

HONG KONG

No. 10 OF 1974

L.S.

I assent.

MURRAY MACLEHOSE,
Governor.Ordinance not
disallowed—
see G.N. 1015/74

14th February, 1974.

An Ordinance to provide for the official languages of Hong Kong,
and for their status and use.

[15th February, 1974]

Enacted by the Governor of Hong Kong, with the advice
and consent of the Legislative Council thereof.1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Official Languages Short title.
Ordinance 1974.2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.
“court” means any court, and also means any board, tribunal or
person having by law the power to hear, receive and examine
evidence on oath.3. (1) The English and Chinese languages are declared to Official
be the official languages of Hong Kong for the purposes of com- languages
munication between the Government or any public officer and and their
members of the public. status and
use.(2) The official languages possess equal status and, subject to
the provisions of this Ordinance, enjoy equality of use for the
purposes set out in subsection (1).4. (1) Every Ordinance shall be enacted and published in Legislation.
the English language.(2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be construed as restrict-
ing—(a) the use of Chinese words or terms in any Ordinance;
or(b) the publication of a translation of any Ordinance into
the Chinese language.5. (1) The proceedings in any court specified in the Judicial
Schedule may be conducted in either the English language or proceedings.
the Chinese language as the court thinks fit. Schedule.

(2) Proceedings in—
 (a) the Full Court;
 (b) the Supreme Court;
 (c) the District Court; and
 (d) any other court not specified in the Schedule,
 shall be conducted in the English language.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), any party to or witness in proceedings in any court may use either the English language or the Chinese language, or such other language as the court may permit.

Amendment
of Schedule.

6. The Governor in Council may, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule.

Consequen-
tial amend-
ment.
(Cap. 25.)

7. Section 19 of the Labour Tribunal Ordinance is amended by the deletion of subsection (1).

SCHEDULE

[s. 5(2).]

COURTS IN WHICH PROCEEDINGS MAY BE CONDUCTED IN EITHER THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OR THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

1. Magistrates' Courts.
2. Any inquiry by a coroner.
3. Any Juvenile Court.
4. Any Labour Tribunal.
5. Any Tenancy Tribunal.

Passed by the Hong Kong Legislative Council this 13th day of February, 1974.

K. H. WHEELER,
Clerk to the Legislative Council.

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the bill, and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said bill.

K. H. WHEELER,
Clerk to the Legislative Council.