



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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Press Release

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The 4th International Conference of the International Advocacy Training Council (“IATC”) was held in Hong Kong successfully

The Hong Kong Advocacy Training Council (“HKATC”), which is the training arm of the Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”), successfully organized the 4th IATC Conference in Hong Kong on 8 and 9 April 2024. The event attracted over 100 legal elites from the Mainland, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland and Hong Kong, discussing the latest development of cross-border international advocacy and arbitration. One of the focuses of this conference was to explore how advocacy in dispute resolution could be enhanced with the aid of modern technology.

The International Advocacy Training Council is a charitable organisation registered in Hong Kong, operating with the advice and assistance from affiliated legal professional bodies and patrons. Held in Hong Kong for the first time ever, the theme of this conference is “Advocacy in Arbitration: Bridging Borders, Enhancing the Rule of Law”. Speakers from around the world exchanged ideas on advocacy training and introduced arbitration frameworks in different jurisdictions.

Mr. Paul Lam SC, Secretary for Justice, attended the conference today and delivered a keynote speech in the morning. He referred to the growing importance of cross-border and international commercial dispute resolution by arbitration. He pointed out that a wealth of top advocates capable of acting as arbitrators, the common law system under the principle of “one country, two systems”, the high quality of legal service as well as the unfailing support from the Central Government, make Hong Kong an ideal choice for international arbitrations.

The Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung and the Honourable Geoffrey Ma, GBM, former Chief Justice of Hong Kong, were among the keynote speakers at the conference. Other speakers included current and retired judges as well as leaders in the legal profession, from different jurisdictions.

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Mr. Victor Dawes SC, Chairman of the HKBA and one of the officiating guests of the conference said: “as the HKBA celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, international conferences such as the IATC Conference coming to Hong Kong demonstrates the important role of the legal profession in Hong Kong as a bridge linking with the rest of the world. This not only further strengthens Hong Kong’s position as a hub for international arbitration, but also shows our determination in promoting the rule of law.”

Mr. Dawes SC also noted that with arbitration becoming international, international conferences like this foster better understanding about the Hong Kong system among legal professionals and leaders in arbitration from other jurisdictions and bring about opportunities for exchange and collaboration.

IATC’s bi-annual international conference is a key event in the advocacy training community. It was held in Malaysia, Northern Ireland and South Africa in previous years. This 4th conference was originally scheduled to be held in Hong Kong back in 2020 but it was postponed to this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HKATC was established in 2011 with an object of promoting the rule of law and high standards of advocacy. To enhance advocacy standards of barristers and pupils, the Council regularly organises workshops and seminars on areas such as advocacy in arbitration, court advocacy and advocacy in Chinese language. Renowned legal practitioners from other jurisdictions have been invited to be trainers for these courses.

For further enquiries, please send an email to info@hkba.org or call the HKBA’s Secretariat at 93893182.

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