

Day 1: 5 December 2023 (Tuesday)

Time (HKT)	Programme
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 09:15	<p>Opening Ceremony and Group Photo</p> <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>The Hon John KC Lee, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM The Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China</p> <p>H.E Dr Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol Secretary General, Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation</p> <p>Honorary Speechs</p> <p>Mr Zheng Yanxiong Director, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Invited)</p> <p>Mr Fang Jianming Deputy Commissioner, Office of The Commissioner of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region</p>
09:15 – 09:30	MoU Signing Ceremony
09:30 – 09:45	<p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>Hong Kong as the Regional and Belt and Road LegalHub for Facilitating Trade and Resolving Disputes with the help of AALCO, ODR and LawTech</p> <p>Mr Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP Deputy Secretary for Justice, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China</p>
09:45 – 10:00	Refreshment Break

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Time (HKT)

Programme

10:00 – 11:15

Session 1:

New Developments of Arbitration Laws in Asia and Africa

This session aims at providing an update on arbitration laws, institutional rules, and other legal framework for arbitration in major jurisdictions, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Egypt, and other places in Asia and Africa.

AALCO, being the only intergovernmental organisation and legal consultative body in Asia and Africa, is in an excellent position to lead the development, standardisation, and harmonisation of arbitration laws in different jurisdictions in Asia and Africa.

Moderator:

Mr Nick Chan, MH, JP, Hon Fellowship (HKUST)

Director, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre

Speakers:

Hon Wilfred D. Ikatari

Director, Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration Lagos

Ms Lili Jiang

Secretary-General, Beijing Arbitration Commission / Beijing International Arbitration Center

Ms Joy Maina

Manager, Case Management, Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration

Mr Datuk Sundra Rajoo

Director, Asian International Arbitration Centre

Dr Ismail Selim

Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration;
President, International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions;
Vice President, Governing Board of the African Arbitration Association (Egypt)

Dr Christopher To

Barrister at Law, Gilt Chambers;
Programme Director, LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at the City University of Hong Kong;
Former Secretary-General, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

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11:15 – 12:30

Session 2:

Judicial Assistance in Arbitration: New Developments in Asia and Africa

Judicial assistance plays a vital role in enforcement of arbitration agreements, awards, and tribunal's orders. The session will showcase the practices and legal frameworks in this regard with landmark cases in the relevant jurisdictions.

Moderator:

Prof Teresa Cheng, GBM, GBS, SC, JP

Co-Chair, Asian Academy of International Law

Speakers:

Mr Christopher Adebayo Ojo

Expert Members, International Commercial Expert Committee, Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China;

Senior Advocate of Nigeria;

Former Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Dr Mohamed Gomaa

Judge, Court of Appeal, Egyptian Ministry of Justice

Dr Gaston Kenfack Douajni

Magistrate; Director, Legislation at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon;

President, African Arbitration Association

Ms Kathryn Sanger

Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills

12:30 – 14:00

Networking Lunch with Keynote Speech

The Work and Focus of AALCO

Speakers:

Mr Yong Zhu

Deputy Secretaries-General of AALCO, Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Use of AALCO Dispute Resolution System in Belt & Road Initiative

Speakers:

Mr Shuying Zhu

Founding Partner, City Development Law Firm

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Programme

14:00 – 15:15

Session 3:

Sector-focused Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges of International E-commerce, FinTech and IP Disputes in Asia and Africa

The rapid development of cross border e-commerce is raising the need for a speedy resolution for online B2B and B2C transactions. The session examines the feasibility of establishing an ODR or hybrid dispute resolution scheme for B2B and B2C online platforms. The speakers will also share their experience on the types of IP and Fintech disputes being encountered and the extent to which these disputes can appropriately be resolved through arbitration.

