

Joint Network Conference 2025

Coordinating & Supporting Secured Transactions Reforms

8th Conference on International Coordination of Secured Transactions Reform

27-28 November 2025

11/F Conference Room, Faculty of Law
The University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong SAR, China



Asian Institute of International Financial Law
Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Legal and Policy Reform for Inclusive Digital Finance

The Joint Network for Secured Transactions fosters international coordination and coherence in the development of legal frameworks that support asset-based financing. It brings together key organizations—including UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, the World Bank Group, and ILI—to promote best practices and harmonized standards in secured transactions law.

As the 2025 chair of the Joint Network's Executive Committee, UNCITRAL is pleased to organize the 8th International Conference on the Coordination of Secured Transactions Reform in partnership with the Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL) and the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong. This year's Conference will convene key decision-makers, including government representatives, regulators, legal experts, and development agencies, to discuss emerging trends and challenges in secured transactions reform.

The agenda reflects the growing importance of adapting legal and regulatory frameworks to a rapidly evolving financial landscape, with a particular focus on how new tools and technologies are reshaping collateral systems and access to credit. In line with the decision of the Commission at its 2025 session, the Conference will also serve as a platform to begin exploring the possible updates to the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions and other relevant texts.

This is an in-person event. Registration is free of charge but mandatory as seats are limited. To register, use the QR or visit our website, where further information about the Conference, and practical information on how to reach the venue can be found at: aiifl-event.hku.hk

9:00 -9:30 AM

REGISTRATION

9:30 -9:45 AM

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Hualing Fu, Dean, Warren Chan Professor in Human Rights and Responsibilities, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Mr. Giuliano Castellano, AIIFL Director, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Mr. Jae Sung Lee, Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

9:45 -10:15 AM

International Standards: Status and Prospects

This panel offers an update on the latest developments in the preparation of international standards on secured transactions since the 7th Secured Transactions Coordination Conference in November 2024.

Ms. Monica Canafoglia, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

Mr. Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

Ms. Gérardine Goh Escolar, Deputy Secretary General, HCCH

10:15 -10:30 AM

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Reform Trends: Challenges and Successes

This panel examines recent reform efforts in secured transactions law, with a particular focus on developments across the Asian region in the global context. Presentations will highlight both the challenges faced during implementation and the successes achieved in enhancing access to credit and improving legal certainty, including through emerging practices that are shaping the future of secured transactions.

Moderator: **Ms. Monica Canafoglia**, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

- **Mr. Murat Sultanov**, Senior Operations Officer, Financial Institutions Group Advisory, IFC
- **Ms. Miha Isoi**, Attorney-at-law, former JICA Senior Adviser, Legal Adviser to International Cooperation Department, Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice of Japan
- **Ms. Angelia Chia**, Senior Counsel, Trade and Supply Chain (Legal), Office of the General Counsel, ADB
- **Mr. Julius Caesar Parreñas**, Coordinator, APEC/ABAC Asia-Pacific Financial Forum; and Managing Director, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
- **Ms. Stellah Kakwezi Olimi**, Assistant Commissioner, Head of Chattels Securities Registration, Uganda Registration Services Bureau
- **Mr. Charles Booth**, Professor of Law & Director, Institute of Asian-Pacific Business Law (IAPBL), William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa & Senior Advisor, Parabellum Capital

12:00 - 2:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

2:15 - 3:45 PM

Coordinating Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Responses

This panel explores legal and regulatory adaptation to the fast-evolving landscape of digital finance. It covers recent domestic and international developments promoting access to credit through innovations in digital finance and intellectual property affecting secured lending. Coordination challenges and opportunities between law and regulation will be discussed, while highlighting how emerging trends and policy approaches are transforming access to credit through technology-driven solutions, requiring holistic policy actions.

Moderator: **Mr. Giuliano Castellano**, AIIFL Director, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

- **Ms. Carmen Chu**, Executive Director (Banking Supervision), Hong Kong Monetary Authority
- **Mr. David Wong**, Director of Intellectual Property, Government of Hong Kong SAR, China
- **Ms. Hazel Law**, Associate Director, Intermediaries, Securities and Futures Commission
- **Mr. Rocky Tung**, Director & Head of Policy Research for the Financial Services Development Council
- **Mr. Tomio Mizutani**, Director, Cash Flow-Based Lending Promotion Office, Financial Services Agency of Japan

3:45 - 4:00 PM

COFFEE BREAK

4:00 - 5:30 PM

The Future of Collateral: Pathway to Digital Secured Lending

This panel examines the evolving legal and regulatory landscape supporting the use of digital assets in secured lending transactions. It highlights key legal instruments and domestic approaches to integrate digital assets in secured lending. Specific reference is made to new products and practices that reflect broader shifts in the ecosystem of digital assets.

