

HKSAR Government and UNIDROIT sign memorandum of administrative arrangements concerning establishment of UNIDROIT Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in Hong Kong (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, and the Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Professor Ignacio Tirado, signed a memorandum of administrative arrangements (MAA) concerning the establishment of the UNIDROIT Liaison Office for the Asia-Pacific Region in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China, at a virtual signing ceremony today (March 12).

The General Assembly of UNIDROIT, at its 85th session in December 2025, decided on the establishment of its Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in the HKSAR. It will be the first regional presence of UNIDROIT outside its seat in Rome in its 100 years of history.

Mr Lam said in his opening remarks at the ceremony that the HKSAR, as an international legal hub, is underpinned by a robust common law system and a world-class legal infrastructure, adding that the city stands as an ideal home for UNIDROIT's first regional presence. The signing of the MAA is an important step in implementing the establishment of the Liaison Office in Hong Kong, marking that the relevant work is proceeding at full speed. Mr Lam expressed his gratitude to UNIDROIT for its enduring trust in and support for the HKSAR and the work of the Department of Justice (DoJ). He noted that the Liaison Office is expected to open in November this year, and that the DoJ will organise the Asia-Pacific International Private Law Summit and the Centenary Regional Event with UNIDROIT during the Hong Kong Legal Week 2026, further strengthening the close collaborative relationship between the DoJ and UNIDROIT.

UNIDROIT is an independent intergovernmental organisation with its seat in Rome. Currently, UNIDROIT has 65 member states from five continents. The purpose of UNIDROIT is to study the needs and methods for modernising, harmonising and co-ordinating private and, in particular, commercial law among states and groups of states and to formulate uniform law instruments, principles and rules to achieve those objectives.

Ends/Thursday, March 12, 2026