



White Paper

On

Foreign-related Rule of Law

Development

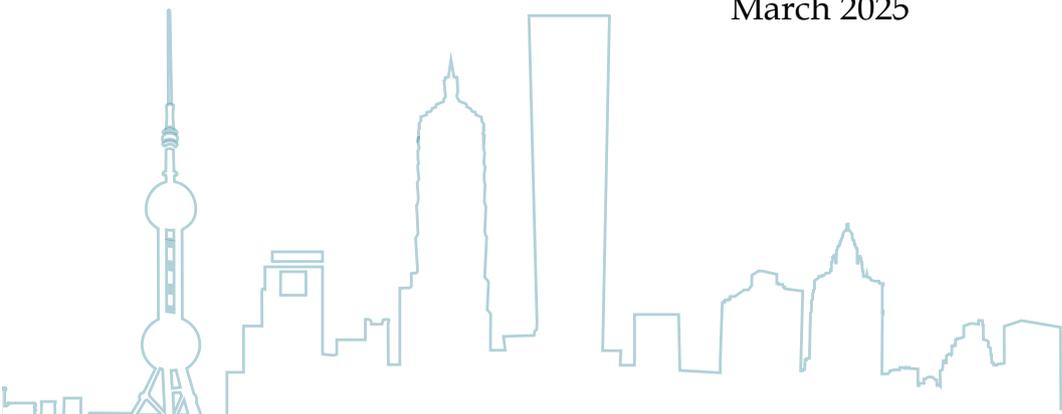
in

Pudong New Area

Pudong New Area Office of Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission

Shanghai Pudong New Area Committee of the Communist Party of China

March 2025



Contents

Foreword	1
I. Upholding Core Principles and Advancing Foreign-related Rule of Law	2
(I) Consolidated Party’s Comprehensive Leadership	2
(II) Enhanced Institutional Provisions	4
II. Adhering to Effective and Full Use of Legislative Authorization to Deliver Best Institutional Provision	5
(I) Establishing a Legislative Mechanism	6
(II) Strengthening Institutional Provision	7
(III) Promoting the Effective Enforcement of Legal Mechanisms	10
III. Focusing on First-Class Business Environment Creation and High-Quality and Efficient Implementation Systems	11
(I) Advancing Diversified Foreign-Related Disputes Resolution Processes	12
(II) Improving the Comprehensive Foreign-Related Prosecution Functions	14
(III) Continuing to Strengthen Intellectual Property Law Enforcement	15
(IV) Optimizing the Management and Service of Foreign Nationals	18
(V) Strengthening Foreign-Related Legal Publicity and Services	18
IV. Sticking to International Best Practices and Creating a High-Standard International Legal Services Hub	20
(I) Exploring New Practices in Foreign-Related Legal Services	20
(II) Building an International Legal Services Cluster	24
(III) Building a Hub for Foreign-Related Rule of Law Talent	29
Concluding Remarks	32

Foreword

In November 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech during the tenth collective study session of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of CPC. In his speech, he elaborated on the significance, guiding principles, objectives, and key measures for strengthening the development of foreign-related rule of law. In July 2024, the 20th Central Committee convened its Third Plenary Session and adopted the *Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPC on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization*, which includes a dedicated section on improving the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics. The decision explicitly calls for "strengthening foreign-related rule of law", highlighting the crucial role of the rule of law in safeguarding Chinese modernization and underlining the significance of advancing foreign-related legal frameworks in the current context.

In recent years, following the directives of the Central Committee and the Shanghai Municipal Committee of CPC, Pudong New Area has consistently pursued institutional experimentation, stress testing, and innovative approaches in foreign-related legal development. It has taken an integrated approach to advancing legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, legal compliance, legal services, and legal talent development in foreign-related fields. The goal is to build a foreign-related legal system and capacity that aligns with the requirements of high-quality development and high-level opening-up. Pudong has strived to foster a market-oriented, law-based, and international business environment, thereby providing strong legal support for its leading role in China's higher-level reform, opening-up, and innovation-driven development.

Marking the fifth anniversary of the introduction of Xi Jinping's Thought on the Rule of Law, this White Paper on the Foreign-Related Rule of Law Development in Pudong New Area is issued to provide a comprehensive overview of the recent initiatives and progress in this regard.

I. Upholding Core Principles and Advancing Foreign-related Rule of Law

In October 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Pudong New Area's development and opening-up, emphasizing that "Pudong should focus on promoting institutional openness in rules, regulations, management, and standards, provide high-level institutional support, high-quality products, and efficient financial services to better participate in international cooperation and competition." In recent years, Pudong New Area (hereinafter "Pudong") has focused on the priorities of advancing foreign-related rule of law, continued to improve the working mechanism and safeguard mechanism for its development. With coordinated, practical, and efficient efforts, Pudong has integrated foreign-related rule of law development into its broader development strategies, offering strong legal support for key initiatives such as the leading area development, free trade zone (FTZ) development, and other comprehensive reform pilots.

(I) Consolidated Party's Comprehensive Leadership

1. Precise Grasp of Core Principles

In December 2023, the Pudong New Area Committee of CPC (hereinafter "Pudong Committee") convened a standing committee meeting to study and implement the key directives from General Secretary Xi Jinping's speech during the Tenth collective study session of the Political Bureau. In February 2024, the Pudong Study Group held a special seminar where Professor Huang Huikang, a distinguished scholar from Wuhan University, delivered a lecture titled *The Contemporary Logic of Strengthening Foreign-Related Rule of Law* to senior government and Party officials across the district. To institutionalize legal competency among leaders, the Pudong New Area Law-based Governance Commission Office (hereinafter "Pudong Law-based Governance Commission Office") and the Office for Legal Publicity jointly issued the *Implementation Opinions on Establishing a Legal Knowledge Checklist System for Leading Officials in Pudong New Area* in 2023, which explicitly incorporates foreign-related laws and regulations into the mandatory legal knowledge framework for government officials. Additionally, Pudong has established a foreign-related rule of law research mechanism, using research topic selection and evaluation as key drivers to deepen theoretical studies. The research has focused on critical areas such as tax law issues in offshore bond issuance, comparative studies on foreign commercial

legislation, coordination mechanisms for foreign-related intellectual property dispute resolution, and special licensing systems for Chinese nationals practicing foreign law. These initiatives have resulted in a series of theoretical and practical outcomes in foreign-related rule of law.

2. Improved Working Processes

Under the framework of comprehensive rule of law governance, Pudong has coordinated the development of foreign-related rule of law and continues to improve the system and working processes for Party's leadership in this regard. It has established a governance structure with the comprehensive leadership of the Pudong Committee. This includes unified coordination by the Pudong Law-based Governance Commission, as well as five specialized coordination groups focusing on governance, law enforcement, judiciary, law compliance education, and administrative prosecution. Foreign-related rule of law development is an important part of Pudong's overall rule of law efforts. Through regular meetings of the Rule of Law Committee, Pudong's foreign-related rule of law is studied in-depth and systematically planned. Moreover, the Pudong Law-based Governance Commission Office holds periodic meetings to coordinate and promote the work for foreign-related rule of law. In 2025, the Pudong New Area Justice Bureau (hereinafter "Pudong Justice Bureau") will establish a Foreign-related Rule of Law Department in its internal offices, which will operate under the unified leadership of the Pudong Committee. This department will explore the establishment of an integrated mechanism for advancing foreign-related legislation, law enforcement, judiciary, law-compliance education, legal services, and legal talent development, so as to put in place a well-coordinated working mechanism for the foreign-related rule of law efforts.