Moderator: **Mr Jae Sung Lee**, Senior Legal Office, UNCITRAL

- **Ms. Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell**, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- **Ms. Megumi Hara**, Professor, Chuo University Law School
- **Mr. Woo-Jung Jon**, Assistant Professor, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
- **Mr. Marek Dubovec**, Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Enforcement and Intangible Assets – Evolving Practice

This panel examines enforcement as a key element of secured transactions regimes. It explores legal and institutional factors, including judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. The session highlights international standards shaping enforcement, including for lending products secured with intellectual property rights and digital assets.

Moderator: **Ms. Queenie Wu**, Deputy Director, Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office, Department of Justice, Government of Hong Kong SAR, China

- **Ms. Anna Veneziano**, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT
- **Mr. Richard Kohn**, Founder and a Principal, Commercial Finance Group, Goldberg Kohn Ltd
- **Mr. Danny Ong**, Managing Director, Setia Law LLC

END OF DAY

For further details, please visit our event site at:

www.aiifl-event.hku.hk



9:00 - 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks

Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary, UNCITRAL

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Unlocking Innovation: Intellectual Property Collateralization

This panel discusses intellectual property rights financing, with a focus on legal frameworks and international coordination to unlock the potential of intellectual property assets as collateral and drive innovation-led economic growth.

Moderator: **Mr. Julius Caesar Parreñas**, Coordinator, APEC/ABAC Asia-Pacific Financial Forum; and Managing Director, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Japan

- **Mr. Ivor Istuk**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Doh-Uk Shin**, Director, International Legal Policy Division, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea
- **Mr. Thomas Tsang**, Deputy Director of Intellectual Property, Government of Hong Kong SAR, China
- **Mr. Johnson Kong**, Board Member, International IP Commercialization Council (IIPCC)

10:15 - 10:30 AM

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Access to Credit, Trade Finance, and Digitalization

Trade finance plays a vital role in global commerce by helping businesses access working capital and manage risk. This panel explores how legal frameworks supporting supply-chain and asset-based lending can improve access to credit. It considers the role of international standards in building efficient systems and their implementation at the domestic level through innovative technologies.

Moderator: **Mr. William Brydie-Watson**, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

- **Mr. Murat Sultanov**, Senior Operations Officer, Financial Institutions Group Advisory, IFC
- **Ms. Angelia Chia**, Senior Counsel, Trade and Supply Chain (Legal), Office of the General Counsel, ADB
- **Mr. Milot Ahma**, Principal Counsel, Legal Transition Team, EBRD
- **Ms. Jun Xu**, Vice Chair, ICC Banking Commission Steering Committee, Director Senior Manager, Global Transaction Banking, Bank of China

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM From Farming to Finance: Technology and Law for Agricultural Growth

This panel explores how international legal instruments—like the UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT Model Law on Warehouse Receipts—can improve access to agricultural credit. It highlights innovative asset-based financing and emerging digital tools such as electronic receipts and blockchain registries.

Moderator: **Mr. Marek Dubovec**, Director of Law Reform Programs, International Law Institute

- **Mr. William Brydie-Watson**, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT
- **Ms. Lyu Qi**, Chief Adviser, Beijing Fnlegor Law Firm
- **Mr. Kyrlo Mukhomedzyanov**, Project Lead, Financial Sector Specialist IFC
- **Mr. Henry Gabriel**, Professor of Law, Elon University School of Law

12:30 - 1:00 PM Concluding Roundtable: Lessons Learned

Mr. Jae Sung Lee, Senior Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

Mr. Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

Mr. Murat Sultanov, Senior Operations Officer, Financial Institutions Group Advisory, IFC

Mr. Bob Trojan, Senior Advisor, International Law Institute

END OF DAY

Dates: 27 November (9:00 am – 6:30 pm) – 28 November (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Venue: 11/F Faculty of Law Academic Conference Room, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU, Pokfulam Road

Website: <https://aiifl-event.law.hku.hk/8th-conference-secured-transactions-reforms>

Email: aiiflhku@hku.hk

HKU Registration: https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec_regform.aspx?guest=Y&UEID=102636

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