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Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

10 December 2009

Yours ref: CB2/BC9/08

By Post and Email: (mchiu@legco.gov.hk)

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Betty MA)

Dear Sirs,

Bills Committee on the Arbitration Bill

Thank you for your letter of 25 November 2009. We are delighted to provide the following information to the Bills Committee on the Arbitration Bill.

The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre ("the HKIAC") has been continuing its efforts to enhance the knowledge of arbitrators and other professionals for the promotion of arbitration in general and the implementation of the new Arbitration Bill in particular. This has been achieved through conferences, seminars, presentations, road shows and visits. Some of the recent events/activities that have taken place or are in the pipeline are summarized below for easy reference.

- (a) Conferences, Seminars and Workshops by HKIAC
 - (i) ADR in Asia Conference 2009

Delegates comprising arbitrators, in-house counsels, barristers, solicitors and other professionals, local and overseas, attended the conference. Topics in relation to the new Arbitration Bill, i.e. the unification of the current domestic regimes and international regimes, changes to the UNCITRAL Model Law in 2006 and changes to domestic construction arbitration, etc. were discussed in many of the sessions of the Conference.

(ii) Arbitration & The Financial Crisis Conference

This conference on financial disputes resolution was recently concluded. Arbitrators, lawyers and bankers from Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region attended the conference. Apart from discussions on finance arbitration, issues in relation to the development of arbitration law in Hong Kong and the new Arbitration Bill were also touched upon at the conference.

(iii) Seminar for HKIAC Panel of Arbitrators

For continuing professional development, this is the annual seminar organized for experience sharing and law updating for arbitrators on the HKIAC Panel.

(iv) The Kaplan Lecture

The Kaplan Lecture is an annual event since 2007, with renowned arbitrators being invited to deliver a lecture to the delegates on salient issues and recent developments of arbitration law in the region.

(v) HKIAC Users' Council Symposium

The HKIAC recently established the HKIAC User's Council with a view to providing a platform for exchange of information among the arbitration practitioners in Hong Kong and in the region. The forthcoming HKIAC User's Council Symposium is an event enabling members to exchange information on arbitration in-person. Issues regarding the implementation of the new Arbitration Bill will be covered at the symposium.

(b) Exhibitions and Roadshows of the HKIAC

The HKIAC has also been taking part in various conferences, conducting roadshows and participating in exhibitions, for promoting to practitioners and users, local and overseas, the new Arbitration Bill and arbitration services in Hong Kong.

(c) Presentations at Conferences and Seminars

Furthermore, presentations at conferences and seminars by other professional/trade bodies for introducing the arbitration landscape in Hong Kong are also conducted from time to time.

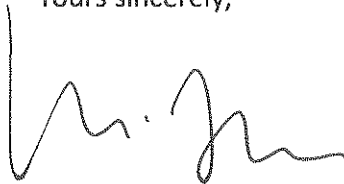
(d) Visits and Delegations

Apart from these, the HKIAC has also been receiving delegations/visitors from a wide range of geographical locations, where the opportunity is taken to introduce arbitration law and services in Hong Kong.

We are of the view that continuing the above measures would be beneficial to and helpful in preparing arbitrators and other professionals for the implementation of the new Arbitration Bill. In addition, the HKIAC intends to publish an introduction to the new Ordinance once its final form has become clear.

We trust that the above information is useful to you. Meanwhile, if we can be of any further assistance in this matter, please kindly let us know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Moser', written in a cursive style.

Michael J Moser
Chairman