



UNCITRAL ASIA PACIFIC DAY REPORT 2021

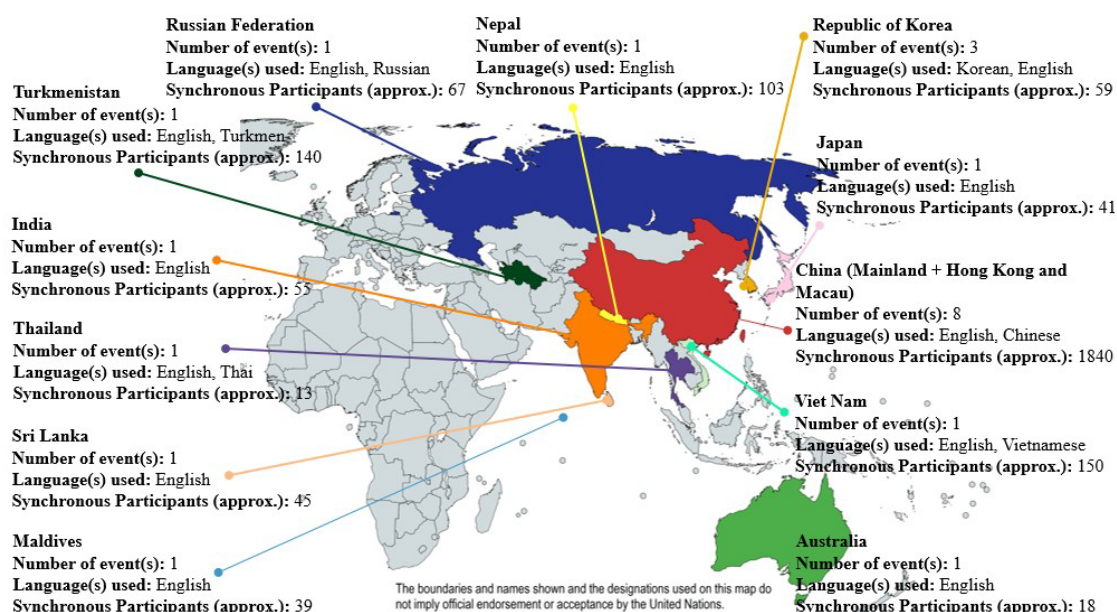


UNCITRAL ASIA PACIFIC DAY REPORT 2021

Introduction

1. The second report on the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day (“**AP Day**”) series highlights the objectives of this flagship activity, the deliverables produced, and the outcomes achieved. An introduction of the UNCITRAL AP Day series and an illustrated summary of the salient features of the 2021 series are first provided, followed by highlights from each activity and concluding remarks. A list of participating universities and institutions arranged by jurisdiction appears at **Annex I** and testimonials from partnering institutions appear at **Annex II** in the final pages of the report.

AP Day 2021: a snapshot



A brief recapitulation

2. The AP Day is an annual flagship academic series launched in 2014 by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (“**UNCITRAL RCAP**”) to commemorate the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 establishing UNCITRAL, which has since come to be the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.

3. Since the first edition of the AP Day series in 2014, universities and institutions across the Asia-Pacific region jurisdictions have joined the annual celebration by co-hosting a series of academic events with UNCITRAL RCAP to promote awareness of international trade standards and norms, particularly those endorsed by UNCITRAL, amongst law students — the next generation of legal thinkers and policymakers. These events are academic in nature and are free of admission charges. Some participants have noted that the deliverables may serve to provide capacity building to public and private stakeholders, and assist participating jurisdictions in their consideration of adopting UNCITRAL texts.

4. The number of participating partners and participants have grown significantly since 2014. For example, in 2020 which was the seventh edition of the flagship event, a ground-breaking total of 35 universities and institutions in 10 Asia-Pacific jurisdictions¹ co-hosted 19 events, reaching a global live audience of over 8,500 participants. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (Vienna, 1980) (“**CISG**”), the CISG was the main focus of the AP Day 2020. Other UNCITRAL topics covered, included dispute settlement, investor-state dispute settlement (“**ISDS**”), micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (“**MSMEs**”), insolvency, security interests, and e-commerce. In April 2021 the inaugural edition of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day Report was published on the UNCITRAL website as an informal Commission document for its 54th session.² This enabled Member States and the public to learn more about the history, developments and benefits of this flagship event.

5. The success of the AP Day has led to the expansion of “UNCITRAL days” to other regions, including the launch of the inaugural Latin America and the Caribbean Day in 2020. At the fifty-fourth session of the Commission in 2021, the Commission commended the secretariat for the UNCITRAL day events, noting that their main objective was to raise awareness of UNCITRAL among law students, future participants in and contributors to the work of UNCITRAL. The Commission also

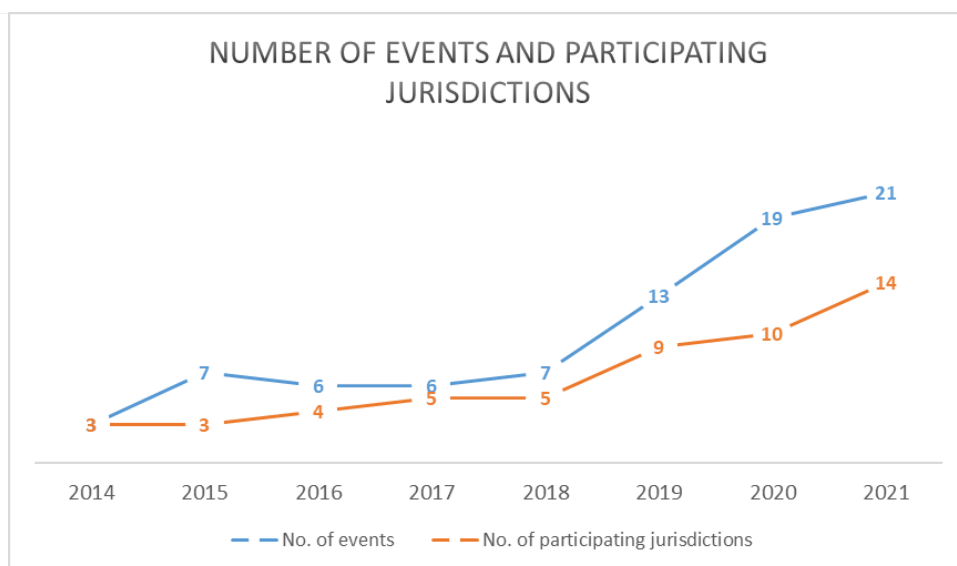
¹ Australia, China (including the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions), India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

² The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2020 Report may be accessed at https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/apdayreport_2020.pdf.

welcomed the opportunity that the “UNCITRAL days” had provided to States and partner organizations to illustrate their contributions to the harmonization of international trade law in practice through the use of UNCITRAL texts in their own technical assistance activities. The Commission welcomed the successes of the annual UNCITRAL Day in both the Asia-Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean regions, welcomed the forthcoming 2021 series, and took note of the potential benefits for other regions to host UNCITRAL Day events.³ The UNCITRAL secretariat looks forward to further expanding the UNCITRAL Day series to more regions including Africa in 2022.

AP Day 2021 series

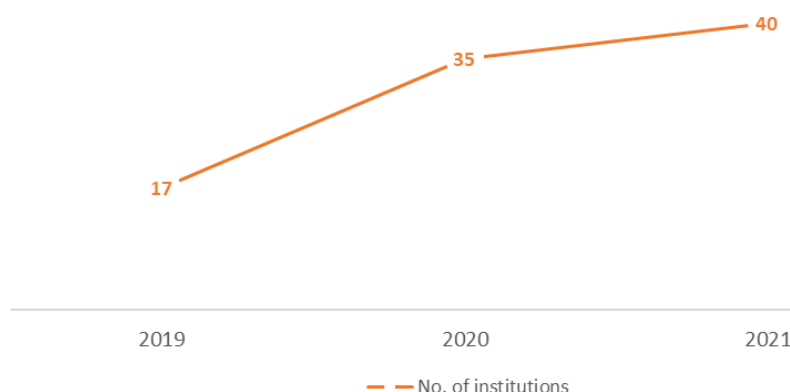
6. The AP Day 2021 series is the eighth edition of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day flagship and was held from the last quarter of 2021 to early February 2022. Despite the continued outbreak of the coronavirus disease (“**COVID-19**”) pandemic the AP Day series expanded in key metrics: the number of activities grew by 10 percent from 19 events in 2020 to 21 events in 2021, and the jurisdictional coverage grew by 40 percent from 10 to 14 jurisdictions, with the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Turkmenistan hosting their inaugural AP Days.



³ See paragraphs 308 to 315, <https://undocs.org/en/A/76/17>.

7. The total number of participating universities and institutions also increased by 14 percent from 35 participants in the 2020 series to a total of 40 in 2021.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS



2021 UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day



The UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day is an annual flagship academic series launched in 2014 by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific ("UNCITRAL RCAP") to celebrate the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2205 (XX) of 17 December 1966 establishing UNCITRAL, which has since come to be the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.

This year, an initial 34 universities and institutions across the Asia-Pacific region in 13 jurisdictions have joined the annual celebration to commemorate the establishment of UNCITRAL by co-hosting a series of academic events with UNCITRAL RCAP to promote awareness of international trade standards and norms, particularly those endorsed by UNCITRAL, amongst law students — the next generation of legal thinkers and policymakers. The main theme of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day 2021 is "Enabling MSMEs and Assisting Economic Recovery through Legal Harmonization". Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises ("MSMEs") represent the majority of businesses in most jurisdictions and account for a large portion of overall employment. However, MSMEs worldwide experience similar obstacles to doing business at all stages of their operation. These obstacles have been exacerbated by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Asia Pacific Day 2021 theme provides a synoptic view of how different areas of the work of UNCITRAL reduce the legal obstacles encountered by MSMEs throughout their life cycle.

October 2021

- Department of Security Convergence, Graduate School, Chung Ang University / Seoul, Republic of Korea (Virtual)
- Jungseok Research Institute of International Logistics and Trade, Hwa University / Incheon, Republic of Korea (Virtual)
- Renmin University Law School and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) / Beijing, China (Hybrid)
- Asia Pacific Law Institute, Seoul National University / Seoul, Republic of Korea (Virtual)

November 2021

- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) / Shanghai, China (Hybrid)
- Department of Law, The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC), and International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRI) / Hong Kong SAR, China (Virtual)
- Shanghai University of International Business and Economics and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) / Shanghai, China (Hybrid)
- Faculty of Law, Thammasat University / Bangkok, Thailand (Virtual)
- Beijing Normal University (BNU) / Beijing, China (Hybrid)
- Kathmandu University School of Law (KUSL) & Nepal International ADR Center (NIAC) / Kathmandu, Nepal (Virtual)
- UNCITRAL Asia Pacific - Latin American and Caribbean Day, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Universidad de las Américas, Universidad Nacional de Chimborazo, and the Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in Korea / Ecuador & Republic of Korea (Hybrid)

- Turkmen State University, International University of Humanities and Development, International Relations Institute, Turkmen Institute of Economy and Management, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan / Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (Virtual)

December 2021

- Law School of Wuhan University and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) / Wuhan, China (Hybrid)
- Faculty of Law, University of Macau / Macau SAR, China (Hybrid)
- Foreign Trade University / Hanoi, Vietnam (Virtual)
- Gujarat National Law University Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCUCL) / Gujarat, India (Hybrid)
- Center for Asian Legal Exchange, Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University / Nagoya, Japan (Hybrid)
- School of Law, Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) / Vladivostok, Russia (Hybrid)
- The Maldives National University, Villa College, Aard College, and Madrasa Harkat Society (MHKS) / Male, Maldives (Virtual)
- Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) / Shanghai, China (Hybrid)

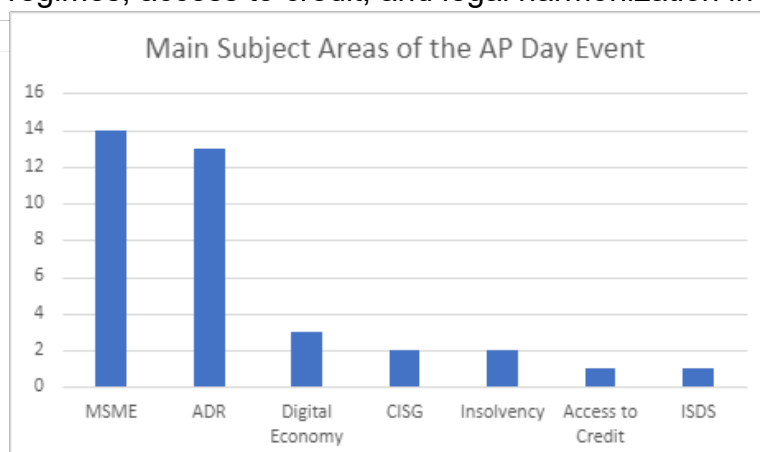
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For inquiries or proposals for UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day, please contact UNCITRAL RCAP at: uncitral.rcap@un.org

Theme

8. The theme for the AP Day 2021 was “**Enabling MSMEs and Assisting Economic Recovery through Legal Harmonization**”. MSMEs represent the majority of businesses in most jurisdictions and account for a large portion of overall employment. However, MSMEs worldwide experience similar obstacles to doing business at all stages of the operation. These obstacles have been exacerbated by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, making the MSME theme timely and relevant. In addition, UNCITRAL has been working both directly and indirectly to reduce the legal obstacles faced by MSMEs in a number of key areas to assist transitioning from the informal to the formal economy and benefiting therefrom. These areas include business formation,⁴ access to credit, digital economy, insolvency,⁵ and dispute resolution. The MSME theme therefore provides a synoptic view of how different areas of UNCITRAL’s work facilitate the doing of business at various stages of an enterprise.⁶ Partnering universities and institutions were also welcomed to propose other themes. Topics explored together with the MSME theme included commercial arbitration and mediation, ISDS, online dispute resolution, CISG, electronic commerce, insolvency, simplified business formation and registration regimes, access to credit, and legal harmonization in special economic zones.



