

## **Training Programme on Common Law and International Arbitration**

**22 June 2026 (Monday) (9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)**

**Hongyi Building, 555 Longyuan Road, Songjiang University Town, East China**

**University of Political Science and Law**

### **Opening Remarks by LO(IL) (~10 mins)**

Professor TIRADO (Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, Professor Ignacio TIRADO), President XIAO (President of the East China University of Political Science and Law, Professor XIAO Kai), Judge LUO (Vice-President of Fourth Civil Division of the Supreme People's Court of the PRC, Mr LUO Guoqiang), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good morning. On behalf of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy of the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China (the Academy), I extend a very warm welcome to all of you, who have travelled from different parts of the world for the 2026 UNIDROIT ATLC Summer School. You all come from different legal background, with different cultures and perspectives, and it is precisely this diversity that will make your experience here meaningful and memorable.
2. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UNIDROIT and the East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) for organising this Summer School, which brings together renowned legal experts from diverse backgrounds to share their knowledge and experience with us, creating a unique platform for

meaningful dialogue, fresh perspectives and lasting connections.

3. The Academy is delighted to partner once again with the UNIDROIT in hosting the “Training Programme on Common Law and International Arbitration”, which kicks off this year’s Summer School as its opening programme. Building on the success of last year’s programme in Wuhan, the Academy is privileged to continue supporting and conducting this initiative here in Shanghai with the staunch support of the ECUPL.
4. Shanghai is, in many ways, an ideal setting for this training programme. As a global commercial and financial centre, it is a city where different legal systems, business practices and cultures intersect every day, making it a living classroom for discussions of different legal issues and practices as well as international dispute resolution. We hope you will also take the opportunity to experience this city’s unique energy and global outlook as well as the traditional Chinese culture, during your stay here.
5. The first two days of the Summer School will focus on common law and international arbitration, examining the role of the UNIDROIT in bridging the common law and civil law systems, and the relevance or use of the UNIDROIT instruments for international arbitration, especially in Asia. We are deeply grateful to our speakers, all of whom are accomplished legal professionals from Hong Kong, and some of them also previously seconded to international organizations like UNIDROIT. I therefore encourage you to actively ask questions and engage in exchanges with speakers and among yourselves. One of the most valuable aspects of this Training

Programme is not just what you learn from our speakers, but also what you learn from each other, including the friendships and professional connections that you build along the way.

6. Speaking of professional connections, the Department of Justice of Hong Kong, China (DoJ) has enjoyed a very close and longstanding collaboration and connection with the UNIDROIT in promoting the development, implementation, and deeper understanding of international private law. The DoJ is honoured to host the UNIDROIT Asia-Pacific International Private Law Summit in Hong Kong biennially. The next Summit will be held during Hong Kong Legal Week 2026 this November, which will bring together legal experts, practitioners, and policymakers from across the region. We very much look forward to welcoming many of you in Hong Kong.
7. In addition to co-organising joint events, we are also deeply grateful for the UNIDROIT's strong support of the DoJ's secondment programme, which provides legal professionals from both the public and private sectors in Hong Kong with the valuable opportunity to work at the UNIDROIT Secretariat in Rome. This experience is particularly valuable for Hong Kong legal professionals to become more familiar with the development of international legal instruments, deepening their understanding of cross-border legal frameworks and comparative legal systems. In turn, this strengthens Hong Kong's unique position as the only common law jurisdiction within China and as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, enhancing its capacity to contribute to and engage with the evolving landscape of global legal cooperation. In fact, we are particularly pleased that the UNIDROIT will be establishing its first overseas office in Hong Kong later this

year. This is a strong vote of confidence in Hong Kong's role as an international legal and dispute resolution centre, and we are both honoured and delighted to support the UNIDROIT's growing engagement and influence in the region, with many more avenues for collaboration to come. We are planning to have the opening ceremony of this Liaison Office during the UNIDROIT Centenary event at the Hong Kong Legal Week 2026 in November this year. This will give you another reason to visit Hong Kong.

8. Speaking of the Centenary of UNIDROIT, this milestone stands as a testament to ten decades of legal resilience, sustained efforts and meaningful contributions to the harmonization of cross-border legal frameworks. Against this backdrop, your presence here carries special significance. As students and emerging legal professionals from around the globe, you share the responsibility of inheriting and building upon this solid foundation of the UNIDROIT, and carrying its work forward into the next century. You are entering the legal profession at a time when cross-border interactions are more intensive than ever, when legal systems are increasingly interconnected, and when disputes are increasingly international in nature. It is therefore especially fitting that through this Summer School, you are exposed to a century's worth of insight and experience in legal harmonization, acquiring the knowledge that will equip you to navigate the evolving global legal landscape.
  
9. Before I conclude, let me briefly introduce the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy. Launched in November 2024, the Academy, in collaboration with over 20 international organisations, national or local authorities

and professional bodies, has organised capacity-building training programmes in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland, other parts of Asia, Europe, Latin America and beyond for over 2,000 participants. Looking ahead, the Academy will continue to make good use of Hong Kong's bilingual common law system and international status, to serve as a capacity-building, as well as a knowledge and experience-sharing platform for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and other jurisdictions, in particular those along the Belt and Road. The Academy and the UNIDROIT have been good partners in capacity building, with joint initiatives held in Europe, South America and Hong Kong last year, and now here we are together in Shanghai. These regular encounters speak volumes about the strength and depth of our collaboration with the UNIDROIT.

## **Conclusion**

10. Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude once again to the UNIDROIT and ECUPL for their strong support of the Academy, and I look forward to exploring many more opportunities for collaboration with the UNIDROIT and ECUPL in the near future. I also wish you all a rewarding, inspiring, and memorable Summer School here in Shanghai. I hope your time here will be both intellectually enriching and personally fulfilling, and that you will carry these experiences with you long after the programme concludes. Thank you very much.

Word Count: ~1,130 words (~10 mins)