

Introduction

This booklet “The Basic Law and ‘One Country, Two Systems’” is meant to provide teachers with reference materials when preparing for classroom teaching and constructing issues related to the Basic Law or “One Country, Two Systems”. Teachers are welcome to adjust or tailor the contents for using as learning and teaching materials where appropriate.

The booklet comprises a Powerpoint printout, two articles, and an Annex. The Powerpoint printout is taken from the seminar on “Hong Kong’s Constitutional Development and Human Rights Protection under ‘One Country, Two Systems’” organized by EDB under the NSS Enriching Knowledge for the Liberal Studies Curriculum – Hong Kong Today Series. The two articles are titled “The Basic Law and the Development of the Political System in Hong Kong” and “‘One Country, Two Systems’ from a Legal Perspective”. Both the Powerpoint printout and the articles are prepared and written by Professor Chen Hung-yee (陳弘毅), Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong.

In the Powerpoint presentation, Prof. Chen explicated the meaning of “One Country, Two Systems” and gave an account of the history of democratic developments of Hong Kong since the mid-19th century. The two articles focus more on the description of the history of the discourse of political reform and constitutional development in Hong Kong and the possibilities and limits of Hong Kong’s political development in the foreseeable future. The legal and constitutional history of the Hong Kong SAR since its establishment in 1997 was also reviewed in the second article.

The Annex contains two entries of “Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts” hosted on the *Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies*. It is hoped that these materials can help teachers enhance their own understanding of the Basic Law and its status as a constitutional document for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.