

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

1. Project Details

- 1.1 Project Reference No.** : PS181010
- 1.2 Project Title** : International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019 – New Era of Global Collaboration
- 1.3 Grantee** : Hong Kong Mediation Centre Limited (HKMC)
- 1.4 Collaborating Organisation(s)** : (i) International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI)
(ii) United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
(iii) Department of Justice (DoJ)
- 1.5 Implementation Agent(s)** : Creative Consulting Group Inc. Limited
- 1.6 Sponsoring Organisation(s)** : Nil
- 1.7 Consultant(s)** : Nil
- 1.8 Project Co-ordinator** : (Name) Francis Law (Post title) President
- 1.9 Deputy Project Co-ordinator** : (Name) Amy Wong (Post title) Secretary General
- 1.10 Project Period (duration)** : from 17/12/2018 to 16/06/2019 (6 months)
- 1.11 Major Beneficiary Sector(s)** : Legal services
- 1.12 Approved PASS Grant (HK\$)** : 637,000

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.)

The International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019 (“Conference”) aims at fostering discussion on emerging trends in dispute resolution and the impact of the “Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation” on international business environment. More than 25 world renowned practitioners, academics and senior government officials were invited to share their insights on various important topical issues. The Conference brought together over 850 professionals from dispute resolution, legal, surveying, construction and intellectual property sectors to facilitate the exchange of ideas on the settlement of international disputes and development of the Mediation Convention.

2.2 Project Deliverables

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

Agreed Targets		Actual Results Achieved <i>(Please submit copies of all relevant supporting materials, e.g. proceedings, attendance records.)</i>	
<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>
01/04/2019 to 30/04/2019 One 1-day conference on dispute resolution in Hong Kong	500 participants (including 350 Hong Kong professionals and 150 non-local professionals)	Completed: 17/04/2019 One 1-day conference in Hong Kong	852 participants (including 544 Hong Kong professionals and 308 non-local professionals) (For total participants: 170% of the target met) (For Hong Kong professionals: 155% of the target met)

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 <i>(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.)</i>
(a) For Project Promotion:	
To issue promotional flyer to all mediators/arbitrators, supporting organisations of the conference, collaborating organisations and related organisations in Hong Kong.	Invitation letters with promotional flyers were issued to related parties from January to late March 2019. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A_jUfodUJBW6TuP69OqXJR_V2Qjj4zWAJ?usp=sharing (Attachments 1.1-1.4)
To put the promotional materials on webpage of HKMC	The promotional materials and the conference details were uploaded to the webpages of HKMC, IDRRMI and UNCITRAL since February 2019:

<p>Agreed Activities</p>	<p>Actual Means Used / Outcomes <i>(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.)</i></p>
	<p><u>HKMC:</u> http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/tc/news/Newsview.php?id=278</p> <p><u>IDRRMI:</u> https://idrrmi.org/zh/%e6%9c%80%e6%96%b0%e8%b3%87%e8%a8%8a/%e6%9c%80%e6%96%b0%e6%b4%bb%e5%8b%95/</p> <p><u>UNCITAL:</u> https://uncitral.un.org/en/events/17.4.2019</p> <p>There was a total of 39 supporting organisations which assisted in promoting the conference via email or website to their members, affiliates and relevant parties. For example:</p> <p><u>Asian International Arbitration Centre:</u> https://www.aiac.world/events/351/International-Dispute-Resolution-Conference-2019:-New-Era-of-Global-Corporation</p> <p><u>Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Mediation Centre</u> https://mhjmc.org/en/Page_Format_7.php?nws=723</p>
<p>(b) For Dissemination of Project Deliverables:</p>	
<p>To upload the photo/video recordings of all materials developed/events conducted under this project on HKMC’s website to widely disseminate the project deliverables to legal and other relevant professional services sectors.</p>	<p>Photos and video highlights of the Conference were shared with all Guest of Honor, speakers, supporting organisations, participants and other relevant parties via the following links in May 2019:</p> <p>Photos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/tc/events/PhotoList.php?id=399 https://drive.google.com/open?id=1N6lThaHTmRIzdca_TcGaEtROcEWWLptS https://share.weiyun.com/5fqlEoI <p>Video Highlights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/en/news/Newsview.php?id=278 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D3nkr8mSO4&t=3s https://share.weiyun.com/5aPx2dC
<p>To issue electronic notices to the participants, HKMC members and all relevant professional organisations afterward.</p>	<p>Thank-you letters were sent out to all Guest of Honor, speakers, supporting organisations and other relevant parties in May 2019. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A_jUfodUJBW6TuP69OqXJRv2Qjj4zWAJ?usp=sharing</p>
<p>To upload e-copy of final report on the project outcome onto HKMC’s website and issue electronic notices as above.</p>	<p>All materials including speakers’ handouts were uploaded to HKMC’s website via following links by May 2019: http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/en/news/Newsview.php?id=278</p> <p>Final Report in Chinese: http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/uploadfiles/Article/Attachment/178/International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019 - CHI PR Final.pdf</p>

