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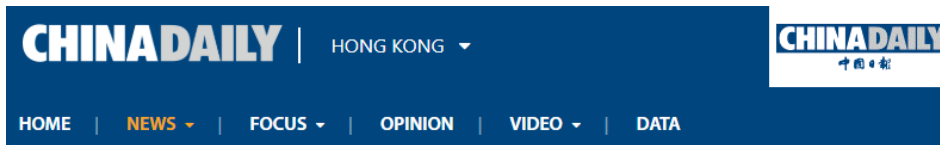


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Use of mediation to resolve IP disputes 'vital for SAR'

By Luo Weiteng in Hong Kong



With **Hong Kong** increasingly seeing intellectual property (IP) as a growth engine for **innovation** and creativity, the power of mediation to resolve IP disputes should become more important in future, experts say.

Hong Kong has long seen potential synergies in combining its skills as a leading **center for international legal and dispute resolution services** with the fact it is also a premier IP trading hub, says Maria Ng, deputy director with the government's Intellectual Property Department.

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Maria Ng, Deputy director of Intellectual Property Department, HKSAR government

Mediation, in particular, will play an important future role, Ng told a one-day International Dispute Resolution Conference in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

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Known as an increasingly sought-after method of dispute resolution, mediation seeks to resolve IP disputes without the need to go to court. The mediator's role is not to make a decision on the dispute, but to help both parties reach an amicable solution. emerging trend where Asian-based innovators are becoming the driving force for international patent applications. This is a trend that "underscores the historic geographical shift of innovative activity from West to East", says World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) director general Francis Gurry.

Last year, Chinese telecom giant **Huawei** led the way with Asia accounting for more than half of the international patent applications at the WIPO, according to its annual report released in March.

Huawei has been in spotlight more than ever since the United States encouraged its allies to bar Chinese vendors from participating in building 5G networks. But the company has made a record-breaking 5,405 patent applications to the United Nations body — up from 4,024 in 2017.