

Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
President Gary Soo's Report
6th September 2007

Dear Members,

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you all, and take this opportunity to report our events in the past year.

(1) Cooperation with Asia Arbitration Bodies

On 19 September 2006, we signed cooperation agreement and held a Seminar on "The Introduction of Arbitration and Conciliation Systems" with Macau Voluntary Arbitration Centre, in Macau.

On 12-13 July, we attended the Inaugural Regional Arbitral Institutes Conference in Singapore and HKI Arb subsequent became a founding member of the Regional Arbitral Institutes Conference together with the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators, the Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia and the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia.

In this November, we are setting up The Greater China Arbitration Forum.

(2) Institutional Development

On 13 September 2006, we had a Meeting with Past Deputy Solicitor-General of DOJ, Stephen Wong Kai Yi.

On 15 September 2006, I attended ADR in Asia Conference on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 3-5 December 2006, I attended the APRAG Conference 2006 on behalf of HKI Arb, and HKI Arb is a supporting organization of APRAG Conference 2006.

On 6 December 2006, I attended Asian-European Business Disputes Conference "Arbitration in Switzerland" on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 19 December 2006, I attended Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management Christmas Luncheon 2006 on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 19 January 2007, we had a Lunch Meeting with Mr. Jeffrey Fung, Deputy Division Chief, Coordination Department, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in The HKSAR.

On 27 February 2007, we held a Past President Lunch.

On 29 March 2007, I attended the Hong Kong Mediation Council Cocktail Reception on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 12 April 2007, we attended the HKIAC Cocktail Reception to welcome Dr. Michael J Moser as the new Chairman of HKIAC on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 22-24 April 2007, Beijing Visit, The delegation of Hong Kong Arbitration and Mediation Practitioners, organized by the HKI Arb, met with The Supreme People's Court, Commission of Legislative Affairs, Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, General Affairs HK and Macao Affairs Office State Council, United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, CIETAC and Beijing Arbitration Commission.

On 7 May 2007, we had a Meeting with Mr. Frank Poon, Deputy Solicitor-General of DOJ.

On 22 June 2007, we attended the “基本法與香港回歸十周年”新書發佈酒會 on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 26 June 2007, I attended the Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Summit 2007 by Law Asia & Practice at Singapore on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 12-13 July, I attended Inaugural Regional Arbitral Institutes Conference at Singapore on behalf of HKI Arb and is a supporting organization of the conference.

On 20 July 2007, I attended Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd Cocktail and Dinner on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 8-9 August, we attended Urumqi International Arbitration Forum 2007 at Urumqi, Xinjiang on behalf of HKI Arb, together with HKIAC.

On 30 August 2007, we met with Professor Pierre Tercier, Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration and Ms. Khong Cheng Yee, the Director of ICC Arbitration and ADR (Amicable Dispute Resolution) in Asia.

(3) Evening programs and Activities

On 5 October 2006, Joint Lecture co-organized by School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, HKIAC, CI Arb (East Asia Branch) and HKI Arb “Impartiality & Independence of Arbitrators from a European Perspective” by Prof. Thomas Pfeiffer.

On 14 November 2006, Talk by Mr. Justice Reyes and Mr. Stephen Wong “Reform on Hong Kong Arbitration Law and Prospect for a Consolidated

Arbitration Legislation”.

On 28 February 2007, HKI Arb functions: Chinese New Year Cocktail.

On 27 March 2007, Talk by The Hon Mrs. Rita Fan “Sharing of Mediation Experience”.

On 5 July 2007, Talk by Ms. Louise Barrington “ICC Arbitration: Getting Started”.

(4) Education/ Training

On 28 April-1 May 2007, we held an Arbitration & Mediation Course in Hong Kong.

(5) Updated HKI Arb Website

The Institute’s website has a new ‘look’ with some added in features to make it most user friendly.

(6) Membership

There were 168 Fellows and 591 Associates as of August 2007.

(7) Finance

I will leave this to the Treasurer.

I would like to express my thanks to all council members who have selflessly dedicated their time to serve the institute. Without their help and support, I am sure that I will not be able to accomplish what we did during this term of my office.

Finally, the institute surely needs support and encouragement from all of you. And, once again, I welcome you all to this AGM and wish you all the best. Thank you.