3. Strengthened Accountability

In 2017, Pudong Committee issued the Implementation Opinions of Pudong New Area on Implementing the Rule of Law Development Accountability System, which incorporates the effectiveness of the rule of law development into the assessment of the performance of the principal leaders of the Party and government. Since 2020, the latest work requirements for foreign-related rule of law development issued by the Central Office for Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission, the Shanghai Municipal Office for Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission, and the key measures promoted

by the Pudong Committee and Government have been incorporated into the accountability system for the Party's exercise of full and strict governance, so as to strengthen supervision and enforcement.

Foreign-related rule of law development has also been included in the annual legal performance reviews of the first responsible persons of various departments, reinforcing the capacity and level of leadership to promote their work with an international legal perspective. At the same time, the role of legal supervision is being effectively utilized to ensure the successful implementation of key tasks in foreign-related rule of law development.

(II) Enhanced Institutional Provisions

At the central level, in April 2021, the Central Committee and the State Council jointly issued the *Opinions on Supporting Pudong New Area in Leading High-Level Reform and Opening-Up to Build a Leading Area for Socialist Modernization* (hereinafter "Leading Area Opinions"), which clarifies the need to "strengthen the alignment of domestic rules with international ones in areas such as commercial dispute resolution." In January 2024, the *Implementation Plan of Pudong New Area for the Pilot Integrated Reform (2023-2027)* was issued. This *Implementation Plan* designates "innovating mechanisms for mediation and arbitration of foreign-related commercial disputes" and "improving a high-standard market rule system" as key reform initiatives. These measures aim to accelerate Pudong's alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and to steadily expand institutional openness in areas such as rules, regulations, management, and standards."

At the municipal level, in December 2014, the Shanghai Municipal Justice Bureau issued the *Implementation Measures for Foreign and Domestic Law Firms Sending Lawyers as Legal Advisors in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone* and the *Implementation Measures for Joint Ventures between Foreign and Domestic Law Firms in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone*. These Implementation Measures initiated the pioneering pilot program for sending legal advisors between foreign and domestic law firms within the free trade zone for the first time in China. In December 2023, the General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government issued the *Implementation Plan for Supporting Pudong in Building a Core Area for the Shanghai International Legal Services Center to Serve the Development of a Socialist Modernization Leading Area* ("Core Area Implementation Plan"). This Implementation Plan supports Pudong in aligning with the highest

international standards and best practices, positioning the Shanghai International Legal Services Center Core Area as a new identity for Pudong.

Moreover, to further assist Pudong in building a more open and efficient international commercial dispute resolution mechanism, related supporting policies have been introduced by the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee and the Shanghai Municipal Justice Bureau. In November 2024, the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee issued the *Provisions on Promoting Commercial Mediation in Pudong New Area*, which supports and promotes the development of commercial mediation in Pudong and explores a mediation system that combines both Chinese practices and international standards. In June 2024, the Shanghai Municipal Justice Bureau issued the *Procedures of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting Ad-hoc Arbitration for Foreign-Related Commercial Maritime Disputes (Trial Implementation)*, providing a basis for the practice of *ad-hoc* arbitration in Shanghai. These Procedures establish a special section for Pudong, prescribing that foreign-related commercial maritime disputes between enterprises registered in Pudong and domestic and foreign parties may agree on *ad-hoc* arbitration.

II. Adhering to Effective and Full Use of Legislative Authorization to Deliver Best Institutional Provision

The *Leading Area Opinions* explicitly authorize the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and its Standing Committee to formulate regulations based on the needs of Pudong's reform and innovation practices, in accordance with the Constitution and the fundamental principles of laws and administrative regulations. These regulations can make adjustments to laws, administrative regulations, and departmental rules to be implemented in Pudong. For areas where laws or regulations are temporarily unavailable or unclear, Pudong is supported in taking the lead in developing relevant management measures.

In June 2021, the National People's Congress Standing Committee made a decision to authorize the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and its Standing Committee to formulate regulations for Pudong. Subsequently, the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee made a decision to strengthen the legal guarantee for Pudong's high-level reform and opening-up and to formulate regulations for Pudong.

This authorization to formulate regulations and management measures provides strong legal support for Pudong to boldly experiment, innovate, and independently reform, as well as offering robust legal protection for the strengthening of institutional provision in foreign-related areas.

(I) Establishing a Legislative Mechanism

1. Strengthening Legislative Capacity

The legislative functionaries in Pudong actively participate in legislative training programs organized by higher-level authorities such as the Ministry of Justice, the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, to keep informed of foreign-related legislative matters. Pudong has also established a district-level legislative training mechanism. In November 2023 and October 2024, Pudong held training sessions on legislative work to enhance the ability of corresponding local officials to participate in and draft foreign-related regulations and management measures for Pudong New Area.

In order to learn from the legislative experiences of domestic counterparts, Pudong has conducted several research trips to Shenzhen, Hainan and others to study the legislative practices in special economic zones and free trade ports.

2. Developing a Legislative Demand List

Pudong has established a mechanism for collecting and dynamically updating legal demands. By drawing on the legislative experiences of special economic zones and cities in the Yangtze River Delta, Pudong has prepared a catalogue of legislative demand projects. The Five-Year Plan of Pudong New Area Regulations and Management Measures (2023-2027) has been released to the public. Several foreign-related legislative projects included in it are aimed at strengthening the global resource allocation function and promoting institutional opening.

3. Appointing Legislative Experts

Pudong has established two expert databases: one is the Pudong New Area General Legislative Expert Database, which includes 43 experts, and the Pudong Justice Bureau Lawyers Database for Legislation, which includes 100 lawyers. Among these, several domestic experts with extensive knowledge of international legal rules have been appointed, and three experts from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong have been included in the General Legislative Expert Database.

4. Establishing Local Legislative Outreach Offices

Starting in June 2021, the Standing Committee of the Pudong New Area People's Congress established 23 district-level legislative outreach offices, some of which are foreign-invested enterprises such as Volvo Construction Equipment (China) Co., Ltd. In May 2023, Pudong New Area People's Government (hereinafter "Pudong Government") established the first batch of 18 local legislative outreach offices in places including the Shanghai representative office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, BASF (China) Co., Ltd., and other foreign law firm offices and foreign-invested enterprises. The establishment of these local outreach offices not only allows foreign nationals to directly voice their concerns to legislative bodies, but also strengthens the awareness and influence of Pudong's rule-of-law achievements among foreign nationals.

(II) Strengthening Institutional Provision

1. Providing Stronger Legal Protection for International Trade Facilitation

Aligning with international best practices and promoting trade facilitation are key initiatives for Pudong in fostering a first-class market-oriented, law-based, and international business environment. These efforts also serve as important focal points in the formulation of regulations and administrative measures for Pudong.

The *Provisions on Improving the Development of Zhangjiang Biopharmaceutical Industrial Innovation Hub in Pudong New Area* establish a joint regulatory mechanism for the entry and exit of special items, such as microorganisms, human tissues, biological products, and blood products, improving customs clearance efficiency.

The *Several Provisions on Transactions of Cultural Artifacts and Artworks in Pudong New Area* formalize the temporary entry and exit system for cultural artifacts, and the Shanghai Free Trade Zone's bonded area implements an extension upon application system for the temporary entry of cultural artifacts. This allows for continuous applications for extension, with physical inspections required when extending beyond two years.

The *Several Provisions on Promoting the Development of Financial Leasing in Pudong New Area* introduce provisions for offshore leasing of foreign debt registration and the collection of rents in foreign currencies to address the challenges in the development of offshore financial leasing.