Moderator:

Mr Andrew Liao, SC

Senior Counsel, Andrew Liao SC's Chambers

Speakers:

Ms Cindy Hui

General Counsel, AliExpress, Tmall and Taobao World of Alibaba Group

Mr King Leung

Head of Financial Services and Fintech, InvestHK

Mr Chun Wai Ling

Barrister at Law, Dex Voeux Chambers

Mr Ernest Yang

Partner and Co Head of International Arbitration Asia-Pacific, DLA Piper Hong Kong

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15:15 – 16:30	<p>Session 4: Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) & Use of Technologies in a Post-Pandemic World</p> <p><i>The session will provide an overview of the use of technologies in dispute resolution sharing some facts on using ODR and new technologies in lowering the costs of arbitration, enhancing the efficiency in arbitration process, and other benefits. Speakers from different jurisdictions will try to answer whether ODR will continue to boom and how to promote wider adoption of ODR.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Dennis Cai Deputy Director, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre</p> <p>Speakers: Mr Amirali B. Nasir MH, JP Vice-President, The Law Society of Hong Kong; Co-convenor Technology and Law Committee, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association</p> <p>Dr Thomas So Chairman, eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre</p> <p>Prof Zhao Yun Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong; Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Hague Conference on Private International Law</p>
16:30 – 16:50	Refreshment Break

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16:50 – 18:00	<p>Session 5: Sector-focused Discussion: Promoting and Resolving ESG Related Disputes</p> <p><i>Due to the increasing integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) ideals into business plans, commercial contracts, international trade and investment treaties, laws, and regulations, speakers will discuss what types of ESG disputes they anticipate may arise, and to what extent these disputes may be resolved through international arbitration.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Michael Duignan Executive Director, Corporate Finance Division, Securities and Futures Commission</p> <p>Speakers: Mr Lijun Cao Equity Partner, Zhong Lun Law Firm Mr Jeremy Bartlett SC Barrister and Arbitrator, Prince's Chambers Dr George Lam, BBS, JP Chair, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Business Network Mr David John Simmonds Chief Strategy, Sustainability and Governance Officer, CLP Holdings Limited</p>
18:30 – 20:30	<p>Networking Dinner and Presentation of the Law Society on Unique Advantages and Opportunities of Hong Kong as a Leading Centre for International Legal Hub</p>

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Programme

09:00 – 10:20

Session 6:

Sector-focused Discussion: Trends of Mega Infrastructure Project Disputes

Mega infrastructure projects often give rise to complicated disputes that involve technical and legal issues, which require speedy resolution by multi-tier dispute resolution processes. Parties in dispute are using mediation and adjudication in conjunction with arbitration.

The session will provide an overview of the trends of mega infrastructure project disputes in Asia and Africa and then recommend the best practice of dispute avoidance and resolution, leveraging the support of the AALCO dispute settlement mechanism.

Moderator:

Prof Teresa Cheng, GBM, GBS, SC, JP

Co-Chair, Asian Academy of International Law

Speakers:

Mr Gene Chen

Senior Partner, City Development Law Firm

Mr Libing Liu

General Legal Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, China Merchants Port Holdings Company

Ms Gill Meller

Legal & Governance Director, MTR Corporation Limited

10:20 – 10:40

Refreshment Break

Day 2: 6 December 2023 (Wednesday)



Time (HKT)	Programme
10:40 – 12:00	<p>Session 7: Understanding, Handling and Resolving Sanctions, Protectionism and Supply-Chain Disruptions</p> <p><i>In the fast-changing world, the impact of sanctions on trade, economic growth, arbitration, and ADR is more and more severe and profound.</i></p> <p><i>The session aims to provide insights on how to handle these changes.</i></p> <p><i>AALCO's regional arbitration centres, established by international law, are country-neutral international bodies that may serve as an ideal venue for resolving such disputes.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Anthony Neoh, QC, SC, JP Co-Chairman, Asian Academy of International Law</p>
12:00 – 14:00	<p>Networking Lunch with Keynote Speech Generative AI and Law</p> <p>Speakers: Prof Yike Guo Provost and Chair Professor, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</p>