**More than one subject area may be covered in any given event.*

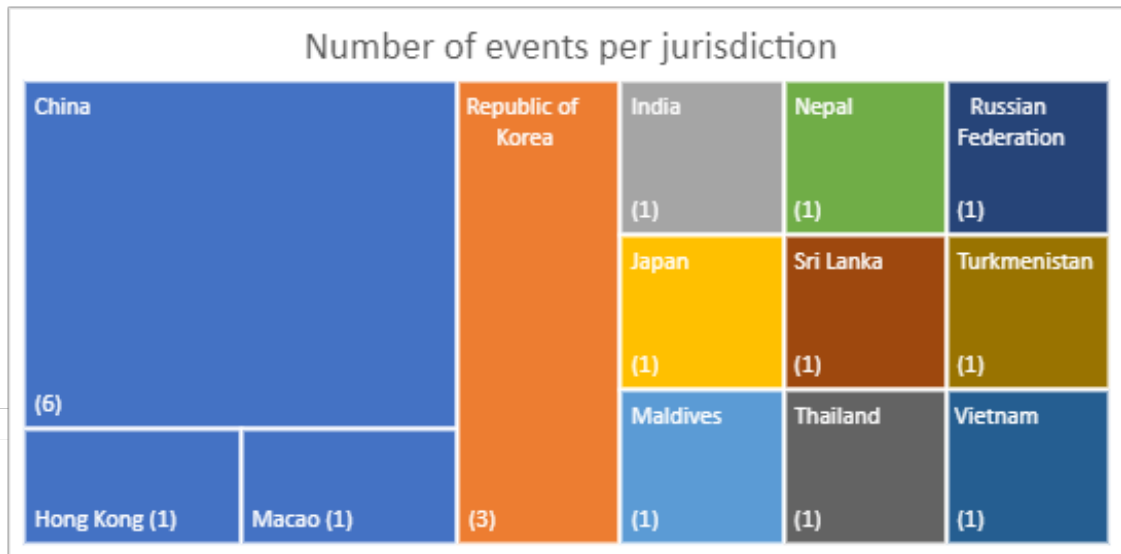
⁴ In addition to the Legislative Guide on Key Principles of a Business Registry (2019), UNCITRAL adopted the Legislative Guide on Limited Liability Enterprises (LLE) at its 54th session which provides for a simplified legal form for businesses and facilitates the formation and operation of MSMEs: <https://undocs.org/en/A/CN.9/1062>.

⁵ UNCITRAL adopted the Legislative Recommendations on Insolvency of Micro and Small Enterprises at its 54th session aimed at assisting States with establishing a simplified insolvency regime to address the insolvency of individual entrepreneurs and micro and small businesses: <https://undocs.org/A/CN.9/1052>.

⁶ For more information on UNCITRAL work on MSMEs, see: <https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/msmes>.

Participating jurisdictions

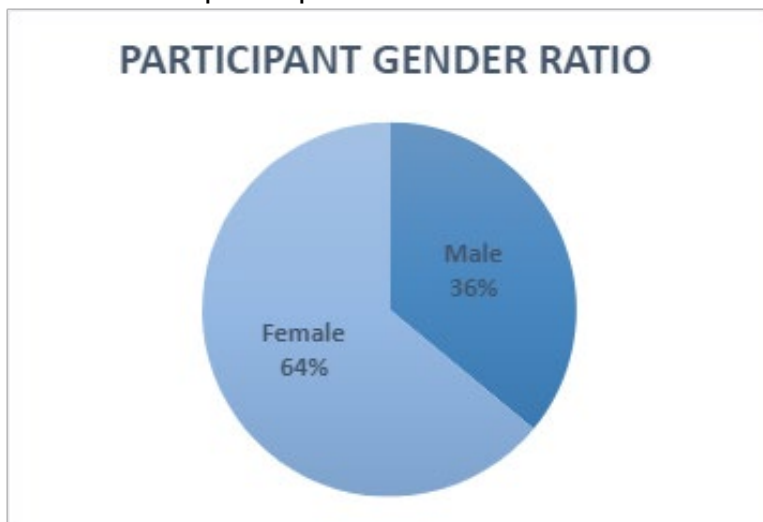
9. The 14 jurisdictions which participated in the AP Day 2021 series are: Australia (1 event), China (6), Hong Kong, China (1), Macao, China (1), India (1), Japan (1), Maldives (1), Nepal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Russian Federation (1), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (1), Turkmenistan (1), and Viet Nam (1). Among these, four jurisdictions hosted their first AP Day events, namely Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Turkmenistan, thereby expanding jurisdictional reach, audience diversity, and inclusiveness.



Participation, audience diversity and gender parity

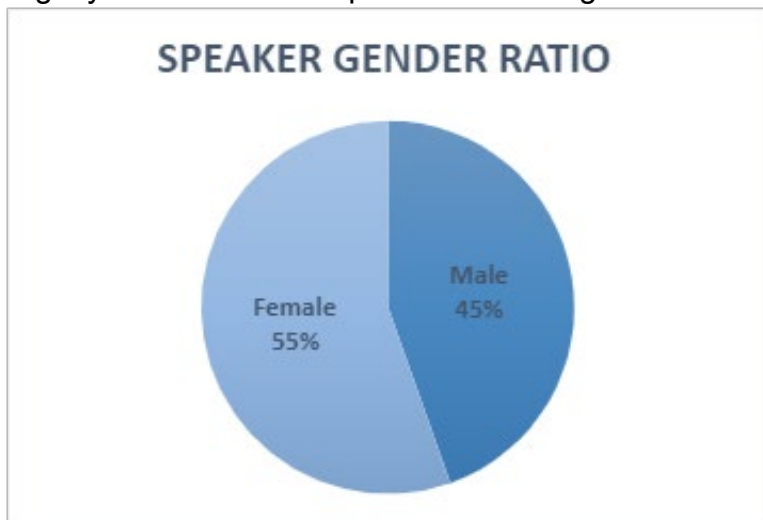
10. Further cementing the academic focus of the AP Day series, recent years have seen an increasing number of partnering institutions opening mooting competitions or encouraging participation in mooting with AP Day lectures or conferences. For example, the 2020 series saw such events hosted by Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and National Law University Delhi, and the 2021 series by Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, Sri Lanka Law College, and the Moot Court Bench. UNCITRAL RCAP warmly welcomes the pairing of AP Day and mooting activities as both promote the key goal of cultivating young generations of legal professionals.

11. Audience composition continued to be diverse, with over 60% of the participants being female, based on statistics provided by co-organizers where gender breakdown was available. In addition, while most AP Day activities were geared towards law students and the academic community, many were online or hybrid conferences open to public audiences from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.



**Based on statistics provided by co-organizers where gender breakdown was available.*

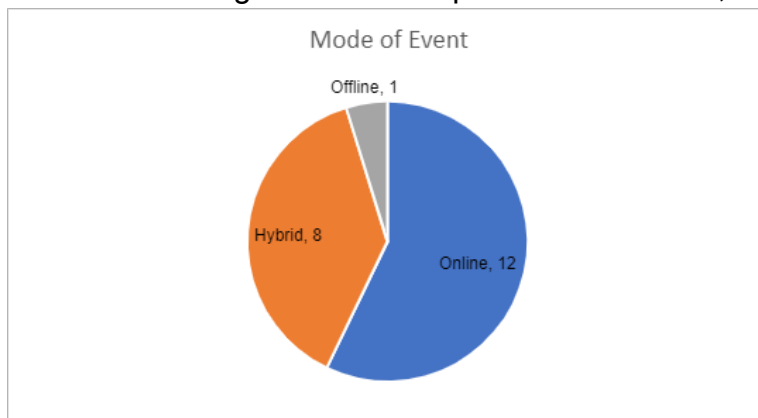
12. Gender parity is also realized in experts participating in AP Day events, with slightly over half of the speakers including moderators being female.



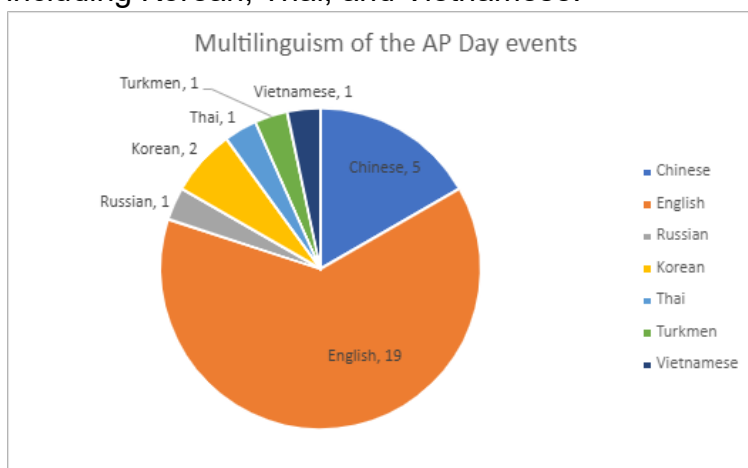
**Based on information provided by co-organizers where gender breakdown was available.*

Regional accessibility, multilinguism, deliverables and formats

13. As with previous editions, the format of the AP Day 2021 events ranged from closed in-class lectures to full-day public international conferences. In light of the ongoing travel and organizational restrictions imposed across the region, the majority of the events continued to adopt an online format, with 8 events adopting a hybrid format combining online and in-person attendance, and 1 event held in person.



14. As with the last edition, UNCITRAL RCAP officers supported all AP Day activities and when time differences permitted, were joined by colleagues from the UNCITRAL secretariat in Vienna who delivered technical presentations on the CISG, the UNCITRAL mediation framework, and insolvency. The majority of contributions continued to take the form of live remote presentations. Where live presentations were not possible, UNCITRAL RCAP provided tailor-made video remarks or institutional support. To enhance regional accessibility and multilinguism, UNCITRAL RCAP and participating experts delivered contributions in multiple United Nations official languages, particularly English, Chinese, and Russian, as well as regional languages including Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese.



**Based on information available from the co-organizers.*

Partner institutions

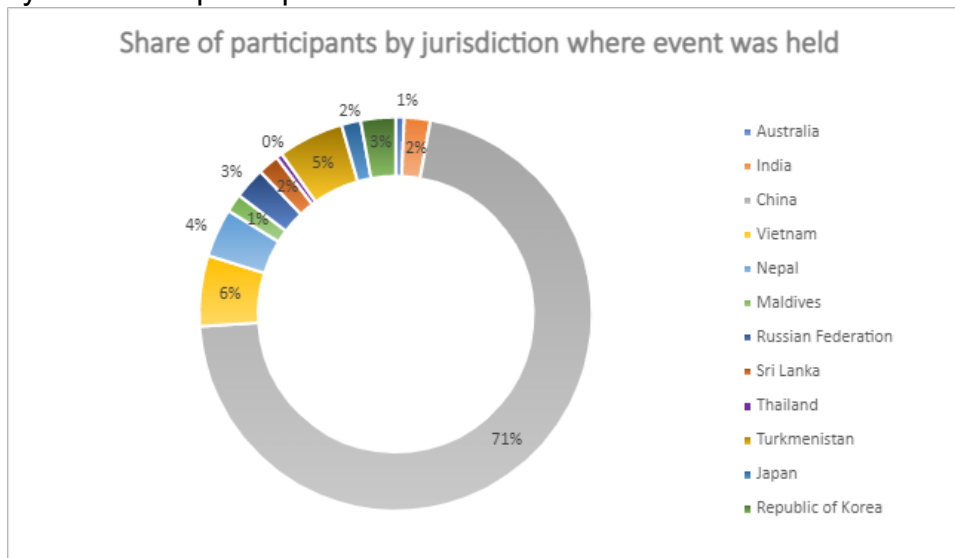
15. Since 2019, UNCITRAL RCAP has partnered with the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”), in particular the ICC Arbitration and ADR, North Asia and Shanghai Representative Office, to promote and expand the AP Day series to new collaborators across the region. The events jointly held with ICC this year focused on dispute resolution from the perspective of MSMEs which was of great interest to various stakeholders. The UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules (2021) received special attention as they were recently adopted by UNCITRAL in 2021 and are highly relevant in providing expeditious and cost-effective dispute settlement to MSMEs. In 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP and the ICC successfully co-organized a total of 6 hybrid and in-person events in China with a cumulative synchronous audience of approximately 1300 participants.

