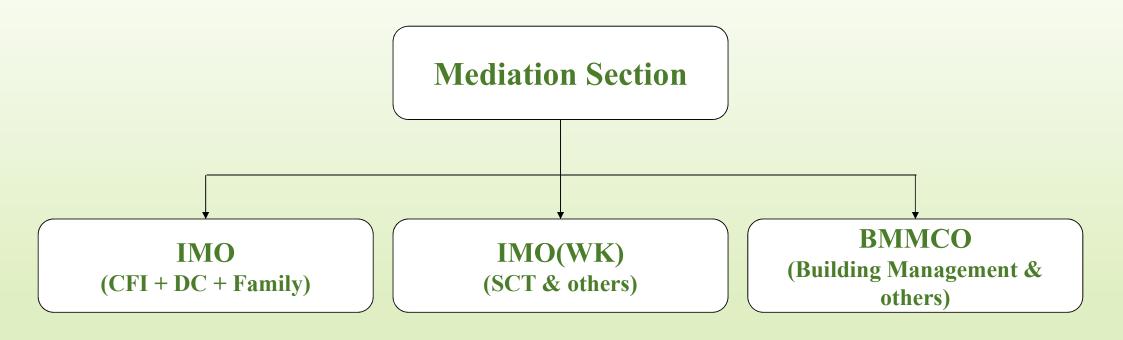


### MEDIATION IN ACTION: HARMONY AND PEACE FOR ALL THE INTEGRATED MEDIATION OFFICE (WEST KOWLOON) OF THE JUDICIARY - ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

Mimi Ho
Mediation Co-ordinator
The Judiciary

6th November 2024

### Organisation Chart of Mediation Section



Court-Annexed Mediation

# Integrated Mediation Office (West Kowloon)

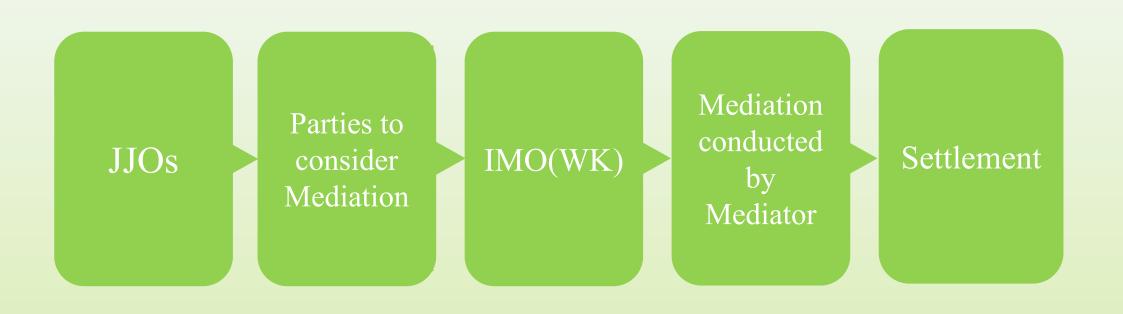


2 Ying Wa Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

#### What work does the Small Claims Tribunal do

Monetary claims not exceeding HK\$ 75,000

#### **SCT** to Invite Parties to Consider Mediation



# The Launch of Integrated Mediation Office (West Kowloon)

• Commenced operation : 5 July 2022

• Targets users: Parties who have commenced proceedings in the Small

Claims Tribunal



### Roles of the Mediation Offices in the Judiciary (Information Provider & Educator)

- Conduct information sessions
- Alert the parties the impact of persistent disputes
- Achieve win-win situation
- Explain the advantages of mediation
- Introduce the role of the mediator

## Roles of the Mediation Offices in Judiciary (Educator)

- General Education to the public
- Deliver educational talks to professional bodies, education institutions and government departments