Day 2: 6 December 2023 (Wednesday)

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14:00 – 15:20	<p>Session 8: Dispute Resolution in Asia and Africa: The Way Forward</p> <p><i>The session will provide an overview of the trends and new developments in arbitration, mediation, and adjudication in Asia and Africa and explore further what should be done by the international communities, local governments, arbitration institutions, and professional bodies to maintain the healthy and robust development of the ecosystem for dispute resolution in the Asia-Africa region.</i></p> <p><i>The session will also address the capacity-building of arbitration talents in Asia and Africa.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Mr Clifford Taveras Principal Government Counsel, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr C.M. Chan President, The Law Society of Hong Kong</p> <p>Dr Gaston Kenfack Douajni Magistrate and Director, Legislation at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon; President, African Arbitration Association</p> <p>Mr José Antonio Maurellet, S.C. Vice-Chairman, Hong Kong Bar Association</p> <p>Mr Huen Wong, SBS, BBS, JP Executive Chairman, South China International Arbitration Center</p>
15:20 – 15:40	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr Nick Chan, MH, JP, Hon Fellowship (HKUST) Director, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Visit to AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre</p>
17:00 – 20:00	<p>Cocktail and Gala Dinner (By Invitation Only)</p>



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OPENING SESSION

The Hon John KC Lee, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM
The Chief Executive,
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Mr Zheng Yanxiong
Director,
Liaison Office of the Central People's Government
in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Invited)

Mr Fang Jianming
Deputy Commissioner,
Office of The Commissioner of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
The People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Mr Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP
Deputy Secretary for Justice,
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

H.E Dr Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol
Secretary General,
Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation

Mr Nick Chan, MH, JP, Hon Fellowship (HKUST)
Director,
AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP

Deputy Secretary for Justice, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Mr Nick Chan, MH, JP, Hon Fellowship (HKUST)

Director, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre



Nick Chan, the Director leading the operations of AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre, is a Justice of the Peace, an inter-disciplinary lawyer with technology background who chaired the Knowledge Transfer Committee at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and serves as lawmaker and policy-setter as an elected member of the National People's Congress. Mr. Chan served as Chairman of eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre where he spearheaded the ODR Platform development and LegalCloud development. Mr. Chan is a member of the HKSAR Government's Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry, the Chairman of the HKSAR Government's \$2 billion Innovation and Technology Venture Fund Advisory Committee, and Council Member of Chinese University of Hong Kong, a Court Member of HKUST, the Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Honorary Legal Advisor of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries.

Hon Wilfred D. Ikatari

Director, Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration Lagos



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)



Ms Lili Jiang

Secretary-General, Beijing Arbitration Commission / Beijing International Arbitration Center



Jiang Lili, Committee Member and Secretary General of Beijing Arbitration Commission / Beijing International Arbitration Center (BAC/BIAC), Doctor of Law, Expert member of the Ministry of Justice Working Group on Arbitration Law Reform. Mrs. Jiang has previously served as the Secretary General and Deputy Director of the China Arbitration Institute of China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), the Executive Director of the Commercial Arbitration and Judicial Research Base (CUPL) of the Supreme People's Court, as well as a specially invited consultant of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) regarding the Arbitration Law amendment,

etc. Mrs. Jiang has served as arbitrator at a number of arbitration institutions, including the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC). She is also a founding member of the Women in Arbitration (WIA) at the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC). She has proactively participated in researches concerning the China's judicial reform for many years, and has monitored over ten research projects at the provincial and ministerial level or above, of which most have been efficiently produced into achievements. In 2015, she initiated and launched the very first research project assessing arbitration credibility in China, and produced the first large-scale documentary reporting China's arbitration industry titled "Arbitration in China". Mrs. Jiang is accredited as qualified international arbitrator coach and international mediator trainer, who has handled nearly a thousand domestic and international cases, and is highly professional in resolving disputes both theoretically and practically.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Ms Joy Mania

Manager, Case Management, Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration

Mr Datuk Sundra Rajoo

Director, Asian International Arbitration Centre



Datuk Sundra Rajoo is the current Director of the AIAC and President of the AIADR. He is a Chartered Arbitrator and Certified International ADR Practitioner. He was also previously served as President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2016) and ADNDRC.