Agreed Activities	Actual Means Used / Outcomes <i>(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.)</i>
	Final Report in English: http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/uploadfiles/Article/Attachment/178/International_Dispute_Resolution_Conference_2019_-_ENG_PR_Final.pdf
To distribute feedback forms to the participants at the end of the conference to collect their feedback for assessing the effectiveness.	<p>E-feedback form Participants were invited by email to complete an e-feedback form instead of the printed form after the conference.</p> <p>Evaluation analyses Three analyses were completed by Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL), The Law Society of Hong Kong and The Financial Dispute Resolution Centre (FDRC) as conference participants were entitled to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. For details, please see: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A_jUfodUJBW6TuP69OqXJR_V2Qjj4zWAJ?usp=sharing</p>

3. Achievements and Grantee's Evaluation of the Project

3.1 Number of participants and eligible beneficiaries

Project Deliverables	Eligible Number of Beneficiaries (if known)
(i) One 1-day conference in Hong Kong	544 Hong Kong professionals (including 342 legal professionals, 167 from building & construction-, accounting- and health- related services, and 35 from other professions including Aviation, Information Technology, Psychologist, Social Worker etc.)

3.2 Feedback from participants / users / professional services sectors

E-feedback forms were distributed after the conference and the feedback received was uniformly positive. Some comments were extracted from the evaluation analyses:

Did the content meet your needs/expectations?

- The seminar provided latest trends and updated information regarding global dispute resolution.
- I am interested to know about aspects of resolving international disputes through mediation.
- Absolutely met my needs and expectation because I learnt a lot from the valuable experience from all prominent and professional speakers. Many thanks.
- Yes, I would like to know the general development of ADR in the context of Belt and Road Initiative (which has been covered).
- Yes. Better framework for career enhancement.
- A bigger space is preferable.

How could the style of presentation be changed to meet your needs?

- Fewer speakers, more time for individual speaker to delivery and not in a rush or unfinished mode.
- Let the speakers' PowerPoint be remote-controlled and not to interrupt the speakers.
- Organiser can streamline speakers' number and/or consider using alternative modes of paper delivery and panel discussions.
- More figures instead of words.

How would you like to see the course materials improved?

- Lecture slides to be provided to the attendees via email afterwards.
- Please adopt eco-friendly materials – conference bag and plastic folder can be avoided.
- More colourful
- Some of the charts and statistics figures could be supplied in hardcopies as I did not have sufficient time to copy them down.
- Provision of digital versions (e.g. in pdf format) for the ease of future reference.

3.3 Dissemination of project deliverables to relevant professionals

All conference materials including the conference brochure and speakers' handouts were available to download via following link: <http://www.mediationcentre.org.hk/en/news/Newsview.php?id=278>

Photos and video highlights of the conference were shared with all Guest of Honor, speakers, supporting organisations, participants and other relevant parties by HKMC website.

