

Welcome Message

Welcome to the Online Exhibition on the 30th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was established under Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. The systems to be instituted in special administrative regions shall be prescribed by law enacted by the National People's Congress. The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (the Basic Law), adopted by the Seventh National People's Congress on 4 April 1990, is the constitutional document drawn up in accordance with the Constitution with regard to Hong Kong's specific conditions, which provides the basis for the systems, policies and laws to be implemented in the HKSAR. Time passes fast and it has now been over 30 years since the Basic Law was promulgated.

The Basic Law clearly states that Hong Kong is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and a local administrative region enjoying a high degree of autonomy and coming directly under the Central People's Government. Upholding national unity and territorial integrity, maintaining the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, and taking account of history and realities, the "one country, two systems" principle was put forth by Mr Deng Xiao-ping as a way to preserve the characteristics and advantages of Hong Kong as much as possible and to enable Hong Kong citizens to maintain their way of life. This is the fundamental tenet of the various policies of the Central Authorities regarding Hong Kong, and also the original intention of "one country, two systems".

The Basic Law clearly sets out and implements our country's basic policies regarding Hong Kong. It enshrines the important concepts of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. It also prescribes the various systems to be practised in the HKSAR and maps out the blueprint for the HKSAR's future development. Comprising a total of 160 articles, the Basic Law provides a solid constitutional basis for these epoch-making ideas.

Hong Kong has returned to the motherland for almost 23 years. Apart from maintaining the prosperity, stability and long-term development of the HKSAR, the Basic Law has fully protected the basic rights and freedoms of Hong Kong citizens. As a pioneering initiative, the application of "one country, two systems" entails an evolving process. Today, as Hong Kong encounters new circumstances and challenges

in the implementation of “one country, two systems”, it is imperative to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. Acting in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law is the only way to ensure the smooth and successful practice of “one country, two systems” in the long run.

A full and comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by Hong Kong citizens is fundamental to the successful implementation of “one country, two systems”. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government is pleased to present this online exhibition for the public to review, in the form of a time tunnel, the historical background of the Basic Law, as well as its drafting, promulgation and successful implementation in Hong Kong. We hope that this exhibition will remind the public of the purpose and mission of the Basic Law and “one country, two systems”, and enhance their understanding of the Basic Law, a constitutional document of historical and international significance which implements the basic policies of our country regarding Hong Kong and lays the foundation for Hong Kong’s success.

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Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region