



Department of Justice
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region



ASIAN
ACADEMY OF
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LAW



The Hague Academy of International Law's Advanced Course in Hong Kong – 1st Edition

Current Trends on International Commercial and Investment Dispute Settlement

The first edition of the Advanced Courses in Hong Kong focuses on the means and current practice of the settlement of international commercial and investment disputes.

For this special programme, the Secretary-General of The Hague Academy of International Law (Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin) has invited leading academics and practitioners from Paris (Professor Diego P. Fernández Arroyo), New York (Professor Franco Ferrari), Bonn (Professor Matthias Weller), Singapore (Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma), and China (Judge Gao Xiaoli) to present expert lectures on 'The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation', 'Investor-State Dispute Settlement', 'International Commercial Arbitration', 'Settlement of International Disputes before Domestic Courts', and 'Latest Developments of Dispute Resolution in China'.

Registered participants will have pre-course access to an e-learning platform that provides reading materials prepared by the lecturers. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants with full attendance.

DATE

11-15
DECEMBER 2023

Language: English
Enquiries: events@aaail.org

THIS COURSE IS FREE OF CHARGE

Completed application form is to be sent to events@aaail.org
by 13 October 2023




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YEARS and beyond
ANS et au-delà



PROGRAMME

The Hague Academy of International Law's Advanced Course in Hong Kong – 1st Edition (2023)

	11 DECEMBER MONDAY	12 DECEMBER TUESDAY	13 DECEMBER WEDNESDAY	14 DECEMBER THURSDAY	15 DECEMBER FRIDAY
09:00 10:00	WELCOME SPEECH <i>Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin</i>	LECTURE 2: Investor-State Dispute Settlement <i>Professor Diego P. Fernández Arroyo</i>	LECTURE 3: International Commercial Arbitration <i>Professor Franco Ferrari</i>	LECTURE 4: Settlement of International Disputes before Domestic Courts <i>Professor Matthias Weller</i>	LECTURE 4: Settlement of International Disputes before Domestic Courts (Cont'd) <i>Professor Matthias Weller</i>
10:00 11:00	WELCOME SPEECH <i>Dr Christophe Bernasconi</i>				
11:00 12:00	OPENING REMARKS <i>Mr Lam Ting-kwok Paul SBS SC JP</i>				
12:00 14:00	LUNCH				
14:00 17:00	LECTURE 1: United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from Mediation <i>Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma</i>	LECTURE 1: United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from Mediation (Cont'd) <i>Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma</i>	LECTURE 2: Investor-State Dispute Settlement (Cont'd) <i>Professor Diego P. Fernández Arroyo</i>	LECTURE 3: International Commercial Arbitration (Cont'd) <i>Professor Franco Ferrari</i>	LECTURE 5: Latest Developments of Dispute Resolution in China <i>Judge Gao Xiaoli</i>



SPEAKERS

(Listed in order of appearance)



Jean-Marc THOUVENIN

Secretary-General
The Hague Academy of International Law

Professor Thouvenin is Secretary-General of The Hague Academy of International Law since 2017, and Associate Member of the Institut de droit international since 2019. He teaches at the Université Paris-Nanterre. He is member of the Board and former Secretary-General of the French Society for International Law and former Director of the Center for International Law of his University. He is a member of the American Society of International Law and International Law Association.

He is a member of the editorial board of different law reviews, including *Annuaire Français de Droit International*. Also, as a Partner in the Law Firm SYGNA PARTNERS, he has appeared as counsel and advocate in a number of cases before the International Court of Justice, the ITLOS (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea), the PCA (Permanent Court of Arbitration), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the European Court of Justice.



Christophe BERNASCONI

Secretary General
The Hague Conference on Private International Law

Dr Bernasconi took the office of Secretary General of The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on 1 July 2013. In 2018, he was reappointed for a further term of five years; in 2023, he was appointed for another five-year term (effective 1 July). Dr Bernasconi had joined the Permanent Bureau (PB) in September 1997 and became Deputy Secretary General in July 2011.

He holds a law degree from Fribourg University in Switzerland (*magna cum laude*; bilingual in German and French), an LL.M. degree in Comparative Law from McGill University in Montreal, Canada (concentration on International Commercial Law, with a Master's thesis on oligopolies in unfair competition law), and a doctoral degree in Private International Law from Fribourg University (*summa cum laude*).

He has been actively involved in numerous normative projects and non-normative activities of the HCCH, covering the full range of its mandate, from transnational litigation and Apostille, to international family and child protection law, as well as commercial, digital and finance law. He also designed and administered the successful electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP). As Secretary General, he is focusing on the good governance and strategic development of the HCCH, spearheading efforts towards its universality and inclusiveness.



LAM Ting-kwok Paul SBS SC JP

Secretary for Justice
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the
People's Republic of China

Before joining the Government, Mr Lam was a Senior Counsel in private practice specialising in general civil and commercial proceedings, and has passed the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination. He was the former Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association from 2014 to 2017 and the Chairman from 2017 to 2018. He sat as a Deputy Judge of the High Court of Hong Kong for short periods each year since 2015. He was once enlisted in the Panel of Arbitrators of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, and was once appointed by the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing as professor. Mr Lam held a number of public service positions, such as Chairman of the Consumer Council, Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Board, Chairman of the Operations Review Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and Member of Independent Police Complaints Council.