Datuk Sundra was an Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, Registered Professional Architect, Registered Town Planner, and Fellow of the Royal Institution of Surveyors. He has been appointed in international and domestic arbitrations across numerous international arbitral institutions, including the SIAC, HKIAC, KIAC, CIETAC, PCA and AIAC.

Datuk Sundra has authored and co-authored several publications and written numerous articles published in various journals worldwide.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Dr Ismail Selim

Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration;
President, International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions;
Vice President, Governing Board of the African Arbitration Association (Egypt)



Dr Selim started his career as a Public Prosecutor in the Office of the Prosecutor General of Egypt, then a civil Judge, until he joined Zulficar & Partners Law Firm in 2009, as a leading member of its Arbitration Group and where he was promoted to Partner in 2013.

Further, in May 2015, Dr Selim joined Nour and Selim in association with Al Tamimi and Company as Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution, Cairo. In parallel to his former judicial career, Dr Selim was seconded to the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration from 2003 until 2007 where he acted as Legal Advisor. Further, Dr Selim became a member of CRCICA Advisory Committee as of 1 May 2016.

Dr Selim reads Private International Law, Arbitration and ADR at the "Ecole de Droit de la Sorbonne au Caire" (Paris 1 University) since 2011. He also taught Comparative International Arbitration Law at the Paris 1 University Middle East Laws LLM in Paris since beginning of 2018 until 2021 and is a fully approved tutor in CI Arb Approved Faculty List (AFL) since April 2018.

Dr Selim has been constantly appointed as Presiding arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator and Co-Arbitrator and has acted as a Counsel under various rules such as CRCICA, ICC, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ADCCAC, BCDR, UNCITRAL, CAS and Swiss Rules in diverse fields including telecommunications, electricity, oil and gas, hospitality, construction, banking, shareholders disputes, advertisement, international sale of goods, media and entertainment and sports. The applicable laws in these arbitrations were respectively, Egyptian, English, UAE, Qatari, Saudi, Bahraini, DIFC, Kuwaiti, Iraqi and Swiss Laws. Dr. Selim provides Expert opinions on Egyptian, Libyan and Kuwaiti Laws in arbitration and international proceedings.

Dr Selim received his LL.B. from Cairo University in 1997, he also obtained an LL.M in International Business Law from the Institut du Droit des Affaires Internationales (I.D.A.I) in 1999. He then moved to France and earned his Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the National School of Administration (E.N.A), in 2001. He also earned a Certificate in International Commercial Arbitration from the School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London in 2005. In 2009, Dr. Selim earned his PhD with highest honours (mention "Très Honorable avec les Félicitations du Jury à l'Unanimité.") from Burgundy University (Dijon - France). The title of the Thesis is "L'ordre public international in favorem arbitrandum" Etude de droit Comparé. The Thesis was published by Edition Universitaire Européenne.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Dr Christopher To

Barrister at Law, Gilt Chambers;

Programme Director, LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at the City University of Hong Kong;

Former Secretary-General, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre



Dr. Christopher To is a chartered arbitrator, certified adjudicator and accredited mediator, chartered engineer, chartered information technology professional, barrister-at-law and a law professor (adjunct) who is on the panels of various leading global alternative dispute resolution bodies. He is currently a barrister at law at Gilt Chambers and the Programme Director of the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at the City University of Hong Kong and was the Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (1998 to 2008).

