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News Release

Delhi Mediation Centre joins leading regional mediation centres to provide regional dispute resolution framework for Asian businesses

Kuala Lumpur, 12 September 2008 – The Delhi Mediation Centre (DMC) signed an MOU with the Asian Mediation Association (AMA) to become the latest member of AMA. DMC and other AMA members are committed to pooling their resources to promote and facilitate the use of mediation to settle business disputes in the region effectively, efficiently and amicably. AMA members provide a dispute resolution infrastructure for conflict management and dispute resolution that supports the increasing cross-border investment and trade activities of the fast growing Asian economies.

The AMA was formed and officially launched on 17 August 2007 in Singapore. The other existing AMA members are the Hong Kong Mediation Centre, the Indonesian Mediation Center, the Malaysian Mediation Centre, the Philippine Mediation Center and the Singapore Mediation Centre.

The AMA MOU signing ceremony for the admission of DMC as AMA member was witnessed by The Honourable Justice Dato' Gopal Sri Ram, Judge of the Court of Appeal Malaysia and distinguished guests from across Asia. The ceremony was hosted by the Malaysian Mediation Centre and held at the Malaysian Bar Council Building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A panel discussion on the development of mediation in the respective jurisdictions of the AMA Members was held after the signing ceremony.

Datuk Haji Kuthubul Zaman Bukhari, Chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Bar Council that runs the Malaysian Mediation Centre said, "We are really pleased to host this signing ceremony to welcome

the Delhi Mediation Centre into the AMA family. This is a milestone for the Asian Mediation Association and the mediation movement in Asia. We hope to continue to bring on board more Asian members to widen the network of cooperation."

Mr Loong Seng Onn, Executive Director of the Singapore Mediation Centre said, "It was almost a year ago that the Singapore Mediation Centre, as Secretariat of the Asian Mediation Association, approached Delhi Mediation Centre to join the Asian Mediation Association. We are very delighted that the initial contact has come to fruition. Having a representative organisation from India, which is widely acknowledged as an economic powerhouse, means greater potential for the development of mediation as the preferred means of dispute resolution for cross-border commercial disputes for the region."

The MOU to admit Delhi Mediation Centre as an AMA member was signed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Delhi High Court, Delhi Mediation Centre; Ms Sylvia Siu, JP, Chairman of Board of Governors, Hong Kong Mediation Centre; Mr Denaldy M. Mauna, Chairman of Indonesian Mediation Center; Datuk Haji Kuthubul Zaman Bukhari, Chairman of Malaysian Mediation Centre; Mr Dicasaran Acraman, Administrative Officer, Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur representing the Philippine Mediation Center; and Mr Loong Seng Onn, Executive Director, Singapore Mediation Centre.

The Secretariat of AMA is currently at the Singapore Mediation Centre, Singapore. The Singapore Mediation Centre will also host and maintain an upcoming AMA website.

Among other things, the members of the AMA have established the AMA Protocol for the Referral of Disputes, a system for a member organisation to refer disputes to other member organisations in cases where a neutral venue for conflict management and resolution is required. For example, a dispute between a disputant from Member A's country and another from Member B's country may be referred for mediation at Member C. The members of the AMA will also co-operate in research and development to advance the field of mediation, and to develop a culturally appropriate model of conflict management and resolution for Asia.

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About Asian mediation Association (AMA)

The Asian Mediation Association (AMA) consists of member organisations involved in mediation, which are based in Asia. AMA seeks to provide a framework for effective and efficient resolution of commercial disputes in the region. It is also established to enable its member organisations to share resources, best practices, experience and local knowledge. This is done through case referrals, joint promotional events, conferences, and research and development projects. The AMA was officially launched on 17 August 2007 in Singapore. For more information on AMA, please visit: http://www.mediation.com.sg/Asian_Mediation_Association.htm

About Delhi Mediation Centre (DMC)

