

Chapter 2

Basic Law — the Source of Hong Kong's Progress and Development





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An artistic and cultural troupe of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) performs at the Hong Kong Coliseum in June 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the HKSAR and the stationing of the PLA Garrison in Hong Kong. ©

The grand and solemn Hong Kong Handover Ceremony on 1 July 1997 marked the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the formal establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The Basic Law, a constitutional document of the HKSAR, took effect on the same day, marking a new milestone in Hong Kong's history.



The Basic Law prescribes the social and economic systems, fundamental rights and duties of residents, structures for the executive authorities, the legislature, the judiciary and other aspects and guarantees the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” in the form of a high-level law, providing a solid basis for Hong Kong’s further progress and development. In the 15 years since reunification, the Central People’s Government (CPG) and the Hong Kong Government have strenuously devoted themselves to the full implementation of the Basic Law and have achieved resounding success.

Relationship between the Central Authorities and Hong Kong

The “One Country, Two Systems” principle comprises three related concepts, namely “one country”, “two systems” and “a high degree of autonomy and Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong”.

One Country

The “one country” concept represents national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. These principles are enshrined in the Basic Law and its preamble. For example, in line with the “one country” principle, according to the Basic Law, the CPG shall be responsible for foreign affairs and defence of Hong Kong and shall appoint its Chief Executive and the principal officials of the executive authorities.

Scouts and guides help at the “Flags of Harmony and Unity” event to set a record, with 21,726 members of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University community and its supporters forming the world’s largest display of the regional flag of the HKSAR at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground in September 2007. ©