Prof Teresa Cheng, GBM, GBS, SC, JP

Co-Chair, Asian Academy of International Law



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Christopher Adebayo Ojo

Expert Members, International Commercial Expert Committee, Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China; Senior Advocate of Nigeria; Former Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Bayo Ojo, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) is a former Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, past President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch. Ojo was until recently a member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) Geneva Switzerland, Council member of the Section on Energy and Natural Resources Law of the International Bar Association, a member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators, Washington, DC, a member of the Panel of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Hague, Netherlands, Alternate Chairman of UNESCO Appeals Board in Paris, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators London, President of the African Users' Council of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and President of the African Arbitration Association. He is an expert member of the Chinese International Commercial Court (CICC) and the Board of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA).

He has been in active Commercial law, International Law, Litigation, Mediation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution practice and has acted as sole Arbitrator, member of arbitration panels, and as Counsel in numerous domestic and international arbitrations both at the International Chamber of Commerce Paris (ICC), International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes Washington DC (ICSID), the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) over the last thirty five years involving complex oil and gas, investments, infrastructure, concessions, public private partnerships, power, mining and commercial ventures. He has also acted as expert witness in international arbitrations including ICSID. He has mediated on several disputes as well.

He is a patron of the Nigerian Society of International Law and the International Law Association, Nigerian Branch. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Arbitration and Mediation (NJAM) and African Journal of Arbitration and Mediation (AJAM). He is the co-author of The Handbook of Arbitration and ADR Practice in Nigeria. He has over the years spoken at many workshops, seminars and delivered numerous public lectures both within and outside Nigeria.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Dr Mohamed Gomaa

Judge, Court of Appeal, Egyptian Ministry of Justice



Judge, Author, Dr. Jur., Lecturer, Panelist, Exp, Former lawyer, Arbitrator
 Mgr. Dipl. prof. hon.

Mohamed Gomaa is a Judge at the Court of Appeal, Egyptian Ministry of Justice, an expert at the European Legal Tech Association (ELTA), and a board member of the "CIArb (YMG) Global Steering Committee", ESIL Member, a Member of the Scientific Committee of International Journal of Legal Interpretative Judgement, published by the "Democratic Arab Center" Germany – Berlin and a former lawyer at the legal affairs department, EGPC.

Judge. Gomaa also has had the privilege to speak as a guest lecturer & panelist at prestigious law universities, conferences and events in different parts of the world. Further, a mentor and an author published different articles in Arabic, French and English.

Currently, he is a lecturer and a Ph.D. candidate at UHH. He has a triple L.L.M /Master's degree in Law & Economics.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)



Dr Gaston Kenfack Douajni

**Magistrate; Director of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon;
 President, African Arbitration Association**



Gaston KENFACK DOUAJNI is a Cameroonian Magistrate, currently the Director of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon; he has obtained a Doctorate of International Economic Law at the University of Paris I (Pantheon Sorbonne) in 2005, a Certificate on trade, negotiations and settlement of trade disputes at the Kennedy School of Government –Harvard University (USA) in 2004 and an Habilitation to Direct Researches at the University of Pau in France. He is the Editor of the “Revue Camerounaise de l’Arbitrage”, the President of the Association for the Promotion of Arbitration in Africa (APAA), the President of the African Arbitration Association (AfAA).

He is registered on the list of arbitrators and conciliators at the ICSID, at the OHADA Commun Court of Justice and Arbitration and Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

Gaston KENFACK DOUAJNI acts as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and President of arbitral tribunals in CRCICA, ICC, ICSID, CACI, CEPAM, OHADA arbitration and ad hoc arbitration. Member of the Board of Directors of the Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) and of the International Federation of Arbitration Centers and Associations (IFCAI), he is the former Chair of the Management Board of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF). President of the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission of the International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and Vice-President of the 60th Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), Gaston KENFACK DOUAJNI teaches business law at various universities (in Africa and Europe). He also has experience as mediator and conciliator both at the domestical and international level.

