ENFORCEMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

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A digital, borderless and profit-driven threat

US$88.3–114.1bn

Estimated scam losses across East and Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand in 2025

43,212

Deception cases recorded in Hong Kong in 2025

HK$8.1bn

Losses from Hong Kong deception cases in 2025

Why enforcement is difficult?

- Jurisdiction must be established across borders
- Electronic evidence must be preserved quickly
- Virtual assets can be transferred through multiple countries
- Criminal proceeds may disappear before restraint



Technology enables offenders to target victims remotely and move proceeds across borders within minutes.

Hong Kong's four-pronged response

1

Strong legal framework

Investigate serious crime, establish jurisdiction, restrain and confiscate proceeds.

2

Cross-border cooperation

Mutual legal assistance, intelligence exchange and coordinated investigations.

3

Technology as a tool

Electronic evidence, digital records, virtual-asset tracing and blockchain-enabled service.

4

Knowledge sharing

Training, regional exchange and practical cooperation across professions.

FATF: more than 80% of jurisdictions achieve only low or moderate effectiveness in asset recovery

Law and technology working together



A framework that reaches modern crime

Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455)
Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance (Cap. 405)
United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575)
Criminal Jurisdiction Ordinance (Cap. 461)

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Jurisdiction over specified fraud, forgery, theft and conspiracy offences where statutory connections exist.

Cyber-dependent crime reform

The 2026 Law Reform Commission report recommends modernised offences and jurisdiction where Hong Kong connections exist.

First tokenised court injunction in Asia: a global freezing injunction delivered through blockchain to digital wallets

PERADI
PERHIMPUNAN ADVOKAT INDONESIA
INDONESIAN ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION

Lawyers as prevention and contribution partners

>70%
Share of DNFBP suspicious transaction reports submitted by the legal sector, 2019–2025

100%
Participation in the first mandatory profession-wide AML/CTF Self-Assessment Exercise

>90%
Firms reporting compliance with relevant requirements

Before wrongdoing

Client due diligence
Beneficial ownership checks
Source of funds and wealth
Sanctions screening
Suspicious transaction reporting

During recovery

Coordinate cross-border proceedings
Prepare evidence for foreign courts
Seek disclosure and freezing relief
Navigate different legal systems
Support asset preservation

Prevention is less visible than enforcement, but no less important.



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Cooperation turns legal powers into results



2,141+

Money laundering convictions, 2019 to January 2026

HK$1.8bn

Assets restrained, 2019 to January 2026

HK$710m+

Assets recovered, 2019 to January 2026

33 mutual legal assistance arrangements

Hong Kong and Indonesia: more than US$8 million restrained and preserved with a view to repatriation for an Indonesian victim

FATF RATING

Substantial effectiveness for confiscation (Outcome 8)

Recognition of strong results in tracing, restraining, confiscating and recovering proceeds of crime

Shared challenges require a shared response

Trusted channels

Faster, secure information sharing among law enforcement, financial intelligence units and legal professionals.

Uphold the vital role of legal professionals

Maintaining the highest standards of ethics, integrity, professionalism and courage, while adapting to emerging technologies, evolving criminal methods and new legal challenges.

Regional exchange

Forums such as POLA provide a platform for knowledge sharing, professional dialogue and the development of practical cross-border solutions.

Cooperation • Trust • Innovation • Justice

