

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **New global network of judiciaries set up to enhance the administration and delivery of justice around the world**

1. The International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN) – which brings together judiciaries to advance the adoption of the JDR process around the world to enhance the administration and delivery of justice – has been established. The network comprises 9 judiciaries from Australia, Canada<sup>1</sup>, China, Germany<sup>2</sup>, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

2. The JDRN seeks to promote the early, amicable, cost-effective and fair resolution of court disputes without the need for a trial through proactive, judge-led management of cases, twinned with the employment of Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) modalities. The JDRN provides a platform for judiciaries to share experiences and exchange ideas and expertise on leveraging the JDR process to manage their cases effectively to achieve better outcomes for litigants. The inaugural meeting was opened by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of the Supreme Court of Singapore on 18 May, with a total of 40 participants present. Held over two evenings (Singapore time), the founding members exchanged experiences in the JDR process and held discussions on the best practice guide for the establishment, implementation and promotion of the JDR process.

3. The judicial dispute resolution process is an integral part of judicial case management. The State Courts have institutionalised the JDR process to manage and resolve civil, community and relational disputes. About 30 percent of the civil cases filed in the State Courts fall under the rubric of the JDR process, with more than 80 percent of cases settled without trial, saving legal costs, time and judicial resources.

4. The JDRN will develop the following initiatives to promote the adoption of the JDR process in courts around the world (refer to Annex A for more information on the JDRN):

- Develop and promote a set of standards and best practices to serve as the benchmark for the development and practice of the JDR process in jurisdictions which are keen to institutionalise it in their judicial systems.

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<sup>1</sup> Represented by the Court of Appeal of Quebec and Ontario Superior Court of Justice

<sup>2</sup> Represented by the Higher Regional Court/Court of Appeal (Kammergericht) Berlin and Berlin Regional Court

- Support efforts in judicial systems that are interested in adopting the JDR process by providing access to knowhow and resources for capacity building and the development of judicial competencies in the JDR process.

5. In his Opening Address delivered at the inaugural meeting, The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon said:

"I am delighted that we now have, in the JDRN, a platform for the continued development and promotion of JDR practices. Besides serving as a platform for international judicial engagement, the JDRN aims to develop and promote a set of best practice standards that jurisdictions keen to embed JDR in their court systems may adopt. The Best Practice Guide will be a milestone in our journey towards this goal. The JDRN will also support JDR efforts by providing access to knowhow and resources for capacity building and the development of judicial competences in JDR."

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Enclosed:

- (i) Annex A – FAQs on the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network