

Address by Mr JP Lee, SBS, OBE, JP
Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong
at the Opening Ceremony of
the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition
- Hong Kong
Friday, 12 October 2018, Justice Place

Welcome to the inauguration of the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong. I should like to thank the Honourable Mr Justice Au, the Court of First Instance, Judiciary, Ms Christina Cheung, Law Officer Civil Law, and Ms Helen Kung, Acting Commissioner of the Joint Dispute Resolution Strategy Office, Department of Justice for gracing the occasion.

This is the first Competition of its kind held in Hong Kong. Although the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has organized its Competition in Paris since 2006 with only 10 teams, the number has grown to 66 with participation from 32 countries, making it the premier international mediation competition in the world. We, ICC-HK, hope our Competition will grow in time like the acorn of the oak.

Over the four days till 15th, university students will be competing using their advocacy skill in a mediation setting, guided and judged by professional mediators and having reference to ICC mediation rules. The winning team will be funded to compete at the ICC Mediation Competition to be held around February 2019 in Paris. We are pleased that our Competition has attracted 16 teams from universities here in Hong Kong and from other parts of the world, some of them being Belt and Road countries.

We have kindled the fervour of volunteering in the profession and many have involved themselves as problem writers, coaches, judges or taking other roles. Some came to Hong Kong particularly to participate and to share the satisfaction of being with us for this special event. Not the least are those who offer

their time and brain to sit on the Organizing Committee of the Competition to see the project through. We are very grateful to the Department of Justice for agreeing to be the Co-organizer, and fully supports our endeavour all along.

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. For the professionals, I am sure they find it fulfilling in being involved with anxious young students in the art of mediation. The Competition offers too the chance for professionals to share knowledge and foster lasting friendship. Hong Kong is well positioned to be an international dispute resolution centre, and through contact on occasions such as this, new principles or use of skill may be explored smoothing the way for world trade and investment. ICC sees the value of peaceful resolution through the rule of law and mutual understanding among people of different cultures. The Competition is one of the best expressions of fostering this value.

The Competition would not have been possible without the steady support of the government, the participation of the profession and the universities with their students and finally, but not the least, the sponsors who readily provides funding and resources in kind. We should like to thank you all, and look forward to joining hands with you for another worthwhile event in time to come.

2018 happens to be the 20th anniversary of ICC-HK. We are happy that the Competition takes place this year, as we feel it demonstrates ICC-HK's vision and mission to promote business and to serve the community globally.