

Reception to mark the launch of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) Foreign Arbitrators' Forum

**14 April 2011 at the Livery Hall
6-8pm**

Address of Mr. Anthony Connerty Chairman of the CIETAC Foreign Arbitrators' Forum

Aldermen, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

This Reception marks the start of a number of events aimed at disseminating information on CIETAC – the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission.

CIETAC is one of the busiest international commercial arbitration bodies in the world.

Why should a Chinese arbitration body be of interest to London- and to the City of London in particular?

I suggest that there are three reasons.

First, as cross-border trade increases, so disputes inevitably increase. And as disputes increase, the need for resolving disputes – as swiftly and as cost –effectively as possible - similarly increases. International commercial arbitration is widely recognised as being one of the most effective ways – if not the most effective way – of resolving complex commercial disputes.

Second, China is one of the world's leading trading nations. The importance of China to the UK and to the Square Mile is demonstrated by the fact that the City of London has opened representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai. And the interest of China in the City is demonstrated by the fact that the CCPIT – the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade – has recently moved to splendid new offices in the City – nearby in Old Jewry.

Third, London is not only one of the world's leading financial centres. It is also one of the world's leading centres for international commercial arbitration: for example, the City is home to the London Court of International Arbitration and to the London Maritime Arbitrators Association.

I suggest that those three factors explain why a Chinese international arbitration body should be of interest to London.

And certainly London is of interest to CIETAC: as shown by the fact that the CIETAC Foreign Arbitrators' Forum is tonight launched at this Reception in the Guildhall.

The purpose of the Forum is, as I have said, to spread the word about CIETAC arbitration.

The Forum will seek to do that by staging a number of seminars in London at which speakers will provide information on CIETAC: tonight's Reception is followed tomorrow afternoon by a conference at Charles Clore House in Russell Square. The conference is on CIETAC

arbitration and is being staged by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, CIETAC and the IDR Group.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the Vice Chairman and Secretary General of CIETAC, Mr. Lu Jianlong.