Ms Kathryn Sanger

Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills

Mr Yong Zhu

Deputy Secretaries-General of AALCO, Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China



SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Shuying Zhu

Founding Partner, City Development Law Firm

Mr Andrew Liao, SC

Senior Counsel, Andrew Liao SC's Chambers

Ms Cindy Hui

General Counsel, AliExpress, Tmall and Taobao World of Alibaba Group

Mr King Leung

Head of Financial Services and Fintech, InvestHK



As the Head of Financial Services and Fintech at InvestHK, the department of the Hong Kong SAR Government responsible for attracting Foreign Direct Investment, King's mission is to enrich the ecosystem and contribute to raising the long-term competitiveness and innovation of the financial services sector in Hong Kong. King achieves this goal through collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders – regulators, financial institutions, investors, fintech companies, associations, etc. in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and other major international fintech hubs.

Prior to joining the government, King had a diverse private sector background as a serial tech entrepreneur, angel investor, and fintech lecturer in Asia where his first data-related startup was established through seed investment from Credit Suisse. His startup served numerous world-renowned financial institutions in wealth management, insurance, personal finance, etc. King was a management consultant at Booz Allen & Hamilton and KPMG in the US, as well as a venture capitalist at Innovate@, a technology fund jointly run by Booz Allen & Hamilton and Lehman Brothers.

King received his MBA (honors) from the University of Chicago and BSc (honors) from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Chun Wai Ling

Barrister at Law, Des Voeux Chambers



CW received his legal education in England, having obtained an LLM degree (First Class) from the University of Cambridge before joining the Bar in England and Hong Kong. Since 1999, he has been a member of Des Voeux Chambers, currently under the leadership of Winnie Tam SC.

As a barrister, CW's practice encompasses a broad range of civil and commercial matters but with a focus on IP and tech-related matters including arbitration, litigation and mediation. CW is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is registered on the list of arbitrators and the Panel of IP Arbitrators at the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. He is a former chairman of the Hong Kong Mediation Council and the current chairman of the Mediation Committee of the Hong Kong Bar Association.



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 Special Administrative Region

SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Ernest Yang

Partner and Co Head of International Arbitration Asia-Pacific, DLA Piper Hong Kong



Ernest Yang is a partner at DLA Piper and co-head of the International Arbitration practice in Asia Pacific. Ernest is a qualified Solicitor Advocate in England and Wales. Ernest recently passed the examination for Hong Kong legal practitioners to practise law in the Greater Bay Area in the People's Republic of China.

Ernest's main area of practice is in commercial litigation and arbitration. He is experienced in handling international disputes covering areas such as sale of goods/trade and commodities, joint ventures, energy and offshore projects, international investment and technology. Ernest is experienced in handling arbitration disputes in a variety of venues including Australia, Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland, London, and Stockholm before arbitral institutions such as the BIAC, CIETAC, HKIAC, ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SCC, SCMA, SHIAC and SIAC (in alphabetical order).

Ernest was appointed a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Shanghai in 2013, with a mandate to help Shanghai develop into an international arbitration centre. Ernest was promoted to the Standing Committee of the CPPCC in Shanghai in January 2019. He was named by Chambers Asia Pacific since 2011 as a leading individual in the area of Dispute Resolution: Arbitration in China. Clients characterise him as "highly experienced", and also praise his "good legal insight". Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2018 noted: "Ernest Yang has 'a good common law background and experience in dispute resolution - his strength is to tease the frame of the case and decide on a winning strategy.'"



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Dennis Cai

Deputy Director, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre



Dennis CAI is currently the Deputy Director of AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC). He held positions of Deputy Chief Operation Officer of eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (eBRAM) from 2020 to 2021 and Assistant Secretary-General and other positions of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) from 2004 to 2016.

Dennis holds LL.M. in WTO Laws and MA in Arbitration, and he is an active advocator for arbitration and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) since early 2000. He is listed as panel for domain name, e-Commerce and IP matters for ADNDRC, AIAC, HKIAC, and CIETAC.