The *Several Provisions on Promoting the Development of Bonded*

Maintenance Services in Pudong New Area expand the scope of bonded maintenance services, allowing enterprises in special customs supervision areas to engage in maintenance services within the bonded product catalog. Pilot programs for “both ends overseas” bonded maintenance services outside the catalog are also permitted.

The *Several Provisions on Exempting Certain Products from Mandatory Certification in Pudong New Area* grant Pudong the authority to recognize enterprises eligible for the CCC exemption channel, eliminating the restrictions on the number of applications and the duration of use.

The *Several Provisions on Facilitating the Regulation and Administration of Specialized Biopharmaceutical Products Imports and Exports in Pudong New Area* clarify that enterprises passing comprehensive evaluations can enjoy customs clearance convenience, addressing the bottleneck of large-scale import and export of special biomedicine items.

The *Several Provisions on Guaranteeing the Supply of Medicines and Medical Devices to International Voyage Ships in Pudong New Area* provide institutional support for Pudong to be the first in China to offer pharmaceutical and medical device supply services for international voyage ships.

The *Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Facilitating the Innovation and Application of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Pudong New Area* and the *Several Provisions on Advancing the Innovative Use of Unmanned Driving Equipment in Pudong New Area* regulate the export of important data collected and generated during the innovative applications of unmanned vehicles and equipment.

The *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting the Application of Blockchain-empowered Electronic Documents in Pudong New Area* facilitate the trustworthy, convenient, and secure application of electronic documents, promoting the aggregation and circulation of data in fields such as shipping and trade.

2. Providing Stronger Legal Protection for Institutional Opening

Advancing institutional opening requires achieving alignment and compatibility in rules, regulation, management, and standards in the course of opening-up, fostering a transparent, stable, and predictable institutional environment. Several regulations and management measures of Pudong are designed to provide stronger legal support for advancing institutional opening.

The *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on the Sustainable*

Finance Development in Pudong New Area support qualified domestic and foreign institutions in establishing financial entities such as banks, securities firms, insurance companies, fund management firms, and trusts, to provide financial services for improving the ecological environment, addressing climate change, and promoting resource conservation and efficient utilization in various economic and social activities.

The *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Enhancing Open Competition and Advancing New Research and Development Institutions in Pudong New Area* provide that factors such as nationality, age, qualifications, academic background, work experience, and organizational affiliation cannot be used as eligibility criteria for domestic and foreign talent and teams to take leadership in innovation projects in Pudong New Area. Qualified foreign personnel can serve as legal representatives of new-type R&D institutions in Pudong New Area.

The *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting the Development of Standardization Innovation in Pudong New Area* expand the scope of organizations involved in joint standards development from "other enterprises" to "other domestic and foreign enterprises or organizations." These Provisions also prescribe that the standardization administration in Pudong, along with industry regulators in science and technology, economy, commerce, and agriculture, should guide social organizations, enterprises, and research institutions in participating in the development of national, industry, local, and international standards. They are also guided to adopt advanced domestic and international standards and promote the implementation and application of relevant standards abroad. Additionally, these Provisions encourage the release of foreign language versions of group standards and corporate standards.

The *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting the Implementation of the Architect Responsibility System in Pudong New Area* provide a basis for qualified foreign architects to serve as responsible architects, provided they meet the required professional qualifications, work experience, and other criteria.

The *Several Provisions on Promoting the Development of International Economic Organizations in Pudong New Area* make explicit the measures on services such as registration, taxation, talent support, and recognition to facilitate the aggregation and development of international economic organizations in Pudong.

3. Providing Stronger Legal Protection for Foreign-Related Legal Services

Cultivating world-class legal service institutions, creating a hub for foreign-related legal services, and developing foreign-related legal talent are essential to foreign-related rule of law protection.

The *Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting Commercial Mediation in Pudong New Area* provide that qualified foreign commercial mediation organizations can establish business entities within the Lingang Special Area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (hereinafter "Lingang Special Area") to provide foreign-related commercial mediation services for disputes in international commercial, maritime, investment, and other areas.

The *Provisions on Promoting Commercial Mediation in Pudong New Area* explicitly support renowned foreign mediation institutions in establishing business entities in Pudong, provided they meet domestic regulatory requirements. These Provisions also aim to explore and promote the creation of a "one-stop" international commercial dispute resolution mechanism integrating mediation, arbitration, and litigation.

The *Several Provisions on Facilitating the High-quality Development of the Legal Services Industry in Pudong New Area* establish a mechanism for the introduction of foreign legal talents. In accordance with national and municipal regulatory standards for professional qualifications, these Provisions aim to attract foreign legal professionals with strong practical expertise and qualifications to practice law in Pudong. They also encourage law firms to hire qualified foreign lawyers as foreign legal advisors, support foreign law firms in conducting legal business in Pudong, and allow internationally renowned arbitration institutions to set up offices or representative offices in Pudong. These Provisions further explore the practices such as *ad-hoc* arbitration and special partnership systems for law firms.

The *Several Provisions on Improving the Diversified Mechanism for Resolving Foreign-Related Commercial Disputes in Pudong New Area* aim to establish a one-stop dispute resolution center for foreign-related commercial disputes, strengthen the development of foreign-related commercial legal talents, and encourage foreign professionals to serve as foreign-related commercial mediators.

(III) Promoting the Effective Enforcement of Legal Mechanisms

1. Timely Formulation of Implementation Rules

After the formulation of regulations and management measures in Pudong, relevant departments have taken an active role in developing and refining implementation rules to ensure the effective enforcement of these systems. For example, after legislation, the Pudong New Area People's Government formulated the *Implementation Rules for the Provisions on Facilitating the Innovation and Application of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Pudong New Area*. Additionally, the Administrative Committee of the Lingang Special Area formulated the *Implementation Rules for the Promotion of Innovation and Application of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Lingang Special Area (Trial Implementation)*.

2. Timely English Translation of Regulations and Management Measures

To continuously improve legislative awareness, Pudong promptly organizes the translation of its regulations and management measures into English and publishes them on government websites. The Pudong Justice Bureau, in collaboration with the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Pudong New Area People's Congress, has established a dedicated committee to regularly conduct translations and publications of these texts, further expanding the influence of Pudong's regulations and management measures.

3. Improving the Supervision Mechanism for Enforcement

Pudong actively promotes the establishment and improvement of the supervision mechanism for the implementation of legal protection systems. The Pudong Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission issued the *Opinions on the Implementation of Pudong New Area Regulations and Management Measures*. Pudong also actively conducts or cooperates with the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee in evaluating the legislative effectiveness of Pudong's regulations and conducting law enforcement inspections. The Pudong New Area People's Congress Standing Committee and Government organize the evaluation of the effectiveness of management measures, further enhancing the release of legal protection outcomes and refining the rule-of-law protection system.

III. Focusing on First-Class Business Environment Creation and High-Quality and Efficient Implementation Systems

Foreign-related adjudication, law enforcement and legal compliance are essential components of the foreign-related rule of law system. Pudong is accelerating efforts to enhance the credibility of foreign-related administration of justice, continues to improve the level and efficiency of foreign-related law enforcement, and focuses on increasing the legal awareness of participants in foreign-related transaction. The aim is to establish a foreign-related judicial and law enforcement system that is aligned with the requirements of high-quality development and high-level opening-up, thereby creating favorable legal conditions and an external environment for the high-quality development of the economy and society.