The Delhi Mediation Centre (DMC) was started by the District Courts in Delhi and has evolved a unique method of alternative dispute resolution which can best be described as 'judicial mediation'. This form of dispute resolution was initiated by a Committee appointed by the Chief Justice of India consisting of Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, a Judge of the Delhi High Court, Senior Advocates and a judicial officer as being best suited to the needs of litigants in India and in consonance with the social ethos of India. One of the most significant aspects of judicial mediation is that the service is provided at absolutely no cost to any litigant. On the contrary, on the conclusion of a successful mediation, followed by a decree, the plaintiff is entitled to (and is given) a refund of court fees in terms of Section 16 of the Court Fees Act, 1870. In cases where the Mediator feels it appropriate, tea or coffee is even offered to the litigants and their lawyers free of charge. All this has added to the uniqueness of the judicial mediation programme conducted by the Delhi Mediation Centre. Apart from case settlement, as a result of the effective management of the programme, the Delhi Mediation Centre has been able to successfully train eleven judicial officers as mediators and has even been invited by the Madhya Pradesh High Court (at Jabalpur) and the National Judicial Academy at Bhopal to share its experiences and conduct training programmes in mediation.

About Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC)

Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC) is a company limited by guarantee and enjoys the status of a charitable institution recognized by the government. It is also the first non-profit corporate mediation institution with charitable institution status in Hong Kong. It is made up of a group of professionals interested in the promotion of mediation and other kinds of dispute resolution. HKMC is driven by its mission to practise, promote, develop and institutionalize mediation as a way of life so as to build up harmonious families, neighbours, workplaces, business communities, human relationships and societies in Hong Kong.

About The Indonesian Mediation Center (IMC)

The Indonesian Mediation Center (IMC) is an independent, non-profit Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) body dedicated to resolving commercial disputes and mediation training. Being staffed with experienced mediators drawn from diverse areas of law, banking, engineering and business, The Indonesian Mediation Center can provide the right mediator for any dispute and is recognized as the mediation leader in Indonesia. The establishment of a sustainable ADR facility in Indonesia is as a necessary complement to various policy initiatives aimed at revitalizing Indonesia's economy, especially in terms of stimulating businesses that are major participants in the chain of jobs creation, foreign direct investment, industrial orders and production.

About Malaysian Mediation Centre (MMC)

Malaysian Mediation Centre (MMC) is a body established under the auspices of the Malaysian Bar Council with the objective of promoting mediation as a means of alternative dispute resolution and providing a proper avenue for successful dispute resolutions. The Centre offers mediation services and provides mediation training for those interested in becoming mediators and accredits and maintains a panel of mediators. Currently, MMC is made up of lawyers who have completed the training program for mediation and deals with civil, commercial and matrimonial matters and intends to expand the scope to other matters at a later stage.

About Philippine Mediation Center (PMC)

Pursuant to Supreme Court "en banc" Resolution A.M. No. 01-10-5-SC-PHILJA, dated October 16, 2001, and in line with the objectives of the Action Program for Judicial Reforms (APJR) to decongest court dockets, among others, the Court prescribed guidelines in institutionalizing and implementing the mediation program in the Philippines. The same resolution designated the Philippine Judicial Academy as the component unit of the Supreme Court for Court-Annexed Mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms, and established the Philippine Mediation Center (PMC). Pending the formal creation of a more organized and structured Philippine Mediation Center, a Mediation Division at the Judicial Reforms Office of the Philippine Judicial Academy-Supreme Court, was established to oversee and manage Mediation Center Units all over the country. Since its inception in 2001,

the Mediation Center Units have grown from seventeen (17) units in the National Capital Region to One Hundred Thirteen (113) Units located in Ten (10) out of the Thirteen (13) Regions in the country.

About Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)

Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) is a non-profit organisation established in 1997 to provide commercial mediation services. It is structured as a company limited by guarantee of the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL). With the support of the Singapore Judiciary, the SAL, the Ministry of Law and various professional and trade organisations, the SMC has successfully spearheaded the mediation movement in Singapore and continues to promote the use of mediation and other non-confrontational dispute resolution methods. Over 1,400 civil matters of all types and involving different quantum of claims (up to multi-million dollar disputes) have been referred for mediation at the SMC. An impressive 75% of these have successfully reached amicable settlements with more than 90% of these settled within one day. In the area of training, SMC has established for itself a reputation as one of the leading conflict management training providers, having trained people from more than 80 countries worldwide including Austria, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Malta, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. For more information on SMC, please visit <http://www.mediation.com.sg/>