# Information Session for the Public and the Litigants

- Briefing on mediation services
- Q&A session



### Local Institution representatives visited the IMO(WK) to learn more about the services

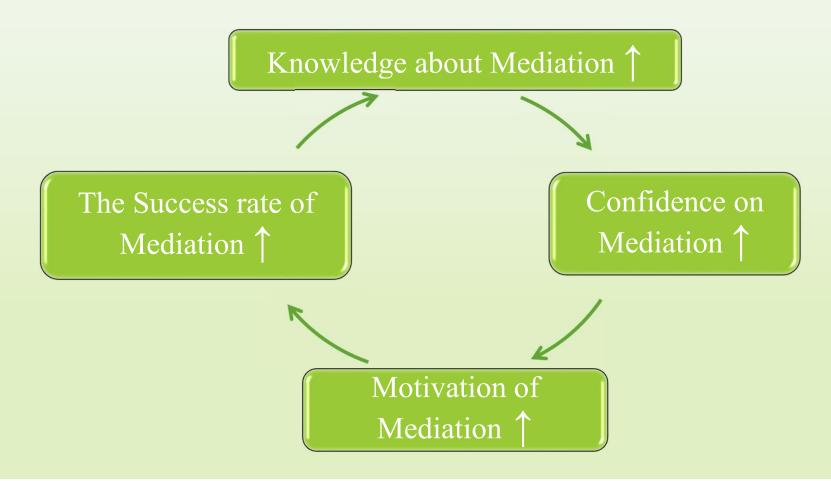




# Overseas guests visited the IMO(WK) and attended presentation on mediation landscape in Hong Kong



# The Positive Cycle of Mediation Information Session



### Roles of the Mediation Offices in Judiciary (Educator)

- Leaflets & materials on mediation
- Resource Corner
- Videos on Mediation
- Computer terminals for court users
- Dedicated webpage on Mediation

#### **Publications on Mediation**



> Reception and general enquiries counter



> Resource corner



> Computer facilities



#### Services and Facilities

➤ Mediation Webpage (https://mediation.judiciary.hk)



# Pre-mediation Consultation 調解前諮詢

- > Separate preliminary meetings
- Afford the parties with opportunities to sort out matters which require mediation beforehand
- Each party will have the chance to state concerns/clarify queries

> Pre-mediation consultations



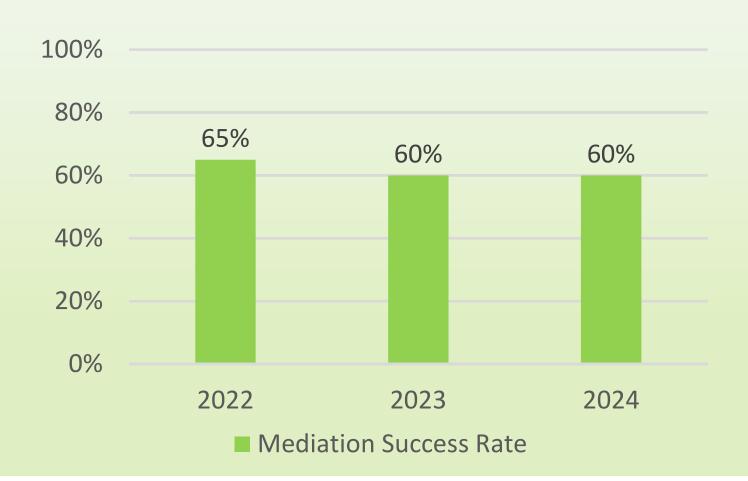
- Arranging pro bono mediation service from IMO(WK) Panel Mediators
- Offering support to Mediators, as and when required



#### Major types of disputes of the mediated cases

- Building Management (including water seepage)
- Rental/ Tenancy Agreement
- Home Decoration Disputes
- Consumer Disputes
- Commercial

#### Cases referred to Independent Mediators through Integrated Mediation Office (West Kowloon) (6.7.2022 to 30.09.2024)



## Integrated Mediation Office (West Kowloon) Average Time Spent on Mediated Cases



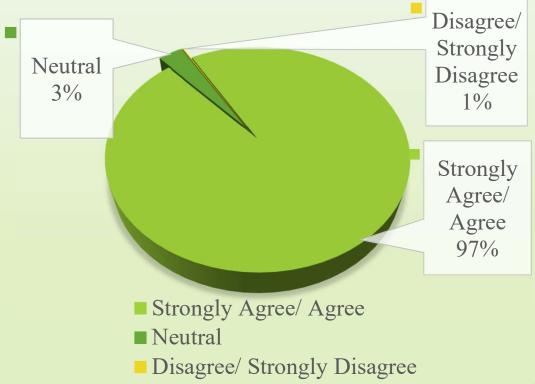
<sup>•</sup> The mediators enlisted onto the panel of IMO(WK) provided mediation services for the case parties on a pro-bono basis.

### Major reasons for participating in mediation (Users may choose more than one item)

	No.	0/0
To save litigation cost and time	602	30%
To avoid tension and conflict in litigation	346	17%
To maintain harmonious relationship with the other party	350	17%
To promote communication with the other party	248	12%
Able to make our own decisions on settlement terms	193	9%
Others	306	15%
Total	2045	100%

Parties considered the Information Session on Mediation has helped better their understanding of mediation

	No.	%
Strongly Agree/ Agree	1260	96%
Neutral	39	3%
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	2	1%
Total	1301	100%



Parties considered the Information Session on Mediation has helped better their understanding of mediation

講解十分清晰, 能掌握 調解的認識, 亦能更 有心理準備進行日後的 調解工作 Quite useful and easy to understand, introduced in layman('s) terms; very patient with questions

講解清晰詳盡,讓訴訟雙方有 多些迴轉空間以尋求解決方 案,多謝法庭提供這渠道!