16. In addition to its fruitful collaboration with the ICC, UNCITRAL RCAP is grateful for the support it has received from all AP Day partner institutions, which apart from universities and higher education institutions include arbitral and mediation institutions, professional bodies, and UNCITRAL national coordination committees.⁷ In particular, UNCITRAL RCAP welcomes the following new collaborators:

- Avid College (Maldives)
- International University of Humanities and Development (Turkmenistan)
- Kathmandu University School of Law (Nepal)
- Maldives Moot Court Society (Maldives)
- Maldives National University (Maldives)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (Turkmenistan)
- Nepal International ADR Center (Nepal)
- Thammasat University Faculty of Law (Thailand)
- The Moot Court Bench (MCB) (Sri Lanka)
- The Sri Lanka Law College (Sri Lanka)
- UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia (UNCCA) (Australia)
- University of Western Australia (Australia)
- Villa College (Maldives)
- WTO Law Research Society of China Law Society (China)

⁷ Please refer to Annex I for the full list of the AP Day 2021 series partnering institutions.

17. Altogether, the AP Day 2021 series reached a global live audience of over 2,500 synchronous participants.



Supporting progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals

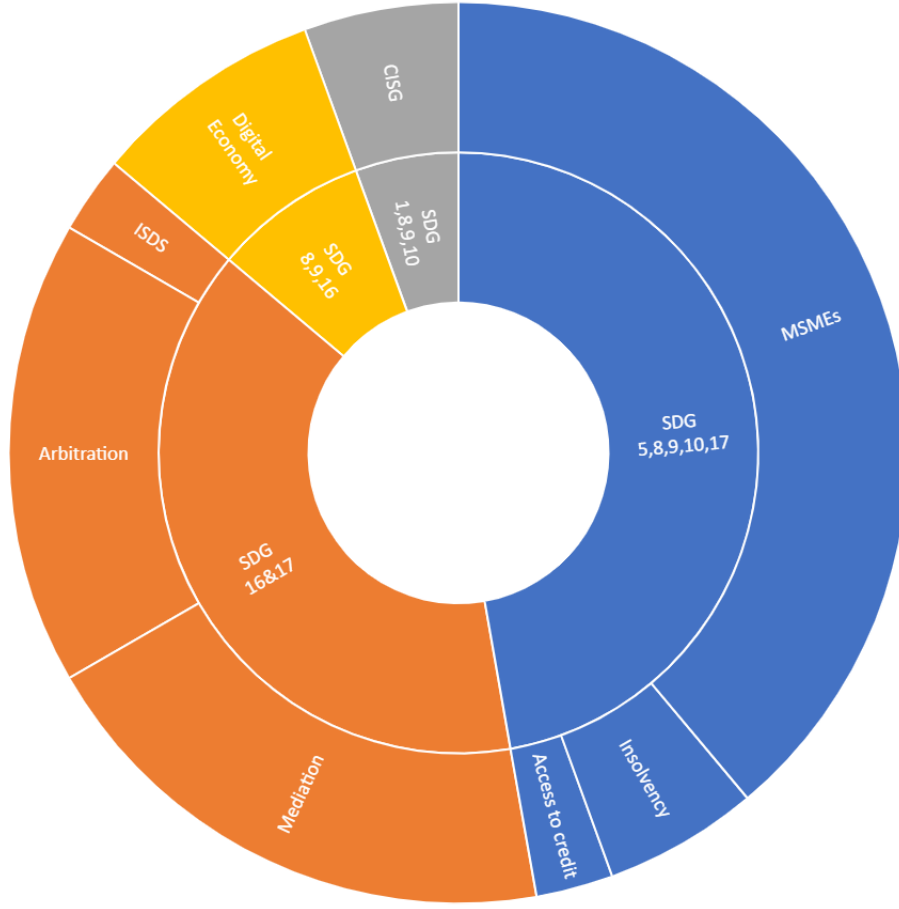
18. In light of the comprehensive themes and topics explored during the AP Day 2021 series on enabling MSMEs and assisting economic recovery through legal harmonization and how to improve legal frameworks for the facilitation of international trade and investment generally, inclusive participation by experts and audiences from diverse jurisdictions and backgrounds, the focus on educating the next generation, expanded modes of delivery, and deliverables in multiple United Nations and regional languages, the AP Day 2021 events have, as with the last edition, supported UNCITRAL's contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on several fronts, including:⁸

⁸ For more information on UNCITRAL's contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (generally and with reference to specific subject-areas), please visit the UNCITRAL website at <https://uncitral.un.org/en>.



- Goal 4 : ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Goal 8 : promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Goal 9 : build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- Goal 12 : ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Goal 16 : promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- Goal 17 : strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Comprehensive breakdown of key UNCITRAL topics discussed during the AP Day 2021 series and their contribution to SDGs



UNCITRAL online training course

19. UNCITRAL's first online training course - "Introduction to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law" – was also introduced as a key feature in the AP Day events. Developed in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization ("ITC-IL"), the interactive and self-paced course introduces users to legal harmonization and promoting international trade, UNCITRAL's methods of work, and how UNCITRAL texts contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The online course is free of charge and an electronic certificate is downloadable from the platform for users who complete all three modules. The course, currently available in English and Chinese, is accessible via UNCITRAL's official webpage at: <https://uncitral.un.org>.

1. register via link on UNCITRAL's website

<https://uncitral.un.org>

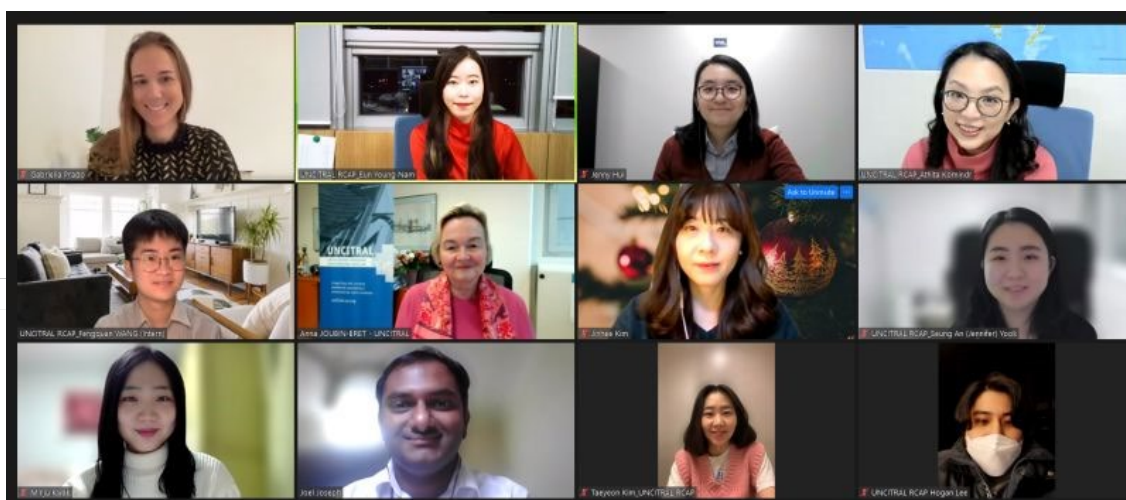
2. enroll & enjoy

Online Course: Introduction to UNCITRAL

United Nations UNCITRAL ITC-IL

UNCITRAL RCAP Internships

20. Another theme highlighted throughout the AP Day 2021 series was the UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme. Anchored from the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific office in Incheon, Republic of Korea, interns will improve their knowledge of international trade law principles by gaining first-hand experience about the work of UNCITRAL, activities of the secretariat and the principal areas in which it operates, including technical assistance to trade law reform, and broad exposure to the activities of an international organization. Interns work under the direct supervision of UNCITRAL RCAP professional staff and the positions are for a duration of two to six months. Given the uncertainties due to COVID-19, the internship may be undertaken remotely from each intern's country of nationality/residence.⁹



⁹ For general information on the United Nations internship programme, please visit: <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=ip>

Highlights of the AP Day 2021 series

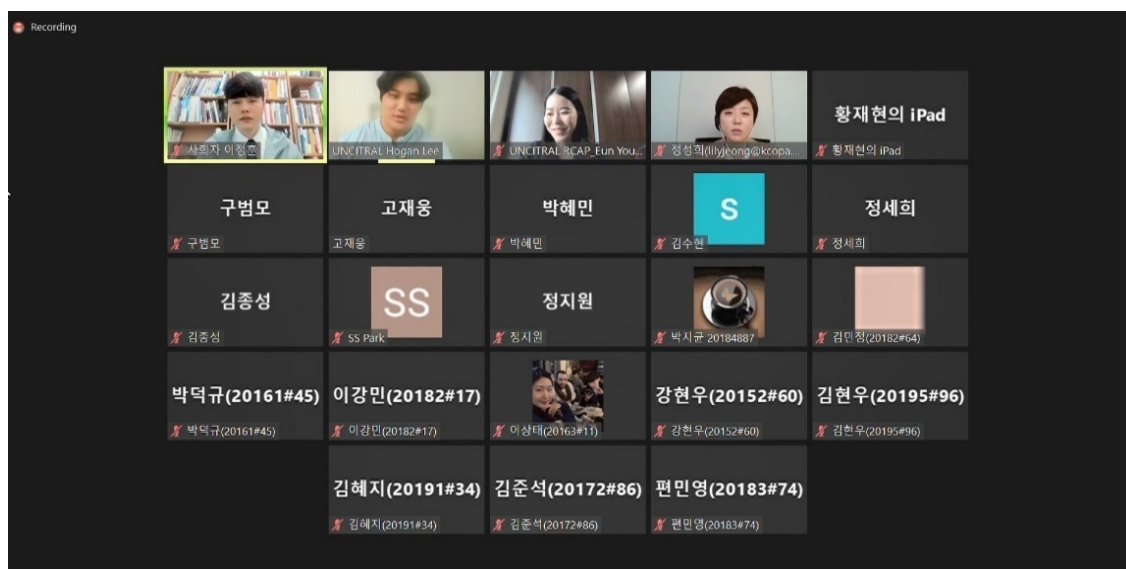
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| Chung-Ang University (Seoul, 13 October 2021)..... | 16 |
| Inha University (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 14 October 2021)..... | 17 |
| Renmin University and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Beijing, 22 October 2021)..... | 18 |
| Seoul National University (Seoul, 26 October 2021)..... | 19 |
| Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and..... | 20 |
| International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Shanghai, China, 5 November 2021)..... | 20 |
| Department of Law, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China, 10 November 2021).... | 21 |
| Faculty of Law, Thammasat University (Bangkok, 12 November 2021)..... | 22 |
| Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (Shanghai, China, 15 November 2021)..... | 23 |
| Beijing Normal University (Beijing, 16 November 2021)..... | 24 |
| International University of Humanities and Development (Ashgabat, 16 November 2021) | 25 |
| Kathmandu University School of Law (Kathmandu, 19 November 2021)..... | 26 |
| Institute of International Law, Wuhan University and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Wuhan, China, 4 December 2021)..... | 27 |
| School of Law, Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 13 December 2021) | 28 |
| The Faculty of Shari'ah and Law, Maldives National University..... | 29 |
| Villa College and Avid College (Malé, 14 December 2021)..... | 29 |
| Nagoya University (Nagoya, Japan, 15 December 2021)..... | 30 |
| University of Western Australia (Perth, Australia, 17 December 2021)..... | 31 |
| University of Macau (Macao, China, 17 December 2021) | 32 |
| Foreign Trade University Hanoi (Hanoi, 20 December 2021)..... | 33 |
| Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL) and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Shanghai, China, 28 December 2021) | 34 |
| Sri Lanka Law College (SLLC) and the Moot Court Bench (MCB) (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10 January 2022)..... | 35 |
| Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCCIL), Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) (Gujarat, India, 3 February 2022) | 36 |

The List of Participating Universities and Institutions in the UNCITRAL AP Day 2021 Series is available at Annex I.

