

## **Book Launch Event**

Date: 9 September 2024

Venue: Level 19, Two Chinachem Central,  
No. 26 Des Voeux Road, Central

### **Welcome Remarks by PC**

#### **Introduction**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this gathering to celebrate the launch of the third edition of the book “Personal Data (Privacy) Law in Hong Kong – A Practical Guide on Compliance”.
2. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Zhu Guobin for co-editing this book with me and to Professor Grenville Cross, my lifelong mentor, for writing the Foreword. Their invaluable insights and expertise have contributed tremendously to the content of the book.
3. “Privacy” is commonly understood as the “right to be let alone”. However, I have found that since my appointment as Privacy Commissioner, I have practically lost all of my privacy. Be that as it may, the right to privacy is very much treasured by the people of Hong Kong, and all kinds of enquiries and complaints relating to personal data privacy come our way. On average, my Office handles around 10 complaints and 60 to 70 enquiries every day, which is solid evidence that Hong Kong people do care about their privacy.

## **Why the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition?**

4. When this book was first published in 2016 as a practitioner's guide to personal data privacy, it was well received by legal professionals and the wider community of Hong Kong. The second edition, which was published in 2021, also received very positive feedback.
5. In light of the rapidly evolving privacy law landscape and recent technological advances, which present unique opportunities and challenges, I believe that the timing was right to update the book again, as it stands as the most comprehensive resource on the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO). The new edition provides a comprehensive overview and explanations of the data protection principles and requirements under the PDPO, citing decided cases and daily scenarios as illustrations to assist readers in understanding the requirements and application of the Privacy Ordinance. It also explains the work of my Office in monitoring or supervising the implementation of the Ordinance, including our enforcement activities.

## **New Content for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**

6. Since the last edition, a milestone in the Hong Kong privacy law has been achieved, with the introduction of the new doxxing offence and the new anti-doxxing regime in 2021.
7. The third edition therefore contains a dedicated chapter on the anti-doxxing regime, with detailed explanations of doxxing offences and the new criminal investigation and prosecution powers of the Privacy Commissioner.

8. In light of the enactment of the Mainland's Personal Information Protection Law and the increasing demand for cross-border transfers of personal data, the book also contains two new chapters on the Mainland's personal data protection law and the legal requirements for cross-border transfers of personal data from Hong Kong. The latter chapter includes an account of the latest measures aimed at facilitating the cross-boundary transfer of personal data in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao–Greater Bay Area.
9. We have also included updates on decisions by the Administrative Appeals Board and the Court in recent years, our investigation reports, guidelines and other materials published by my Office. This edition also features a comparison table analysing the similarities and differences between the personal data protection law of Hong Kong and those of the Mainland and the EU.
10. As you may be aware, this is China's Cybersecurity Week, the theme of which is "Cybersecurity for the People, Cybersecurity relies on the People", which reflects the close relationship between cybersecurity and the public. To enhance public awareness of the data security requirements under the Privacy Ordinance, the book provides an in-depth analysis of the requirements of Data Protection Principle 4, using actual data breach cases and the decisions of the Administrative Appeals Board to illustrate how organisations can enhance their data security measures. It is opportune that the book is launched in this important week, as for the first time, China's Cybersecurity Week activities are being extended to cover Hong Kong and Macao.

## Closing

11. In closing, I hope that this book will continue to be a valuable resource for legal practitioners, students and all those who take an interest in personal data privacy. Going forward, I hope that the book will transcend the boundaries of a legal manual and reach a wider community, thereby charting a course towards a future where society recognises that personal data privacy is not merely a matter of ticking a box to fulfil legal requirements, but rather a collective social responsibility and the cornerstone of Hong Kong's continuing success.
  
12. Finally, may I again express my sincere appreciation to Grenville and Guobin for their unwavering support and insightful advice in the compilation of this edition. I would also like to extend a special note of thanks to the City University of Hong Kong Press, and my Office's dedicated editorial team for their devotion, professionalism and diligence in making the production of this book possible. My gratitude also goes to my learned brothers, sisters and friends over the years, including members of the Personal Data (Privacy) Advisory Committee, members of the Standing Committee on Technological Developments of my Office, Mr Johnny Mok, SC, Mr Ambrose Lam, Mr Justice William Tam, Ms Melissa Pang, Mr Wesley Wong, Mr Michael Lam, my former colleagues of the Department of Justice, and each and every one of you who have experienced this significant milestone with me this evening.
  
13. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you once again for coming. I hope you enjoy the rest of this evening as much as we will.