

Global Pound Conference Findings Published

The Global Pound Conference (GPC) Series created a global conversation around *Shaping the Future of Dispute Resolution & Improving Access to Justice* bringing together 4000 dispute resolution stakeholders, at 28 conferences in 24 countries.

The series, created in the name of the [International Mediation Institute](#) (IMI) sought to identify, by engaging a diverse group of stakeholders including: users, legal advisors, adjudicative providers, non-adjudicative providers and influencers, key insights on the future challenges and needs of the dispute resolution industry. With a particular focus on the corporate user, the ground-breaking research challenges traditional and underlying ideas of what clients want and how practitioners operate. Four key global themes were been identified*:

- **Efficiency is the key priority of parties when choosing dispute resolution processes.** This represents a challenge to traditional adversarial dispute resolution models, whether public (domestic courts) or private (institutional and ad hoc arbitration). Parties are looking not just for justice and resolution of their disputes, but an efficient journey to resolution.
- **Parties expect greater collaboration from advisors in dispute resolution.** One the one hand, parties made clear they wanted to see greater collaboration from their Advisors in dispute resolution processes while on the other, Advisors consistently asserted their role to be advocates for their clients.
- **Global interest in the use of pre-dispute protocols and mixed mode dispute resolution.** Uniting stakeholders across all 24 conferences was the use firstly of protocols to encourage the use of processes such as mediation or conciliation prior to commencing arbitration or litigation. Secondly, there was a desire to combine non-adjudicative and adjudicative processes. These 'mixed-models' can be done sequentially, in parallel or integrated with one another.
- **Some uncomfortable home truths for lawyers.** All stakeholder groups identify Advisors (predominantly private practice lawyers) as the primary obstacle to change in commercial dispute resolution practice. Lawyers showed the self-awareness to identify themselves as the group most resistant to change.

Looking at the data emerging from the first GPC held in London, organized in July 2017 by CEDR in conjunction with other supporting entities such as Herbert Smith Freehills and PwC, the impact of Lord Woolf's reforms, embedding ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) in the commercial dispute resolution process was in evidence. Whilst recognizing how far the use of mediation has come in the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian countries the number of mediations is still relatively low when compared to the case numbers.

[James South](#), Managing Director and IMI Board Director said of the findings:

".....The challenge for all stakeholders around the world now is to be the agents of change for this evolution of dispute resolution practice. CEDR is definitely up for the challenge."

Any questions regarding CEDR in Asia please contact us at teresam@cedr.com.hk or call Danny McFadden on 852 5100 7131

* Source: Global Pound Conference Series; Global Data Trends and Regional Differences Report prepared by [Herbert Smith Freehills](#), [PwC](#) and IMI. The report can be accessed at: <https://www.herbertsmithfreehills.com/latest-thinking/global-pound-conference-series-redefining-dispute-resolution>.