



31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

**Re: Invitation to participate in the 2019-2020 ICC International  
Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong  
11-14 November 2020 held Online**

The ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition (the “ICC Mediation Competition”) is widely recognised as the world’s leading mediation competition.

Following the resounding success of the annual ICC Mediation Competition in Paris (now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year) the International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong (“ICC-HK”) decided to bring a round of this competition to Hong Kong in 2018, co-organising it with the Department of Justice of The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (The “HKSAR Government”).

Building on the successful 2018 Competition, ICC-HK will hold the 2019-2020 ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong (the “Competition” or the “ICC-HK Competition”) from 11-14 November 2020. Given the continuing COVID-19 restrictions., the Competition will be held online.

Mediation of disputes is part of a major trend around the world, reinforced by the new Singapore Mediation Convention signed in August 2019. Parties increasingly recognise the benefits of resolving their disputes in a professional and amicable setting. The HKSAR Government committed to promoting and developing the wider use of mediation to resolve disputes in Hong Kong. It is also committed to enhancing Hong Kong’s position as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region

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and as a centre for resolution of disputes arising from China's Belt and Road Initiative. ICC-HK considers that holding the ICC Mediation Competition - Hong Kong will be of significant benefit to the Hong Kong mediation sector, with a focus on mediation advocacy. It seeks to empower tomorrow's business leaders and legal minds, equipping them with skills to better meet the dispute resolution needs of international commerce, in an expanding and increasingly complex marketplace.

The Competition is open to eligible university undergraduate and post-graduate students<sup>1</sup> (excluding post graduate doctorate students) registered at an institution during the academic period when the Competition is held. Teams may comprise of between 2-4 people. Teams from local and overseas universities will be given the opportunity to participate in several preliminary rounds, with the top achievers going onto knock-out rounds.

Students will be guided by professional mediators under rules based on the ICC mediation rules, supported and adjudicated by a panel of experienced, world-leading alternative dispute resolution practitioners. The winning team of this prestigious Competition earns a reserved place to compete in Paris in the 16<sup>th</sup> ICC Mediation Competition in early 2021, widely recognised as the world's leading competition devoted to international commercial mediation.

This is a unique opportunity for students to:

- Showcase their negotiation skills in a commercial mediation environment
- Develop skills in collaborative commercial problem solving, analytical judgment and persuasion
- Connect aspiring students to strong professional networks

As a global community we remain constrained by COVID-19 restrictions. Anticipating no early return to seamless international travel, we seek to give

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the latest ICC Mediation Competition - Hong Kong Competition Rules. Students who are entitled to practise law in any jurisdiction as set out in Rule 5(2) are NOT eligible to compete.

Universities certainly that this opportunity will go ahead for their students in 2020. The ICC Mediation Competition - Hong Kong will therefore be held virtually on a specialist Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform, to be powered by eBRAM. This is a great chance for students to explore the world of ODR, and to join the competition from the comfort of their University spaces, or their own homes. We hope that with a virtual Competition, 2020 creates a new opportunity for Universities and students who may otherwise have been constrained from participating by time commitments or travel costs.

For more information on this year's Competition, its registration process and fees, please either email us at [iccmmediationcomp.hk@gmail.com](mailto:iccmmediationcomp.hk@gmail.com) or browse our website at [www.iccmmediationcomp.hk](http://www.iccmmediationcomp.hk). We look forward to welcoming your institution to this exciting Competition in Hong Kong.

Kind Regards,



Ronald Sum



Christopher To

Co-Chairs Organizing Committee

ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition - Hong Kong