Mr Amirali B Nasir MH, JP

Vice-President, The Law Society of Hong Kong

Co-convenor Technology and Law Committee, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association



Mr. Amirali B. Nasir is the Vice President of the Law Society of Hong Kong and chairs, among others, the International Legal Affairs Committee, InnoTech Committee, Islamic Finance Working Party, Guide Working Party on Professional Conduct, HKSTP GAA Programme, and the Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited.

He also serves on the High Court Rules Committee, Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects - Advisory Board, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, International Bar Association, Union Internationale des Advocats (UIA), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) (Co-convenor Technology and Law Committee CLA) and member of the LAWASIA Communications, Technology & Data Protection Committee. Previously he served on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre – Appointment Advisory Board and the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited – Consultative and Advisory Panel

Mr. Nasir spoke at the APEC 2018 (SOM1) conference in Papua New Guinea on technology when the vision of eBRAM was introduced. Outside the profession he enjoys neurogaming, neurolinguistic programming, hypnosis and promotes a blue green attitude towards the planet. In 2022 he also participated and completed the APEC Digital Credentials and Mutual Recognition of Professional Services Course and Workshop (Online).



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Dr Thomas So

Chairman, eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre



Dr Thomas So is a partner of Grandall Zimmern Law Firm with experience in advising on shareholders and equity-related disputes, property-related, libel and media-related litigation work, as well as litigation and arbitration in the PRC.

Dr So was a founder member of eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (eBRAM) and has been appointed Chairman since 2020. Dr So is the past president of The Law Society of Hong Kong and a member of multiple arbitration and mediation committees in Asia, committed to promoting and improving the standard of legal and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong.

In January 2018, Dr So was appointed as a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He was commissioned as a mediator of Guangdong Court for Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area by The High People's Court of Guangdong Province for 3 years. He obtained his Doctor of Laws from Tsing Hua University and has been frequently invited to be the lecturer by various universities in the Mainland.

Prof Yun Zhao

Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong;

Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Hague Conference on Private International Law



Prof. Yun ZHAO is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law, Chinese Society of Private International Law and Chinese Institute of Space Law; Council Member of Chinese Law Society. He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Space Law, Dispute Resolution, and E-commerce Law.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Michael Duignan

Executive Director, Corporate Finance Division, Securities and Futures Commission



Mr Michael Duignan has had a variety of roles within the financial regulatory spectrum. He advised Ministers on policy relating to exchanges and securities whilst at HM Treasury. At the UK Financial Services Authority he was responsible for Listing Rules policy and worked on various Directives in the European Council on behalf of the UK. After a stint as the Head of Market Supervision at the Irish Stock Exchange, he joined the Malta Financial Services Authority for two years. He moved to Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission in 2014 joining the Corporate Finance Division, responsible for initial public offering (IPO) prospectus vetting and corporate disclosure teams.

He moved into Enforcement Division, as head of the Market Misconduct Team responsible for identifying and investigating insider dealing and market manipulation cases. In November 2022 he was appointed Executive Director of Corporate Finance Division.

Mr Lijun Cao

Equity Partner, Zhong Lun Law Firm



Lijun Cao is a co-head of Zhong Lun's Dispute Resolution Department. He is licensed to practice law in China and New York State. Lijun is a Member of the SIAC Court of Arbitration, a Member of the Advisory Committee of CRCICA, a Vice Chair of the Arbitration Committee of ICC China, and a Vice Chair of the Arbitration and Lawyer Mediation Committee of the All China Lawyers Association (ACLA). Lijun is also a panellist (arbitrator) of CIETAC, HKIAC, SIAC, ICC, AIAC, ICDR, WIPO, etc.

Lijun has represented clients in over 300 arbitration cases, and he is also experienced in handling ISDS cases. Lijun has received numerous awards and recognitions from legal media and directories. Since 2014, Chambers Global has continuously ranked Lijun as a "Band 1" international arbitration lawyer.