(I) Advancing Diversified Foreign-Related Disputes Resolution Processes

1. Deepening the Development of International Commercial Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Establishing a foreign-related commercial dispute resolution platform. In September 2019, the Pudong New Area Free Trade Zone Court (hereinafter “Pudong FTZ Court”) took the lead by setting up a one-stop dispute resolution office for foreign-related commercial disputes. This initiative actively explores a one-stop dispute resolution mechanism for foreign-related commercial disputes, providing a platform for both domestic and foreign market entities to resolve disputes. The office operates through a model of assigning dedicated staff with a fast-track channel, creating a work platform for litigation, mediation, and arbitration in one location. Currently, two arbitration institutions and five mediation organizations have signed memoranda of cooperation and set up offices. Seven experts in international commercial law have been appointed to form the Expert Committee of Foreign-Related Commercial Disputes Resolution to provide consultative opinions on specialized issues. At the same time, six professional service institutions, including translation, notarization, and foreign law ascertainment services, have been introduced to form a cooperation mechanism and a unified service platform. To help enterprises in Lingang Special Area resolve legal issues locally, in August 2024, the Pudong New Area People’s Court (“Pudong Court”), the Administrative Committee of Lingang Special Area, and the Pudong Justice Bureau jointly launched the One-Stop Foreign-Related Commercial Dispute Resolution Center, which provides people with efficient, convenient, and cost-efficient dispute resolution services, promoting a new model where litigation, mediation, and arbitration

are seamlessly connected.

Advancing the sound operation of the one-stop mechanism. To implement Shanghai's first foreign-related commercial dispute resolution management measures, i.e. the *Several Provisions of the Pudong New Area on Improving the Diversified Mechanism for Resolving Foreign-Related Commercial Disputes*, Pudong aims to create a "one-stop dispute resolution mechanism" where litigation, mediation, and arbitration are complementary, work smoothly, and form synergistic effects. This mechanism provides a one-stop dispute resolution alternative for domestic and foreign parties to achieve the desired outcome of foreign-related commercial disputes resolution.

A series of normative documents and texts have been developed, including the *Provisions on the One-Stop Dispute Resolution Mechanism for Foreign-Related Commercial Disputes (Trial Implementation)*, Letter of Entrusted Mediation, Letter of Arbitration, Letter of Exclusion of Arbitration Clause, Letter of Litigation Fee Coordination, and Form of Dispute Evaluation, to ensure the standardized operation of the mechanism. Meanwhile, Pudong actively explores cross-border remote services, such as cross-border online case filing, identity verification, and online video witnessing for cross-border entrustment matters.

In March 2021, the National Development and Reform Commission promoted the one-stop foreign-related commercial dispute resolution office in Pudong as a new round of innovative initiatives and best practices to be implemented nationwide.

Since the establishment of the one-stop foreign-related commercial dispute resolution office, 3,560 foreign-related commercial cases have been successfully mediated. Additionally, 52 cases have been referred to arbitration institutions, with an average dispute resolution period of 28 days and a total amount involved of 1.023 billion *yuan*.

Upon approval of Supreme People's Court and Shanghai Municipal Budgeted-Staffing Commission, In December 2024, the Shanghai International Commercial Court was officially announced, marking a significant milestone in foreign-related dispute resolution, and it was also located in Pudong.

2. Establishing Diversified Foreign-Related Intellectual Property Dispute Mediation Processes

Exploring collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization Arbitration and Mediation Shanghai Center (WIPO

Shanghai Center). The Pudong Court has formed a dedicated research and coordination team to establish and improve a mediation system for foreign-related intellectual property cases, based on China's legal provisions and the dispute resolution rules of WIPO. The team is also setting up a screening mechanism and contingency plans to ensure legal and regulated operations.

Pudong is exploring a new model for online resolution, providing the utmost convenience for foreign-related case mediation. A foreign-related intellectual property dispute mediation and enforcement coordination mechanisms have been created, along with a fast-track channel for enforcement. For cases where the mediation agreement is refused to comply with, quick implementation of compulsory enforcement measures is available.

Since the launch of this initiative, Pudong has successfully assisted the WIPO Shanghai Center in mediating a series of intellectual property infringement and contract disputes involving the U.S., the U.K., and other countries, including China's first intellectual property case involving an overseas dispute resolution institution in the mediation process.

(II) Improving the Comprehensive Foreign-Related Prosecution Functions

1. Leveraging the Effectiveness of the Comprehensive Practice Base for Prosecutorial Functions

In December 2023, the Pudong New Area Procuratorate and Jinqiao Group jointly established Comprehensive Prosecution Base for Intellectual Property Cases, Shanghai's first of its kind. Relying on this base, an innovative model for fulfilling prosecutorial duties, i.e. JINLAN Intellectual Property Protection Alliance, was developed to promote the establishment of an independently formed intellectual property protection communication and collaboration platform for enterprises in Pudong. The first batch of members includes well-known foreign-invested enterprises such as Tesla,

LVMH, Kering, and Omron. In June 2024, *Establishing the First Comprehensive Practice Base for Intellectual Property Prosecution* was selected as a flagship reform achievement in the *Implementation Plan of Pudong New Area for Integrated Reform Pilot (2023-2027)*. In 2024, the Base was included in the *National Innovation Base for Foreign-Related Rule of Law Talents Education* list, published by the Ministry of Education and the Central Office for Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission.

2. Focusing on Typical Cases

The Focusing on New Productive Forces: Addressing the Needs of Enterprises open day event was held, inviting representatives from nine leading foreign-invested enterprises, including Procter & Gamble, Danone, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cargill China, and L'Oréal China, to discuss further building a foreign-related rule of law collaboration mechanism. Regarding the issue of some overseas Chinese nationals engaging in the unauthorized buying and selling of foreign exchange, a prosecutorial suggestion was issued to the relevant local departments, which was later recognized as one of the Outstanding Prosecutorial Suggestions of Shanghai's Procuratorates in 2023. Additionally, the case "Zheng's Crime of Spying and Illegally Providing Commercial Secrets" was selected as one of the Top Ten Typical Cases of Commercial Secret Protection by the Shanghai Municipal Antitrust and Unfair Competition Office.

(III) Continuing to Strengthen Intellectual Property Law Enforcement

1. Building a Service System for Overseas Intellectual Property Dispute Resolution

Optimizing the service network system. Since 2019, Pudong has collaborated with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade to explore the protection of intellectual property rights overseas, establishing the National Overseas Intellectual Property Dispute Response Center Pudong Branch. In April 2020, it was approved as one of the first ten local branches nationwide. To address the overseas intellectual property dispute needs, Pudong has built a "1+2+3+6" service system, in which "1" represents the Pudong Branch of National Overseas Intellectual Property Dispute Response Center, "2" means two Pudong Intellectual Property Protection Center branches, "3" refers to three overseas intellectual property service stations, and "6" stands for six intellectual property service centers in New York, Silicon Valley, Tokyo, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, and Singapore.

This system provides continuous, comprehensive, and integrated professional services for "going global" enterprises, including information collection, risk prevention, resource coordination, and guidance on responding to the disputes.

- Enhancing Overseas Rights Protection Services.

Pudong has established "four databases": a database of over 1,000 enterprises with potential overseas rights protection needs, an expert

database of 71 intellectual property experts, a database of translations of six overseas intellectual property laws and regulations, and a database of 51 typical cases to strengthen the guidance capacity. A 2.0 version of intellectual property comprehensive insurance has been introduced, covering patents, trademarks, software copyrights, integrated circuit layout designs and others, with a coverage of up to 5 million yuan, effectively reducing the pressure on enterprises in responding to overseas intellectual property disputes. Pudong also provides convenient access to funding policies, collecting and organizing various overseas intellectual property-related funding policies and compiling them into a booklet. It introduces these policies to enterprises at the national, municipal, and district levels, including projects such as special research, overseas patent applications, rights protection, and risk analysis, and guides enterprises in applying for funding. In 2023, 87 enterprises passed the review for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patent funding policies, receiving 1.74 million *yuan* in funding support.