21. The 2021 AP Day series was successfully organized with the generous support and collaboration of institutional and academic partners throughout the region. Each AP Day activity had its own unique and diverse features in terms of deliverables, topics covered, audience reached, and mode of delivery. The following are special highlights of each AP Day activity listed in chronological order:

Chung-Ang University (Seoul, 13 October 2021)

The AP Day 2021 series was officially launched with Chung-Ang University on 13 October 2021 via an online lecture delivered in Korean. Around 16 students attended this event, of which 7 were female and 9 were male. UNCITRAL RCAP provided an overview of UNCITRAL and UNCITRAL RCAP, including its activities and internship programme, and an overview of various UNCITRAL texts. The presentation focused particularly on the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules. UNCITRAL RCAP interns also shared their experiences in the internship programme. This event raised awareness of the role of UNCITRAL role in the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law in national legal systems and how continuous efforts are being made internationally to ensure that arbitration develops into an even more cost-effective and expeditious method of dispute resolution while maintaining a careful balance between the efficiency of the arbitral process and the parties' rights to due process and fair treatment.



Inha University
(Incheon, Republic of Korea, 14 October 2021)

The second event of the AP Day 2021 series was held with Inha University on 14 October 2021 via an online in-class lecture delivered in Korean. 13 students attended this event, of which 9 were female and 4 were male. UNCITRAL RCAP officers provided an overview of UNCITRAL and UNCITRAL RCAP, including its activities and internship programme, and an overview of various UNCITRAL texts. The presentation highlighted the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules and cross-border e-commerce. The event concluded with an in-depth and dynamic question and answer session regarding the UNCITRAL internship programme, the daily work of an UNCITRAL intern, and application requirements.



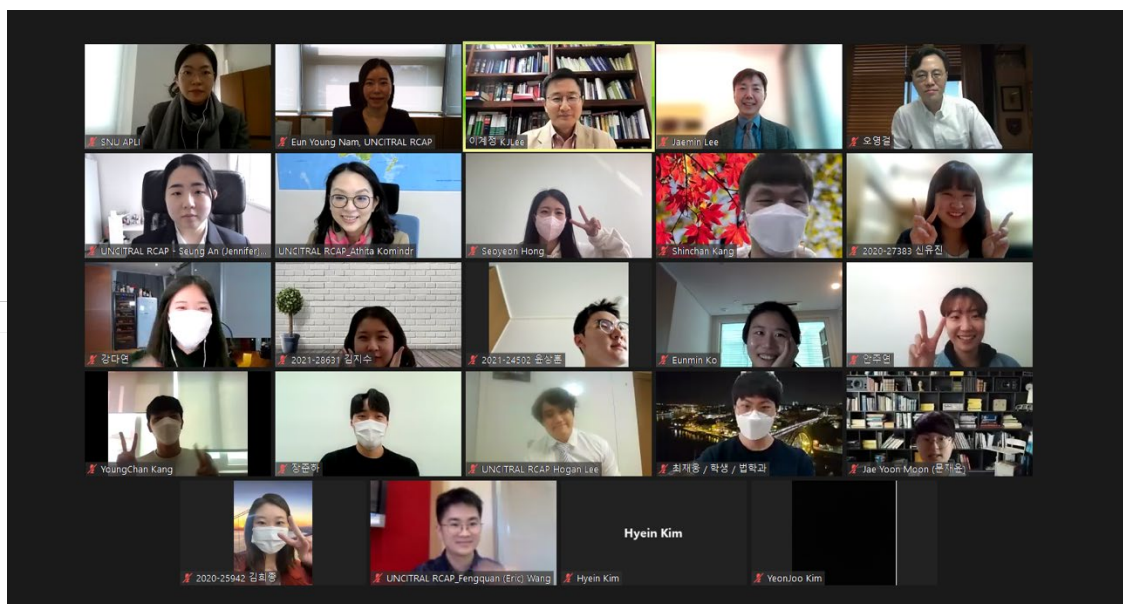
Renmin University and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Beijing, 22 October 2021)

On 22 October 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP co-organized the AP Day event under the theme “Mediation: Finding Another Way of Cross-border Dispute Resolution--from Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Perspective”, with the Renmin University Law School and the ICC Shanghai Representative Office. The event was held in a hybrid format with in-person participation at the Renmin University Law School and conducted in English and Chinese. Approximately 95 law students attended of which 58 were female and 37 were male, and 10 academics and legal practitioners participated. UNCITRAL RCAP delivered opening remarks at the event by introducing UNCITRAL and its work on MSMEs (Working Group I) and mediation, in particular how UNCITRAL mediation texts benefit MSMEs. Other speakers, including legal practitioners and academics, explored the enforceability of settlement agreements resulting from cross-border mediation in general and the preparatory work for the implementation of the Singapore Convention on Mediation in China. This event provided insights on the potential benefits to MSMEs on a harmonized and expedited enforcement framework for settlement agreements resulting from mediation and the practical issues that a jurisdiction may face when incorporating international conventions into its domestic law.



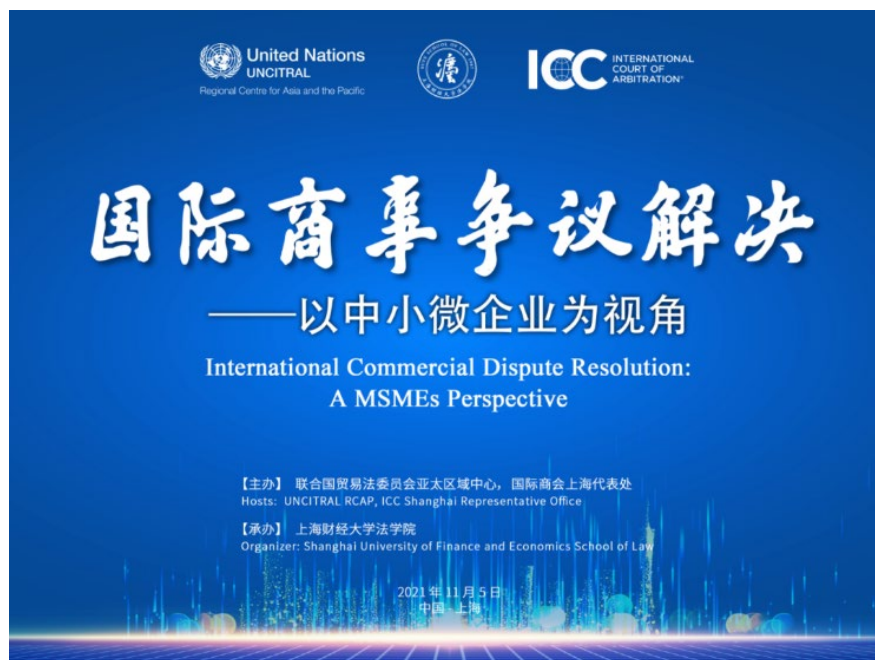
Seoul National University (Seoul, 26 October 2021)

The third and final UNCITRAL AP Day hosted in the Republic of Korea was held online with Seoul National University on 26 October 2021. 30 students attended this event. UNCITRAL RCAP officers introduced students and faculty to the work of UNCITRAL and its texts, including the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules. The UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme was also introduced with UNCITRAL RCAP interns describing typical assignments including attending and reporting on awareness-raising activities like AP Day. A Professor at Seoul National University introduced the audience to the work methods of the UNCITRAL Working Groups.



**Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
(Shanghai, China, 5 November 2021)**

On 5 November 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP co-organized the AP Day event under the theme “International Commercial Dispute Resolution: A MSMEs Perspective” with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and ICC Shanghai Representative Office. The public event was held in a hybrid format and conducted in English and Chinese, focusing on the latest trends in international commercial dispute resolution practice and how they are continuously enhanced to facilitate effective dispute resolution for MSMEs. UNCITRAL RCAP officers delivered opening remarks by introducing the establishment and mandate of UNCITRAL, and the contributions of UNCITRAL in dispute resolution, especially how UNCITRAL instruments facilitate MSMEs’ resolution of disputes and enhance access to justice. Twenty participants, comprising legal practitioners and academics of which 13 were female and 6 were male attended this event. The event addressed various topics from MSMEs’ perspective, such as expedited arbitration and cross-border commercial arbitration and mediation. The Executive Deputy Secretary-General of China Academy of Arbitration Law introduced key elements of expedited arbitration procedures by analyzing the expedited arbitration rules of UNCITRAL, ICC and APEC, pointing out that efficiency is the core pursuit of expedited arbitration. Furthermore, a Professor of Law at University of International Business and Economics and leading legal practitioners introduced various arbitration frameworks to demonstrate the significance of arbitration as a tool for resolving international disputes, and highlighted the role of commercial mediation in assisting and supporting MSMEs.



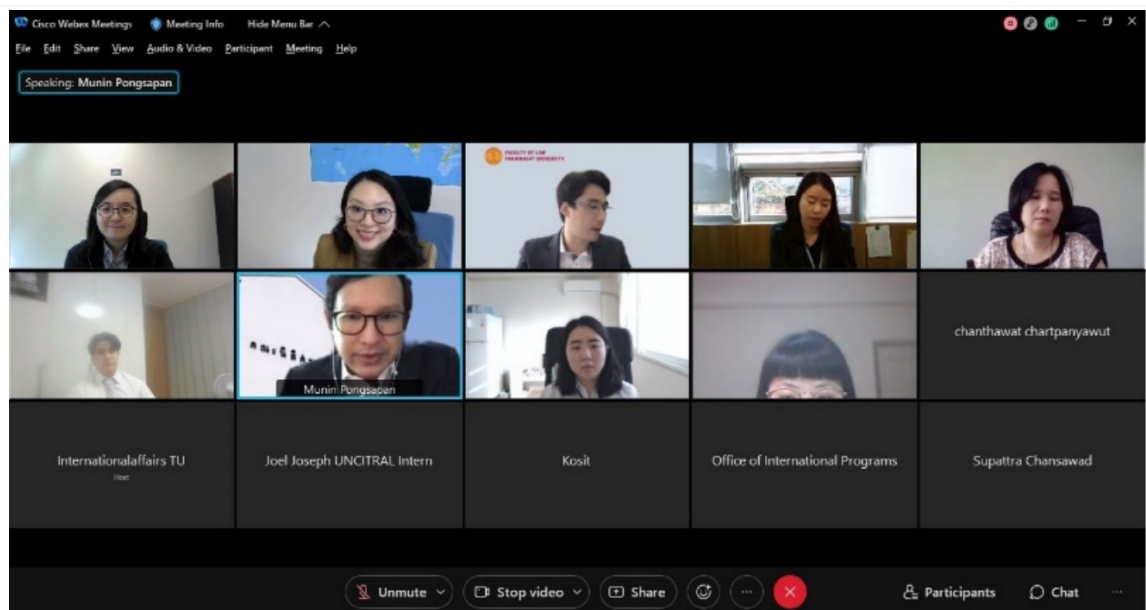
Department of Law, The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China, 10 November 2021)

On 10 November 2021, the AP Day 2021 event was launched in collaboration with the Department of Law of the University of Hong Kong (“**HKU**”), the Hong Kong Mediation Centre (“**HKMC**”), and the International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (“**IDRRMI**”). About 205 participants, including law students, academics and legal practitioners joined this online event. Themed “The Role of Dispute Resolution in Assisting MSMEs Economic Recovery”, the webinar focused on facilitating smaller businesses in resolving disputes generally, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNCITRAL RCAP officers first introduced UNCITRAL and shared an overview of its mandate. Also introduced were UNCITRAL’s first online e-learning module entitled “Introduction to UNCITRAL”, currently available in English and Chinese, and the UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme. The moderator, a Professor and Associate Dean (International) of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong highlighted the essential role of dispute resolution in assisting and supporting MSMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Head of the Department of Law of the University of Hong Kong discussed the significance of online dispute resolution (ODR) for MSMEs in business-to-business (“B2B”) and business-to-customer (“B2C”) disputes and emphasized the advantages of ODR in cross-border e-commerce. In the ensuing presentations, the Director and Principal Mediator and Dispute Resolution Consultant of the Asia Mediation Centre pointed out the need for a business to foresee threats such as the pandemic, and plan for solutions, allowing the company to minimize the risk and mitigate the impact of such threats. The director also gave an example from Malaysia to show the benefits of mediation to economic recovery. The final speaker, the President of the Hong Kong Mediation Centre and Chairman of the International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute, noted the need for MSMEs to have stable finance, opportunities, protection, policy support and collaboration to grow sustainably, and highlighted the cruciality for a business to provide effective and fair ways of dispute resolution, as well as to have professional and well-designed procedures.



