

**Speech by Hon Rimsky Yuen, SC, JP  
Secretary for Justice  
at the Opening Ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International ADR  
Mooting Competition on 27 July 2014 (Sunday)**

Professor (Arthur) Ellis, Professor Tang (Houzhi), Professor Lin (Feng), Dr (Rajesh) Sharma, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to join you at this Opening Ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International ADR Mooting Competition. First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to the School of Law of the City University of Hong Kong for hosting the Mooting Competition. Further, I would express my warmest welcome to all the participants.

2. Since the Mooting Competition was first held in 2010, it has been maturing in terms of scale and other aspects. Amongst others, I am very delighted to note that a record-breaking number of 25 teams, representing a total of 13 different jurisdictions, have signed up for the competition this year (although, as Dr Sharma just mentioned, one team could not make it due to visa problem). Such increases are not merely increases in number. Apart from the growing interest in ADR, such increases in number provide good proof of the growing recognition of this competition by law schools around the world. Credits naturally should go to the CityU Law School for its keen efforts and hard work over these years to make the Mooting Competition a resounding success.

3. Needless to say, I would also thank the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission ("CIETAC"), the Columbia Law School, as well as the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific for the support they provided for this competition as well as their overall contribution to the promotion of ADR . Indeed, the CIETAC has made important contribution to Hong Kong's arbitration landscape by setting up its arbitration centre in Hong Kong in 2012, which is the first such centre established by CIETAC outside the Mainland. I also look forward to more dialogue with the UNCITRAL Regional Centre to explore room for cooperation in the promotion of ADR in the region.

4. ADR has a long history in Hong Kong. For those who come from overseas, you may be interested to know that we have our first Arbitration Ordinance enacted in the 1840's, whilst the solid foundation for our modern arbitration regime was laid down as early as in the 1970s.

5. Over the years, the Hong Kong SAR Government has been sparing no efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the city as a regional hub for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia Pacific region. Apart from working closely with stakeholders and providing the requisite hardware, we have put in place a user-friendly legislative framework for the conduct of ADR, which includes our latest version of the Arbitration Ordinance which is modeled on the 2006 version of the UNCITRAL Model Law as well as the Mediation Ordinance which came into effect on 1 January last year. The Government's commitment to support the development of ADR

is reaffirmed by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address in 2013 and 2014, and by the Financial Secretary in his Budget Speech this February.

6. As the Government is working on different planes to promote our ADR services and facilitate their development, we very much welcome law students from different parts of the world to take part in mooting competitions held in Hong Kong. Law students are the key to the future development of ADR. The International ADR Mooting Competition conducted by the CityU Law School is a highly commendable initiative as it can provide an effective platform for participants to learn from each other, to enhance their understanding of ADR and also to polish their skills in the course of competition.

7. Given the number of teams participating in this competition, I am sure that all the participating teams have to make great efforts in order to excel in this competition. However, I am sure that all the participants would enjoy the process, and that they would treasure the valuable friendship made with people of different background in this competition.

8. On this note, I wish all the participants from outside Hong Kong an enjoyable stay in this international and cosmopolitan city. I also wish the 5<sup>th</sup> International ADR Mooting Competition another year of great success.

Thank you very much.