with an examination on the relevant constitutional, legal and practical issues.

Over 170 participants attended the course in December 2010.



Mr. Jimmy Ma, J.P, Legal Advisor, presenting at the seminar on “Legislative Council’s Control over the Making of Subsidiary Legislation” on 11 December 2010.





The Academy is grateful to the 123 presenters who are experienced solicitors, barristers, foreign lawyers, judges and prominent members of society for sharing their valuable knowledge and expertise at the Academy’s training programmes. For a full list of the presenters, please click [here](#).

SPONSORSHIPS

The Academy granted full or partial sponsorships to over 100 applicants to attend the following Conferences during the reporting period:

- “The Pitfalls of Cross Border Joint Ventures Transaction and Litigation Risks”, Park City, Utah, U.S.A. from 27 February to 6 March 2010;
- International Bar Association Annual Conference 2010 from 3 to 8 October 2010;
- 54th UIA Congress, Istanbul from 30 October to 3 November 2010.