

## International Conference on “Asia-Pacific Mediation Conference 2012: Mediation and its Impact on National Legal Systems”

21 November 2012

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The Asia-Pacific Mediation Conference 2012 was organized and hosted by the School of Law of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) with the support of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law). It was successfully held on 16-17 November 2012 at the Connie Fan Multi-media Conference Room, CityU.

Built on the success of the previous two conferences, which were held in Japan in 2010 and Korea in 2011, the theme of the conference this year is “Mediation and its Impact on National Legal Systems”. The conference has continued to promote the modernization and harmonization of the law and practice of mediation in the region and the expansion of the role of mediation and mediators both within Asia-Pacific and internationally.

The Conference attracted many international legal scholars and experts from around the world including Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A group of 26 senior Mainland Chinese judges who are in the JSD programme of CityU also attended the conference.

Professor Wang Guiguo, Dean of School of Law of CityU and Chair Professor of Chinese & Comparative Law, gave a welcoming address to all participants. He commented that it was clear from the well-known cases that to resolve cross-border disputes, one needs to consider very carefully what the options are. He said that “[C]ourt litigation and arbitration are costly and time consuming. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), such as mediation can be more effective in resolving certain disputes.” He hoped that the conference would promote the further development of mediation and ADR in the region and the conference would provide a collegiate platform where different experiences and ideas can be shared and exchanged. In particular, he thanked UNCITRAL RCAP for joining CityU School of Law in this important endeavour.



Mr. Luca Castellani, Head of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL RCAP) also delivered a welcoming remark. He said: “I really value the efforts that we have put together to have this conference and to have speakers from all over the region, and thank School of Law of the CityU of Hong Kong as our international partner for helping to organize this important conference.” He emphasized that this conference was to “see how mediation can help us in establishing more values and business”. He expressed that it was a good opportunity for all of the experts in this conference to share and exchange their views on mediation.

Special thanks were also given to the following supporting organizations of the conference, including Herbert Smith Freehills, The Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Bar Association, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), The Hong Kong Mediation Council (HKMC), The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch).