

## **Resolving China-related Commercial Disputes in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong - Asia's world city - is an international dispute resolution centre.

It is Asia's most international city: a vibrant, cosmopolitan community where East meets West, the key attributes of which include –

- Level playing field for entrepreneurs of all nationalities;
- Educated and skilled workforce;
- Unrivalled location and gateway to China;
- Independent legal system;
- Pro-enforcement judiciary;
- Respected and clean government;
- Legal system familiar to the international community;
- Low taxes and world class infrastructure;
- Free flow of information and international lifestyle;
- Sharing the same language and culture with the mainland of China;
- High-end and international legal and other professional services.

Hong Kong benefits from a long-standing tradition of servicing parties engaging in alternative dispute resolution. Also, with its fabled “East Meets West” history and special status, Hong Kong has also emerged as a favourite compromise for the resolution of Chinese-foreign business disputes.

- Found in 1985, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) is a private, self-governing and not-for-profit organisation with a mission to support the development, promotion and implementation of alternative dispute resolution within Hong Kong and abroad.
- In 2010, the HKIAC handled 291 arbitration matters, 60% international and 40% domestic. About one-third of these matters involved at least one Mainland party.

Hong Kong has always adhered to common law principles and international practices in areas such as corporate governance, investment, fund raising, finance, securities, international trade and intellectual property, which are widely recognized by international business community.



The Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, Berlin has the privilege to have **Ms Chiann Bao**, Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, share her experience with the German audience on **how to effectively resolve China-related commercial disputes in Hong Kong**. We also have the honour to have **Professor Dr. Hanns-Christian Salger** and **Dr. Astrid Auer-Reinsdorff** of the German Bar Association to brief us on the arbitration rules and facilities in Germany.

Date: 18 May 2011

Time: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Berlin, Room Nikolai 2

Language: English

#### The Speakers

**Ms Chiann Bao, Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre**



Ms. Bao serves as the current Secretary-General of the HKIAC. Prior to this, she worked with several international law firms and clerked at the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris.

She is a Cornell University graduate and Fulbright Scholar in China. She obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a Master of Arts in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution from the City University of Hong Kong.

She is admitted to the New York and Wisconsin Bars.



**Professor Dr. Hanns-Christian Salger, German Bar Association**



Hanns-Christian Salger has been a litigator in both German as well as foreign courts, e.g. London, New York, Amsterdam, Brussels, and an arbitrator (single arbitrator, co-arbitrator, chairman of the tribunal) in numerous arbitrations ad hoc and under DIS, ICC, LCIA, AAA, Zurich Chamber of Commerce and Czech Court of Commercial Arbitration Rules in Germany, Zurich, London, New York, Montreal and Prague as well as an expert witness on German law and the CISG over a period of 28 years.

These arbitration cases were mostly commercial arbitrations about contractual claims (M&A contracts, construction, software and engineering contracts, sales and distribution agreements). He has also actively participated in some prominent seminars and conferences on arbitration issues, e.g. in Istanbul 2009 (FIDIC) or Cambridge 2010 (advocacy).

**Dr. Astrid Auer-Reinsdorff, Board Member of the German Bar Association**



Dr. Astrid Auer-Reinsdorff is specialized in IT-Law and adjoining fields of law, like intellectual property rights. Her work scope includes IT-Outsourcing, Software-licensing contracts, Software- and IT-projects, Service Level Agreements and questions regarding e-commerce and IT-Risk-Management and IT-Compliance.



She provides advice regarding negotiations and projects and stands by her clients in critical project situations. In case legal proceedings are inevitable, she represents her clients especially in arbitration and mediation. She drafts General Terms and Conditions and IT-contracts. She assists in shaping business models as well as managing decision making processes by providing management summaries and risk evaluation.

