

Chapter 7

International Labour Affairs

International Instruments Setting Out Labour Standards

- 7.1** International Labour Conventions set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) prescribe relevant labour standards for its Members. As at end of 2013, 41 International Labour Conventions were applied to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), with or without modification (Figure 7.1), notwithstanding that Hong Kong is neither a sovereign entity nor an ILO Member. Other international instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also touch on labour standards, albeit to a much smaller extent.
- 7.2** A comprehensive set of labour legislation and administrative measures are in place in HKSAR to enable the Government to implement internationally accepted labour standards. Through continuous improvements to labour legislation and administrative measures, HKSAR maintains a level of labour standards that are comparable with those of neighbouring places with similar economic development as well as social and cultural background.

Participation in the Activities of ILO

- 7.3** HKSAR participates in the activities of ILO, either as part of the delegation of the People's Republic of China or, for activities which are not limited to states, on its own using the name "Hong Kong, China".
- 7.4** In 2013, the Labour Department (LD) continued to participate actively in activities organised by ILO to keep abreast of the latest development of international labour matters. In the year, representatives from HKSAR participated as members of the delegation of the People's Republic of China in the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. (Figure 7.2)

Contacts with Other Labour Administrations

- 7.5** Delegations of labour administrators from the Mainland and other places visited LD in the year. LD also sent study missions to the Mainland and Singapore. Apart from strengthening mutual cooperation, these visits provided opportunities for LD's representatives to exchange views and experience with their counterparts on various labour issues.