

DoJ and HKIAC host conference in France to promote HK's roles as deal maker and dispute resolver

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, attended a conference, co-organised by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) in Paris, France on April 11 to promote Hong Kong as a deal-making and dispute resolution services centre.

Speaking at the conference, Ms Cheng delivered a speech on “Hong Kong as a venue for making deals and resolving disputes with Chinese SoEs (state-owned enterprises)”. She said that Hong Kong has always been a strategic gateway for foreign businesses to tap into the Mainland Chinese market. On the other hand, Hong Kong is the springboard for Mainland companies, including the Chinese State-owned entities, to “go global”. Hong Kong has rich experience in deal-making and dispute resolution for China-related businesses and it is the Hong Kong Government's long standing policy to support and strengthen our position as a leading hub for deal making and dispute resolution.

She was glad to learn that the panel of experts at the conference recognised that the Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region signed on April 2 has strengthened Hong Kong as a legal and

dispute resolution services centre.

Sarah Grimmer (Secretary-General, HKIAC, co-organiser):

“The conference provided expert insights into the structure, operations and dispute resolution activity of Chinese state-owned enterprises which are increasingly active in cross-boundary deals, as reflected in HKIAC’s caseload.”

Cathy Liu (General Counsel, Cofco International, speaker):

“In recent years, Chinese SoEs have made significant overseas investments, especially under the Belt and Road Initiative. Understanding more about Chinese SoEs is essential for these investments. This is a great event to facilitate such understanding.”

Michael Polkinghorne (Partner, White & Case, attendee) :

“A great event; excellent speakers with plenty to say, notably reminding us of just how important a player Hong Kong is in the context of the most economically dynamic region in the world. Thanks to the organisers, the region holds less mysteries for this harried lawyer. Hopefully to be repeated!”