

Updating on Major Endeavours

In June, there was much talk and media reports about introducing some form of national security law for Hong Kong by the Central Government as State law. ICC-HK sought an opportunity for consultation with the authorities to express its views. Those who read our Statement on this website may recall our exhortations.

The relevant legislation was approved by the National People's Congress Standing Committee on 30 June which came into immediate effect. Entitled "Law of the People's Republic of China Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region", it consists of 66 Articles divided into 6 chapters, namely, General Principles, the Duties and the Government Bodies of the HKSAR for Safeguarding National Security, Offences and Penalties, Jurisdiction, Applicable Law and Procedure, Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in HKSAR, and Supplementary Provisions. Unavoidably public discussion has continued around this important piece of State legislation. The business community including ICC-HK members, should take time to acquaint themselves seriously with this new dimension in Hong Kong's business environment. Accordingly, we have put both the Chinese and the English translation of the Law on the web for easy reference. Meanwhile, we are studying the Law in the hope to have better appreciation of its substance and impact.

ICC-HK is working hard towards our annual ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition – Hong Kong ("Competition"). Thwarted by the COVID-19, the Competition had to be deferred last year. The Steering Committee of the Competition is however determined to push forward with the Competition in 2020. As we set sight originally to have a physical Competition in 2020, the COVID-19 has continued to spread. The Steering Committee has decided to "go with the trend" in holding the 2019/2020 Competition from 28 October 2020 to 1 November 2020. Many universities have already expressed interest, and we look forward to the event being another worthy experience to participating universities, mentors, mediators and judges.