

Project Final Report for Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (“PASS”)

1. Project Details	
1.1 Project Reference No.	: PS164010
1.2 Project Title	: Strengthening Hong Kong’s Status as the Dispute Resolution Hub for ASEAN Jurisdictions under the Belt and Road Initiative
1.3 Grantee	: Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
1.4 Collaborating Organisation(s)	: (i) Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) (ii) Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)
1.5 Implementation Agent(s)	: Golin – public relation agency
1.6 Sponsoring Organisation(s)	: (i) Allen & Overy (ii) Asia Cambodia Law Group (iii) Bun & Associates (iv) DFDL (v) Freshfields (vi) HBS LAW (vii) HFW (viii) Norton Rose Fulbright (ix) O'Melveny (x) Shearman & Sterling (xi) Sok Siphana & Associates
1.7 Consultant(s)	: N.A.
1.8 Project Co-ordinator	: (Name) Ms TAN May-ling, Karen (Post title) Business Development Director (Period) 01/10/2017 – 30/09/2020
1.9 Deputy Project Co-ordinator	: (Name) Ms Diana LI (Post title) Marketing and Events Coordinator (Period) 01/10/2017 – 31/01/2018 (Name) Ms Hermione LAM (Post title) Marketing and Events Coordinator (Period) 22/02/2018 – 01/03/2019 (Name) Ms Fiona CHEUNG (Post title) Marketing and Events Coordinator (Period) 08/03/2019 – 05/04/2020
1.10 Project Period (duration)	: from 01/10/2017 to 30/09/2020 (36 months)
1.11 Major Beneficiary Sector(s)	: Legal services sector

1.12 Approved PASS Grant (HK\$) : 1,188,000

2. Project Implementation

2.1 Project Summary

(Please give a summary of the project including objectives, deliverables and target professional service sectors within 100 words.)

This project aims to enhance Hong Kong's position as a major dispute resolution hub for disputes arising from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) providing more opportunities for Hong Kong's legal sectors and related industries. Six seminars, five workshops and two conferences would be organised for legal professionals, business representatives, and government agencies in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Each seminar would attract approximately 60-80 participants, each workshop would attract approximately 20-30 participants and each conference would attract approximately 100 participants.

2.2 Project Deliverables

(Please compare the actual results achieved with the agreed targets for each item.)

Agreed Targets		Actual Results Achieved (Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. proceedings, attendance records.)	
Date / Deliverables (with quantity)	Beneficiaries (estimated no. of local / non-local participants)	Date / Deliverables (with actual quantity)	Beneficiaries (actual no. of local / non-local participants)
31/05/2018 to 30/09/2020 Two 1-day conferences held in two different ASEAN countries	200 participants including legal professionals, business representatives of companies and professional service providers	Completed 17/07/2019 Indonesia Incomplete One conference	106 participants including legal professionals, business representatives of companies and professional service providers (53% of the target met)
01/05/2018 to 30/09/2020 Five half-day workshops in five ASEAN countries	100 to 150 government representatives and agencies	Completed 26/06/2018 Indonesia 16/03/2019 Myanmar Incomplete Three workshops	77 government representatives and agencies (40 for Indonesia and 37 for Myanmar). (77% of the target met)
01/03/2018 to 30/09/2020 Six half-day seminars in five ASEAN	360 to 480 delegates including legal professionals, business representatives of companies and	Completed 07/06/2018 Vietnam 24/07/2018 Myanmar	276 delegates including legal professionals, business representatives of companies and professional service providers. (77% of the target met)

Agreed Targets		Actual Results Achieved (Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. proceedings, attendance records.)	
<i>Date / Deliverables (with quantity)</i>	<i>Beneficiaries (estimated no. of local / non-local participants)</i>	<i>Date / Deliverables (with actual quantity)</i>	<i>Beneficiaries (actual no. of local / non-local participants)</i>
countries	professional service providers	12/12/2018 Indonesia 18/11/2019 Cambodia <u>Incomplete</u> Two seminars	

2.3 Project Promotion and Dissemination

(Please compare the actual means used / outcomes with the agreed activities for each item.)

Agreed Activities	Actual Means Used / Outcomes (Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. posters, leaflets, invitation letters, publications, website printouts, dissemination e-mails, newsletters, feedback surveys and analysis.)
(a) For Project Promotion:	
Content creation and digital production	- Press release was issued. - Marketing materials (Hong Kong Belt and Road leaflet and video clip interviewing Hong Kong individuals about the BRI) for distribution at workshops, seminars and conferences were produced.
Build corporate messaging and industry viewpoints	- A pool of journalists, who write about the BRI, were kept updated on the new developments. - A steady stream of information was provided to the journalists.
Media preparation for key executives / executive media and messaging delivery	- Positive coverage in mainstream and trade media was secured. - The media was reached out to ensure that the content always contains the Belt and Road element. - Conducted news hijacking and rapid response about Hong Kong and HKIAC
(b) For Dissemination of Project Deliverables:	
A report summarizing each deliverable and the project results will be published on the HKIAC's website.	Event highlights were published and uploaded to HKIAC's website.
Feedback surveys for each of the conferences, workshops and seminars	Feedback surveys were conducted for the above workshops and seminars.
Notification e-mails / press releases to all participants to inform them the availability of the online materials	Not conducted due to disruptions caused by COVID 19 pandemic.

3. Achievements and Grantee's Evaluation of the Project *(For Project Final Report only)*

3.1 Number of participants and eligible beneficiaries –

Project Deliverables	Eligible Number of Beneficiaries (if known)
(i) Two conferences (One incomplete)	106 ASEAN Jurisdictions' legal professionals, business representatives of companies and professional service providers
(ii) Five workshops (Three incomplete)	77 ASEAN Jurisdictions' government representatives and agencies
(iii) Six seminars (Two incomplete)	216 ASEAN Jurisdictions' legal professionals, business representatives of companies and professional service providers
(As these are publicity events, the Hong Kong legal service sector would be benefitted as a whole.)	

3.2 Feedback from participants / users / professional services sectors

50% of attendees found the quality of the events to be excellent, 38% said very good, 11% said good
98% of attendees found the events useful for their work
60% of attendees consider Hong Kong is well positioned as the regional hub for arbitration for Belt and Road disputes

3.3 Dissemination of project deliverables to relevant professionals

The project deliverables were disseminated widely across ASEAN jurisdictions through a series of conferences, workshops, and seminars. Promotional materials were produced and distributed.

3.4 PASS and other objectives reached (May choose more than one)

- ☒ Increasing the exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong's professional services with their counterparts in external markets
- ☒ Promoting relevant publicity activities
- ☒ Enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services
- ☐ Others

Please elaborate on how the objective(s) was/were met:

Hong Kong's position as a major dispute resolution hub for disputes arising from the BRI providing more opportunities for Hong Kong's legal sectors and related industries was positively positioned through seminars, workshops and conferences.

3.5 Overall achievements of the project

The project successfully strengthened Hong Kong's role as a regional hub for arbitration in Belt and Road disputes. Through conferences, workshops, and seminars across ASEAN jurisdictions, it engaged nearly 400 professionals, including legal practitioners, government representatives, and business leaders. Feedback surveys confirmed strong satisfaction, with the majority rating the events highly and almost all finding them useful for their work. Importantly, a significant proportion of participants recognized Hong Kong's strategic positioning in regional dispute resolution. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project delivered its objectives by promoting knowledge exchange, and enhancing international recognition of Hong Kong's arbitration services.

The Project Final Report is prepared by the Grantee.