Press Release Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited ("HKMAAL") goes live

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The Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited ("HKMAAL") is pleased to announce its official launch of its website <u>www.hkmaal.org.hk</u> and the commencement of its business at the Secretariat's office on 38th floor, Two Exchange Square, Central today. HKMAAL is a non-statutory, industry-led accreditation body. The four founder members of HKMAAL are The Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Hong Kong Mediation Centre who have much experience in operating their respective accrediting systems.

In Hong Kong there are over 30 mediation accreditation bodies each adopting its own training and accreditation criteria. There is no legislation which stops the creation of mediation accreditation bodies. With the hard work of the Secretary for Justice's Mediation Task Force, its Accreditation Group and the Founder Members, a broad consensus has been reached to establish a single accreditation body.

The HKMAAL was established to create the premier accreditation body for mediators in Hong Kong, discharging both accreditation and disciplinary functions. Whilst it will set standards for training and accreditation, HKMAAL itself will not provide training courses. Members of HKMAAL are organizations, and it is intended that a member of HKMAAL would have to abandon its own accreditation system once being admitted. The intention is eventually to form a single accreditation system in Hong Kong.

This is undoubtedly another major milestone in the development of mediation in Hong Kong and will further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international dispute resolution centre.

Please <u>click here</u> for information about the HKMAAL.

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