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International Dispute Resolution through the Geopolitical Fog: What the GBA has to offer

26 MAR 2025 (WED)**18:00 - 19:30 (GMT+8)**

Venue: The Former French Mission Building, 1 Battery Path, Central

In a world enmeshed in geopolitics, commercial organisations and their legal advisers have to meander a myriad of obstacles in their contractual engagements with an eye to the unfortunate event of disputes. What would be the optimal jurisdictional choice? The traditional criterion for an optimal jurisdictional choice lies in efficiency, fairness, knowledge base, and ease of enforcement; however, it is now complicated by sanctions. In *UniCredit Bank GmbH (Respondent) v RussChem Alliance LLC (Appellant)* [2024] UKSC 30, the UK Supreme Court faced a complex situation created by US sanctions against Russian entities. The Court upheld an anti-suit injunction restraining parties from proceeding with a Russian Court action (established by Russian Federation Law to circumvent the sanctions) in favour of ICC arbitration in Paris in accordance with the arbitration agreement. Will the Hong Kong Courts take a similar stance? Hong Kong stands as the nationally acknowledged international beacon for the Greater Bay Area (GBA), with its legal system linking those of the PRC domestic jurisdiction and the Macao domestic jurisdiction. Exploring the advantages of the GBA as an optimal jurisdictional choice for dispute resolution are two well-known practitioners – Anthony Neoh SC JP, Co-Chair of the Asian Academy of International Law is a practicing international arbitrator and the Vice-Chair of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration. He will team up with Joanne Lau, Secretary General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, to share their joint experience in international arbitrations in the GBA, in particular how the Courts have been supporting arbitrations and why the GBA will be able to meander the fog of geopolitics.

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Anthony Neoh SC JP

Co-Chairman
Asian Academy of International Law

Dr Anthony Neoh is a senior member of the Hong Kong Bar specialising in international litigation, arbitration and financial regulatory matters. In 1979, he commenced practice at the Hong Kong Bar after serving for 13 years in the Hong Kong Civil Service. From 1991 to 1994, he was a member of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Council and its Listing Committee, and chaired its Disciplinary Committee and Debt Securities Group, and was Co-Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Hong Kong and China Listing Working Group. He was the chief architect of the legal structure for the listing of Chinese enterprises in Hong Kong. He is former Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission from 1995 to 1998; during this time, he was the first Asian to be elected Chairman of the Technical Committee of the International Organization of Securities Commissions. From 1999 to 2004, he was Chief Advisor of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, at the personal invitation of former Premier Zhu Rongji. Dr Neoh was appointed as Chairman of the Hong Kong Independent Police Complaints Council from June 2018 to May 2021.



Joanne Lau

Secretary-General
Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

Joanne is the Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC). As HKIAC's principal officer, she leads the Secretariat and is responsible for the overall management of the centre, including overseeing its international dispute resolution services and operations across its Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Seoul offices. She also works closely with the HKIAC Council and committees in the development and implementation of HKIAC's strategies and initiatives. Prior to joining the HKIAC, Joanne was a Partner at Allen & Overy, specialising in international arbitration. As counsel, she represented clients in both international commercial arbitrations and investment treaty arbitrations in a wide variety of cases, across multiple sectors, jurisdictions and arbitral rules. She also regularly advised on arbitration-related court matters and sat as arbitrator. Joanne is a past Co-Chair of the HK45 Committee. She has been recognised in leading legal directories, including Chambers & Partners, Legal 500 and Who's Who Legal.