Natalie MORRIS-SHARMA

Government Legal Counsel
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Rapporteur
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Working Group III

Ms Morris-Sharma is a Director and Deputy Senior State Counsel in the international law department of Singapore's Attorney-General's Chambers. Prior to this, she served in various capacities, including Director of the International Legal Division of Singapore's Ministry of Law and Legal Advisor to Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Ms Morris-Sharma has participated in and led several bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Amongst her roles at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) were Chairperson of the Working Group that developed the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, Vice-Chairperson of the 50th UNCITRAL Commission session, where she led the meeting on the adoption of the mandate for Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Reform, as well as Rapporteur to the UNCITRAL Working Group on ISDS Reform. Ms Morris-Sharma has published on topics relating to international trade and investment law, law of the sea, the work of the International Law Commission, and treaty law. She has taught at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Law Academy and serves as a counsellor of the American Society of International Law.



Diego P. FERNÁNDEZ ARROYO

Member of the Curatorium
The Hague Academy of International Law

Professor
Sciences Po Law School, France

Diego P. Fernández Arroyo is a professor at Sciences Po Law School in Paris. He teaches subjects related to international dispute resolution, arbitration, private and public international law, comparative law, and global governance, and he is the director of the Sciences Po LL.M. in Transnational Arbitration & Dispute Settlement. Professor Fernández Arroyo is a member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law, a member of the *Institut de droit international*, the current President of the International Academy of Arbitration Law, former President of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP), and former Secretary-General of the International Academy of Comparative Law. He has been invited by a number of universities of Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia; and he has been a Global Professor of New York University. Professor Fernández Arroyo has been a member of the Argentine Delegation before UNCITRAL (Working Groups on Arbitration and on ISDS Reform) since 2003. He is actively involved in the practice of international arbitration as an independent arbitrator. Professor Fernández Arroyo has published several books and a number of articles in publications of more than 20 countries.



Franco FERRARI

Clarence D. Ashley Professor of School of Law
New York University, United States

Professor Ferrari joined the NYU School of Law in 2010; previously, he was a chaired professor of international law at the University of Verona in Italy, a chaired professor of comparative law at the Tilburg University in the Netherlands and the University of Bologna in Italy. After serving as a member of the Italian delegation to various sessions of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) from 1995 to 2000, he was appointed as legal officer at the International Trade Law Branch of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs from 2000 to 2002, where he was responsible for numerous projects, including the preparation of the UNCITRAL digest on applications of the UN Sales Convention. Professor Ferrari has published more than 350 law review articles, book chapters, and encyclopaedia entries in different languages as well as 45 books in the areas of international commercial law, conflict of laws, comparative law, and international commercial arbitration. In addition, Professor Ferrari was awarded 2018 Certificate of Merit for High Technical Craftsmanship and Utility to Practicing Lawyers and Scholars by the American Society of International Law. He is also a member of the editorial boards of various peer-reviewed European law journals and was the General Editor of the *European International Arbitration Review*. Professor Ferrari also acts as an international arbitrator in both international commercial arbitration and investment arbitration.



Matthias WELLER

Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for German and International Civil Procedural Law
University of Bonn, Germany

Professor Weller is Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und-Halbach Professor for civil law, art and cultural property law since 2017, and one of the two Directors of the Institute of German and International Civil Procedure Law in Bonn. He received legal education at the Universities of Heidelberg and Cambridge, United Kingdom. He held various positions, including Joseph Story Fellow of Private International Law at the Harvard Law School from 1998 to 1999, Associate to a leading law firm in Frankfurt in 2001, and Research Fellow at the Institute for Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws and International Business Law at the University of Heidelberg from 2002 to 2010. His prize-winning Ph.D. thesis, supervised by Erik Jayme, focused on the public policy control of international choice of forum agreements. Professor Weller contributed to the foundation of the Institute for Art and Law IFKUR e.V. in Heidelberg, serving as its co-chair from 2006 to 2020, as well as the organisation of the annual Heidelberg Art Law Conference. He worked on appeal cases as an attorney admitted to the bar of the Federal Court of Justice from 2008 to 2009 and obtained his habilitation in 2011. Other than acting as Vice Dean of the EBS Law School and engaging in the foundation of the EBS Law School Research Center for Transnational Commercial Dispute Resolution, he was called to chair for civil law, civil procedure and private international law at the EBS Law School in 2011. Professor Weller has also produced more than 200 publications and delivered nearly 100 presentations on private law, art and cultural property law, private international law, international civil litigation and arbitration as well as transnational commercial law.



GAO Xiaoli

Chief Judge of the 4th Civil Division and Senior Judge of the International Commercial Court
Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China

Judge Gao Xiaoli serves as Chief Judge of the 4th Civil Division and as Senior Judge of the International Commercial Court of the Supreme People's Court (SPC) of the People's Republic of China. Prior to the above positions, Judge Gao served as Deputy Chief Judge of the 6th Circuit Court and as Presiding Judge of the 1st Circuit Court of SPC. Her judicial experience spans over two decades since 2001.

Judge Gao holds a Bachelor of Laws from the China University of Political Science and Law (1994), a Specialised Graduate Diploma from the University of Montreal (2000), a Master of Laws from the Peking University (2001), and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of International Business and Economics (2005). She is associated with the Vice President of Chinese Society of International Law. She is the author of numerous publications, including a monograph entitled *The Application of Public Policy in Private International Law* (2008).

