

ADR IN THE ABODE OF PEACE

Nestled in the heart of Borneo, Brunei Darussalam is renowned for its tranquility, pristine natural surroundings, and the reign of its monarch as one of the world's longest-serving. Leveraging its abundant oil and gas reserves since the late 20th century, the nation actively encourages foreign investment in its domestic economy. The increasing influx of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into the Sultanate has underscored the appeal of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), particularly arbitration, as a preferred mechanism for resolving cross-border conflicts, complementing traditional court litigation. This approach not only provides a safety net and contractual security for international parties but also embodies a balanced system that safeguards the interests of both host states and foreign investors.

Not only does ADR significantly benefit the international stakeholders, it also flows to the local community. Looking inside the domestic border, Brunei Darussalam has a tight-knit society that is distinctly communal and cohesive. In daily interactions, the community embraces ADR in an informal capacity. Instances of conflict or disagreement among community members are typically resolved through dialogue or discussion facilitated by esteemed figures such as *Imam*, *Ketua kampung* (village heads), or heads of families. Subsequently, this norm evolved into a long-standing practice rooted in Brunei Darussalam's culture and indigenous customs long before the formalization of legal systems.

Join us for insightful panel discussions exploring the evolution of ADR and the innovative use of technology for effective dispute resolution in the Kingdom of Unexpected Treasures!



Wednesday, 17 July 2024
9 am - 12 pm



In person at Hearing Room 1,
Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre



Virtual via Zoom

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Programme Schedule

- 9.00 am Registration
- 9.15 am Keynote Address
- 9.30 am **Session 1: In the Abode of Peace: Harmonizing Society Through ADR**
Discover the history of ADR and how it evolves from ancient norms to modern practices in the kingdom of unexpected treasures. As the epithet “The Abode of Peace” aptly captures the essence of Brunei Darussalam – unlock the secrets on how the nation continues to uphold its reputation as a beacon of peace and stability in the region and beyond!
- 10.30 am Coffee Break
- 10.45 am **Session 2: Embracing Technology In An Effective Dispute Resolution Landscape**
In today's fast-paced era of technological progress, stakeholders readily integrate digital tools and online platforms into traditional dispute resolution methods. This transition towards digital platforms enables a more collaborative and flexible approach to dispute resolution. Online mediation and virtual arbitration hearings, supported by these technologies, allow for real-time communication and negotiation, transcending geographical limitations. The growing popularity of online dispute resolution platforms within the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) domain underscores this trend, while innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI) are being warmly embraced. As we move further into the digital age, the continued evolution and adoption of these technologies will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of dispute resolution, ultimately maximizing outcomes and maintaining the effectiveness of ADR.
- 11.45 am Closing Remarks
- 12.00 pm End and Networking Session