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Hong Kong Maritime Law Association
香港海商法協會



The Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships



22 May 2026 (Friday) 18:00 - 20:00 (GMT+8)

CPD point
being applied for



The Former French Mission Building, 1 Battery Path, Central, Hong Kong

A ship is among the most international of commercial assets. It may be owned, financed, mortgaged, arrested, sold and re-registered across different jurisdictions. Judicial sale is therefore a crucial enforcement mechanism in maritime commerce, but its value depends on one essential assurance: that the purchaser receives clean title, free from prior mortgages, registered charges and other charges against the ship.

For many years, that assurance has been uncertain in cross-border practice because judicial sale ordered or approved in one jurisdiction may not automatically be recognised by courts or registries elsewhere. This uncertainty exposed purchasers to re-arrest, increased risk for ship financiers, complicated registry practice, and depressed sale prices.

The United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships, commonly known as the 'Beijing Convention', entered into force on 17 February 2026. It aims to establish a harmonised regime for giving international effect to judicial sales that confer clean title, including registry action, deletion of pre-sale mortgages and registered charges, as well as protection against arrest for claims arising before the sale.

With Dr Anthony Neoh SC JP, Chairman of the Asian Academy of International Law, as moderator, this seminar brings together leading voices from the UNCITRAL, private practice, maritime finance and Hong Kong's maritime administration to examine the Convention's history, structure, impact and future prospects, and to consider its significance for Hong Kong, Chinese Mainland and international maritime commerce.

For more information, please refer to the [AAIL Research Paper on the Convention](#), and the [full text of the convention with explanatory note](#) prepared by the UNCITRAL Secretariat.

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Language: English

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18:00 - 19:10
Seminar

19:10 - 20:00
Networking Reception

Speakers

(listed in order of appearance)



Anthony Neoh SC JP

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.



Anna Joubin-Bret *(video presentation)*

The Secretary
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

Ms Anna Joubin-Bret is the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Director of the International Trade Law Division in the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, which functions as the substantive secretariat for UNCITRAL. She is the ninth Secretary of the Commission since it was established by the General Assembly in 1966. Prior to her appointment on 24 November 2017, Ms Joubin-Bret practised law in Paris, specialising in International Investment Law and Investment Dispute Resolution. She focused on serving as counsel, arbitrator, mediator and conciliator in international investment disputes. She served as arbitrator in several ICSID, UNCITRAL and ICC disputes. Prior to 2011 and for 15 years, Ms Joubin-Bret was the Senior Legal Adviser for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She edited and authored seminal research and publications on international investment law, notably the Sequels to UNCTAD IIA Series and co-edited with Jean Kalicki a book on Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement in 2015. Ms Joubin-Bret holds a post-graduate degree (DEA) in Private International Law from the University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, a Master's degree in International Economic Law from University Paris I and in Political Science from Institut d'Etudes Politiques. She was Legal Counsel in the legal department of the Schneider Group, General Counsel of the KIS Group and Director-Export of Pomagalski S.A. She was appointed judge at the Commercial Court in Grenoble (France) and was elected Regional Counsellor of the Rhône-Alpes Region in 1998.

Speakers

(listed in order of appearance)



Li Lianjun

Senior Partner
Reed Smith Richards Butler LLP

Mr Lianjun Li is a Senior Partner at Reed Smith Richards Butler LLP, and Head of the firm's Commercial and Shipping Litigation Department. He is a Founding Member, Director, and Honorary Legal Adviser of the Hong Kong Chamber of Shipping, and Chairman of the China Committee of the Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group. He also serves as a member of the Hong Kong Election Committee and a member of the Hebei Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from Hong Kong and Macau. Lianjun is a qualified solicitor in Hong Kong, England and Wales, and the Guangdong-Hongkong-Macao Greater Bay Area of China, as well as a China-Appointed Attesting Officer appointed by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China. Lianjun has extensive experience in international trade, commercial, maritime, transportation, shipping, shipping finance, cross-border investment, litigation, and arbitration. He has also served as an international commercial and maritime arbitrator for many years. He has been recognised as a leading lawyer by *The Legal 500*, *Chambers*, *China Business Law Journal*, and other organisations for many years.



Logan Chong

Former Member
Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board

Mr Logan Chong headed Shipping Finance for Asia Pacific at Societe Generale and then Head of Shipping Finance for Asia-Pacific at BNP Paribas Hong Kong. Mr Chong has over 30 years' experience in structured finance, including over 25 year experience in shipping finance and shipping client relationship coverage in the region. He pioneered major shipping finance deals, including introducing UK and French tax leases to Asia and first off-balance sheet ship financing as well.



Eric W. C. Lee

General Manager, Ship Registration & Quality
Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Mr Eric Lee is the General Manager of Ship Registration and Quality in the Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD), overseeing ship registration, fleet quality, as well as regional desk services and promotion at overseas. With over a decade of experience as an Engineering Officer (rose to Chief Engineer) on ocean-going vessel, he has extensive expertise in shipbuilding, inspection, and regulatory compliance. Since joining HKMD in 2012, Mr Eric Lee has been active in guiding shipowners through the complexities of sustainable maritime practices, and striving for the high quality and excellent reputation of the Hong Kong flag in the international arena. Mr Eric Lee was the Chairman of Hong Kong Joint Branch (HKJB) of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST) and the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA) in 2020-2021. He is also the founding member of the Energy Discipline of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Marine Technology (HKIMT).



William Blair

Independent Arbitrator
3 Verulam Buildings Chambers, London

Sir William (Bill) Blair is Professor of Financial Law and Ethics at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London. He served on the London Commercial Court, which is the forum for many international maritime cases, becoming Judge in Charge of the Court, and was the first President of the Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities. He serves on the Steering Group of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts of which China is a founder member. Sir William is an independent arbitrator practising from 3 Verulam Buildings Chambers, London, with appointments as Chair, sole arbitrator and party-appointed arbitrator under major arbitration rules. The European Commission has included him in the list of arbitrators suitable for appointment as Chairperson in Arbitrations under trade agreements to which the EU is a party. He is Chair of the Bank of England's Enforcement Decision Making Committee (EDMC), and Honorary Chair of the International Monetary Law Committee of the International Law Association. He is a member of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, and sits as a judge in the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, and as a deputy judge in the Hong Kong High Court. A member of the ethics committee of a digital start up funder, Sir William has written and spoken on legal subjects all over the world, and at various times served on missions for the World Bank, the IMF, and the Asian Development Bank.