Mr Jeremy Bartlett SC

Barrister and Arbitrator, Prince's Chambers



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Dr George Lam, BBS, JP

Chair, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
 Sustainable Business Network

Mr David John Simmonds

Chief Strategy, Sustainability and Governance Officer, CLP Power Hong Kong



Mr Simmonds is responsible for CLP Group strategic planning and the strategy agenda as well as driving the Group's sustainability agenda and ensuring that it is embedded into the business.

He is also responsible for managing the investments and ventures that help support CLP's growth strategy, the Group's investments in South East Asia and Taiwan and the Group's property development activities.

In addition, Mr Simmonds is the Group General Counsel & Company Secretary of CLP Holdings, responsible for the provision of legal, corporate secretarial and insurance services across the Group.

Mr Simmonds is a Vice-President of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute (HKCGI) and is a Fellow of both The Chartered Governance Institute and HKCGI. He is also a Board Director of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Macau and a member of The Asia Society. Mr Simmonds is also a member of the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform.

Mr Simmonds holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Gene Chen

Senior Partner, City Development Law Firm



Mr. Gene CHEN is one member of the management board of SHANGHAI CITY DEVELOPMENT LAW FIRM and is in charge of the firm's International Practice. Mr. CHEN focuses on construction and real estate practices, and cross-border investment and financing. Mr. CHEN serves as an arbitrator for multiple arbitration institutions and as a World Bank China assessment expert, participating in the World Bank's doing business assessment for many consecutive years. Mr. CHEN, as the chief editor and author, is actively involved in the publication of the "Belt and Road" construction series of books and he has published more than 20 papers and journal articles.

Mr Libing Liu

General Legal Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, China Merchants Port Holdings Company

Ms Gill Meller

Director, Legal & Governance Director, MTR Corporation Limited

Dr Anthony Neoh, QC, SC, JP

Co-Chairman, Asian Academy of International Law

Prof Guo Yike

Provost and Chair Professor, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Mr Clifford Taveras

Principal Government Counsel, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr C.M. Chan

President, The Law Society of Hong Kong



Mr. C.M. Chan has been the President of The Law Society since 2021. He currently serves on a number of statutory bodies, including the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) Disciplinary Panel, the Land Survey Disciplinary Board Panel, the Law Reform Commission and the Trade and Industry Advisory Board. He is an external examiner of the Department of Professional Legal Education, The University of Hong Kong, and the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong. Mr. Chan is also an adjunct professor of the Department of Accountancy, Hang Seng University of Hong Kong.

Mr. Chan is qualified to practise as a solicitor in Hong Kong and England and Wales. He is also a Civil Celebrant, Registered Financial Planner, and Chartered Tax Advisor. Mr. Chan is now a General Counsel of an investment company, a part-time consultant of a local law firm and the Head of the Centre for the Rule of Law of local think tank Hong Kong Policy Research Institute.

Mr José Antonio Maurellet, S.C.

Vice-Chairman, Hong Kong Bar Association



José-Antonio Maurellet S.C. studied at the Lycee Français International de Hong Kong where he obtained the French Baccalaureat filière ES. He then studied law at St Edmund Hall, Oxford University.

He was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 2000 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2016.

He is currently vice chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association (and has served in this position from 2017-2020 and 2022-now) the association representing all the barristers in Hong Kong who are independent and self-employed advocates. He has sat as a Deputy High Court Judge for periods between 2018 to 2021, and since October 2021 has been appointed as a Recorder of the Court of First Instance.

He is currently a Council member of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center as well as a former member of its Appointments Committee.



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SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

Mr Huen Wong, SBS, BBS, JP

Executive Chairman, South China International Arbitration Center (HK)



Mr. Huen Wong is currently the Executive Chairman of South China International Arbitration Center (HK) and the Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. He is also the Past President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators as well as the Inter Pacific Bar Association. Mr. Wong is presently chairing the Arbitration Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance). He was also the Past Chairman of the Copyright Tribunal. Mr. Wong is the Honorary Adviser of Hong Kong Mediation Centre.

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