律政司
香港特別行政區政府
Department of Justice
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

HONG KONG LAWTECH FEST 香港法律科技節

HONG KONG LEGAL WEEK 香港法律周2026
2 - 6 November 2026

AAIL ASIAN ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

UNIDROIT CENTENARY | ASIA-PACIFIC

From Dialogue to Legal Innovation

AAIL and UNIDROIT's next century in Asia

Dr Anthony Neoh SC JP

Chairman, Asian Academy of International Law

Regional Conference for the Asia-Pacific & opening of the Asia-Pacific Liaison Office
Hong Kong · 2 November 2026

OUR BEGINNINGS · 2017

Building the Asian conversation

An international non-government platform rooted in Asia

2017

Common Future in Asia

The inaugural annual colloquium

Sources: AAIL inaugural colloquium · AAIL publications

Common Future in Asia

Inaugural annual colloquium, July 2017

An inclusive legal conversation

Practitioners · scholars · officials · institutions

A continuing purpose

Understanding international law — and contribute to it

A BROADENING AGENDA

Trade and commercial law

From the multilateral trading system to commercial contracts

2017 · WTO	Law and policy of the World Trade Organization
2020 · CISG	Fortieth-anniversary conference with UNCITRAL and DoJ
2022 · Legal practice	CISG training: contract drafting, obligations and remedies

- Also: sustainable connectivity · sanctions · climate change · digital finance · the international legal order

Sources: AAIL WTO workshop · CISG conference programme · AAIL CISG workshop · AAIL publications

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

Developing international legal talent

Connecting international learning with professional practice

China–AALCO

Annual Hong Kong session

9th edition · July 2026

32 jurisdictions represented

GBA & Mainland

International law practice

Lectures and site visits

Mock hearings and mediation

The Hague Academy

Annual Advanced Course

4th edition · 2026

30 Nov – 4 Dec 2026

Sound rules need people equipped to understand, apply and develop them.

Sources: AAIL China–AALCO programme · AAIL Mainland training · Hague Academy fourth course

A DEEPER RESEARCH ROLE · JULY 2026

Research becomes a starting point

Four discussion papers accompanied the space-law colloquium

01 Strategy
Hong Kong's role in commercial space

02 Infrastructure
Space-asset registration and finance

03 Governance
Lessons from ICAO for orbital traffic

04 Dispute resolution
A Hong Kong-led specialist framework

Research → discussion → testing → refinement

Sources: AAIL July colloquium and four papers · Chairman's foreword · September research seminar

INTERNATIONAL IDEAS · A HONG KONG PROPOSAL

Why Cape Town matters

Predictable private rights can support space-asset finance

The commercial questions

Who owns the asset?

What security can be granted?

Which claim has priority?

The Cape Town approach

Identify assets and interests

Register and rank claims

Provide predictable remedies

AAIL proposal: Space Asset Registration and Finance Ordinance (SARFO)

Sources: AAIL Paper II: proposed SARFO

ESSENTIAL LEGAL DISTINCTIONS

Adaptation, not transplantation

International architecture; local design; rigorous scrutiny

Cape Town system

International interests and priority

Not simply a conclusive title register

Hong Kong proposal

Ownership and financing interests

A preliminary think piece—not enacted law

Space Protocol: not yet in force · Constitutional, conflict-of-laws and insolvency questions remain

Sources: AAIL Paper II, especially executive summary · UNIDROIT Space Protocol status

POSSIBILITIES TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

An agenda for collaboration

Connecting research, regional experience and professional learning

1 **Test proposals against practice**

Scholars, financiers, businesses and practitioners

2 **Build a two-way Asian exchange**

International instruments meet regional experience

3 **Develop people alongside instruments**

Training networks and practical implementation

Suggestions for exploration—not announcements of agreed projects

A SHARED HOME · A SHARED PURPOSE

Neighbours in the next century

From dialogue to workable legal ideas

Exchange experience.
Test assumptions.
Develop useful solutions.

Congratulations on your first century.

We look forward to contributing to the next.

Sources: AAIL research materials · UNIDROIT centenary programme