The Judicial Studies Board (JSB) was set up in 1988 to provide training programmes for Judges and Judicial Officers (JJOs) at all levels. The Board is made up of a Full Board and an Executive Committee, and is supported by a small secretariat on administrative matters.

The Chief Justice appoints judges from all levels of Courts to serve on the Board. Apart from judges of the Court of Appeal, the Court of First Instance, the District Court and the Magistrates’ Courts, members of the Board also include the Judiciary Administrator, one representative each from the Department of Justice, the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong as well as a professor from each of the law schools of the two local universities. Judiciary members of the Board serve on the Board’s Executive Committee. All members are appointed for a term of two years.
The terms of reference of the Judicial Studies Board are:

- To devise programmes for the induction of new holders of judicial office.
- To advise the Chief Justice how he might best use a system of judicial studies in respect of the appointment of judges, the matching of judicial resources to demands, and the creation of opportunities for changes of work.
- To run training programmes.

**DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

**Professional Training**

The Board recognises the importance of continuous professional training and development for JJOs. To this end, training programmes on law and legal developments are organised for JJOs.
委員會每年都會舉辦區域法院量刑會議，使所有區域法院法官可以利用這個機會討論量刑原則及其最新發展。上一次會議在2004年12月舉行，共有49位區域法院法官和暫委法官參加。與會者通過小組討論，對共同關注的法律課題進行了有用的意見交流和經驗分享。

此外，我們又在2004年10月舉行裁判官會議。與會者就判決書的撰寫、閉路電視的使用、以及關於兒童色情物品的罪行和偽造身份證明的判刑等問題進行討論，共有50位法官和司法人員參加該會議。

自2002年9月以來，法官人員培訓委員會一直資助法官和司法人員修讀由本地大學和學術機構主辦或合辦的兼讀法學碩士學位和其他與法律有關的課程。現時共有五位法官和司法人員獲委員會資助修讀這些課程，而其中四位更即將修業期滿。

A District Court Sentencing Conference is organised annually for all District Judges to discuss sentencing principles and recent developments. A total of 49 District Judges and Deputy District Judges attended the last conference held in December 2004. Through small group discussions, participants had useful exchange of views and experience on legal topics of common interest.

A Magistrates Conference was also held in October 2004 to discuss issues on judgment writing, use of CCTV, sentencing on child pornography and sentencing on forged identity card offences. Altogether, 50 JJ Os attended the conference.

Since September 2002, the JSB has been sponsoring JJ Os to attend part-time courses leading to the award of Master of Laws (LLM) and other law related studies organised or co-organised by local universities and academic institutions. Five of our JJ Os have since started such studies under JSB sponsorship and four of them are close to complete their studies.
Court proceedings in Chinese have been on the increase in the past few years. To cope with such an increasing demand for the use of Chinese in courts, the Board has strengthened training for JJ Os in this respect. Various forms of trainings are provided to our bilingual JJ Os for them to master skills in conducting court hearings and preparing and delivering judgments in Chinese. These include courses on Writing Judgments in Chinese run by local universities and residential language courses at the Tsinghua University, Beijing.

The Tsinghua University Chinese Judgment Writing Courses commenced in 1999. The JSB has been sponsoring JJ Os to attend these residential language courses. At Tsinghua, JJ Os receive intensive training in Modern Chinese grammar and are taught skills and techniques in writing different kinds of judgments. The 4-week course enables participants to improve their ability in understanding and writing legal documents in Chinese. Participants are also given individual Putonghua coaching by native speakers drawn from Tsinghua’s pool of students. In March and April 2004, a group of 11 JJ Os attended the course. The next course would be held in August 2005.
During the year, the Board organised for the first time intensive courses for JJ Os on writing judgments in Chinese in collaboration with local universities - one was with the University of Hong Kong and the other the City University of Hong Kong. The aim of both courses is to further improve the Chinese writing skills of our JJ Os so as to enhance the overall effectiveness of court proceedings conducted in Chinese.

Cantonese courses at advanced level for monolingual JJ Os are also organised. One course started in December 2004.

Other Seminars

To help enrich JJ Os' knowledge for coping with developments in the community, it is essential that the JSB offers training that caters for such a need. During the year, the Board organised seminars on environmental protection issues and legislation, the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, technology crimes, Police digital traffic enforcement, mediation skills, trade control system, and electronic tools and legal reference databases for JJ Os.
本地參觀活動

委員會定期安排法官和司法人員參觀政府部門和其他機構，讓他們了解這些組織的運作情況及其面對的挑戰。在2004年，法官和司法人員參觀了環境保護署的新界東南堆填區、廉政公署及社會福利署的海棠路兒童院和馬頭圍女童院。

Local Visits

The JSB also arranges visits to government departments and other institutions for JJOs regularly. The aim of the visits is to introduce to our judges the operations of these organisations as well as the challenges they face. During the year, JJOs visited the South East New Territories Landfill of the Environmental Protection Department, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the Social Welfare Department Begonia Road Juvenile Home and Ma Tau Wai Girls’ Home.

