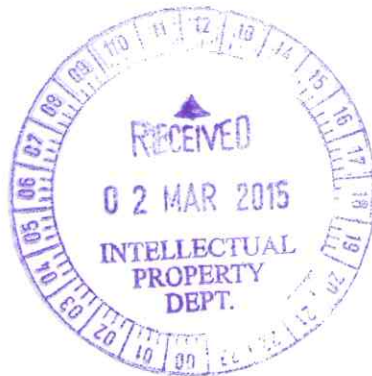




## HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

Secretariat: LG2 Floor, High Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong  
DX-180053 Queensway 1 E-mail: info@hkba.org Website: www.hkba.org  
Telephone: 2869 0210 Fax: 2869 0189



26th February 2015

Director of Intellectual Property  
Intellectual Property Department  
The Government of the HKSAR  
25/F Wu Chung House  
213 Queen's Road East  
Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Dear Sirs,

### Consultation relating to the Proposed Application of Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong

I refer to your email date 3 February 2015.

Please find enclosed the Views of the Hong Kong Bar Association dated 26th February 2015 on the Proposed Application of Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong Consultation, which have been endorsed at the Bar Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Winnie Tam SC  
Chairman

## 香港大律師公會

香港金鐘道三十八號高等法院低層二樓

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### Vice Chairmen 副主席：

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名譽秘書及財政：

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羅蔚山

伍中彥

## **Consultation Relating to the Proposed Application of Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong**

### **Views of Hong Kong Bar Association**

1. The Hong Kong Bar Association (“**HKBA**”) has been invited to render its views on the Consultation Paper relating to the proposed application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong (the “**Consultation Paper**”) published by the Intellectual Property Department of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.
2. As noted in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Paper, the application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong would provide a more efficient and cost-effective trade mark registration option for Hong Kong trade mark owners who wish to seek protection in multiple countries. Additionally, it will also become more convenient for overseas companies with an interest in the Hong Kong market to protect their trade marks in Hong Kong by requesting territorial extension of their international trade mark registration to Hong Kong through the Madrid Protocol. The application of the Madrid Protocol also appears to be the international trend.
3. Having considered the Consultation Paper, the HKBA agrees with the view therein expressed that it is in the overall interest of Hong Kong to implement the Madrid Protocol.
4. That said, it is China, not the Hong Kong SAR, which is presently a “contracting state” to the Madrid Protocol. However, the Hong Kong SAR and China have different legal systems, different trade mark laws and separate trade marks registries. Accordingly, in the application of the Madrid Protocol to Hong Kong, care must be taken to ensure that such differences are appropriately addressed and applications for marks intended to be registered in Hong Kong should separately designate Hong Kong (and not be considered to be covered by a designation of China) so that substantive examination of the trade marks applied for will be conducted by the Hong Kong Trade Marks Registry.

Dated: 26th February 2015