- Enhancing Overseas Intellectual Property Protection Capacity.

Pudong actively connects with involved enterprises in its administrative area, offering targeted services to help enterprises to reduce response costs. By publishing reports on the overseas intellectual property legal environment and risk warning reports, Pudong raises awareness among enterprises about potential risks in export trade, foreign investment and others. Pudong also promotes the Freedom to Operate (FTO), encouraging enterprises to conduct patent infringement investigations before entering foreign markets, obtain patent implementation investigation reports, and reduce the risk of large punitive payments.

2. Strengthening Administrative Protection of Intellectual Property

Ensuring high-standard alignment with international economic and trade rules. Pudong fully implements the intellectual property provisions of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and actively aligns with international economic and trade agreements such as CPTPP and DEPA, pioneering reforms for nationwide innovation. It also enacts the *Several Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Developing a High-level Intellectual Property Protection System in Pudong New Area*, which introduces an international high-standard punitive damages system for intellectual property infringements. These Provisions provide compensation based on the

actual loss of the rights holder, the infringer's profits, or ten times the licensing fee, with a cap of 10 million *yuan* in statutory compensation, applicable in intellectual property cases in Pudong Court.

Pudong has also aligned with the EU-China Geographical Indications Agreement, establishing a high-standard geographical indication protection system. This includes legislation to protect geographical indication products and a protection system for mutual recognition of geographical indications, imposing penalties for infringements involving terms like "type," "style," and "imitation." Pudong Court has successfully handled several violations.

In line with international practices, Pudong is the first to expand the provisions on the burden of proof in copyright and trade secret cases from civil procedures to administrative law enforcement procedures, effectively improving case handling efficiency.

High-Level Protection for Foreign Investment Enterprises' Intellectual Property. Pudong has carried out special actions for the protection of intellectual property for foreign-invested enterprises. It has established a Key Trademark Protection Directory to strengthen the proactive protection of key trademarks, famous trademarks, and internationally well-known foreign trademarks. Pudong has also strengthened intellectual property protection in foreign-related exhibitions. Pudong Intellectual Property Office and the Commerce Commission jointly formulated the *Guidelines for the Fast-Track Handling of Intellectual Property Disputes in Exhibitions in Pudong New Area*, effectively attracting international exhibitions and multinational companies and contributing to the development of the exhibition industry.

A rapid response mechanism for intellectual property disputes related to Disney has been established. By leveraging the advantages of comprehensive intellectual property law enforcement, Pudong has set up a joint meeting system among intellectual property, market regulation, urban management, and cultural law enforcement departments. This ensures "information sharing, coordinated enforcement, and joint action", significantly improving the administrative efficiency of protecting Disney-related copyrights.

An all-encompassing collaboration mechanism is in place, including clue analysis, case investigation, civil action coordination, and enforcement coordination, to ensure a cross-department, multi-dimensional protection system for Disney's trademark rights, copyrights, and others.

(IV) Optimizing the Management and Service of Foreign Nationals

1. Achieving Comprehensive Service Coverage for Foreign Nationals

Pudong has established a "Center-Station-Point" three-level service system for foreign nationals. It now boasts one service center, 21 service stations for foreigners, 7 integration service stations, 25 community integration service stations, and 1,426 integration service points. A total of 1,497 full-time and part-time social workers have been deployed, achieving full coverage of integration services for foreign nationals in the city and even nationwide. This comprehensive service system offers a range of services including temporary accommodation registration, visa pre-acceptance, legal consultation and others to effectively address the urgent needs of foreigners upon entry. This initiative has successfully attracted more high-level overseas talents to Pudong, ensuring that foreign nationals can "arrive, stay, and integrate" into Pudong smoothly.

2. Launching the First "Service Package" for Foreign Nationals

The Pudong New Area Foreign Nationals Service Package has been officially launched, offering six major categories of services: residence, travel, family life, language, culture, and community integration. Since its release, the service package has provided 2,000 instances of convenience services to foreign nationals and covered over 200 foreign-invested enterprises. Additionally, it has assisted in issuing 350 foreign nationals' certificates and 10 one-time entry/exit permits, significantly improving the sense of gain and satisfaction among foreign nationals and providing a model for ensuring services that support high-quality economic and social development in Pudong.

3. Establishing a One-Stop Comprehensive Service Center

In June 2024, the "Pre-Entry" One-Stop Comprehensive Service Center for foreign nationals was established at the T2 terminal of Pudong International Airport. This center serves as the first point of contact for entry services. It offers 24/7 services in payment, tourism, telecommunications, and transportation. It provides services such as service manuals, tourist maps, Wi-Fi equipment rentals, SIM cards, transportation cards, foreign currency exchange, small change exchange, mobile payment services, and in-person consultation, further enhancing the travel convenience for foreign nationals.

(V) Strengthening Foreign-Related Legal Publicity and

Services

1. Innovating Public Legal Education Channels

Focusing on the specific needs of foreign-related legal publicity, the Pudong Justice Bureau, relying on the Rule of Law Pudong WeChat account, for the first time started the Foreign-Related Affairs column. The first issue featured Shanghai's first online version of the "Walk Through Jinqiao – A Legal Guide for Foreigners Living in Jinqiao". This guide, presented in Chinese-English comics with Q&A section, effectively uses the convenience and broad coverage of new media platforms to explain the regulations foreign nationals need to know and follow while living and working in China.

The Pudong Justice Bureau also visited multiple foreign-invested firms, Sino-foreign law firm joint offices, the Shanghai International Dispute Resolution Center, and other renowned international legal service organizations. A promotional video was produced, visually showcasing the achievements in terms of institutional planning, diversified strategic deployment, and talent policies, which demonstrates Pudong's determination to build an internationally leading, law-based business environment.

2. Building a New Public Legal Education Pattern

In response to the diverse legal needs of foreign nationals in Pudong and the large population of foreign nationals in certain areas, in-depth research and targeted strategies were developed. Key foreigner communities such as Jinqiao Town, Zhangjiang Town, Huamu Community, and Lujiazui Community were selected as the first Pudong New Area Public Legal Education Window on Foreign-related Affairs. Through various channels such as short videos showcasing legal services, events such as the second Pudong Event of Shanghai Law Culture Festival, and continuous tracking and reporting of successful practices, these communities demonstrated their successes in public legal education for foreign nationals.

In Jinqiao Town, the Biyun Foreign-Related Public Legal Education Station was established, along with the Biyun Foreign-Related Legal Education Team, made up of foreign nationals, social workers, and lawyers. In Zhangjiang Town, the Party Secretary of a residential area with a community of foreign nationals was appointed as the Legal Observers of International Communities, and foreign nationals were hired as "Pudong Foreign Legal Observers" to assist in foreign-related legal education efforts. In Huamu Community, Pudong became the first in Shanghai to establish the Lianyang

Overseas Service Station and the Pudong International Talent Port (Huamu Station) to carry out targeted foreign-related public legal education activities. In Lujiazui Community, a Foreign-Related Law Guidelines Q&A was launched to provide Chinese law knowledge to foreign nationals.

3. Creating a Public Legal Education Community

Focusing on the practical needs of foreign nationals in their daily lives and work, Pudong guides the implementation of a series of foreign-related legal consultation and legal education activities, leveraging the Pudong New Area Public Legal Education Window on Foreign-related Affairs and certain international communities. In Zhangjiang Town, through joint agreements with local communities, schools, and businesses, the legal publicity activities were launched in these areas, bringing foreign-related legal education services into communities, schools, and businesses. This platform facilitates the delivery of legal resources and activities targeted at foreign nationals.

