

KIDRC	Korean Internet Address Dispute Resolution Committee
LCIA	London Court of International Arbitration
MAC	Maritime Arbitration Commission
MII	Ministry of Information Industry
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
NPC	National People's Congress
SAIC	State Administration of Industry and Commerce
SCC	Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SIAC	Singapore International Arbitration Centre
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
UN	United Nations
UDNDRP	Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy Rules
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
VIAC	Vienna International Arbitral Centre
Washington Convention	Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes
WFOE	Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

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Chapter I

History of Arbitration in China

I INTRODUCTION

1. It is often said that arbitration commenced its journey in China in the early 1990s. In 1912, the then Chinese government promulgated the *Constitution for Business Arbitration Office*, followed by the *Working Rules for Business Arbitration Office* in 1913, which made provisions for the parties to a business dispute to submit their dispute to the Business Arbitration Office for settlement. The rules, however, also provided that an arbitral award would not become legally binding without the consent of the disputing parties. In circumstances where the consent of the disputing parties could not be obtained, a disputing party was at liberty to file civil proceedings in court. This development may have formed the basis for the positive attitude shown today towards the consensus-building mediation and conciliation services available within the Chinese arbitral framework.

2. In 1930, the Chinese government promulgated the *Law for Settling Disputes between Labor and Management*, setting forth the conciliation and arbitration procedures for disputes between employers and employees. In 1949, the Tianjin municipal government promulgated the *Tianjin Municipality Interim Rules of Organization for Mediation and Arbitration Commission*, which set forth the formation, authority and working principles for the mediation and arbitration of disputes. Following the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, China gradually established both domestic and foreign-related systems of arbitration that included labour arbitration, economic contract arbitration, and real property arbitration.