

Brief for the New Governor

Basic Law

The Basic Law (BL) of the HKSAR was adopted and promulgated on 4 April 1990 by the 7th National People's Congress (NPC) of the PRC. It shall enter into force on 1 July 1997.

Drafting background

2. In April 1985, the NPC established the Basic Law Drafting Committee (BLDC), comprising both mainland and HK members, to undertake the drafting of the BL. The Basic Law Consultative Committee, consisting entirely of HK members, was also formed to canvass opinions in HK.
3. The BLDC discussed the draft BL provisions in its plenary sessions and the regular meetings of its five Special Groups (CPG/SAR Relationship, Rights and Obligations, Economy, Political Structure, and Education and Science). In April 1988, the BLDC published the first complete draft of the BL, followed by a five-month public consultation period. The second draft, reflecting many significant improvements over the first one, was published in February 1989. Consultation on the second draft ended in October 1989.

Implementation

6. Although the Basic Law will not come into force until 1 July 1997, we need to make arrangements to ensure that when it does so the system prevailing at that time converges with it as far as possible. Many of these arrangements will be put in place in the context of implementing the JD, but there are a number which are specifically Basic Law related. For example, the adaptation of laws exercise, and the possible establishment of HKG office in Beijing (BL 22(5)).

Related Issue

7. JD/BL Teaching kit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Recently, in response to a request from the Committee on Civic Education, the Education Department has produced a JD/BL teaching kit. This project has been widely publicised in the media and has been welcomed. The draft teaching kit is now being cleared by FCO and HKG. [REDACTED]

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Constitutional Affairs Branch

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