

Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
President Gary Soo's Report
18th September 2008

Dear Members,

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

(1) Institutional Development and Cooperation with Asia Arbitration Bodies

On 12 September 2007, I attended the ADR in Asia Conference on behalf of HKI Arb and HKI Arb was a supporting organization of the conference.

On 28 September 2007, I attended the HKIAC Joint Consultative Committee on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 12-14 October 2007, a delegation from HKI Arb visited the Wuhan International Arbitration Court Wuhan Arbitration and participated in the 2007 International Seminar on "The Application and Interpretation of the CISG in Member States with Emphasis on Litigation and Arbitration in the PRC"

On 16 October 2007, I attended the JBLC Seminar of HKGCC as a speaker on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 21 November 2007, we are organized the Opportunities and Strategies: 2nd "Greater China Arbitration Forum" Conference 2007. HKI Arb also took the lead to found the Greater China Arbitration Forum which focused at the Greater China region and was jointly established by Beijing Arbitration Commission, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, Chinese Arbitration Association, Guangzhou Arbitration Commission, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, Hong Kong International Arbitration centre, Huizhou Arbitration Commission, Weihai Arbitration Commission, World Trade Center Macau Macau Voluntary Arbitration Centre and Wuhan Arbitration Commission with its secretariat in Hong Kong.

On 4-5 December 2007, I spoke at the "UNESCAP 6 International Forum Online Dispute Resolution Conference" on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 7 December 2007, I attended the "Investor-State Arbitration: Lesson for Asia" Conference on behalf of HKI Arb and is a supporting organization of the conference.

On 30 November 2007 to 1 December 2007. I spoke at the "Mediation in Hong

Kong: The Way Forward Conference” on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 28 January 2008, I met with the One Country Two System Research Institute Limited to discuss matters on “Developing International Arbitration Services in Hong Kong” on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 26 March 2008, I attended the “Press Conference on the Report of the PSDAS Project “Hong Kong – The Place for International Arbitrations in Asia” by HKIAC on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 17 April 2008, I attended the Annual Dinner of CI Arb on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 27-30 April 2008, I spoke at the IPBA 18th Annual Conference in Los Angeles on arbitration matters relating to Hong Kong.

On 30 May 2008, I spoke at the “Resolution of Labour Disputes Conference” by HKU and HKIAC on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 5-6 June 2008, Pearl River Delta Visit, the delegation of Hong Kong Arbitration Practitioners, organized by the HKI Arb, met with Huizhou Municipal People’s Government, Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Huizhou Municipality, Huizhou Arbitration Commission, Legal System Bureau of Foshan City, Foshan Arbitration Commission and Guangzhou Arbitration Commission.

On 26 June 2008, I spoke at the Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Summit 2008 by Law Asia & Practice at Singapore on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 16-17 August 2008, the HKI Arb delegation attended the “International Arbitration Conference and 2nd RAIF Conference” at Brunei on behalf of HKI Arb, and signed co-operation agreement with Arbitration Association Brunei Darussalam.

(2) Evening programs and Activities

On 2 February 2008, we had a talk by Mr. Ian Wingfield and Mr. Ken Somerville on “Reform of the Law of Arbitration in Hong Kong and draft Arbitration Bill”, the first of the newly launched Practitioners’ Guide to ADR series of seminars.

On 12 February 2008, we held a talk by Ms. Teresa Cheng, S.C. on “Importance of Supervisory Jurisdiction of the Courts”.

On 28 February 2008, we held the Chinese New Year Cocktail.

On 11 March 2008, we held a talk by Ms. Mary Thomson on “Managing Costs of Commercial Dispute Resolution.

On 2 April 2008, we held a talk by Mr. Anthony Houghton, S.C. on “Impartial Contract Administration and Dispute Review Bodies”.

On 29 April 2008, we held a talk by Ms. Kelly Austin on “Corporate Counsel Perspectives on ADR and Arbitration”.

On 6 May 2008, we held a talk by Mr. Russell Coleman, S.C. on “Starting out as Arbitrator: Getting appointments and what to do with them”.

On 21 May 2008, we held a talk by Mr. David P Roberts on “The Role of the Architect in Construction (and Subsequently in Arbitration)”.

On 27 May 2008, we held a talk on “Brief Guide to Arbitration Agreement”.

On 9 September 2008, we held a talk by Mr. David Bateson on “Arbitration in Hong Kong – 1980 to 2008 – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”.

(6) Membership

There were 174 Fellows and 595 Associates as of August 2008.

(7) Finance

I will leave this to the Treasurer.

I have by now served my 2 years as President and shall be stepping down this year. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of Council and Committee who were committed to devote their time and effort in running the Institute to the status that it is. 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.

HKI Arb is also privileged to be the host of the 3rd RAIF Conference in 2009 to be taken place in Hong Kong.

Also, I am sure that you would know that I have taken up a new appointment and will continue promoting arbitration and Hong Kong and, as such, I look forward to working with you in my new capacity.

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.