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Chinese Society of International Law

2026 COLLOQUIUM ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

*CREATING
NEW FRONTIERS:*

**Law, Commerce and
ORDER IN
OUTER SPACE**

3 July



2026 COLLOQUIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL LAW

Dispute Resolution in Outer Space

A Practitioner's Perspective

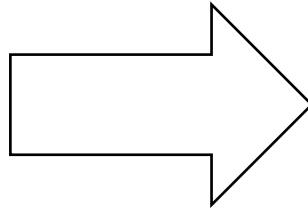
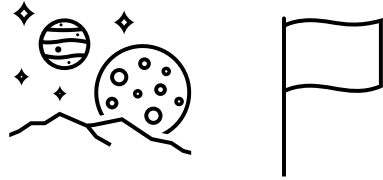
Mr Simon Chapman KC

Managing Partner, Disputes, Asia and Australia
Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer

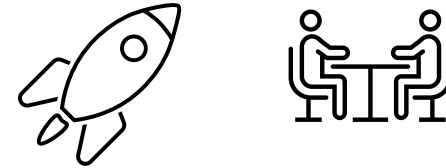
CREATING
NEW FRONTIERS:
**LAW, COMMERCE and
ORDER IN
OUTER SPACE**

The dispute profile is changing

State-led missions



Recurring commercial
infrastructure



State-to-state treaties

More commercial disputes
between private parties

Why arbitration is the practical bridge

- Existing international conventions focus on state liability
- Private space activities governed by commercial contracts
- Specialised contracts can be tailored for unique features of space activities
- A flexible but robust dispute resolution mechanism is needed

Opportunity for Hong Kong

- China's only common law jurisdiction
- Practical advantage under Mainland-Hong Kong Interim Measures Arrangement
- Build the wider space economy ecosystem
- Potential for a specialised Asian Space Law Arbitration Centre