



**Hong Kong Australia Business Association NSW Chapter
Special Seminar with Keynote Speaker on Arbitration in Hong Kong
22nd August 2019
Media Release**

HKABA Special Arbitration Seminar was successfully held yesterday (21st August 2019) at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. It was our honor to invite Barrister David Smallbone to speak on ***“Why Hong Kong is the World Leading Centre for Arbitration?”***. The seminar was proudly sponsored by The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) and The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

The Hong Kong Australia Business Association NSW Chapter (HKABA NSW) hosted a seminar on Hong Kong Arbitration with the intention to provide a platform for Australian members to network and exchange knowledge. Ms. Amy Lee, President of HKABA NSW, said *“We are delighted to have this opportunity to host a special Arbitration seminar for our members and affiliated members. With significant interests in learning about Arbitration from local and international businesses, we are here to bring everyone together and help businesses grow”*.

The Arbitration Seminar delivered a comprehensive overview of Arbitration in Hong Kong and its advantages as a means of cross-border dispute resolution in Hong Kong and Mainland China. The seminar brought together approximately 50 local and global leaders from a wide range of business sectors including legal, accounting, consulting and businesses to discuss the topics of Arbitration, the roles and impacts of Arbitration in resolving business disputes.

Ms. Winnie Chan, Deputy Director, Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, Government of the Hong Kong SAR (HKETO) announced the official opening during the cocktail reception prior to the seminar. She highlighted that Hong Kong is a leading centre for Arbitration due to the rule of law, an independent judiciary and its world-class legal system.

Ms. Bonnie Shek, Director, Australia & New Zealand, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) stated that Hong Kong is a city with a wealth of legal talent and professional expertise. With the development of Belt and Road, Hong Kong continues to provide a new platform for businesses to connect and explore exciting business opportunities in the region.



On 2nd April, 2019, the Hong Kong Government and the Supreme People's Court of China signed 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" ("Arrangement").

Our key note speaker, Barrister David Smallbone mentioned that the interim measures are very unique to Hong Kong. These imply that, under the arrangement, parties who arbitrate in Hong Kong may apply to Mainland Court for interim measures. David also emphasized that the trusted law enforcement plays an important role in the Arbitration environment in Hong Kong. He recommended Arbitration clauses should be embedded into the contract to ensure risk management is closely monitored.

Barrister David Smallbone is a highly experienced advocate and effective cross examiner. He advises disputes on contracts, trade practices, corporations, trusts, partnerships, insolvency, franchising, trademarks and administrative law. His dispute resolution practice encompasses international and domestic arbitration.

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Media Enquiries

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