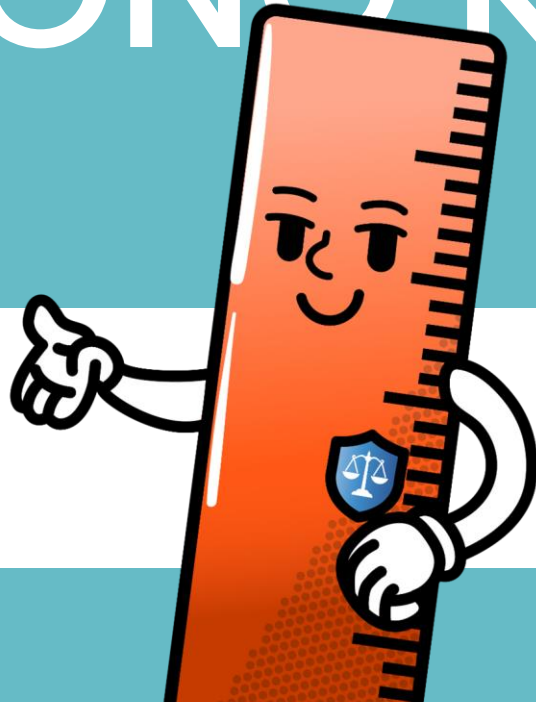




# COMMON LAW SYSTEM OF HONG KONG



# How is Hong Kong's common law system preserved?



Why can Hong Kong practise common law, which is different from the legal system of the Mainland?



Pursuant to Articles 8 and 160 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong is able to retain the common law system.

This is because of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems"!



# Hong Kong's common law system under "One Country, Two Systems"

The Basic Law retains Hong Kong's laws previously in force and the common law system.



Bilingualism  
(Chinese and English)



Independent judicial power  
(including the power of final adjudication)



Principle of precedents



Overseas non-permanent judges sitting in the CFA



Adversarial system



Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction within China. The rule of law, legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong are internationally recognized.

# How does the common law system create opportunities for the development of Hong Kong?

The strengths of Hong Kong's legal system are shown in various aspects, for example:



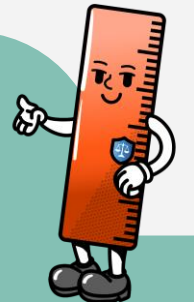
Bilingual laws in Chinese and English, together with a deep pool of legal talents with international perspectives



The laws of Hong Kong align with international commercial rules



Under "One Country, Two Systems", Hong Kong has the unique advantage of enjoying strong support from the Motherland and being closely connected to the world.



# How does the common law system create opportunities for the development of Hong Kong?

Let's have a look at the data relating to the rule of law in Hong Kong!



Before returning to the Motherland, in 1996, Hong Kong scored

**69.85** in the Rule of Law Index

Hong Kong scored **87.74** in 2023,  
which was **25.6%** higher than before the  
reunification

*Reference Data: Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank*

Since 2015, Hong Kong has been continuously ranked

**Among the Top Five**

preferred seats for arbitration globally

Hong Kong again ranked **the Third** in 2021, surpassing  
Paris

*Reference Data: International Arbitration Survey, Queen Mary University  
of London*

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