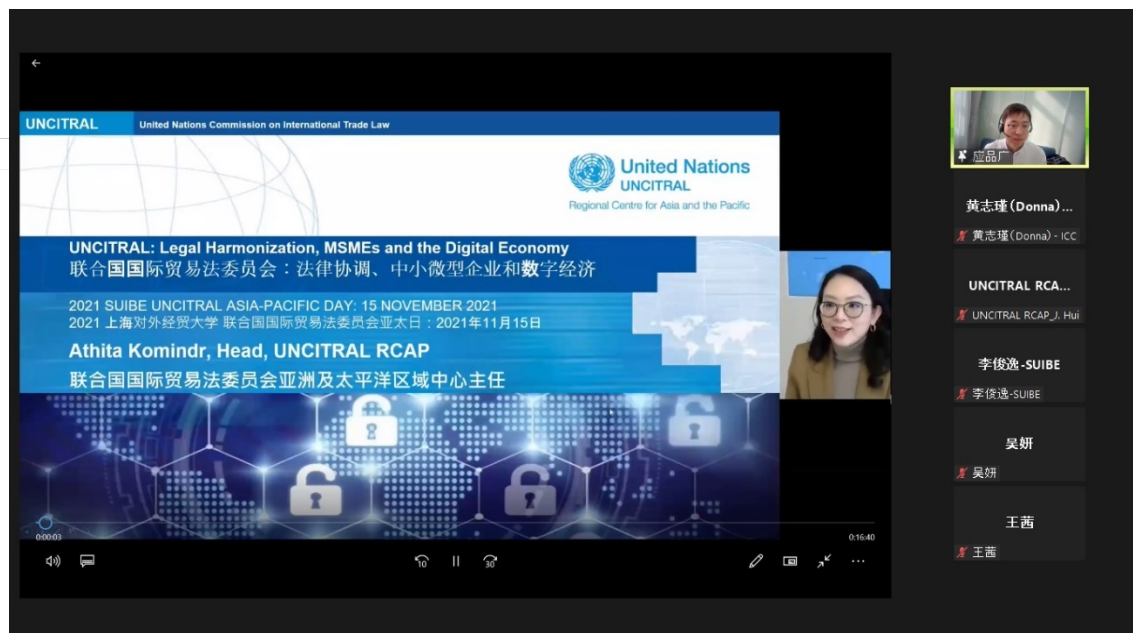
Faculty of Law, Thammasat University (Bangkok, 12 November 2021)

On 12 November 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP organized an AP Day event with the Faculty of Law of the Thammasat University in Thailand, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The AP Day event was held virtually and attracted around 13 participants, including professors and legal practitioners. The event focused on how different areas of the work of UNCITRAL may reduce the legal obstacles encountered by MSMEs throughout their life cycle, especially in Thailand. The Dean of the Faculty of Law of Thammasat University opened the event and welcomed all the participants. An UNCITRAL RCAP officer introduced UNCITRAL and its work on legal harmonization, MSMEs and the digital economy. An official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand also presented Thailand's role in UNCITRAL and explained how UNCITRAL initiatives may benefit Thai MSMEs. UNCITRAL RCAP legal experts then presented an overview of UNCITRAL texts on dispute resolution, focusing on UNCITRAL arbitration and mediation instruments. Finally, the UNCITRAL e-learning modules and the UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme were presented by UNCITRAL RCAP officers with current and past interns sharing experiences to encourage students to apply.



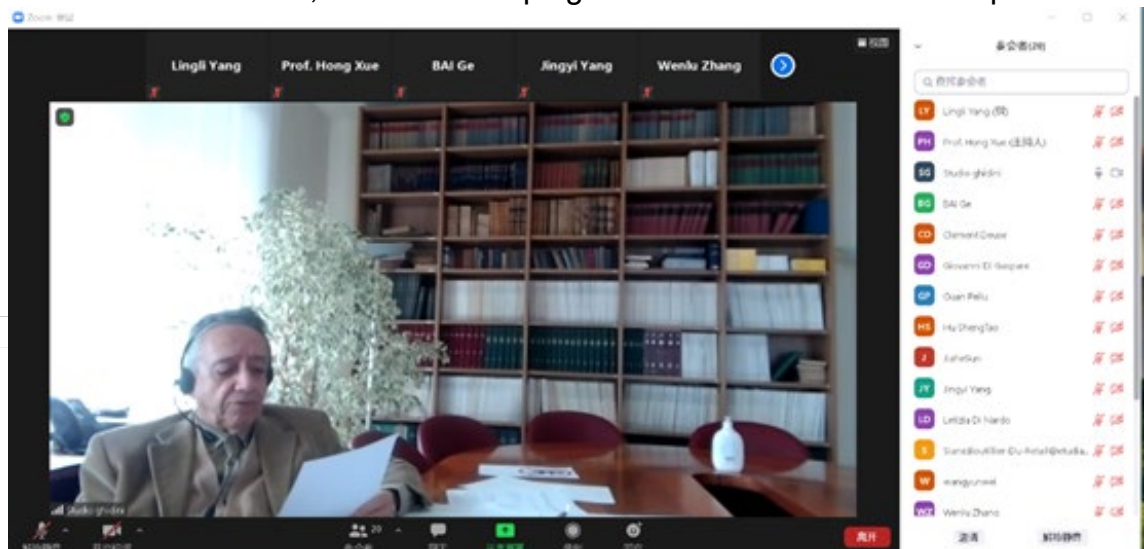
Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (Shanghai, China, 15 November 2021)

On 15 November 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP organized an AP Day event under the theme “Cross-Border E-Commerce and Dispute Resolution from the Perspective of MSME” with Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, the ICC Shanghai Representative Office, and the WTO Law Research Society of China Law Society. The AP Day event was conducted in hybrid form in English and Chinese, and attracted around 76 professors, students and legal practitioners. The event comprised two sessions, entitled “Cross-border Ecommerce facilitated to MSMEs”, and “Dispute Resolution tailor-made for MSMEs”. UNCITRAL RCAP officers delivered opening remarks and introduced the work of UNCITRAL on e-commerce and MSMEs. Other speakers included local academics and legal practitioners. Topics discussed included the opportunities and challenges of cross-border e-commerce in China, and how MSMEs avoid disputes and opt for a dispute resolution method in practice.



Beijing Normal University (Beijing, 16 November 2021)

On 16 November 2021, Beijing Normal University hosted an online UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day Event for its students. About 28 law students from five countries across three continents attended the event. A professor from Beijing Normal University discussed the work of UNCITRAL Working Group IV, including the ongoing legislative work and future developments on electronic identity and trust services.¹⁰ This AP Day event increased students' awareness of legislation development in light of the rapid advancement of AI technology and potential complications and benefits to e-commerce, further developing students' interest in these topics.



¹⁰ For more information on Working Group IV please visit:
https://uncitral.un.org/en/working_groups/4/electronic_commerce

International University of Humanities and Development (Ashgabat, 16 November 2021)

The first AP Day event with Turkmenistan was co-organized with the International University of Humanities and Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. It was held on 16 November 2021 in hybrid format in English and Russian. The event was entitled “The Benefits of Legal Harmonization for Turkmenistan: An UNCITRAL Overview of the CISG and the New York Convention,” and aimed to provide an overview of how legal harmonization via the CISG and the New York Convention would benefit Turkmenistan. The inaugural Turkmenistan AP Day saw an attendance of approximately 140 university students, researchers, and legal practitioners, attending online and in-person. UNCITRAL RCAP officers and a Legal Officer from the UNCITRAL Secretariat in Vienna provided an overview of UNCITRAL’s work and instruments, including the CISG and the New York Convention. A Professor from the University of Halle (Germany) explained the application of the CISG in Turkmenistan. Furthermore, a representative from the Ministry of Trade of Turkmenistan presented the country’s latest developments related to international trade. In the following sessions, the Director of the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (“**TIAC**”) stressed the significance of arbitration as a tool for resolving international disputes and the importance of UNCITRAL’s instruments in this field. Moreover, a representative of the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and a Professor at the State Academy of Civil Service under the President of Turkmenistan highlighted the benefits of the New York Convention to Turkmenistan and the region, including how the Convention enhances international trade and commercial law. Students were also introduced to the UNCITRAL e-learning modules and the UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme.



Kathmandu University School of Law (Kathmandu, 19 November 2021)

UNCITRAL RCAP launched the inaugural UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day event co-organized with Kathmandu University School of Law (“**KUSL**”) and Nepal International ADR Center on 19 November 2021. Themed “Understanding the UNCITRAL ADR Instruments in Nepali Context”, the event aimed to enhance Nepali students, scholars, and public and private stakeholders’ knowledge on UNCITRAL arbitration and mediation instruments. The event was conducted in a virtual format and had about 103 participants. UNCITRAL RCAP officers explained the mandate of UNCITRAL, its work on MSMEs, and the UNCITRAL framework on arbitration and mediation. A Senior Lecturer at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (“**RMIT**”) provided an overview of the Singapore Convention on Mediation. A Professor of the KUSL Faculty discussed UNCITRAL arbitral instruments in the Nepali context, noting how the Singapore Convention on Mediation could bring new opportunities as it provides a harmonized, robust legal framework for cost-efficient dispute resolution methods in international commercial disputes, which is conducive to doing business and cross-border trade. The Nepal Arbitration Act and UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration were also discussed. The Secretary of Law Commission of Nepal and the Secretary of the Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Nepal addressed the role of Nepal in UNCITRAL, in particular, the history and development of Nepal’s arbitration law, and interest in collaborating closely with UNCITRAL to create a legally enabling environment for trade and commerce in Nepal.



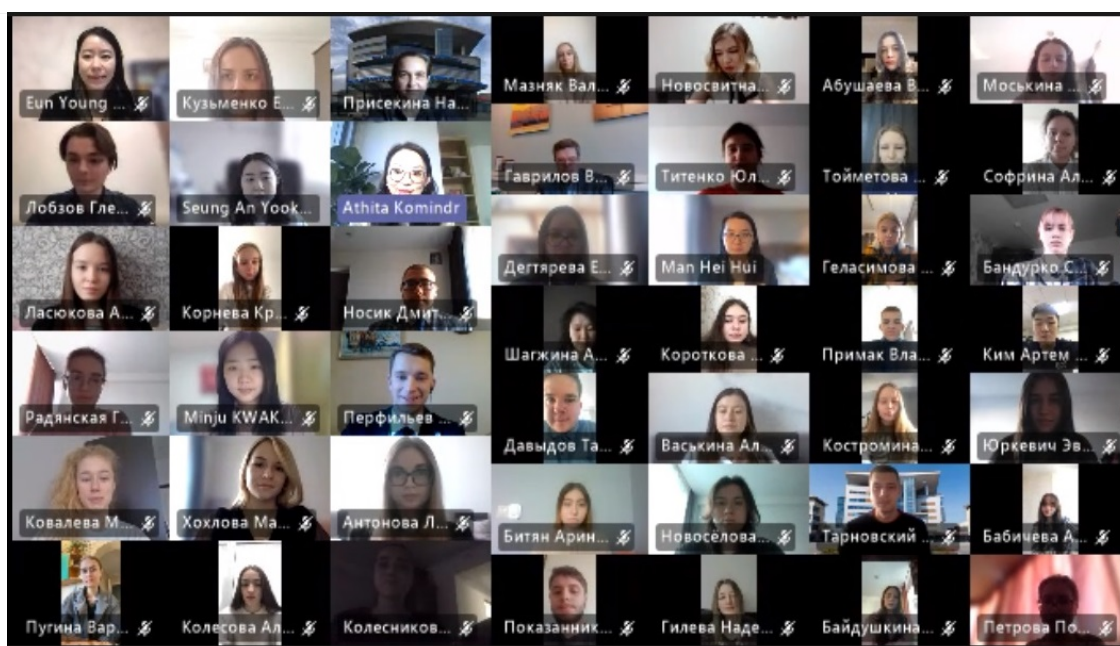
Institute of International Law, Wuhan University and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
(Wuhan, China, 4 December 2021)

On 4 December 2021, UNCITRAL RCAP co-organized an AP Day event under the theme “Expedited Arbitration, to facilitate dispute resolution arrangements for MSMEs” with the Institute of International Law of Wuhan University and the ICC Shanghai Representative Office. The AP Day event was held in hybrid format with approximately 1,050 attendees joining via an online video sharing platform anchored in China. Noting that AP Day events with Wuhan University typically yield one of flagship’s largest online live audiences, UNCITRAL RCAP officers presented an introduction to UNCITRAL and UNCITRAL RCAP, and shared an overview of UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules and how they facilitate MSME dispute settlement. The AP Day event invited 8 female speakers and 6 male speakers from academia, arbitration and public sectors to discuss the role of the UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules in resolving disputes involving MSMEs, and its benefits to the development and practice of domestic and international arbitration. The application of expedited arbitration rules prepared by arbitral institutions and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards were also discussed, with a professor at Wuhan University stressing the importance of raising awareness of updated arbitration rules among academics and practitioners to ensure that arbitration develops into an even more cost-effective and widely accepted method of dispute resolution.



