

Organiser



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Press Release

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ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong

The first for Asia and Hong Kong, the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong (the “**ICC Mediation Competition - HK**”) was held in Hong Kong between 12 and 15 October 2018. Sixteen university teams (consisting of 74 students and coaches) from eight jurisdictions (China, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia and Singapore) competed, including a number from Belt & Road countries .

During an action-packed four days of the ICC Mediation Competition – HK, university students competed using their advocacy skills to great effect during intense simulated commercial mediations. They were mediated and judged by over 50 mediators and judges who are all top practicing professionals from both Hong Kong and overseas, ably supported by a tremendous team of over 50 volunteers. After the preliminary rounds on 12 and 13 October 2018 and quarter-finals/semi-finals on 14 October 2018, the final was held on 15 October 2018 between the National University of Singapore and City University of Hong Kong at Justice Place, Hong Kong. City University of Hong Kong won.

City University of Hong Kong as the winning team will be funded to compete in the ICC Mediation Competition in Paris in February 2019 which is a great honour and a fitting prize for their wonderful efforts during the Competition. The ICC Mediation Competition is widely recognized as the world’s leading mediation competition for university students bringing 66 teams together last year in Paris.

The International Chamber of Commerce – Hong Kong (ICC-HK) decided to bring the ICC Mediation Competition to Hong Kong given Hong Kong is one of the leading international dispute resolution centres in the world, its strong mediation profession, and its desire to contribute to the opportunities for Hong Kong’s youth to gain skills in mediation. It has also coincided with the 20th anniversary of ICC-HK’s establishment and ICC- HK considers it to be a fitting way to celebrate.

To kick-start the first ICC Mediation Competition - HK, the Government through the Department of Justice generously contributed to make this event happen, and agreed to be the co-organizer of the inaugural competition with ICC-HK. Various institutions have also generously sponsored the ICC Mediation Competition - HK.

Mediation of disputes is on the rise globally. In recent years, due to the rising costs of litigation and arbitration, as well as the desire of governments and citizens alike to create a more harmonious and less litigious society, mediation has seen a steady increase in popularity. Mediation’s attractiveness has also been given a boost this year with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law’s approval of the final drafts of the Convention on the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from

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mediation and its corresponding Model Law.

So the timing of bringing this wonderful competition to Hong Kong could not be more apt and the organizers congratulate all students who participated so passionately and thank everyone who contributed to making the first ICC Mediation Competition – HK such a great success.

The Honorable Secretary for Justice Ms Teresa Cheng SC said that:

“The fact that common law and civil law jurisdictions from different parts of the world are represented in this competition reflects the growing popularity and recognition of mediation around the globe. Since we have different legal cultures, with different substantive commercial laws and civil procedural laws, our perspectives and approaches to dispute resolution may not be entirely the same. ... But I think we do have one thing in common, that is we all believe that mediation can be an effective way to resolve commercial disputes.”

Mr JP Lee, Chairman of ICC-HK, commented that:

“The Competition adds value to our effort in promoting mediation as a means for peaceful resolution of disputes. It provides an opportunity for university students, whatever their major subject of study may be, to know and to learn about mediation and the necessary skill set. That may open another door for young people in their choice of career.”

ICC-HK intends to hold the ICC Mediation Competition - HK annually. It hopes that the ICC Mediation Competition - HK will grow and become the premier event in Asia's dispute resolution/mediation circles that enhances the skills and experience of the younger generation in mediation. It will also provide opportunities for Hong Kong mediators to engage regularly and share ideas with top professionals from the international mediation community.

ICC-HK and the Department of Justice express their sincere gratitude to the students, coaches, universities, professional mediators, sponsors, supporting organisations, volunteers and many others who have contributed their valuable time, efforts, and support to make the ICC Mediation Competition – HK a reality.

For further details please refer to Mr. Ronald Sum, Chairperson, ICC Mediation Competition – Hong Kong Steering Committee on +852 3465 0600 or Ms. Kim Rooney, Member, ICC Mediation Competition – Hong Kong Steering Committee on +852 2866 8233, email: info@iccmmediationcomp.com.

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