

Legal Services for the Belt and Road

Dr. Wang Li

Director and Chief Global Partner of DeHeng Law Offices

Chairman of Belt and Road Service Connections

Director of International Commercial Mediation Center

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,
Good morning, everyone! Glad to see you colleagues online.

ABOUT DeHeng

I am the founder, director and Chief Global Partner of DeHeng Law Offices. At the beginning of 1990s, I was working at the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China. When Mr. Deng Xiaoping pushed ahead the reform and opening policy in 1992, I thought China should have built up a thousand lawyers' law firm. Then I wrote a report. Sooner, the minister told me "your suggestion is great, and you can go forward!"

In 1993, the Ministry of Justice approved us to establish the China Law Office. Later on, It was renamed as DeHeng Law Offices. Now DeHeng has become a more effective influential global law firm with over 4,000 lawyers and professionals, 800 partners, 50 offices worldwide.

We insist on serving with national development and economy's reform, having provided a large number of legal services such as Three Gorges Corporation, Beijing Olympic Games, China's lunar exploration Program, etc. We helped the Agricultural Bank of China issued and listed A+H shares and raised 150 billion Rmb , SMIC listed stocks on Science and Technology Innovation Board, Country Garden's IPO, China Everbright Group, Beijing Capital Group and more than 1,500 listed companies. We have great service capability in the areas of Capital Markets, Securities, Cross-border Investment, Mergers & Acquisitions, Banking & Finance, Infrastructure, Intellectual Property, Dispute Resolution and Criminal Agency. Also, we

provide a large number of legal Pro Bono for poor people, education, environmental protection, natural disaster, and the COVID-19 epidemic prevention and remedy and so on.

In 2010, President Xi visited DeHeng Law Offices and praised us do a good job. Last month, I attended the Centenary Celebration of the Communist Party of China and DeHeng achieved national excellence.

Create the BNRSC

As a firm's leader, I always think about how to guide the firm going forward and make progresses. Innovation is always be engine of mine. We should focus on the mainstream of economic development and global legal environment to seek new opportunities for lawyers.

President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative(BRI) in Kazakhstan. I was aware that BRI would co-build an open platform for cooperation with all countries, through policy, facilities,trade, financial and people-to-people coordination. (“五通”) . There is a huge demand of legal services covering all areas of trade and investment. Those "going out" and "bringing in" enterprises require professional services not just for legal service, but also the services on financing, industry, security, policy consultation, and risk control. BRI will usher in great business opportunities for cross-border professional services.

On October 1st, 2015, DeHeng and CBA with china chambers associations launched the Belt and Road Service Connections (BNRSC) in Milan, Italy. This is an international integration service platform focusing on project connection, risk resolution and dispute mediation. Members of the platform will provide professional services independently. It looks like a public welfare, but in fact, members can get business and enjoy benefits through cooperation.

For example, DeHeng lawyers provided legal and commercial support in

dozens of BRI countries, including Kayan River Project in Indonesia (印尼卡扬河水电站), Port Qasim Coal Fired Project in Pakistan(巴基斯坦卡基姆电站), and Klyuchevskoye Gold Deposit Project in Russia(中俄地区合作发展投资基金设立), etc.

Establish the BNRMC

Where there is a contract, there may be breach. As long as there is cooperation, there may be some disputes. What would it be like if so many BRI commercial disputes go to court or arbitration for solutions? Solving disputes by negotiation and mediation are used in many bilateral and multilateral investment treaties. They are highly respected in most countries of the world. In the 1980s, the United Nations formulated the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules and issued Technical Notes on Online Dispute Resolution in 2016. Seeking stability and long-term development, mediation should be a priority dispute solution between enterprises. In 2016, we created the International Commercial Mediation Center and its online mediation system for the Belt and Road. This is a non-governmental, international, professional legal service organization.

The Mediation Center assists the parties to solve their commercial disputes through online and offline mediation. No matter where you are, if you can log on the Internet, you can apply for mediation or apply to be a mediator. After the epidemic outbreak, a lot of work has to be done online. Recently, we successfully mediated a Brazil soya bean case via our mediation system.

After 5 years' development, now the Mediation Center has 516 mediators worldwide. They are all experienced lawyers, arbitrators, mediators who have handled a large number of disputes. Mr. Jeff Leong is one of them in our Mediation Center. We have established 89 offline mediation rooms globally, including many cities in China, Italy, Thailand, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Nigeria, etc. In 2019, we signed cooperation agreements with IAC, AIFC courts, IUS International Arbitration Court to

jointly resolve international disputes through mediation and other ADR settlements in China and Kazakhstan. In 2020, we completed the establishment of Kuala Lumpur Mediation Office with the Malaysian Mediation Centre online. Mr. Jeff Leong is also the director of Kuala Lumpur Mediation Office. Mr. Jeff Leong, thank you so much for your great efforts.

BNRMC has established good connections with a lot of courts in China. Nowadays, the Chinese judicial system is actively promoting ADR and ODR to resolve disputes. Mediation has become an important part of the foreign-related dispute resolution mechanism. As long as the parties reach a mediation agreement, they can apply for judicial confirmation of this mediation agreement before the courts directly, which is of great benefit for our work on mediation connecting with litigation, arbitration and notarization.

Up to now, we have accepted about sixty-three hundred (6,326) cases , and thirty-seven hundred (3,796) cases were successfully meditated. The success rate of mediation cases was over 60%. Some cases are recommended by lawyers or other mediation centers. **We also hope and welcome you to recommend cases to BNRMC for mediation and join our Mediation Center to act as mediators.**

At the China Forum on International Legal Cooperation(2020), I introduced the International Commercial Mediation. On the Thematic Forum on sub-national cooperation of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, I introduced BNRSC Professional Platform and BNRMC Mediation Center. In 2018, We issued a declaration on “*the Principles on International Commercial Mediation for the Belt and Road Initiative*” in Rome. In 2019, We signed the *Beijing Initiative of the BNRSC*. In 2019, We issued the “*Declaration on Green Finance for the Belt and Road Initiative*” in Seoul.

On September 5th next month, we will hold a Forum of 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing. We will discuss how to promote high-quality development of the BRI and how to create a favorable legal environment for the construction of the BRI. **Welcome all of you to attend the Forum at that time on line.**

Today, I believe that all of us who have provided legal services for the BRI can really feel the benefits from it. China-Europe freight trains have spread over 15 countries in Europe, covering more than 40 cities. The construction of infrastructure has also increased the coverage of China-Europe freight. The BRI is building a closer partnership for health cooperation, connectivity, green development, as well as openness and inclusiveness. The BRI has stepped into the high-quality development under new circumstances.

I am pleased to meet so many professionals in legal services. Hope we can create more cooperation opportunities with new and old friends to build an even closer partnership for the promising future.

Finally, wish you keep health, and everything goes well and success !