In Weifang Community, the Diamond Trading Center, a gathering place for foreign-invested enterprises and foreign nationals, was designated as a demonstration site for policy publicity. A series of tailored "service packages" focusing on dispute resolution and mediation were developed for foreign nationals. This initiative provides proactive services, preventing and resolving disputes at an early stage, and effectively addressing the closing the last-mile service delivery gap for foreign national service and management.

IV. Sticking to International Best Practices and Creating a High-Standard International Legal Services Hub

In recent years, Pudong has thoroughly implemented the decisions and arrangements of the Central Committee, the Municipal Committee, and the Pudong Committee. It has continuously experimented with new institutions, pressure tests, and explored new paths in the field of foreign-related legal services. By focusing on institutional innovation, diversified development, and talent support, Pudong has effectively enhanced the level of foreign-related legal services, solidifying its position as a hub for foreign-related legal services.

(I) Exploring New Practices in Foreign-Related Legal Services

1. Strengthening Top Design and Developing a Coordinated Institutional Planning Approach

Pudong has made full use of the legislative authorization in the *Leading Area Opinions* and the major administrative decision-making

mechanisms of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government to promote the implementation of "One Regulation for One Plan". Through institutional opening-up, Pudong has deepened its reform in foreign-related legal services.

The *Several Provisions of Pudong New Area on Facilitating the High-quality Development of the Legal Services Industry* were issued. Several pioneering reforms in foreign-related legal services have been launched, including:

The Chinese citizens with overseas legal qualifications and strong practical experience are allowed to practice law in Pudong, in accordance with national and municipal professional licensing regulations.

The initiative of *ad-hoc* arbitration: Parties involved in foreign-related commercial disputes registered in Pudong can agree to apply specific arbitration rules in Pudong, with designated arbitrators handling disputes.

Support is given to Hong Kong and Macau law firms to establish joint partnerships with Pudong law firms, and to overseas arbitration and mediation institutions to establish business offices or representative offices in Pudong according to law.

Immigration and residency facilitation services are provided for qualified foreign legal service professionals, including temporary visas for foreign arbitrators, mediators, and other legal practitioners attending legal affairs in Pudong, simplifying the visa application process at the Pudong port.

Pudong has also promoted the release of the *Core Area Implementation Plan*. In April 2021, when the *Leading Area Opinions* were issued, the Central Office for Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission and the Ministry of Justice proposed that Shanghai should take the lead in building an International Legal Services Hub as part of the Leading Area development goals and Shanghai's Five Hubs initiative. Subsequently, Pudong, in collaboration with the Shanghai Municipal Justice Bureau, held several special research meetings to mobilize efforts for building the Core Area of the International Legal Services Hub and successfully applied for it as a major administrative decision project of the Shanghai Municipal Government. In November 2023, the *Core Area Implementation Plan* was approved by the Shanghai Municipal Government's executive meeting, which outlines 17 specific innovative measures across following six key areas.

2. Focusing on Key Areas and Promoting the Implementation of Innovative Measures

The first case of a foreign party applying for *ad-hoc* arbitration in China was heard and decided in Pudong. In August 2024, a well-known British industry association and a Pudong-based shipping company reached an arbitration agreement in Pudong, agreeing to resolve their dispute over shipping insurance fees through *ad-hoc* arbitration. On September 28, the case was heard at the Pudong New Area's Integrated Dispute Resolution Service Center. The case was guided by the Shanghai Maritime University in collaboration with the China Maritime Arbitration Commission Shanghai Headquarters, and proceeded under the Shanghai Arbitration Association's *Ad-hoc* Arbitration Rules, as selected by both parties. This case represents the first instance in China where a foreign party applied for *ad-hoc* arbitration, shifting the arbitration venue from London to Shanghai, marking a substantial breakthrough in the implementation of the *ad-hoc* arbitration mechanism in Shanghai. It is also a positive outcome of Pudong's institutional opening-up, reflecting the growing international credibility, influence, and market competitiveness of Shanghai's arbitration mechanism.

Promoting the Establishment of Pudong's First Hong Kong-Macau Joint Venture Law Firm. In October 2024, at the Shanghai-Hong Kong High-Quality Development Pudong Cooperation and Exchange Conference, Shanghai Hansheng Law Firm and Hong Kong ONC Lawyers signed a strategic cooperation agreement. In March 2025, a joint venture agreement was signed, with plans to establish a partnership law firm in Pudong to provide "one-stop" cross-border legal services for clients in Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, and other countries.

Promoting the Establishment of New Joint Venture Law Offices Between Chinese and Foreign Law Firms. In 2014, the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone pioneered a pilot program allowing Chinese law firms to cooperate with foreign law firms through "joint ventures". In March 2025, 11 joint venture law offices have been established in this area, becoming one of the major achievements of opening-up. This arrangement has enabled professional advantages in fields such as capital markets, energy and minerals, intellectual property, information technology, risk management, competition compliance, and maritime law. The business cooperation network has extended to regions including the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and

Oceania, effectively expanding into more cross-border, high-end legal business areas and significantly improving the foreign-related service capabilities of Chinese law firms. Since the joint venture pilot, these offices have handled cross-border and international legal affairs, including assisting in cross-border guarantee loan projects involving multiple jurisdictions, participating in the acquisition of Brazilian high-voltage transmission assets by State Grid, and providing legal support for China's top shipping companies in projects related to shipbuilding, energy trade, marine engineering, and international arbitration.

Supporting "Going Global" Enterprises with Foreign-Related Legal Services. Pudong Justice Bureau, Lujiazui Bureau, and the Pudong Legal Services Industry Association have set up a Foreign-Related Legal Services Station for Enterprises Going Global in Lujiazui, an area known for its concentration of legal service institutions. It integrates foreign-related legal services resources in the area and compiles a guide to key destination countries offering professional services for "Going Global" enterprises. It has established a database of foreign-related legal services, talent, and cases. Pudong has also selected volunteers for the Belt and Road Legal Services Team to be stationed overseas, encouraging law firms or groups of lawyers to venture abroad, share risks, and set up branch offices in countries along the Belt and Road to enhance the overseas legal service networking.

Promoting Maritime Arbitration Rules and Mechanism Innovation. Pudong Commerce Commission, Pudong Justice Bureau, and Shanghai Maritime University signed a Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement to establish the Pudong New Area International Maritime Arbitration Innovation Center. This center will create an industry organization for arbitrators, develop Pudong International Maritime *Ad-hoc* Arbitration Rules, service standards, and operational guidelines, and encourage more market entities to choose *ad-hoc* arbitration as a method for resolving maritime commercial disputes. This initiative supports Shanghai's efforts to build a strong international shipping center and enhances China's voice and influence in the field of international maritime and commercial dispute resolution.

Promoting Innovation in Commercial Mediation. The Standing Committee of the Pudong New Area People's Congress formulated the Several Provisions of the Pudong New Area on the Promotion of

Commercial Mediation, the first legally binding instrument at the local level to promote the development of commercial mediation through separate legislation. These Provisions establish a system for commercial mediation organizations to apply for registration with the judicial administration. They also support individual mediators, in compliance with domestic regulatory requirements, to participate in international commercial mediation activities, and encourage service charges and commercial mediation practices based on the market according to law.

(II) Building an International Legal Services Cluster

1. Leveraging Resource Advantages

As the forefront of Shanghai and China's reform and opening-up, and a gateway to the world, Pudong New Area has, since its development in 1990, become the preferred location for numerous legal service institutions due to its unique geographical position, significant policy advantages, and vibrant development vitality. It has given rise to Shanghai's earliest law firms specialized in overseas services, China's first joint venture law office, and the first foreign arbitration institution in China. Pudong has also become home to the largest number of foreign law firm representative offices in Shanghai.

