

2020 UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day

Webinar : The Future Practice of Commercial Dispute Resolution after Extending the Application of CISG to Hong Kong

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 and has since come to be the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL RCAP) established UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day in 2014 to celebrate this historical resolution.

This year, an initial 25 universities and institutions across the region have joined the annual celebration to commemorate the establishment of UNCITRAL and promote awareness of international trade standards and norms, particularly those endorsed by UNCITRAL. In light of its 40th anniversary, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), a multilateral treaty that establishes a uniform legal regime for contracts for the cross-border sale of goods, will receive special focus.

There are views supporting the application of the CISG to Hong Kong. In response to such views, UNCITRAL RCAP, The Department of Law, The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC), and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI) co-organize this Webinar.

From the prospective of harmonizing the CISG with prevailing Hong Kong laws, this Webinar studies the practice of commercial dispute resolution if local application of the Convention comes to fruition. Furthermore, the Webinar highlights the indirect benefits brought by the application of the CISG to Hong Kong, namely enhancing the competence of Hong Kong's dispute resolution practitioners, such as lawyers, mediators, arbitrators etc. It also critically examines the ways practitioners can prepare themselves for future changes in the practice of commercial dispute resolution.

Speakers:

Ms. Athita KOMINDR	Head, UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (Video Remarks in English)
Ms. Jenny HUI	Legal Expert, UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (Live Remarks in Cantonese)
Prof. Yun ZHAO	Head of Department of Law, The University of Hong Kong
Dr. Rajesh SHARMA	Senior Lecturer, Legal and Dispute Studies, Criminology and Justice, RMIT University

Moderator:

Dr. Francis LAW	President, Hong Kong Mediation Centre Chairman, International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute
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Date: 10 December 2020 (Thursday)

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (HKT)

Language: English

Target Audience: University Students, Lawyers, Dispute Resolution Practitioners

Platform : Zoom

Registration Deadline: 7 December 2020

CPD Point :

HKMC : 2 Points

IDRRMI : 2 Points

HKMAAL : Pending

**2 CPD
points**

Free Registration

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Organizers:



FACULTY OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



香港和解中心
Hong Kong Mediation Centre



國際爭議解決及風險管理協會
International Dispute Resolution &
Risk Management Institute

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Ms. Athita KOMINDR Head, UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Athita is Head of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL RCAP), managing technical assistance and capacity building programming available to over 50 States in Asia and the Pacific in key areas of commercial law, including dispute resolution, MSMEs, international contract practices, sale of goods, electronic commerce, transport, insolvency, international payments, secured transactions, and procurement. In that capacity, she coordinates with Governments and international and regional organizations with respect to trade law reform activities aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Athita has over a decade of experience in the fields of international trade and economic law, arbitration, multilateral dispute resolution, and the rule of law and development. Prior to joining the United Nations, Athita mainly advised and worked with numerous Thai agencies, including the Thailand Institute of Justice, the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Thailand Arbitration Center where she managed the Arbitration and Legal Affairs Divisions. She also worked for the Thai Ministry of Commerce in Bangkok (2002-2005) and Geneva (2005-2010), representing Thailand in bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations, WTO dispute settlement, and treaty drafting. Admitted to the New York Bar since 2002, Athita has experience in both common and civil law traditions in the public and private sectors, and holds degrees from Harvard College, Georgetown University Law Center, and Harvard Law School.



Ms. Jenny HUI Legal Expert, UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Jenny Hui is currently seconded from the Department of Justice (DoJ) of the Government of the HKSAR to the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific as Legal Expert. Prior to her secondment, she was serving as Senior Government Counsel in the Legal Policy Division of the DoJ. Subject matters that she has assisted in during her service include, liberalization of international trade in legal services, and recognition of and assistance in corporate insolvency matters between Mainland China and Hong Kong. Jenny was admitted as solicitor in Hong Kong in 2014. She holds a Master of Laws (Public International Law) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the City University of Hong Kong.

Professor Yun ZHAO, Head of Department of Law, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Prof. ZHAO Yun is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Head of Department of Law at the University of Hong Kong; PhD (Erasmus University Rotterdam); LLM (Leiden University); LLM & LLB (China University of Political Science and Law). He was Director of the Centre for Chinese Law (2013-2017). He is currently Representative of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and Standing Council Member of the Chinese Society of International Law. He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Dispute Resolution and Space Law. His recent publications include Dispute Resolution in Electronic Commerce (Martinus Nijhoff, 2005), Liberalization of Electronic Commerce and Law (Peking University Press, 2005), Space Commercialization and the Development of Space Law (Intellectual Property Press, 2008), Mediation Practice and Skills (Tsinghua University Press, 2011), National Space Legislation in China: An Overview of the Current Situation and Outlook for the Future (Brill, 2015).



Dr. Rajesh SHARMA Senior Lecturer, Legal and Dispute Studies, Criminology and Justice, RMIT University

Dr. Rajesh Sharma is currently teaching at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Before coming to Australia, he was Assistant Professor at School of Law, City University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Sharma has given training and taught courses on arbitration, mediation, negotiation, foreign investment arbitration, WTO Law, international trade, banking law, foreign investment in Hong Kong, Macao, India, Australia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Nepal and Africa (where he is associated with the African Centre for Legal Excellence in Uganda). He has served as the Legal Advisor to the Macau University of Science and Technology. He has advised transnational companies on trade and investment policy in China and has done training courses with and for the WTO and UNITAR. Dr. Sharma is the Finalists for the ADR Teacher Award 2019 in Australia.

Dr. LAW Wai Hung, Francis President of HKMC ; Chairman of IDRRMI

Dr. Francis Law is the President of Hong Kong Mediation Centre; Founding Chairman of the International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute; President and Professor of the Academy of International Dispute Resolution and Professional Negotiation; Founding Chairman of Mainland - Hong Kong Joint Mediation Center; Vice-Chairman of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Mediation Alliance and Past Chairman of Asian Mediation Association. Dr. Law is serving on the mediator and arbitrator panels of over 20 regions/countries. He is the Lead Trainer and the Lead Assessor of the Dispute Resolution profession in Hong Kong, China and other Asia countries and has trained over 1000 mediators, 100 Assessors, Coaches and Trainers globally. He also assisted Courts, Arbitration and Mediation Institutions in Asia to set up mediation policy, design mediation training and establish the assessment and disciplinary mechanism. From 2012 to 2018, he was appointed by the Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong as the member of the Steering Committee on Mediation, Accreditation Sub-committee, Regulatory Framework Sub-committee and Public Education and Publicity Sub-committee. Since 2016, he has been leading delegations to attend the United Nation Commission on International Trade Law Sessions and presented professional comments and contributed to the Mediation Convention.

Dr. Law has been conducting research on international trade, international dispute resolution and risk management. Dr. Law was awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Secretary for Home Affairs for his dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the promotion of professional mediation services in December 2017.

