



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW  
INSTITUT INTERNATIONALE POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE

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## UNIDROIT ASIAN TRANSNATIONAL LAW CENTRE



### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asia-Pacific region, home to over 4.5 billion people, is renowned for its linguistic, cultural, and legal diversity. As globalisation continues to drive economic and social development in this region, effective communication and mutual understanding of various legal systems become increasingly important. Legal documents, including statutes, regulations, treaties, and case law, are often written in different languages and adhere to distinct legal traditions, posing challenges for trade, investment, and justice.
2. To address these challenges, the Asian Transnational Law Centre (ATLC) was established by UNIDROIT in 2024, as an initiative under the UNIDROIT Academy.

### II. OBJECTIVES

3. The objectives of the ATLC are to:
  - i. Establish a premier legal hub for Asian transnational law at the UNIDROIT Headquarters in Rome;
  - ii. Promote the work of UNIDROIT, UNIDROIT Instruments and UNIDROIT projects in Asia; and
  - iii. Strengthen connections between UNIDROIT and relevant academic institutes, legal institutes, regional institutes, law firms and private sector stakeholders in Asia.

### III. ACTIVITIES

4. The ATLC will achieve its objectives through the following activities:
  - i. Library, publications and translations**
    - a. Creation of an Asian Transnational Law Centre Library within the UNIDROIT Library.
    - b. Provision of additional Asian law publications to the UNIDROIT Library.
    - c. Preparation and publication of materials that promote the work of UNIDROIT in Asia.
    - d. Translation of UNIDROIT Instruments into Asian languages.
  - ii. Secondment, Scholarships, internships and research opportunities**

- a. Organisation of the secondment of talented legal experts from the Asia region to work with the UNIDROIT Secretariat on UNIDROIT projects and Instruments.
- b. Sponsorship of talented legal scholars from the Asia region to undertake research stays at the world-class international private law library at the UNIDROIT Headquarters.
- c. Sponsorship of talented law students from the Asia region to undertake internships at the UNIDROIT Headquarters.

### **iii. Events, consultations and meetings**

- a. The organisation of consultation and promotion events for UNIDROIT projects and Instruments in Asia and at the UNIDROIT Headquarters.
- b. Financial support for legal experts and the UNIDROIT Secretariat to participate in events, regional fora and other activities in Asia.
- c. Financial support for legal experts from the Asia region to participate in UNIDROIT projects, events and other UNIDROIT activities.

### **iv. Other activities**

- a. The organisation of other academic initiatives, such as moot courts and essay competitions, that would promote UNIDROIT projects and Instruments.
- b. Any other initiatives that would achieve the ATLC's objectives.

## **IV. GOVERNANCE**

5. As consistent with all activities undertaken by the UNIDROIT Academy, the ATLC undertakes its activities under the guidance of the UNIDROIT Governing Council and the General Assembly. The UNIDROIT Secretary-General has ultimate responsibility for the operation of the ATLC.
6. The Secretary-General has appointed two Co-Directors to lead the ATLC in undertaking activities to achieve its objectives, Professor Meiling Huang (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, currently seconded to UNIDROIT) and Senior Legal Officer William Brydie-Watson.
7. An Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice to the ATLC in achieving its objectives. The Advisory Committee is composed of UNIDROIT Governing Council representatives and distinguished Asian academics with significant expertise in UNIDROIT Instruments and activities, as appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the ATLC Director(s), taking into account UNIDROIT Membership and subregional diversity.
8. As a part of the UNIDROIT Academy, the ATLC will report on its activities annually to the Governing Council and the General Assembly through the usual established channels.

## **V. FUNDING**



9. The operation of the ATLC and its activities are fully funded by (i) direct extra-budgetary contributions from interested stakeholders through donations to the UNIDROIT Foundation, and (ii) indirect support from partner organisations. No UNIDROIT regular budget funding will be used for ATLC activities.
10. In May 2024 the UNIDROIT Foundation secured a founding sponsorship agreement with Yingke Law firm, which will provide the ATLC with funding for three years (2024 – 2026) for its initial operations. On the basis of its donation, the Yingke law firm has been recognised as the ATLC's founding sponsor.