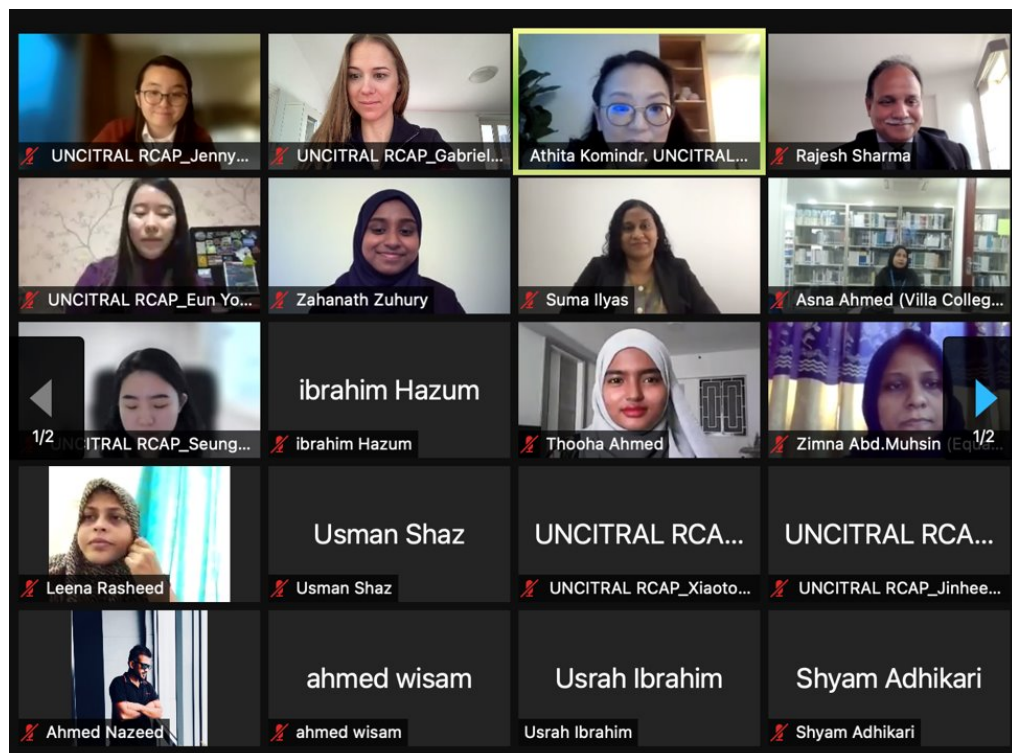
**School of Law, Far Eastern Federal University
(Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 13 December 2021)**

The AP Day event with Far Eastern Federal University (“FEFU”) was held online on 13 December 2021 and aimed to enhance discussions regarding MSMEs and UNCITRAL instruments on international commercial dispute resolution in Russia. Approximately 67 students attended this event, of which 46 were female and 21 were male. The event commenced with welcoming remarks by the Dean and Director of the FEFU School of Law highlighting that this was the third year FEFU had co-hosted an AP Day event. UNCITRAL RCAP officers then provided an overview of UNCITRAL and UNCITRAL RCAP, and introduced UNCITRAL instruments on international commercial arbitration and mediation. The UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme was highlighted with current interns sharing their experiences. The Vice Dean at FEFU School of Law delivered a presentation on dispute resolution mechanisms for MSMEs offered by institutes in the Russian Federation and explained the main provisions of Russian arbitration legislation. A legal practitioner addressed some of the changes the pandemic brought to the legal practice in Russia, followed by two student presentations on the topic of “Russian and Chinese Response to Covid-19: MSMEs Legal and Financial Assistance”.



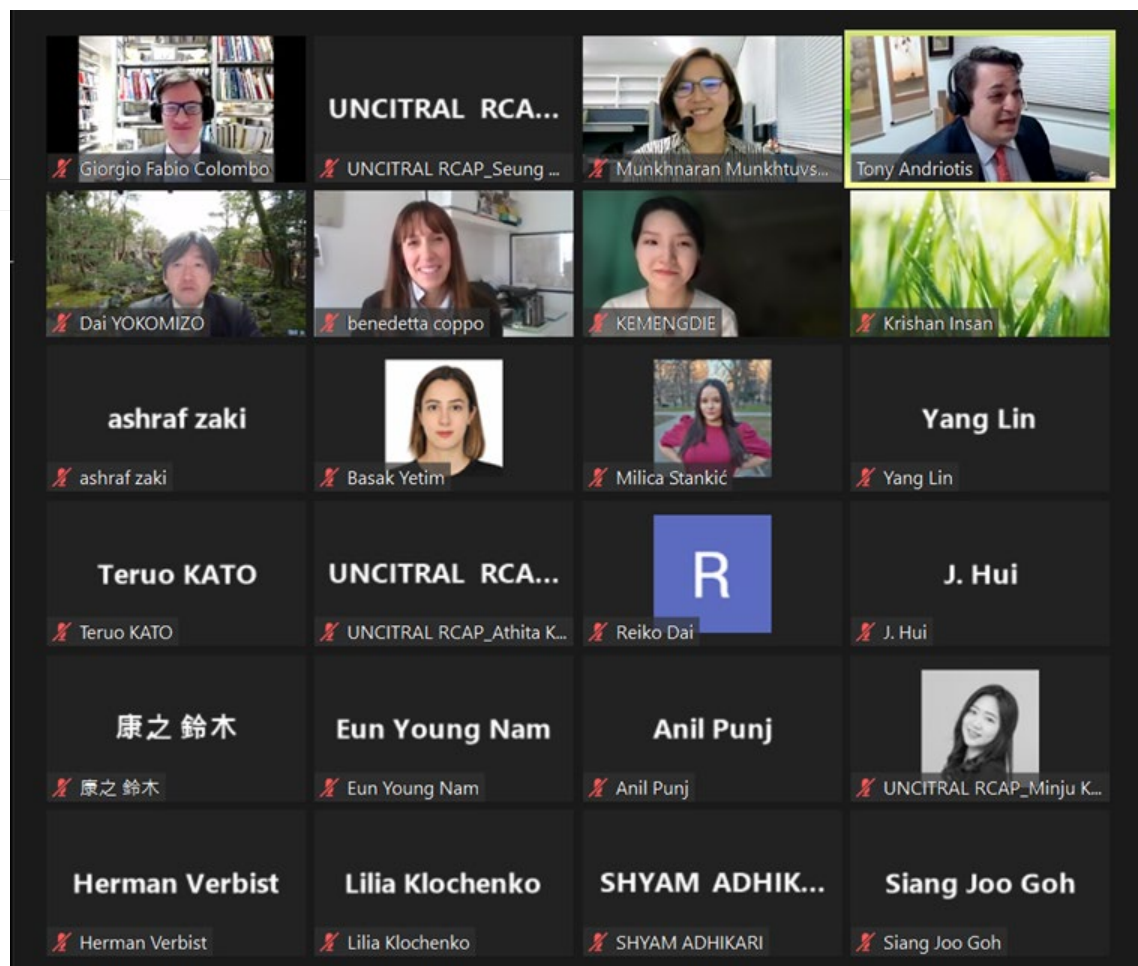
The Faculty of Shari'ah and Law, Maldives National University, Villa College and Avid College (Malé, 14 December 2021)

The first AP Day event in the Maldives, co-organized by UNCITRAL RCAP, the Faculty of Shari'ah and Law, Maldives National University ("MNU"), Villa College, Avid College, and Maldives Moot Court Society ("MMCS"), took place remotely on 14 December 2021. Under the theme "How UNCITRAL texts on Arbitration and Mediation benefit Medium and Small Seized Enterprises (MSMEs)", the inaugural Maldives AP Day was attended by approximately 39 participants, comprising students, academics, lawyers, and legal practitioners. The Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Shari'ah and Law, Villa College, opened the event by highlighting legal obstacles MSMEs face in most jurisdictions and how legal harmonization in mediation and arbitration might benefit MSMEs. UNCITRAL RCAP officers provided an overview of UNCITRAL and UNCITRAL RCAP and an overview of UNCITRAL instruments on dispute resolution. A Senior Lecturer at RMIT University introduced the Singapore Convention on Mediation and its opportunities for the Maldives, noting that Maldives was an original signatory to the Convention, and highlighted the importance of implementation and awareness raising. Legal experts then presented on the Maldives Arbitration Act, followed by an introduction of the UNCITRAL RCAP internship programme with current interns sharing their experiences. The President of MMCS closed the event by stressing the importance of raising awareness of UNCITRAL instruments among law students, who are the next generation of legal thinkers and policymakers.



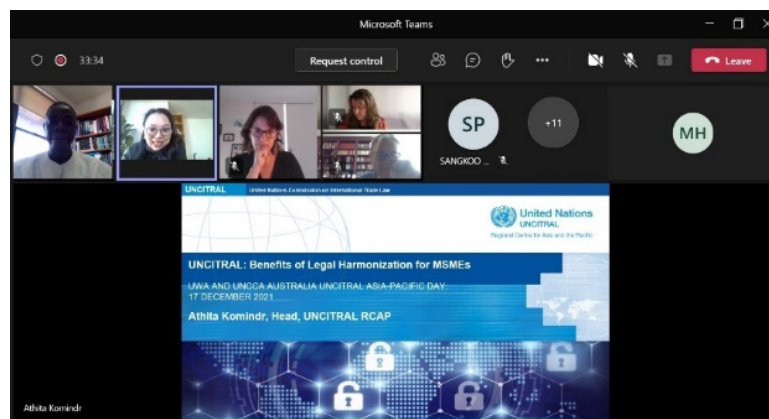
Nagoya University (Nagoya, Japan, 15 December 2021)

The Japanese AP Day with Nagoya University Graduate School of Law was held in a virtual format on 15 December 2021, in collaboration with the Milan Chamber of Arbitration (“**CAM**”) and the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (**JCAA**). Under the theme “Bringing Arbitration to MSMEs: Academic and Institutional Initiatives for a More Accessible Arbitration,” the event saw an attendance of 41 university students, researchers, and legal practitioners. A Professor from the Nagoya University Graduate School of Law opened the event with a critical discussion of the challenges to and advantages of arbitration. In the following discussions, an expert from the JCAA and the CAM presented institutional tools and practices for MSMEs in international arbitration, noting that commercial arbitration is a means for expanding access to justice.