Parties considered the mediator had helped create a positive atmosphere to enable parties to reach agreements

	No.	0/0	Disagree/ Strongly
Strongly Agree/ Agree	837	93%	Neutral 6% Disagree 1%
Neutral	51	6%	
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	8	1%	Strongly Agree/ Agree  Neutral  Strongly Agree/ Agree
Total	896	100%	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree

Parties considered the mediator had helped create a positive atmosphere to enable parties to reach agreements

能令雙方以輕鬆形式表達立場讓事件能以緩和方式解決。

氣氛良好 有利協調各方

Throughout the mediation process, [the mediator] demonstrated [the] abilities and provided an open environment for the involved parties for better communication

#### Parties considered Mediation service had helped save time

	No.	0/0	Disagree/ Strongly
Strongly Agree/ Agree	762	87%	Neutral 12% Disagree 1%
Neutral	103	12%	Strongly
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	13	1%	Agree/ Agree 87%  Strongly Agree/ Agree
Total	878	100%	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree

### Parties considered Mediation service had helped save / reduce litigation cost

	No.	0/0	Disagree/ Strongly
Strongly Agree/ Agree	749	86%	Neutral 12% Disagree 2%
Neutral	106	12%	Strongly
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	14	2%	Agree/ Agree  86%  Strongly Agree/ Agree
Total	869	100%	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree

Parties considered Mediation service had helped save / reduce litigation cost

可以減少了不必要的訴訟費, 與對方和諧地解決問題。

可以節省金錢 及時間

非常滿意調解安排,能把對方之訴訟順利解決,節省費用。

### Parties considered Mediation service had helped avoid tension and conflict in litigation

	No.	0/0	Disagree/ Strongly
Strongly Agree/ Agree	762	88%	Neutral 11%  Neutral 11%
Neutral	97	11%	Strongly
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	11	1%	Agree/ Agree  88%
Total	870	100%	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree

Parties considered Mediation service had helped avoid tension and conflict in litigation

整體覺得很良好, 比上法庭好好, 比多

Good, 幫助解決問題, 避免事件上法庭, 浪費人力物力

值得推薦在訴訟外的 另一個解決方法

### Parties considered mediation is an effective alternative in resolving disputes

	No.	0/0	Disagree/ Strongly
Strongly Agree/ Agree	771	88%	Neutral 11% Disagree 1%
Neutral	93	11%	Strongly
Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	6	1%	Agree/ Agree  88%
Total	870	100%	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree

#### **Overall Comments on Mediation Services**

#### About Mediation

調解是妥善美好的, 因為

- 1. 會更了解對方為什麼不合作,為人操守等;
- 2. 令訴訟人短暫放下煩擾;
- 3. 令不想調解或當無事發生的一方進行調解及
- 4. 對紛爭多點了解。

Very good and useful service for both parties to understand the situation instead of focusing the amount if claimed.

#### **Overall Comments on Mediation Services**

#### About Mediator

感謝調解員的耐心分析。經了解事情後,專業積極用心地講解事件利弊。加上生動有趣切身的比喻。使我得到鼓勵後,更有信心傾向以今次服務,完滿解決此事件。但最終因對方種種要求令事件未能有完滿解決的結局。雖然如此,但此服務確實專業及有成效的。

The Mediator is a knowledgeable guide and facilitated discussion with pertinent questions. [He/She] was a peaceful negotiator. Thank you

#### **Overall Comments on Mediation Services**

About the understanding of the subject matter

調解過程能將整個案情充分了解,能令大家對自己和對方的觀點,以第三者角度實現之後再反思。

對於今次的調解安排,個人認為非常有幫助的協調雙方的申訴,並且得以解決,透過今次的調解服務,我們雙方都得到一個合理的解決方案,如身邊有朋友需要亦會推薦他們。Thank you ^^

### **Case Sharing**

#### **Feedback Received**

… 能夠為長時間以來的紛爭 畫上句號; 給予一個機會 去處理雙方之間的紛爭…

#### **Integrated Mediation Office**

- Co-ordination 統籌
- Connection 聯繫
- Collaboration 協作
- Cooperation 合作

### Thank You!