學術機構和專業團體在本港舉辦的研討會 / 講座

委員會經常收到香港大學、香港城市大學、香港大學公會、香港律師會等本地大學和專業團體舉辦研討會、講座和工作坊的通知。為了鼓勵法官和司法人員參加這些學術活動，司法機構不單會安排他們在日常的司法工作中抽時間參加，如有需要時，更會撥款資助所需的費用。

Local Seminars/Lectures organised by Academic Institutions and Professional Bodies

The JSB is notified of seminars, lectures and workshops organised by local universities and professional bodies, such as the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong. JJOs are encouraged to take part in these events, and the Judiciary facilitates their participation through releasing them from their court commitments and, if necessary, sponsoring the requisite fees.
 INTERFACE WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Professional Exchanges between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Judiciary

In September 2004, the Chief Justice led a 10-member delegation comprising JJOs from different levels of courts and administrative staff to visit Beijing. During the four-day stay in Beijing, the delegation met Vice-President Mr Zeng Qinghong, the Chief Justice Mr Xiao Yang, President of the Supreme People’s Court, Vice-President of the Supreme People’s Court Mr Huang Songyou, Minister of Justice Mr Zhang Fusen, and the Director of the State Council’s Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office Mr Liao Hui. The delegation took the opportunity to learn more about the latest developments in the Mainland judicial and legal systems and share its experience in the administration of justice in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. President Xiao recognised the contribution of the Hong Kong Courts to the implementation of “one country, two systems” under the Basic Law and to the maintenance of stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

與其他司法管轄區的接觸

內地與香港司法機構在專業上的交流

2004年9月，終審法院首席法官率領一個由各級法院法官、司法人員及行政人員組成的十人代表團訪問北京。在北京的四日期間，代表團拜會了國家副主席曾慶紅、最高人民法院院長栗揚首長大法官、最高人民法院副院長黃松有、司法部部長張福鬆及國務院港澳辦主任廖淵。代表團是在機會加深了解內地司法及法律制度的最新發展，同時亦分享了他們在香港特別行政區實踐司法工作的經驗。栗院長肯定了香港法庭對推行《基本法》規定的「一國兩制」及對維護香港的穩定繁榮所作出的貢獻。
At the invitation of the Chief Justice and the Secretary for Justice, President Xiao led an eight-member delegation and reciprocated the visit in November 2004. During its stay, the delegation visited the Court of Final Appeal, the High Court, the Eastern Magistrates’ Courts and the Labour Tribunal. President Xiao and the Chief Justice share the view that the judiciary and the legal profession in the Mainland and Hong Kong should step up exchanges and communication.
During the year 2004, the Hong Kong Judiciary had received 10 visiting delegations involving 143 judges and representatives from the People's Courts and judges' associations in different provinces and cities.

International / Mainland Conferences

The JSB appreciates the benefits that can be gained from cross-fertilisation with other jurisdictions and JJOs' exposure to them. From time to time, JJOs attend international conferences. In 2004, the Judiciary was represented at three international conferences held in Beijing and Canada. We also received delegations from other jurisdictions, including Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
Local Seminars involving Non-HK Speakers

To keep our JJOs abreast with international legal developments, eminent speakers from other jurisdictions are invited to give talks on topics of interest. The Board, joined by the Legal Education Trust Fund, organised a seminar on the Mainland’s injunction system in March 2004. A judge from the Second Intermediate People’s Court of Shanghai briefed our judges on the subject, which was followed by a discussion forum.

In July 2004, the Right Honourable Sir Ivor Richardson from New Zealand gave a talk on “The New Zealand Bill of Rights: Experience and Potential” to our judges and members of the legal profession, as well as the teaching staff and students of the law schools at the local universities.
JSB Newsletter, started in December 2000 with a readership covering all JJ Os, is published electronically in support of the Judiciary’s efforts in environmental conservation. The Newsletter provides JJ Os with regular updates and useful information on judicial training and development. It also serves, though in a small way, as a forum for JJ Os to exchange views and offer suggestions on judicial training.

JSB Library

Publications and seminar materials obtained from overseas conferences and local seminars are kept in the JSB Library for reference by JJ Os. The library also maintains a collection of audio and video tapes of all in-house training programmes.

JJO ChatRoom

In this age of information technology, the Board is sensitive to the needs of JJ Os for a dedicated cyber forum for their exclusive use. In November 2004, the Board launched the first version of the JJO ChatRoom. This will be refined as necessary with advice and support by the Information Technology Team of the Judiciary Administration. JJOs can access the ChatRoom either in their chambers or at home through the Internet. The ChatRoom serves as a useful forum according our JJOs full privacy and sphere for voicing or exchanging their views amongst colleagues on all issues concerning their work on the bench.
### TRAINING STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Training Activities</th>
<th>No. of Activities in 2004</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Professional training</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language training</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International/Mainland conferences and visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local seminars involving non-HK speaker</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local in-house seminars</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local seminars organised by outside organisations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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