



Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center

By Zhang Wei, Director of Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center

Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center (SCMC), a global partner of JAMS, is very pleased to take this opportunity to express New Year wishes to new and old friends worldwide.

SCMC would like to highlight two significant achievements from 2019. First, our accepted case count reached a record high. Second, the long-awaited United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (also called the Singapore Convention) was signed, with China being one of the first signatory countries.

As a member of the delegation of the Ministry of Commerce of China, I was honored to witness this historical moment. China's signing of the Singapore Convention signifies that while China vigorously promotes the establishment of multi-lateral economic and trade relations, it also actively supports the use of professional mediation methods to handle cross-border commercial disputes. The Chinese government has worked hard to promote the effective development of international economic and trade relations.

In recent years, to optimize China's international business environment, to promote the widespread use of commercial mediation in international economic and trade dispute settlement mechanisms, and as an important part of China's judicial reform, China has continuously developed alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. Among these, professional commercial mediation services have made particularly significant advancements.

SCMC, known as the most influential ADR institution in China and commended by the Supreme People's Court of China, has maintained an international focus, aligned with the highest standards of commercial mediation, and deepened our relationships with leading mediation organizations and institutions around the world. In deepening cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center, the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), and JAMS, we have explored pioneering cooperation models such as common training, issuing common mediation rules, and holding co-mediation courts. We are equipped with excellent global mediation resources for domestic and foreign commercial entities and provide efficient and convenient dispute resolution services.

After three years of common training for senior mediators with JAMS, SCMC now has an international team including mediation professionals who not only understand Chinese culture, but also have an in-depth knowledge of domestic and foreign commercial legal issues. Seven of SCMC's mediators have become the first batch of Chinese JAMS mediators. These mediators have established the basis for the Sino-US joint mediation mechanism.

After years of continuous development, SCMC's professional commercial mediation services have received recognition and achieved four "firsts:"

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Shanghai Commercial Mediation Center continued

- The first mediation institution and only NGO selected by the China International Commercial Court of the Supreme People's Court of China as a "one-stop" diversified international commercial dispute resolution mechanism
- The first professional commercial mediation institution to be invited to join the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone Court and to establish the pioneering International Commercial Mediation Court composed of overseas professionals
- The first professional commercial mediation institution to be recognized as a top 10 public welfare institution, a top 10 brand organization, and a 5A social organization (the highest grade of specialization and standardization of social organizations in Shanghai)

- The first institution to release the Commercial Mediation Rules Group Standard in China, which has become the industry benchmark reference

China's road to commercial mediation development cannot be separated from global common cooperation and the sharing of experience. With the joint efforts of JAMS and SCMC, I am looking forward to achieving a more international and influential commercial mediation mechanism and seek more cooperation and win-win scenarios under the framework of a society ruled by law and a market economy. We'll provide services for more clients in the US and China and continue to write a new chapter of better cooperation between JAMS and SCMC.