



Legal Framework of Hong Kong

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The legal system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is based on the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. The constitutional framework for the legal system is provided by the Basic Law sanctioned by the National People's Congress of the PRC. Under the principle of 'one country, two systems', the HKSAR legal system, which is different from that of Mainland China, is based on the common law, supplemented by written law.

It is fundamental to Hong Kong's legal system that members of the judiciary are independent of the executive and legislative branches of government. The courts of justice in Hong Kong comprise the Court of Final Appeal, the High Court (which includes the Court of Appeal and the Court of First Instance), the District Court (which includes the Family Court), the Lands Tribunal, the Magistrates' Courts (which include the Juvenile Court), the Coroner's Court, the Labour Tribunal, the Small Claims Tribunal and the Obscene Articles Tribunal.

Under the Basic Law the HKSAR has a high degree of autonomy in external affairs. With the authority of the Central People's Government where necessary, it has concluded more than 230 bilateral agreements with other jurisdictions. In addition, over 250 multilateral international conventions are applicable to the HKSAR.

Using the name "Hong Kong, China", the HKSAR also participates on its own as a full member in international organisations and conferences not limited to states, e.g. the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation, etc.

As part of the delegation of the People's Republic of China, representatives of the HKSAR Government participate in activities of the The Hague Conference on Private International Law, as well as of other international organizations and conferences limited to states, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.



Hong Kong Useful Links

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The links below include websites of the Hong Kong SAR Government and external websites. We are not responsible for the contents of these websites.

Trade and Investment Links

- **Commerce & Economic Development Bureau** <http://www.cedb.gov.hk/>
- **Trade and Industry Department** <http://www.tid.gov.hk/>
- **InvestHK** <http://www.investhk.gov.hk/index.html>
- **Trade Development Council** <http://www.hktdc.com/tc-buyer/>
- **Other Economic and Trade Offices** <http://www.gov.hk/en/about/govdirectory/oohk.htm>
- **Hong Kong Monetary Authority** <http://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/index.shtml>
- **HK Stock Exchanges & Clearing Ltd** <http://www.hkex.com.hk/eng/index.htm>
- **Tradelink** <http://www.tradelink.com.hk/eng/index.html>
- **CEPA** <http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/>

General Information on HK Government Department

- **HKSAR Government Information Centre** <http://www.gov.hk/tc/residents/>
- **Chief Executive's Office** <http://www.ceo.gov.hk/>
- **Legislative Council** <http://www.legco.gov.hk/>
- **Basic Law** <http://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/tc/index/index.html>
- **Laws of Hong Kong** <http://www.legislation.gov.hk/index.htm>

Discovering Hong Kong

- **Hong Kong Tourism Board** <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/us/index.jsp>

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