By the end of 2024, Pudong has 332 law firms and more than 9,300 lawyers, accounting for one-sixth of the law firms and one-quarter of lawyers in Shanghai. Additionally, Pudong is home to over 30 foreign law firm representative offices, 11 joint venture law offices, and 12 law firms with 33 branch offices or offices in 15 countries and regions abroad. Ten of China's top 100 legal service institutions with expertise in foreign affairs are located in Pudong. Reports from several international legal service rating agencies have shown that several Pudong law firms are ranked among China's top-tier law firms.

Among the five arbitration institutions registered with judicial administration in Shanghai, four are based in Pudong: the Shanghai Arbitration Commission, the China Maritime Arbitration Commission Shanghai Headquarters, the WIPO Shanghai Center, and the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) Shanghai Center. Additionally, some branches of the Shanghai International Trade Arbitration Commission are also located in Pudong. Well-known international arbitration institutions, such as the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the International Chamber of Commerce, have representative offices

in Pudong.

The Shanghai Oriental Foreign Law Discerning Center, the first one-stop platform for cross-border legal services and foreign law ascertainment in East China, is also located in Pudong. Furthermore, Pudong hosts 4 notary offices and 12 judicial authentication institutions.

Pudong has developed a legal service ecosystem with rich resources and comprehensive functions, providing a solid foundation for the development of the legal services cluster.

2. Practices and Achievements in Developing Legal Service Cluster

In line with the arrangements outlined in the *Core Area Implementation Plan*, Pudong has leveraged its abundant legal resources, large number of legal institutions, and comprehensive functional advantages to build international legal services clusters in Lujiazui, Shibo, and Lingang areas. Drawing on the experiences of countries with developed legal services industries, Pudong follows a strategy of multi-location and domain-specific development to foster the foreign-related legal services sector as a new driving force and growth engine for its economic and social development.

In the Lujiazui area, the focus is on attracting high-end, leading institutions to create a "core functional area" that capitalizes on the siphon effect of top institutions. This involves accelerating the concentration and development of high-end, foreign-related, and large-scale legal service institutions, while encouraging functional, high-quality, and niche legal service providers to settle in the area. The goal is to achieve synergy between different types of institutions and promote the full-chain development of the legal services industry. This will enhance the concentration and visibility of high-level legal services in Lujiazui, create linkages with other professional services, and empower high-quality development in the real economy and financial trade, ultimately making Lujiazui an international hub for legal services. To date, the Lujiazui area has gathered over 200 domestic law firms and more than 30 foreign law firms. Six of the top ten global law firms, five of the top ten law firms in China, and more than half of the law firms in Shanghai with annual revenue exceeding 1 billion *yuan* are located in Lujiazui. At the same time, through the continuous expansion of the international influence of the Lujiazui Rule of Law Forum, Pudong actively promotes its international legal services brand. The forum focuses on global trends and cutting-edge

issues in the legal services industry, enhancing the area's appeal, outreach, and influence, while creating a favorable atmosphere for Pudong to become a global legal services hub.

In the Shibo Area, the goal is to create a landmark platform for international dispute resolution institutions, building a Special Functional Area. This area will promote the development of the Asia-Pacific International Arbitration Center Tower in Pudong, with a focus on attracting international legal service organizations. It will support the establishment of business institutions for renowned overseas arbitration and dispute resolution organizations, focusing on foreign-related arbitration services in fields such as international commerce, maritime, and investment disputes. The aim is to form a highly concentrated and well-equipped international commercial dispute resolution ecosystem, contributing to the development of a global Asia-Pacific arbitration center.

Currently, both the Shanghai Arbitration Commission and the Shanghai International Dispute Resolution Center are located in the Shibo area. Pudong is closely aligning with these two key institutions to leverage their professional reputation and influence in the domestic and international arbitration sectors, attracting international legal service organizations to establish operations and create a specialized legal service ecosystem for international commercial dispute resolution.

In December 2021, the Shanghai Arbitration Commission moved its registered office to Pudong and began construction on a new headquarters at the Asia-Pacific International Arbitration Center Tower. In January 2024, the Shanghai Arbitration Commission and Shanghai Land (Group) Co., Ltd. jointly held a delivery ceremony for the Asia-Pacific International Arbitration Center Tower, with its headquarters located in the Shibo area.

The Shanghai International Dispute Resolution Center was established in 2018 and is also located in Shibo area of Pudong. As a legally registered non-profit social organization supervised by the Shanghai Municipal Justice Bureau, the center's mission is to provide a range of services to international diverse dispute resolution institutions. Domestic and foreign arbitration, mediation, and dispute resolution organizations can establish offices in the center's unified workspace, benefiting from streamlined operations and large-scale publicity while fostering a clustering effect for dispute resolution institutions.

To date, the Shanghai International Dispute Resolution Center has attracted institutions such as the Singapore International Arbitration Centre Shanghai Representative Office, the International Chamber of Commerce Shanghai Representative Office, the China (Shanghai) Free Trade Zone Arbitration Court, and the Shanghai International Aviation Court of Arbitration. Additionally, leveraging its platform advantages and clustering effects in foreign-related dispute resolution, the Shanghai International Arbitration Center has successfully developed the Shanghai International Arbitration Gathering, launching a series of events aimed at making Shanghai a destination for high-end legal services that attracts both domestic and international clients.

Lingang Special Area is positioned as a testing ground for emerging legal service practices, aiming to create a Pressure Test Area. It focuses on establishing a foreign-related commercial dispute resolution mechanism that aligns with the institutional opening-up system, as well as developing maritime and commercial legal services to provide professional legal support for the development of an international shipping center. In December 2020, the Lingang Special Area Legal Services Center was officially launched. It has signed joint agreements with 18 institutions, including the Shanghai First Intermediate People's Court, the Shanghai Maritime Court, and the Shanghai Financial Court, attracting 75 legal service organizations, including arbitration institutions, judicial authentication organizations, and law firms.

At the end of 2023, the KCAB Shanghai Center was granted approval to register in the Lingang Special Area, the first foreign arbitration institution to establish a business office in China, breaking the ground that only allowed foreign arbitration institutions to set up representative offices for non-arbitration business. In April 2024, the KCAB Shanghai Center officially opened in the Lingang Special Area.

The Pudong International Legal Service Park is designed as a hub for international legal services, featuring a fully integrated legal ecosystem where law-related institutions are clustered, legal functions are seamlessly connected, legal spaces are efficiently shared, and legal services can be accessed in one stop. With a focus on comprehensive legal service support, judicial service demonstration, academic research and training, and the incubation of a legal service ecosystem, the park aims to foster functional

synergy among institutions and promote the full-chain development of the legal service industry. Striving to become a high-end, efficient, and all-encompassing international legal platform, it is committed to providing world-class legal services. The Park features a full-chain cluster of legal institutions, with judicial administrations, courts, law firms, notary offices, arbitration committees, commercial mediation organizations, judicial authentication institutions, legal technology firms, new legal media, and other related industries. It also includes off-campus legal practice teaching bases for law schools and universities, fostering a rich legal services ecosystem. By ensuring that all elements within the legal services park are interconnected and mutually supportive, it facilitates the reasonable layout of upstream and downstream industries such as public platforms, core industries, related services, and legal education, promoting the integration of "government, industry, academia, and research".

