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Press Notice

UK Justices set to look east with visit to China including Hong Kong

The importance of the rule of law, judicial independence, the role of courts in enforcing the regulation of international business and the benefits of the creation of the UK Supreme Court will all be on the agenda as some of the UK's most senior judges embark on a bilateral visit to Asia, following invitations from the President of the Supreme People's Court of China and the Chief Justice of Hong Kong.

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, Lord Hope, Deputy President, Lord Mance, Lord Clarke and Lady Justice Arden will together visit the People's Republic of China including the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong over eight days to share experiences with judges and academic lawyers in those jurisdictions.

Lady Justice Arden is joining the Justices as the Lord Chief Justice's appointed representative in international affairs, on behalf of the judiciary of England and Wales.

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, said: "My colleagues and I are greatly looking forward to meeting senior judges from two contrasting jurisdictions, with whom of course we in the UK share very important relationships. Clearly the judicial context in mainland China is different from our own, but there is still much that we can discuss and share with our hosts.

"We share a common law tradition with Hong Kong and the relationship between our judiciaries remains particularly close. Indeed senior judges from the UK, such as Lord Walker and Lord Hoffmann, still sit in the Court of Final Appeal there by agreement."

Beginning in Beijing on 19 September, the delegation will spend five working days visiting the Supreme People's Court and judges of the District Court in Beijing, the Law School of Beijing University and the Municipal High Court in Shanghai.

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This will be followed by two working days in Hong Kong, where the party will visit the Court of Final Appeal and the High Court. The Justices will attend a lunchtime event hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce, Lord Phillips will give a talk for law students at the Graduate Law Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 'The Common Law Tradition Today' and Lord Hope will speak at the Judicial Studies Board on the subject of writing judgments.

The party will return in time for the beginning of the new legal year, on Monday 3 October.

Ends

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