

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. Mark Boleat,
Deputy Chairman of Policy at the City of London**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the launch of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) Foreign Arbitrators' Forum.

As the Deputy Chairman of Policy at the City of London – I am delighted to be hosting this evening's reception at the Livery Hall – which is at the heart of the Guildhall. The City of London is delighted to be holding the launch of the CIETAC Foreign Arbitrators' Forum at this historic centre of international trade.

I would like to give a particular welcome to Yu Jianlong and his delegation from CIETAC. Mr Yu is the Vice Chairman and Secretary General of CIETAC.

The City of London Corporation works to support and promote UK-based financial services - "the City". We work to maintain the reputation and success of this leading international financial centre.

Trade and investment are at the heart of the UK economy – and links with China are vital to our international position. We work closely with financial centres such as Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing to share expertise and increase the flow of international business between our centres.

My colleague Michael Bear – the Lord Mayor of the City of London – is currently in China, accompanied by a business delegation of City firms. His visit includes Shanghai, Hangzhou, Beijing and Guangzhou.

And my colleague Stuart Fraser, the City of London's Policy Chairman, will be visiting China next month. He will visit Shanghai and Beijing, attending the Shanghai International Financial Advisory Council and the Lujiazui Forum, helping Shanghai to develop as an international financial centre.

Trade in professional services is an important part of this UK-China business collaboration. The UK is a leading international legal centre – with unrivalled legal expertise from the pre-contract stage through to resolving disputes. In 2009, legal firms based in the UK resolved almost 5300 international disputes.

We are home to specialists in areas such as international trade, shipping, aviation, banking and financial services, insurance, commodity transactions, international arbitration, insolvency, energy and European Union law.

And so this could not be a more appropriate location for the launch of CIETAC's Foreign Arbitrators Forum. Many of CIETAC's arbitrators are UK lawyers – a good foundation for building further links with the City.

Tonight is an opportunity for our guests to meet a wide range of companies and institutions from the UK – and for us to learn more about CIETAC.

Thank you for joining us - wish you an enjoyable evening strengthening existing ties and making new business contacts.

I will now hand over to Anthony Connerty – a longstanding CIETAC arbitrator - to introduce the CIETAC Foreign Arbitrators' Forum. We will then hear from Yu Jianlong Vice Chairman and Secretary General of CIETAC.