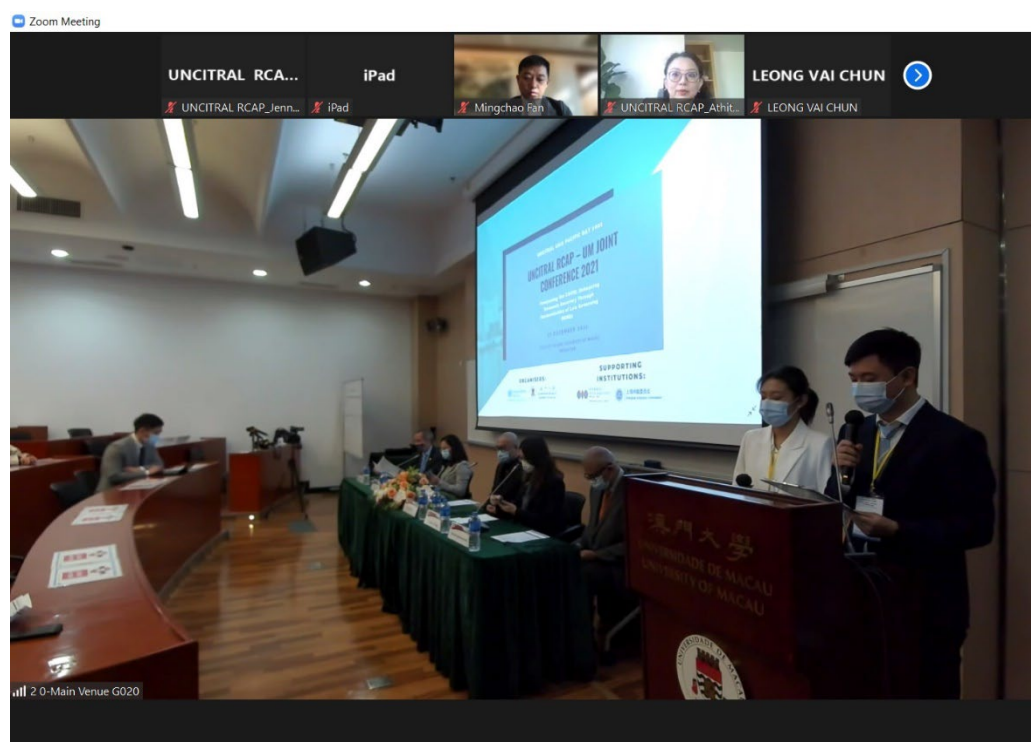
**University of Western Australia
(Perth, Australia, 17 December 2021)**

The inaugural AP Day event with the University of Western Australia (**UWA**) was held online on 17 December 2021 in collaboration with UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia (**UNCCA**). Under the theme “Enabling MSMEs and Economic Recovery Through Legal Harmonization”, the event had around 18 participants. In the opening segments, the Dean and Head of UWA Law School welcomed continued collaboration with UNCITRAL RCAP while UNCITRAL officers introduced UNCITRAL and how its work on legal harmonization benefits MSMEs, including by improving access to credit and lowering business costs, including via uniform sales law and the CISG. A UWA professor then recalled the importance of the CISG, such as how anticipatory breach of contract is addressed and the CISG’s significance in bringing harmonization in this field. Professors from UWA and Macquarie University explained how illustrations can give a better understanding of the CISG and benefit cross-border trade, especially for MSMEs, since it would improve the understanding of obligations and choices, and reduce transaction costs and risks, followed by a presentation entitled “Growing and Diversifying Africa-Australia Investment and Trade: The Role of MSMEs” showing how a harmonized legal regime would facilitate cross border trade in goods and services. In closing an UNCCA officer highlighted the importance of the work of UNCITRAL, especially for MSMEs.



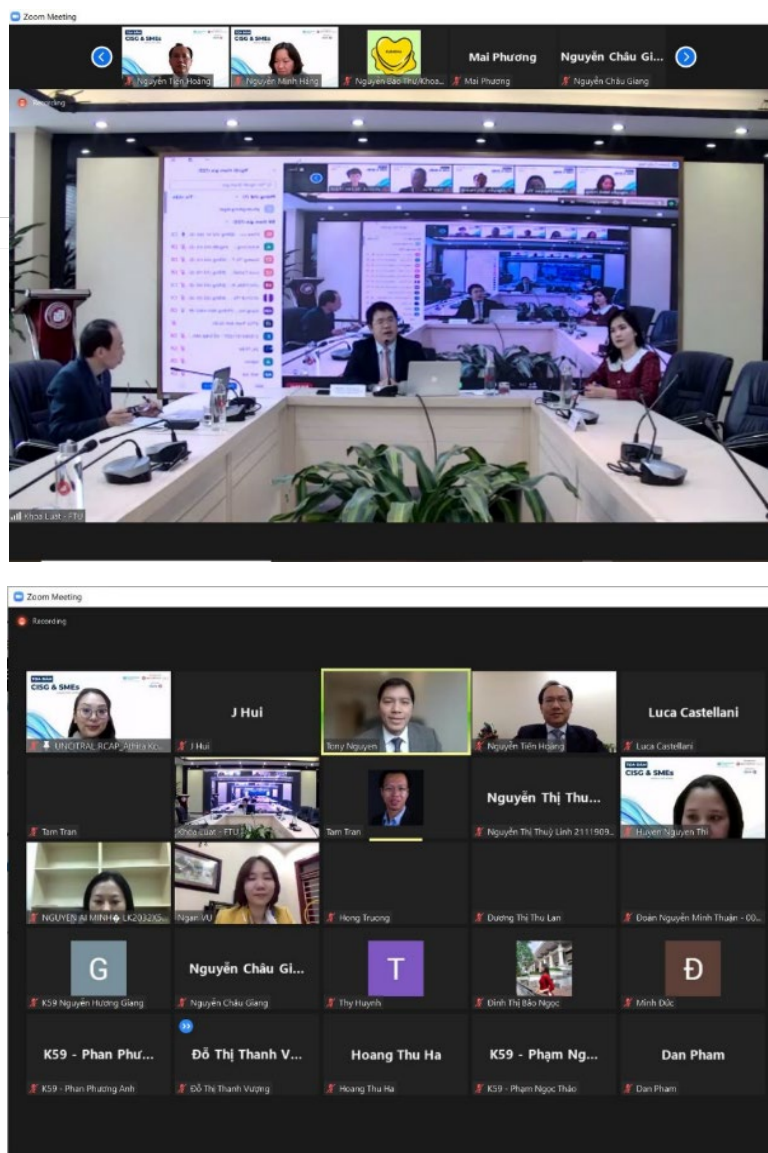
University of Macau (Macao, China, 17 December 2021)

The AP Day with the University of Macau, Faculty of Law, supported by World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center and Shanghai Arbitration Commission, was held on 17 December 2021 in a hybrid format. About 300 participants attended the event. Themed “Conquering the COVID: Enhancing Economic Recovery Through Harmonization of Law Governing MSMEs”, the full-day international conference explored how legal harmonization can benefit MSMEs and contribute to enhancing economic recovery. The conference brought together a group of distinguished experts and scholars to analyze contemporary issues related to the current agenda of UNCITRAL, as well as the emerging practices and legal instruments resulting from its works. Through its five sessions, different topics were discussed, including MSME formation, the creation of a congenial legal environment for MSMEs in special economic zones through legal harmonization, MSME financing and insolvency, the promotion of viable dispute resolution mechanisms for MSMEs through adaptation of arbitration and mediation, and the contemporary legal developments facilitating the establishment and operation of MSMEs. UNCITRAL officers from RCAP and Vienna participated in the event by delivering opening remarks and presentations on UNCITRAL simplified business registration and insolvency regimes for MSMEs, and dispute settlement frameworks.



Foreign Trade University Hanoi (Hanoi, 20 December 2021)

The AP day event with the Faculty of Law, Foreign Trade University Hanoi, Viet Nam was co-organized with Vietnam International Arbitration Center, Viet Nam Society of International Law, and Vietnam Business Lawyers Club, with CISGVN supporting, in hybrid form. The topics discussed include “SMEs and International Business” and “CISG & SMEs”. Over 150 participants joined, and speakers comprised a diverse mix of academics, legal practitioners and arbitrators. They discussed the challenges faced by Vietnamese SMEs and practical aspects of the CISG, including implementation in Viet Nam. During the seminar, practical tips on how contracts applying the CISG should be drafted in Viet Nam were discussed. All presentations were conducted in English and Vietnamese with interpretation provided.



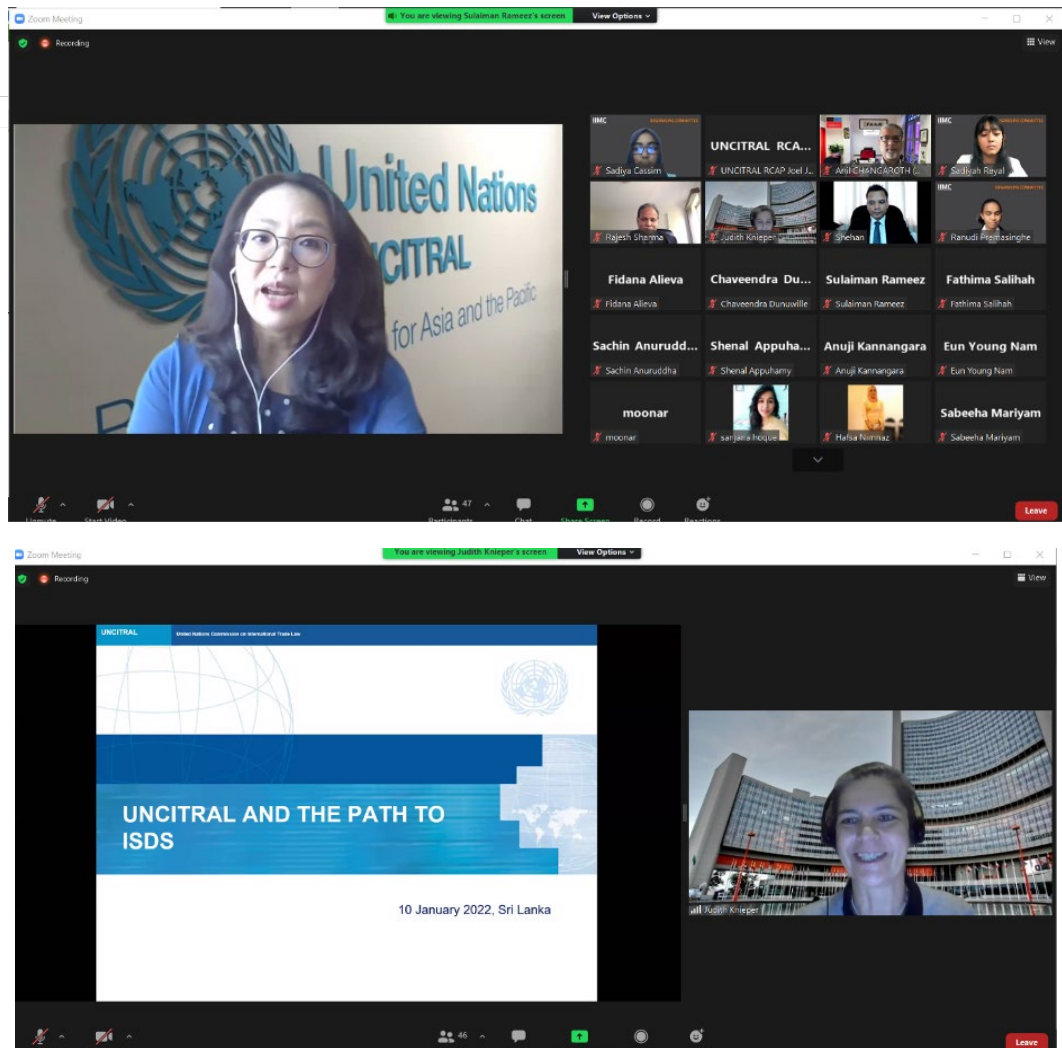
**Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL) and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
(Shanghai, China, 28 December 2021)**

The AP Day event at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL), co-organized by UNCITRAL RCAP and the ICC Shanghai Representative Office took place as an in-person seminar on 28 December 2021. Under the theme “Starting from the Moot: How do we prepare for start-up enterprises as start-up lawyers”, the event saw an attendance of 66 university students of which 46 were females and 20 were males. Eminent academics and mooting participants from SHUPL spoke on International Arbitration and mooting experiences. UNCITRAL RCAP delivered a pre-recorded presentation on UNCITRAL’s work on legal harmonization, MSMEs and expedited arbitration. Students were also introduced to the UNCITRAL e-learning modules and the internship programme.



Sri Lanka Law College (SLLC) and the Moot Court Bench (MCB) (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10 January 2022)

The AP Day event with Sri Lanka Law College (SLLC) and the Moot Court Bench (MCB) was held virtually on 10 January 2022 as a pre-event of the International Investor-State Mediation Competition (IIMC) with approximately 45 participants. Under the theme “UNCITRAL and the Path to Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)”, the organizers from MCB gave opening remarks on the importance of UNCITRAL texts and legal harmonisation. The vice principal of SLLC then introduced the IIMC, highlighting mediation as a dependable and hassle-free dispute resolution mechanism that could further attract investors to Sri Lanka. The head of UNCITRAL RCAP emphasized the significant role of legal harmonization in Investor-State Mediation and ISDS, with a legal officer from UNCITRAL in Vienna delivering a keynote presentation on the UNCITRAL mediation framework, Working Group III, and mediation in ISDS reform. The legal officer also led an interactive Q&A session on the Singapore Convention on Mediation.



**Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCCIL), Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
(Gujarat, India, 3 February 2022)**

The AP Day event with Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCCIL), Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was held on 3 February 2022. The academic conference consisted of four technical sessions and a Round Table under the theme: "MSMEs: Legislative and Regulatory Challenges - UNCITRAL and Indian Perspective" highlighting small businesses, their pandemic recovery and economic development. Around 55 participants from Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and TNNLU joined each session. Technical Session 1 discussed "COVID-19 recovery measure for MSMEs: digital innovation, finance, and legal reform". Technical Session 2 comprised presentations of research papers by students on diverse MSME topics with GNLU professors providing feedback. Expert panellists in Technical Session 3 focused on the topic of "IBC and PPIRP for MSMEs and their access to finance," While Technical Session 4 explored "The measures taken by the Indian government for the revival of MSMEs and their effects". The concluding Round Table discussion examined the "Insolvency Bankruptcy Code 2016 in the context of MSMEs".



