

WEBINAR

The Role of Dispute Resolution in Assisting MSMEs and Economic Recovery

The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day is an annual flagship academic series launched in 2014 by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific ("UNCITRAL RCAP") to celebrate the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 establishing UNCITRAL, which has since come to be the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.

This year, an initial 34 universities and institutions across the Asia-Pacific region in 13 jurisdictions have joined the annual celebration to commemorate the establishment of UNCITRAL by co-hosting a series of academic events with UNCITRAL RCAP to promote awareness of international trade standards and norms, particularly those endorsed by UNCITRAL, amongst law students — the next generation of legal thinkers and policymakers. The main theme of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2021 is "Enabling MSMEs and Assisting Economic Recovery through Legal Harmonization". Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises ("MSMEs") represent the majority of businesses in most jurisdictions and account for a large portion of overall employment. However, MSMEs worldwide experience similar obstacles to doing business at all stages of their operation. These obstacles have been exacerbated by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Asia Pacific Day 2021 theme provides a synoptic view of how different areas of the work of UNCITRAL reduce the legal obstacles encountered by MSMEs throughout their life cycle.

UNCITRAL RCAP, Faculty of Law, the University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC), and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI) are co-organising the Webinar on The Role of Dispute Resolution in Assisting MSMEs and Economic Recovery.

The Webinar highlights the role of dispute resolution as a conducive instrument to alleviate the financial burden of MSMEs and resolve economic-related disputes. While dispute resolution acts as an effective measure to help MSMEs rejuvenate their businesses, sustainable development and economic recovery can be achieved.

Date	Time	Mode of Delivery	Language
10 November 2021 (Wednesday)	5:00pm – 6:30pm (Hong Kong time, UTC+8 hours)	Webinar via Zoom	English

Free Registration

**Registration
Deadline:**
9 November
2021
(Tuesday)



TARGET AUDIENCE

University Students, Lawyers, Dispute Resolution Practitioners

CPD

1.5 CPD points for HKMC, MHJMC and IDRRMI

1.5 CPD points for Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) (Pending)

Event Enquiries: (852) 3620 3076 / events@mediationcentre.org.hk

2021 UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day

Speakers of Opening Remarks (Listed in speaking order)

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 two decades 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



Jenny Hui is currently seconded from the Department of Justice (DoJ) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific as Legal Expert. Prior to her secondment, she was serving in the Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division as Senior Government Counsel, and has assisted in subject matters including, 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) degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the City University of Hong Kong.

Moderator

Dr. Shahla ALI | Professor and Associate Dean (International), Faculty of Law; Director, the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, the University of Hong Kong



Dr. Shahla Ali is a Professor, Associate Dean (International), and the Director of Program in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong. Shahla's work centers on questions of governance, development and cross-border dispute resolution in the Asia Pacific region. She serves as a bilingual arbitrator (English/Chinese) with CIETAC, HKIAC, KCAB and SIAC. Her recent books including *Soft Law from the Ground Up* (Elgar, 2021) *Court Mediation Reform* (Elgar, 2018), *Governing Disasters* (Cambridge, 2016), *Consumer Financial Dispute Resolution in a Comparative Context* (Cambridge, 2013) and *Resolving Disputes in the Asia Pacific* (Routledge, 2010), have informed legal developments in the Asia Pacific and contributed to the emergence of a growing body of work examining comparative dispute resolution systems from an interdisciplinary perspective. She has been engaged in dispute resolution reform at the regional and global levels including with USAID, IFC/World Bank and the United Nations on issues pertaining to access to justice, peace process negotiation training, financial dispute resolution and land use conflict resolution. Shahla holds a BA from Stanford University in International Relations and Chinese language and a JD and PhD in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.

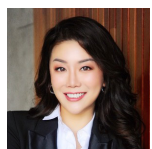
Speakers

Professor Yun ZHAO | Head, Department 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).

Ms. Josephine HADIKUSUMO | Director, Principal Mediator and Dispute Resolution Consultant, the Asia Mediation Centre



Josephine Hadikusumo is a senior trainer and lecturer in dispute resolution, negotiation and conflict management, and at present, serves as Director of the Asia Mediation Centre. Concurrently she is a mediation trainer for both the Asia Mediation Centre and the Singapore Mediation Centre, as well as being a Certified Mediator under the Singapore International Mediation Institute ("SIMI"), and under the International Mediation Institute ("IMI"). She also serves as a Senior International Mediation Expert in Hong Kong and China's International Dispute Resolution and Risk Management Institute ("IDRRMI").

Josephine sits on the board of directors for the SIMI. As a member of the Working Group established by the Chief Justice of Singapore to promote ADR and produce a "White Paper on Mediation", Josephine also co-authored and published a study on "Recent Developments in International Mediation: Singapore's Unique Approach" in 2019. Josephine contributes on the Task Force on ADR and Arbitration for the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris ("ICC") and also on the Arbitration and ADR Committee for ICC Malaysia. Having spent many years capacity-building in Fiji, she was proud to witness the establishment of the Fiji Mediation Centre in 2016 and currently also sits on its panel, in addition to being on the panel of the Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC") of Malaysia and the Hainan International Arbitration Court ("HIAC") in Hainan, China.

Josephine is the Managing Partner of CJ Liew & Co and maintains an active practice with a focus on corporate, compliance, cross-border and conciliation work. As a lawyer, mediator and until recently a corporate counsel, she is actively engaged in global developments on dispute resolution trends and laws, through local and international platforms including the UNCITRAL.

Dr. Francis LAW | President, Hong Kong Mediation Centre; Chairman, International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute



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 30 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 3000 mediators, 150 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 Nations Commission on International Trade Law Sessions and was invited to be the observer of the United Nations Committee of International Trade Law. He was actively involved in the drafting of the Singapore Mediation Convention and was a member of the UN Singapore Mediation Convention Promotional Group Experts Representatives.

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.