

Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
President Russell Coleman's Report
23rd November 2009

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

In November/December 2008, HKI Arb jointly organized an entry course with CI Arb. The course was very successful and well attended.

On 8 January 2009, I attended the Annual Dinner of the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries on behalf of HKI Arb.

In end February 2009, we organized a Fellowship Assessment Course. This is the first such course for some time, and it was a particular aim for my tenure as President. I am pleased to say that the course was over-subscribed and very successful. Several new Fellows were added to our membership roll as a result. The course is set to be repeated next January, for which response is already high.

On 24 February 2009, council members Mr Gary Soo and Mr Samuel Wong spoke on behalf of HKI Arb at the course organized by The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

On 16 June 2009, HKI Arb hosted the 3rd Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF) Conference in Hong Kong. Despite the then still relatively poor economic outlook, there was good attendance from Hong Kong and the Region, and the day's speeches and panel discussions were warmly received.

On 21 June 2009, I attended the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG) Conference in Seoul on behalf of HKI Arb.

On 7 August 2009, HKI Arb council greeted a delegation from the Huizhou Arbitration Commission.

On 28 August 2009, I led a delegation from HKI Arb to attend the 3rd Greater China Arbitration Forum (GCAF) Conference in Taipei. I also gave a talk on “New Development of Arbitration Law Environment in the Two Coasts and Four Places”.

(2) Evening programs and Activities

On 19 November 2008, we held a talk by Prof. Eric van Ginkel on “Recent Developments in US Arbitration Law”.

On 20 January 2009, we held a talk by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kellerhaus on “Antitrust Regulations and Arbitration”.

On 5 March 2009, we held a joint seminar by Mr. Andrew Aglionby on “CIETAC Arbitration – Tales from the Front Line”.

On 31 March 2009, we held a talk by Dr. Jeanne Ng on “Climate Change Dilemmas”.

On 20 April 2009, we held a talk by Prof. Nadja Alexander on “The Globalisation of ADR: Opportunities and Risks”.

On 31 August 2009, we held a talk by Assistant Professor Sarah E. Hilmer on “Mandatory Mediation: A Workable Solution?”.

(3) Membership

There were 194 Fellows and 616 Associates as of October 2009.

(4) Finance

I will leave this to the Treasurer.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of Council and Committee who have been 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.

Finally, the Institute surely needs support and encouragement from all of you, and from other members who are not present here this evening. The Institute exists for its members, and we are grateful for any suggestions and participation in the activities. I am conscious that there is often stiff competition for all your time and effort, but we are the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators and we hope to remain vital and active in the ADR field in Hong Kong and the wider region.

Once again, I welcome you all to this AGM and wish you all the best for the coming year.

Thank you.

Russell Coleman SC

23rd November 2009