Concluding remarks

22. Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AP Day 2021 series once again expanded its jurisdictional reach, attracting one of the most dynamic and successful turnouts in the flagship's history. It is envisaged that the use of technology would continue to enhance modes of delivery and outreach in the next edition, and would thus encourage additional participants from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations, thereby enhancing accessibility. Through another series of AP Day events, it is hoped that more students, academics, legal practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific, acquire deeper understanding of the benefits of UNCITRAL instruments and the importance of legal harmonization including uniform interpretation for the facilitation of international trade and investment. The anticipated theme for the AP Day 2022 series will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of UNCITRAL RCAP and look to the next 10 years of international trade and legal harmonization in the Asia Pacific.

23. UNCITRAL RCAP is grateful for the continuing enthusiasm for and generous support of the UNCITRAL AP Day academic series from partnering universities and institutions across the Asia Pacific. As the AP Day 2021 series has come to a conclusion, it is hoped that the 2022 series would be equally well received. For institutions interested in co-organizing an AP Day activity, please contact UNCITRAL RCAP to explore collaboration opportunities at:

Address: UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific
3rd Floor, G-Tower, 175 Art Center-daero, Yeonsu-gu 22004 Incheon,
Republic of Korea

Email: uncitral.rcap@un.org

Website: https://uncitral.un.org/en/TA/regionalcentre_asia_pacific

For those interested in subscribing to UNCITRAL RCAP's mailing list, please scan the following QR code:



UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

About UNCITRAL RCAP: Established in 2012, the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific is UNCITRAL's only regional centre and is located in Incheon, Republic of Korea. UNCITRAL RCAP provides technical assistance and capacity-building programming in UNCITRAL's key areas of work to over 50 jurisdictions in Asia and the Pacific.



Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific

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Annex I

List of Participating Universities and Institutions in the UNCITRAL AP Day 2021 Series*

**Listed in alphabetical order by jurisdiction*

| Participating Institution | Date of Event |
|--|------------------|
| AUSTRALIA | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Western Australia and the UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee for Australia | 17 December 2021 |
| CHINA | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renmin University and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | 22 October 2021 |
| A synopsis of the event is available at: http://www.law.ruc.edu.cn/home/t/?id=57605 (Chinese) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | 5 November 2021 |
| More information is available at: https://law.sufe.edu.cn/63/a6/c7990a156582/page.htm (Chinese) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Law Research Society of China Law Society | 15 November 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beijing Normal University | 16 November 2021 |
| A synopsis of the event is available at: http://wiki.iipl.org.cn/?p=1757 (Chinese) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute of International Law, Wuhan University and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | 4 December 2021 |
| The recording of the event can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_P4a_QApbOWUht-Yly6ArMi5zrzxAN0p | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | 28 December 2021 |
| HONG KONG, CHINA | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong (HKU), the Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC), and the International Dispute Resolution & Risk Management Institute (IDRRMI) | 10 November 2021 |
| MACAO, CHINA | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Macau, World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center and Shanghai Arbitration Commission | 17 December 2021 |
| INDIA | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Corporate and Insolvency Law (GCCIL), Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) | 3 February 2022 |

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| JAPAN | | |
| • Nagoya University Graduate School of Law (with Milan Chambers of Arbitration, and Japan Commercial Arbitration Association) | | 15 December 2021 |
| MALDIVES | | |
| • The Faculty of Shari'ah and Law, Maldives National University, Villa College, Avid College and Maldives Moot Court Society | | 14 December 2021 |
| NEPAL | | |
| • Kathmandu University School of Law and Nepal International ADR Center | | 19 November 2021 |
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA | | |
| • Chung-Ang University | | 13 October 2021 |
| • Inha University | | 14 October 2021 |
| • Seoul National University | | 26 October 2021 |
| RUSSIAN FEDERATION | | |
| • School of Law, Far Eastern Federal University | | 13 December 2021 |
| <p>A synopsis of the event is available at: https://mkas.tpprf.ru/ru/otdeleniya/vladivostok/news/tretya-ezhegodnaya-mezhdunarodnaya-konferentsiya-uncitral-asia-pacific-day-2021-i437008/https://www.dvfu.ru/schools/law_school/news/13_dekabrya_na_platforme_ms_tea_ms_sostoyalas_mezhdunarodnaya_konferentsiya_uncitral_asia_pacific_day/ (Russian)</p> | | |
| SRI LANKA | | |
| • Sri Lanka Law College (SLLC) and the Moot Court Bench (MCB) | | 10 January 2022 |
| <p>The recording of the event can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ArlIztYqCNE3cLpC75NJ8OiBU8rhlyDW/view</p> | | |
| THAILAND | | |
| • Faculty of Law, Thammasat University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand | | 12 November 2021 |
| TURKMENISTAN | | |
| • International University of Humanities and Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan | | 16 November 2021 |
| VIET NAM | | |
| • Foreign Trade University Hanoi, Vietnam International Arbitration Center, Viet Nam Society of International Law, and Vietnam Business Lawyers Club (with CISGVN supporting) | | 20 December 2021 |

Annex II**Acknowledgements from Participating Universities and Institutions**

Below are some extracted testimonials from the UNCITRAL AP Day 2021 series partnering universities and institutions (organized in alphabetical order) discussing the benefits to students and stakeholders:

"It was well received by all the Chinese and international students from 10 countries. Both speakers answered a couple of questions from the students."

Beijing Normal University Law School (China) |

"Not only did this event raise awareness of the vitality of UNCITRAL's role in the modernization and harmonization of national legal systems in the field of international trade, it was also a valuable opportunity to demonstrate how continuous efforts are being made internationally to ensure that arbitration develops into an even more cost-effective and expeditious method of dispute resolution while maintaining a careful balance between the efficiency of the arbitral process and the parties' rights to due process and fair treatment."

Chung-Ang University (Republic of Korea) |

"Far Eastern Federal University School of Law maintains and develops long-term cooperation with UNCITRAL RCAP. We are always glad to take part in your events that discuss topical issues and problems of the modern world. Our students positively assess this AP Day with UNCITRAL RCAP and the possibility of internship in UNCITRAL."

Far Eastern Federal University School of Law (Russian Federation) |

"With the participation of reputable experts on CISG and SME, the Seminar provided updated and useful information on legal difficulties and risks that SMEs in Viet Nam have been, are or may have to face when participating in international commercial transactions; commenting on the relationship between CISG and SME; assessing the current status of CISG application of SME, how to apply the provisions of CISG and sharing experience in drafting international sale of goods contract. The success of the Seminar promises to have other events organized in the near future on the basis of the cooperation between the Faculty of Law, Foreign Trade University and domestic and foreign partners, especially with UNCITRAL RCAP."

Foreign Trade University (Viet Nam) |

"It is our pleasure to co-host the Webinar on The Role of Dispute Resolution in Assisting MSMEs and Economic Recovery with UNCITRAL RCAP. We are grateful to receive positive feedback that law students and legal practitioners who attended the Webinar have gained understanding on how dispute resolution helps to create more business opportunities and effectively resolve disputes arisen in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Webinar also equipped them with profound knowledge about dispute resolution (DR) as an effective instrument to assist the operation of MSMEs in facilitating economic recovery in the post-pandemic era."

Hong Kong Mediation Center (Hong Kong, China) |

"We are glad that UNCITRAL RCAP has provided university students in the Asia Pacific jurisdictions with plenty of opportunities to find out the legislation trend of the United Nations and a real window to understand the mandates of UNCITRAL, one of the most important international organizations in the field of international law."

In 2021, ICC Arbitration and ADR North Asia office assisted UNCITRAL RCAP to organize a series of events that have drawn the attention of universities and institutions to the latest development of UNCITRAL legal instruments. We are delighted to work with UNCITRAL RCAP and academic institutions hand in glove to achieve our common goal – a better understanding of international commercial law, a better international law community and better future for all in the region."

ICC Arbitration and ADR North Asia Office (China) |

"Asia Pacific Day has become an educational tradition in which different countries participate. It is our absolute pleasure to join the tradition and make the Maldives part of it. It would be an honor for the Maldives Moot Court Society to continue working with UNCITRAL RCAP and the Maldives Universities and Colleges to achieve our joint aim of promoting the UNCITRAL instruments related to International Trade and ADR in the Maldives."

Maldives Moot Court Society (Maldives) |

"Nagoya University Graduate School of Law is proud to continue its tradition of taking part in the UNCITRAL AP Day. The 2021 event, focusing on Arbitration and MSMEs attracted not only students and researchers, but also practitioners and members of arbitration institutions. The event could therefore reach a broader audience and stimulate further engagement with the arbitration community at large."

Nagoya University Graduate School of Law (Japan) |

“Nepal International ADR Center (NIAC), as a center committed for accessible and credible dispute resolution, is proud to have organized the first ever AP Day Event in Nepal in collaboration with Kathmandu University School of Law (KUSL). In addition to providing arbitration, mediation and other dispute resolution services to domestic, cross-border and international parties on commercial disputes, we are also engaged in knowledge and capacity building activities in the field of Dispute Resolution. As such, we hosted the event on ‘Understanding the UNCITRAL ADR Instruments in the Nepali Context’ which drew an overwhelming response from the Construction Sector of Nepal, Academics, Business Houses and Government Representatives and the students who participated in the event. Honorable speakers at the event included the UNCITRAL RCAP Head Ms. Athita Komindr along with Secretary of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs - Mr. Uday Raj Sapkota, the Secretary of Nepal Law Commission - Ms. Lila Devi Gadtaula, Mediation Expert and Scholar Dr. Rajesh Sharma from Australia and Dr. Shiva Kumar Giri from Kathmandu University School of Law – KUSL. With the grand success of the first AP Day event in Nepal, we hope to conduct more programs with UNCITRAL in the days to come.”

Nepal International ADR Centre (Nepal) |

“It was a grateful experience for law school students seeking legal internships in an international organization, especially during a pandemic. The students could ask various questions directly to the interns, the professors who participated in UNCITRAL meetings, and the legal professionals at the UNCITRAL RCAP. The participants could gain a concrete understanding of the works and initiatives at UNCITRAL. We deeply appreciate the devotion and cooperation from the professionals at the UNCITRAL RCAP and hope to host AP Day on our campus in the future as well.”

Seoul National University (Republic of Korea) |

“We gratefully appreciate working with UNCITRAL on the AP Day 2021. Our students have learned a great deal from UNCITRAL including UNCITRAL work on MSMEs, UNCITRAL model law on international commercial arbitration, and UNCITRAL mediation developments; moreover, the hands-on internship experience shared by UNCITRAL RCAP interns is valuable to our students. Thank you! We look forward to our continued partnership.”

Thammasat University Faculty of Law (Thailand) |

“With the mission of contributing towards the growth of Mediation as an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, particularly in the rapidly developing sphere of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), the Moot Court Bench organized the world’s first Investor-State Mediation Competition, IIMC Colombo. The Competition was preceded by a Keynote Address on ‘UNCITRAL and the Path to ISDS’, delivered by Judith Knieper as part of AP Day and witnessed students from 12 countries developing their knowledge about the critical foundations laid down by UNCITRAL in the fields of Mediation, ISDS and ADR. As an AP Day event, we were able to jointly create a platform that attracted an audience of existing practitioners as well as students that represent the next generation of professionals – this served the dual purpose of not only enhancing the existing pool of experts but also educating future leaders, no doubt contributing towards the Sri Lankan and international ADR communities.”

The Moot Court Bench (Sri Lanka) |

“The conference offered an extensive program of interest. It provided the opportunity for speakers and participants, including legal professionals, jurists and students, to deliberate a wide range of contemporary issues of legal harmonization of law governing MSMEs through the current agenda of UNCITRAL. The conference was focused on the legal environment for MSMEs in special economic zones, in particular, in the Guangdong-Macao in-depth Cooperation Zone, what raised the specific interests of all stakeholders.”

University of Macau (Macau SAR, China) |

“Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent, and debate.” Today we witnessed the face of valuable discourses, defining and nourishing ‘freedom’ which comes in many forms, call it mandates for freedom, freedom to resolve disputes, exploring freedom, freedom to learn, freedom of employability. We got an opportunity to get acquainted with the high aspects of all these facets of freedom concerning the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises leaving the doors open for all those who want to embrace freedom of profession and employability, and want to redefine the system while learning, training and setting a new financial equilibrium.”

Villa College (Maldives) |