In the Park, legal functions are seamlessly integrated with an innovative approach to restructuring legal services based on service categories. This involves redefining public legal services and judicial services into public legal services and dispute resolution to help establish a structured, step-by-step reception and case-handling process. Spaces are efficiently shared and optimized, with the development of standardized legal service facilities to minimize redundant infrastructure construction. Arbitration, administrative reconsideration, and mediation facilities are integrated into shared spaces, enhancing the supply of legal service resources. This Park creates a comprehensive support platform for rule-of-law development, benefiting not only Pudong but also Shanghai as a whole.

The one-stop legal service model is designed to accommodate both public legal services and dispute resolution scenarios, ensuring seamless integration across various legal service processes. These include public legal service reception, lawyer's consultations, commercial mediation, notarization, arbitration, case filing, and adjudication. By streamlining these processes, it improves convenience for both individuals and businesses, meeting the diverse legal needs of different entities. Ultimately, it aims to achieve the goal of resolving legal matters and disputes in a single location, minimizing procedural burdens and improving service efficiency.

Currently, the Pudong Justice Bureau, the Pudong Intellectual

Property Bureau have moved their premises to the Park, and the FTZ Court of Shanghai Maritime Court, the Pudong FTZ Court, and the Pudong Notary Office are to be relocated here. In the future, Pudong will gradually attract well-known law firms, international commercial mediation organizations, legal research think tanks (such as the Shanghai Maritime University Maritime Arbitration Research Center and the East China University of Political Science and Law Foreign Law Ascertainment Center), non-profit organizations (such as the International Commercial Dispute Prevention and Resolution Organization, the Belt and Road Lawyers Alliance, and the Shanghai East Asia Foreign Legal Services Center), as well as legal technology and other related industries. By fostering physical clustering, the initiative aims to amplify the synergy effect of industrial integration, the amplification effect of functional convergence, and the efficiency effect of resource optimization, creating a world-class legal service ecosystem.

(III) Building a Hub for Foreign-Related Rule of Law Talent

1. Distinct Advantages of Pudong

Among the 1,000 lawyers with expertise in foreign affairs as selected by the Ministry of Justice, 37 are from Pudong. Of the 141 lawyers in Shanghai's foreign-related lawyers database, 30 are from Pudong. Pudong also accounts for 51 of the 215 individuals selected for the first batch of the Shanghai Foreign-Related Legal Talent Pool by the Shanghai Law Society.

According to research, Pudong is home to more than 1,200 foreign-related lawyers, representing about one-third of the total in Shanghai. The majority of these lawyers have overseas education or work experience. Among them, 295 lawyers hold foreign legal qualifications, and some have qualifications in two or more foreign jurisdictions. Pudong lawyers are involved in foreign-related legal services across a wide range of fields: 693 lawyers have handled cross-border investment and mergers and acquisitions; 354 have worked on foreign legal risk management for businesses; 300 have dealt with overseas listing issues; 262 have represented clients in foreign arbitration institutions; 148 have worked on overseas export controls and security review matters; and 218 have handled foreign-related intellectual property cases.

Additionally, 46 Pudong lawyers serve as arbitrators in overseas arbitration institutions and as mediators in international mediation organizations. Thirty lawyers are actively involved in international

legal industry associations.

2. Increasing Talent Policies Supply

Issuing the *Implementation Opinions on Promoting the Development of Legal Services Talent in Pudong New Area*. In January 2023, Pudong launched a "1+1+N" talent policy system, which for the first time includes legal services industry talent within the broader talent policy framework. To support this, the Pudong Justice Bureau, the Pudong Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, and the Pudong Finance Bureau jointly formulated the *Implementation Opinions on Promoting the Development of Legal Services Talent in Pudong New Area*. It focuses on fields such as lawyering, notary services, arbitration, judicial appraisal, and commercial mediation, aiming to attract and cultivate a group of domestic leading legal talent with international competitiveness. It proposes four major areas and 11 specific measures, which include the offering of financial incentives for the introduction of full-time legal services talent and the support of full-time legal services talent to participate in both domestic and international non-degree training programs and high-level law degree education.

Since it was issued, 20 high-level foreign-related legal services professionals have been recruited (including 3 leading talents, 3 top talents, and 14 urgently needed talents). Their practice areas include key fields such as responding to trade sanctions, long-arm jurisdiction, anti-dumping, countervailing duties, safeguard measures, and product-specific safeguard measures, foreign-related intellectual property disputes, and overseas corporate compliance. To broaden the international horizon of legal professionals in Pudong and bridge the gap between theory and practice, Pudong has collaborated with the University of Cambridge to organize two sessions of Pudong Cambridge Program on Legal Talent Education. Additionally, it has partnered with East China University of Political Science and Law, Fudan University, and the Singapore Mediation Centre to conduct two international commercial mediation training programs. So far, more than 50 participants from Pudong-based law firms, arbitration institutions, mediation organizations, and notary offices have been selected to undergo overseas training programs. A series of bi-monthly lectures on foreign-related legal talent development has also been launched, inviting renowned experts and scholars to deliver lectures on cutting-edge topics in international commercial arbitration and intellectual property protection. Furthermore, nearly 100

education and training subsidies have been provided, supporting dozens of Pudong-based lawyers in pursuing LL.M. and J.D. degrees abroad or taking overseas bar qualification exams, effectively enhancing Pudong's capacity in foreign-related legal services.

Leveraging the *Several Opinions on Supporting Postdoctoral Innovation and Development in Pudong New Area*. To attract and cultivate a group of internationally competitive postdoctoral research talent, Pudong introduced the *Several Opinions on Supporting Postdoctoral Innovation and Development in Pudong New Area* in January 2023. This initiative was jointly developed by the Pudong New Area Human Resources and Social Security Bureau and the Finance Bureau. With the support of the Organization Department of the Pudong Committee, the Pudong Justice Bureau, relying on these Opinions, proactively engaged with law schools to explore co-training pathways for postdoctoral researchers in law, while also promoting law firms as postdoctoral innovation practice bases. In January 2024, at the launch ceremony of the Pudong Foreign-Related Legal Talent Hub, the Pudong Justice Bureau led efforts to establish a postdoctoral innovation practice program in law, reaching cooperation agreements with Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China University of Political Science and Law, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and ten law firms in Pudong. Additionally, Pudong introduced its legal talent policies to the global legal community.

By June 2024, the first three law firms – AllBright Law Offices, DeHeng Law Offices, and ZhongLun Law Firm – successfully passed expert evaluations and were officially recognized by the Pudong New Area People's Government. Six projects submitted by these firms were included in the postdoctoral research project list, opening opportunities for outstanding legal talents from both China and abroad to participate in innovative research and development in the legal sector.

Concluding Remarks

Advancing foreign-related rule of law is not only Pudong's duty and mission but also a necessity for its reform and development. Looking ahead, Pudong will adhere to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as its guiding principle, fully implement the gist of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 20th CPC Central Committee, and thoroughly study and apply Xi Jinping's Thought on the Rule of Law as well as his important speeches.

In alignment with the requirements set by the Central Office for Comprehensive Law-based Governance Commission, and under the strong leadership of the Municipal Committee and the Municipal Government, Pudong will continue to focus on strengthening foreign-related rule of law. It will fully leverage the legislative power as authorized, advance the integration and interaction between domestic law and international law, and make significant strides in institutional opening-up and innovation, enhancing foreign-related legal service systems, and accelerating the cultivation of high-caliber international legal talent.

Through these efforts, Pudong will continue advancing foreign-related rule of law development, and contribute stronger legal guarantee to building Pudong into a leading area of socialist modernization and to supporting Shanghai in achieving its goal of a globally influential socialist modern international metropolis.