Thank-you letters were also sent out to all Guest of Honor, speakers, supporting organisations and other relevant parties to express our gratitude for their presentation and support to the conference.

The conference received extensive media coverage. Articles about the conference appeared in publications of a variety of media types. (Please see the **Attachment 6** for the full media coverage report at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A_jUfodUJBW6TuP69OqXJRV2Qjj4zWAJ?usp=sharing).

CPD points were granted from HKMC, IDRRMI, HKMAAL, The Law Society of Hong Kong and FDRC respectively. Attendees who were mediators / members from the relevant professional organisations could be awarded 7.5 CPD points.

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:

The International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019: New Era of Global Collaboration (IDRC 2019) was a success in many senses; the unprecedented level of participation and positive feedbacks from the participating guests, academics, fellow dispute resolution practitioners, and other professionals were all unfailing proof of the conference's positive impacts.

With over thirty overseas, Mainland and local supporting organisations, as well as its line-up of international speakers, IDRC 2019 aggregated hundreds of dispute resolution practitioners and experts sharing the same passion for academic and professional exchanges from all over the world. Such organisations included domestic and overseas mediation/arbitration centres (e.g. Thailand Arbitration Center, Japan International Mediation Centre, Shanghai International Arbitration Center), chambers of commerce (e.g. International Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong), professional bodies (e.g. Hong Kong Bar Association, Shenzhen Lawyers Association), and universities (e.g. the University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, RMIT University). Given the global constitution of the conference, it was best for the promotion of Hong Kong's dispute resolution services to an audience with different nationalities and professional backgrounds.

The conference served as a perfect occasion not only for promotion but also professional exchanges. The topics of the speeches given by leading scholars and practitioners were meticulously curated with the view to best facilitating the audience's understanding of the latest developments in international dispute resolution; as a case in point, *'International Commercial Mediation 2019, Challenges and Opportunities'*. Throughout the conference, the audience was provided with invaluable insights originated from overseas experiences of our guest speakers, which would in turn incentivise local practitioners to perfect the dispute resolution profession in Hong Kong.

In order to help Hong Kong's practitioners keep up with the higher standard in international dispute resolution arising from the ratification of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation ('Singapore Mediation Convention'), speeches on this specific topic were conveyed by representatives of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and other leading scholars. That was an indispensable opportunity for the audience to gain first-hand information about the prospective implementation of this pivotal new Convention in different contexts – national, regional, and international. In this regard, it is anticipated that the insights from the conference could bring about localised adaptation of the convention in Hong Kong, on top of a betterment among local dispute resolution practitioners.

3.5 Overall achievements of the project

HKMC has played host to the city's first International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019 – a vital global summit co-hosted alongside the UNCITRAL, the IDRRMI, and in collaboration with the DoJ.

The conference was attended by over 850 delegates from all over the world with positive and encouraging responses. They could learn more about the emerging risks, trends and solutions for commercial, trading and investment disputes among states, organisations, businesses and individuals. More than 25 international and regional dispute resolution experts, practitioners, academics, judges and senior government officials delivered presentations and participated in panel discussion of the conference.

In the face of growing instability and potentially disruptive disputes, the United Nations recently approved the Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, a global framework for conflict resolution between international and cross-border parties. This global standard has opened up a wealth of new professional and business opportunities in the dispute resolution field. As a global hub for trade and finance, Hong Kong's integral role in meeting this growing need was spelled out repeatedly at the first International Dispute Resolution Conference 2019.

We believed international dispute resolution is of great importance, in particular for the Belt & Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development. We will continue our effort in promoting Hong Kong's position as a leading international dispute resolution center in Asia-Pacific region by organising a similar conference in the future.

The Project Final Report is prepared by the Grantee.