

## **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

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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. What is the International Judicial Dispute Resolution (JDR) Network?**

The International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network comprises judiciaries from across the common law and civil law traditions to advance the adoption of the Judicial Dispute Resolution (“JDR”) process in judicial systems around the world to enhance the administration and delivery of justice by promoting 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 is a non-binding and voluntary group of like-minded judiciaries which collectively seek to pursue the mission, objectives and goals of the Network.

### **2. Who are the members in the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network?**

The founding members are:

1. Federal Court of Australia
2. Judiciary of Canada
  - (a) Court of Appeal of Quebec
  - (b) Ontario Superior Court of Justice
3. The Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China
4. Judiciary of Germany
  - (a) Higher Regional Court/Court of Appeal (Kammergericht) Berlin
  - (b) Berlin Regional Court
5. Federal Court of Malaysia
6. Supreme Court of the Philippines
7. Judiciary of Singapore
8. Judiciary of England and Wales, United Kingdom
9. United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

### **3. How will judiciaries benefit from the JDR process?**

An effective system of justice is one that dispenses justice in a fair, timely manner, delivering optimal and proportionate outcomes for parties. By focusing on managing each case by finding the best solutions to resolve parties' conflict, and moving away

from the traditional paradigm of the court's role as the arbiter of legal disputes, the JDR process brings benefits to both the parties and the courts, as enumerated below:

- (a) Cases are resolved early, thus saving parties' time, legal costs and trial resources;
- (b) The uncertainty over the outcome of the trial is avoided for parties. Parties have autonomy and control over the outcome, instead of having a decision imposed on them through the trial process;
- (c) An amicable resolution of the case can preserve the relationship between parties;
- (d) Creative solutions can be used by the court and parties to resolve the dispute; and
- (e) Judicial caseload is more effectively managed.

**4. What are the objectives of the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network?**

The objectives of establishing the JDRN are to:

- (a) Provide a platform for member judiciaries of the JDRN and other interested judiciaries to share experiences and exchange ideas and expertise on leveraging the JDR process to manage their cases effectively and achieve better outcomes for litigants.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Support efforts in judicial systems which 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. How does the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network aim to promote the adoption of JDR?**

To promote the concept and employment of JDR in the judicial world, as well as to ensure the sustainability, relevance and vibrancy of the JDRN, the JDRN will develop and promote a set of standards, guiding principles 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 court system. It will encompass the following elements:

- (a) Characteristics of a good JDR system
- (b) Objectives of the JDR process
- (c) Key features of the JDR process
- (d) The heart of the JDR process – judge-led case management
- (e) Court JDR Modalities employed during the JDR process
- (f) Building blocks and critical success factors for the establishment and sustainability of an effective and efficient JDR system
- (g) Harnessing technology in the JDR process

**6. Will there be a dedicated website developed and launched for JDRN?**

A dedicated website is scheduled to be launched sometime in June 2022.