

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joint Mediation Helpline Office commences operation on 12 July 2010

Hong Kong · 12 July 2010 --- The Hong Kong Mediation Council, the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch), the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and the Hong Kong Mediation Centre jointly participate and set up the Joint Mediation Helpline Office (“the JMHO”) to provide one-stop mediation referral services for parties in need of mediation services, particularly for parties in litigation. Parties now need only to fill in and submit a request for mediation form and the JMHO shall then refer those parties with agreement to mediate to the participating mediation service provider to appoint the mediator and commence the mediation.

“The Helpline is more than just a mediation service provider. The Helpline serves as a firm base for operating various kinds of mediation services and schemes to further enhance mediation as an effective dispute resolution mechanism. I am extremely pleased that Hong Kong is one of the first in setting up a helpline of this kind, which I can see with great potential,” said Mr. Chan Bing Woon SBS JP, Chairman of the JMHO, today.

The JMHO is a not-for-profit organization and commences operation today (12 July 2010) to assist parties in need by matching them with the mediation services of the service providers.

Users of mediation may now contact the JMHO by visiting its office at Room LG102, Lower Ground First Floor of the High Court Building, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong, by phone to Tel.:2901 1224, by e-mail to email@jointmediationhelpline.org.hk, by visiting its website at <http://www.jointmediationhelpline.org.hk>.

The JMHO opens from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

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