

**Update in respect of the
Consultancy Study on the demand for and supply of
Legal and related services in Hong Kong**

At the meeting of the Administration of Justice and Legal Services Panel on 22 March 2004, the Department of Justice was asked to provide –

“information on the cost of the consultancy study, the consultant selected to conduct the study and other relevant details to the Panel in due course.”

This paper reports such information to the Panel.

Selection of the consultants

2. An Assessment Panel, comprising members of the Department of Justice and non-official members of the Consultative Committee, met on 15 and 20 December 2003. The Assessment Panel heard oral presentations from the six organizations and considered their written submissions. After careful consideration of the proposals submitted by the organizations, Asia Consulting Group Limited and Policy 21 Limited (“the Consultants”), were selected. The Government’s Central Consultants Selection Board has given its approval for the appointment of the Consultants on 20 February 2004.

3. A brief description of the Consultants, as extracted from information provided by the Consultants, is set out in the Annex.

Anticipated Cost

4. The cost for the study is HK\$5,250,000. Funds will be paid by the Department of Justice out of a special account created for this project.

Conducting the survey

5. The Assessment Panel and the Consultative Committee met with the Consultants on 19 March 2004 and 27 April 2004 respectively to discuss the technical details of the study.

6. A sub-committee has been formed under the Consultative Committee to oversee and monitor the progress of the study. The Consultants will be required to report progress to the Consultative Committee at approximately quarterly intervals and as and when required by the Department of Justice.

Department of Justice
Legal Policy Division
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Annex**Brief description of the Consultants****(Supplied by the Consultants)**

Asia Consulting is a specialist economics & strategy consulting firm based in Hong Kong, which serves the local and China markets in the areas of business strategy, financial management, organisation improvement and economic impact assessments, with a focus on market entry studies, policy research, feasibility and infrastructure development. Our consultants are all experienced professionals with long track record in undertaking major assignments for government, local companies and multinational corporations. The firm collaborates from time to time with overseas strategic partners in various fields across a range of specialisations and industry sectors, providing local leadership, support and a needed local perspective to the various projects. These include for example Ecorys and Alkyon of Netherlands and NMG of Australia.

Policy 21 is a wholly owned subsidiary of the *University of Hong Kong*, set up to provide practically oriented research services to the community. It now has a team of professional researchers specializing in statistics, economics and social sciences, with many years of experience conducting market surveys, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Policy 21 has a panel of over 200 interviewers who may be called upon from time to time to conduct surveys of households and business establishments. Training on interviewing skills and data collection ethics has been provided to these interviewers who are supervised by fieldwork managers with many years of practical survey experience.