

Press Release

The Law Society of Hong Kong and DIFC Courts Forge Closer Cooperation Through Memorandum of Understanding Signing

Yesterday (23 May 2024), The Law Society of Hong Kong and the Dubai International Financial Centre (“DIFC”) Courts signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to enhance partnership as leading common law institutions. It was the first agreement of its kind between The Law Society of Hong Kong and a Middle East courts system.

Mr C. M. Chan, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong; and His Excellency Justice Omar Al Mheiri, Director of the DIFC Courts, signed the MOU at a ceremony held at the DIFC Courts in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (“UAE”), in the presence of prominent leaders including Mr Paul Lam, SC, Secretary for Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, who was leading a strong Hong Kong delegation to the Middle East.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Chan said the MOU signing represents a new chapter underscoring a shared belief in the power of international cooperation and exchange to strengthen respective legal frameworks. The MOU aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, training programmes and mutually supportive initiatives, signifying a step forward in solidifying the two common law institutions’ ongoing collaborative relationship and shared values of safeguarding the rule of law and providing world-class legal services.

His Excellency Justice Omar Al Mheiri, Director of the DIFC Courts, highlighted the importance of connectivity which is one of the four mission pillars of the DIFC Courts. Working with global legal bodies fosters exploration of practical synergies and sharing of best practices. From his experience, collaborative relationships serve not just the organisations involved, but more importantly, the overall good of the communities.

The MOU with the DIFC Courts added to previous partnerships with other prominent international organisations and lawyers’ associations, such as the AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (2023), Astana International Financial Centre Authority (2022), Commonwealth Lawyers Association (2023), LAWASIA (2022) and International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) (2019). Deepening ties with the DIFC Courts would further strengthen Hong Kong’s position as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services. The Law Society of Hong Kong is delighted to secure a new bond with this leading common law institution, and to collaborate together for the sustainability of the legal profession.

About the DIFC Courts

The UAE’s DIFC Courts administers a unique English-language common law system – offering swift, independent justice to settle domestic and international commercial or civil disputes. The Courts, based in Dubai, provides certainty through transparent, enforceable judgments from internationally-recognised judges, who adhere to the highest global legal standards. The DIFC Courts is independent from, but complementary to, the UAE’s Arabic-language civil law system – offering a choice that strengthens both processes, while ensuring public access to world-class justice.

Photos

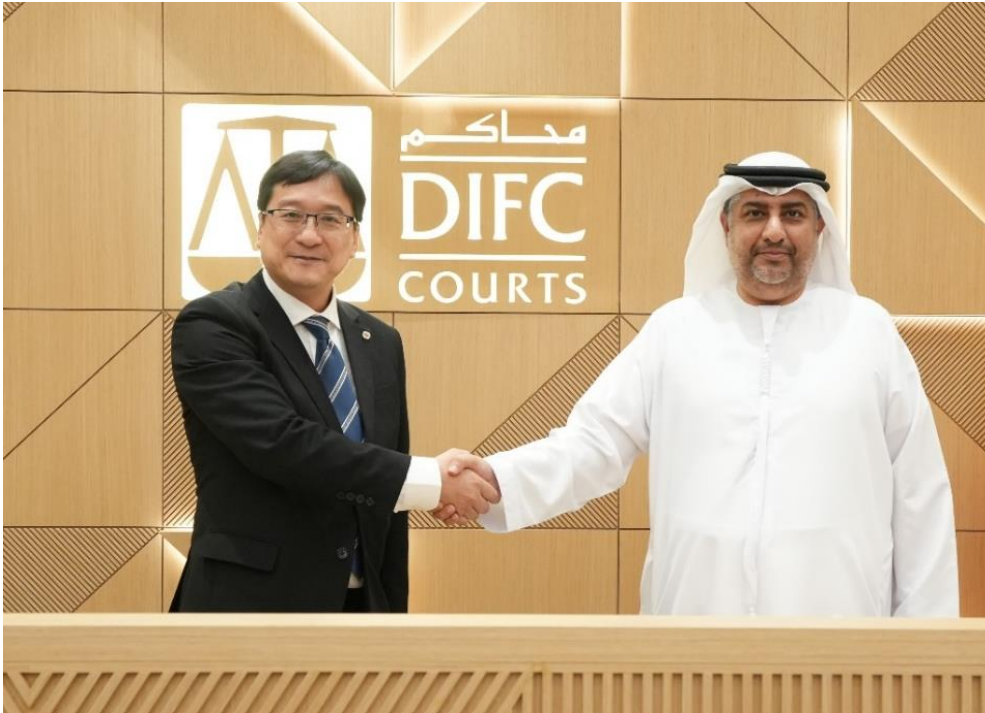
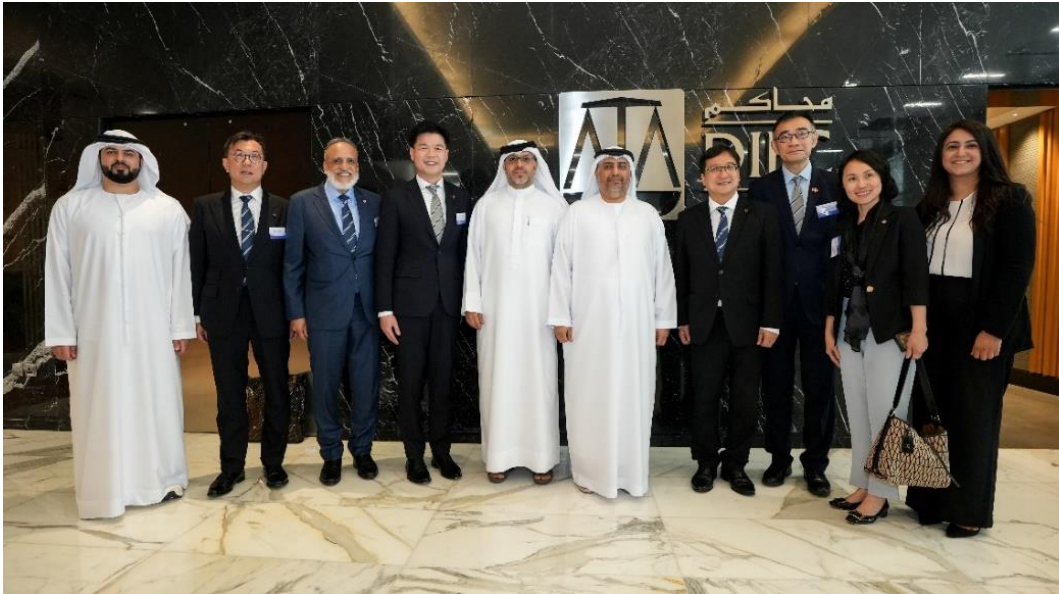


Photo shows Mr C. M. Chan, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong (left); and His Excellency Justice Omar Al Mheiri, Director of the DIFC Courts (right), at the MOU Signing Ceremony.



Photo shows representatives of The Law Society of Hong Kong and the DIFC Courts.



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Photo shows the Hong Kong legal and business delegation and representatives of the DIFC Courts.