

**United Nations Commission on International Trade Law,
Hong Kong Mediation Centre and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management
Institute co-host city's first
International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019**
*Experts in conflict resolution gathered to promote a
"New Era of Global Collaboration"*

HONG KONG, 17 April 2019 – Hong Kong Mediation Centre played host to the city's first International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019 – a vital global summit co-hosted alongside the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI), and in collaboration with the Department of Justice of HKSAR Government ("DoJ"). This event was funded by the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme of the Government of the HKSAR.

More than 25 international and regional dispute resolution experts, practitioners, academics, judges and senior government officials delivered presentations and participated in panel talks during the inaugural event, which took place on **April 17**.

Hong Kong Mediation Centre welcomed more than 850 participants to learn more about the emerging risks, trends and solutions for commercial, trading and investment disputes among states, organisations, businesses and individuals.

"Globalization brings with rapid increases in trading and investment collaborations, which carry the inevitable risk of creating conflict," said Dr Francis Law, President of Hong Kong Mediation Centre, and Chairman of IDRRMI. "As a leading international dispute resolution centre and a hub for global business and investment, Hong Kong has an invaluable role to play in serving as a cross-border risk management, deal-making and disputes resolution services centre in the Greater Bay Area, Belt and Road Countries and worldwide.

"That was why the decision was made jointly by the UN, IDRRMI and Hong Kong Mediation Centre to work together in organising this first-of-a-kind conference in Hong Kong."

The Secretary of UNCITRAL, and Director of the Division on International Trade Law in the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret shared her insights via a specially prepared video. She expressed high appreciation for the work of HKMC, IDRRMI, the Chinese Mainland Government and the Hong Kong SAR Government, acknowledging the enormous support shown to UNCITRAL's work in harmonising and modernising the national and regional regulations

for international trade, and promoting the United Nation Convention on Mediation. UNCITRAL was also represented in person by Athita Komindr, head of the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific.

“I wish I could be in Hong Kong with you now to witness first-hand the great success of this fully booked event, which I’m told numbers over 900 registered attendees – far exceeding the initially planned attendance of 500 people,” Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret told the conference by video.

“This event is aptly titled New Era of Global Collaboration, and your overwhelming interest underlines the critical importance of dispute resolution as a legally enabling framework for trade and investment, for businesses and governments alike. IDRC 2019 comes at a particularly important moment for mediation, one of the main focuses of today, which is becoming an increasingly popular tool for resolving disputes while persevering relationships.”

The event began with an opening speech from Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Opening remarks were also heard from H.E. Mr. XIE Feng, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the HKSAR, Mr. YE Jun, Deputy Director General of the Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Commerce of the PRC (MOFCOM) and Mr Justice Jeremy Poon, Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, Judiciary of the HKSAR.

“Given our status as a leading international dispute resolution centre in Asia Pacific, I believe that Hong Kong is indeed the ideal location for this event,” Mrs Lam told the audience. She said that global collaboration is needed more than ever to tackle the daunting challenges faced by the world and that an increase in international trade and investment disputes seems to be inevitable given the growth in cross-border economic activities and transactions, especially in Asia.

“As an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia Pacific region, Hong Kong will continue to follow closely the development on international mediation and arbitration, while embracing the immense opportunities that may emerge,” Mrs Lam said.

The conference’s keynote speech was delivered by Mr Rimsky Yuen, the DoJ’s former Secretary for Justice. DoJ’s closing remarks were delivered by Law Officer Ms Christian Cheung, marking the successful close of the event.

In the face of growing instability and potentially disruptive disputes, the UN recently approved the

Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, a global framework for conflict resolution between international and cross-border parties.

Widely known as the “Mediation Convention”, this global standard has opened up a wealth of new professional and business opportunities in the dispute resolution field. As a global hub for trade and finance, Hong Kong’s integral role in meeting this growing need was spelled out repeatedly at the first International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019.

The conference programme was split into four sessions gathering dozens of academics, attorneys and experts to explore the following themes: “Trend of Using International Dispute Resolution to Address Trade and Investment Disputes”, “Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation”, “State-to-State Dispute Resolution and Investor-State Dispute Resolution” and finally “Mediation – A Smart Way to Resolve International Intellectual Property Disputes”.

Dr Francis Law shared his gratitude to all the day’s participants and extended apologies to the more than 500 unsuccessful applicants unable to be accommodated at the conference – pledging that the International Dispute Resolution Conference will now be established as an annual event. “We are going to organise this important event every year and welcome more international dispute resolution professionals and traders to come to Hong Kong to join us,” he added.

For additional details about the International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019, please visit <http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/tc/news/Newsview.php?id=278>.

Please click [here](#) to download more event photos.

For media enquiry, please contact:

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Event Photos:



1. (From third left) Mr Liu Chunhua, Minister of Legal Department of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR; The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy Poon, Justice of the Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, Judiciary of the HKSAR; Mr Ye Jun, Deputy Director General of the Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Commerce of the PRC; Dr Law Wai Hung, Francis, President of Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC) and Chairman of International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI); The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheung Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; H.E. Mr Xie Feng, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Ms Athita Komindr, Head of UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, attended the International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019.



2. Dr Law Wai Hung, Francis, President of Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC) and Chairman of International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI), giving the welcoming speech.



3. The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheung Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, shares her opening remarks.



4. H.E. Mr Xie Feng, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the HKSAR presents his opening remarks.



5. Mr Ye Jun, Deputy Director General of Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Commerce of the PRC was among the speakers.



6. The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy Poon, Justice of the Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, Judiciary of the HKSAR, presents his perspective.



7. Ms Athita Komindr, Head of UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, talks about international settlement agreements resulting from mediation.



9. More than 850 guests turned out for the International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019.