

## **First ICC-HK International Commercial Mediation Competition**

### **Closing Speech of Mr. Ronald Sum on 15 October 2018**

Good afternoon, the Honourable Madam Secretary for Justice, Ms. Teresa Cheng SC, Ms. Christina Cheung, JP, Law Officer Civil Law, Honourable guests, professional judges, mediators, coaches, supervisors, volunteers, helpers, friends, ladies and gentlemen.

For those who do not know me, I am Ronald Sum, the Chairman of the ICC-HK Arbitration and ADR Committee. I am a lawyer by profession.

I will be quick as I see hungry faces amongst the audiences.

As all of you know, this is the first ICC-HK International Commercial Mediation Competition. For those who do not know how all this started, I'm now going to tell you. Over a year ago, Mr. Danny McFadden and Mr. Christopher To came to me and raised the idea of hosting the ICC Mediation Competition outside of Paris. There are good universities in various countries which cannot afford the costs of travelling to Paris to compete in the "World Cup" of the mediation competition, the ICC Mediation Competition – Paris. They should be able to participate in the Competition. With that in mind, the idea of holding the Mediation Competition outside of Paris came to light. But where should we hold the Mediation Competition?

Hong Kong is a leading centre for dispute resolution in Asia Pacific. It has a strong legal system, abundance of professional expertise, an advantageous geographical location, and the full support of the Department of Justice and the Hong Kong Government. Where else should we host the competition, except in Hong Kong? Immediately, the organizing committee was formed with me, Ms. Kim Rooney, Mr. Danny McFadden and Mr. Christopher To, as members. Our ICC-HK Chairman, Mr. J P Lee, gave his blessings to us.

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## Organiser



## Co-organiser



This was how the preparation for the hosting of the ICC-HK International Commercial Mediation Competition first started. Time flies, after nearly a whole year of hard work and strained friendships, we are now at the final minute.

So, this Competition belongs to you - the 16 great Universities from 8 jurisdictions which participated in the first ICC-HK International Commercial Mediation Competition. I hope all of you have made some new friends, gained some experience and knowledge from the mediators and judges during the competition.

This Competition of course also belongs to Hong Kong. We host this Competition for Hong Kong!! I hope this Competition showcases the strength of Hong Kong as the leading dispute resolution centre in the Asia Pacific region.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our winner again, City University of Hong Kong. I also like to congratulate National University of Singapore. Please put your hands together for City University of Hong Kong and National University of Singapore - such high caliber universities!

Now to the thanking part:-

First of all, I would like to thank the Department of Justice as a Co-organiser. They provided funding to us to make this happen. I would also like to thank Madam Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng SC, who has placed her trust in us to organise and host this Competition. Thank You.

I would like to thank our sponsors, Shui On Group, Henderson Land Group, SHUPL, Latham, King & Wood Mallesons, Orrick, Herbert Smith Freehills, Des Voeux Chambers, Stephenson Harwood, Tanner De Witt, Squire Patton Boggs, Skadden, Clifford Chance, Locke Lord, Liberty Chambers, Hill Dickinson, Freshfields, Dentons, HKIAC, Arbitration Chambers, Holman Fenwick & Willan, Norton Rose, TK Iu, Rory McAlpine, John Choong, Simon

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## Organiser



## Co-organiser



Latham, Damien Laracy, Kim Rooney, Christopher To, Vincent Lo and me. We all know that without the sponsors who contributed monies and in kind, such as junks and souvenirs, an event of this size could simply not take place at all.

During the past couple of days, I have received several comments. Let me read some out to you:

“How come you have so many sponsors?”

“Wow, you have so many souvenirs, notepads, pens, umbrellas, mugs, USB sticks.”

“How come there are so many law firms involved in this competition.”

My answer is quite simple, these sponsors and law firms (not only the ones mentioned above, but there are many other law firms, local and international, which have donated their time and effort in this Competition) did this for one purpose.....they drop their differences and did it for HONG KONG!! I will say that this is Hong Kong Legal Profession AT ITS BEST!!

I would like to thank the professional judges, mediators, coaches, supervisors, volunteers and helpers for investing their efforts and time into this Competition. I would also like to thank the students who participated in Team X, Team Y and Team Z. These are the teams created to cater for the potential situations of odd number in the number of participating teams and last minute drop out. Again, without their contribution, an event such as this and the opportunities given to the future lawyers could not have happened.

I would also like to thank Daisy Lau of the ICC-HK who shared the administrative burden of this Competition. Ms Alix Povey and Ms Maricel Somerville who worked in my office days and nights during the last couple of weeks leading up to the Competition. Our beautiful MCs, Ms Beryl Wu and Ms Winnie Wat. They are not only MCs. They have assisted in organising this event some 6 months ago. Beryl assisted with the training slides and Winnie assisted with getting the volunteers and helpers. Last but not least, Mr. Lawrence Li, our scorer: Without the Scorer, there will be no competition.

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I would like to thank the Department of Justice team, Mr Clifford Tavares, Ms Ada Chen, Ms Helen Kung, Ms Venus Cheung and Mr James Lam. Please forgive me for not reading out your titles as they are all but long. They have spent endless hours in answering our calls and emails and making this Competition happened. One person I must thank is Mr Simon Lee who has now retired from the Department of Justice but I bet he regrets leaving the mediation world. He provided guidance to us in the early stage of this project.

Finally, during the past couple of days, we have already received enquiries from various universities from the USA, UK, India, China, Mongolia, Australia regarding the Second ICC-HK International Commercial Mediation Competition. Not only that, some new commercial sponsors have indicated to us their willingness to contribute and to become Diamond Sponsors.

The Organising Committee started off this Competition with a determination of continuing the Competition.

I am pleased to say that we will be having another one and I look forward to seeing all the teams coming back and more in October 2019. Some judges have indicated their willingness to persuade the Universities in their jurisdictions to join the next Competition.

I have said enough as I now see very hungry and angry faces. For those who come afar, enjoy your stay in our wonderful city, enjoy the weather and don't forget to do some shopping!!

Thank You

