

Media Release

SMC's Executive Director to step down in June, successor to be named

Singapore, 10 January 2019 – The Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) announced today that its Executive Director Loong Seng Onn has resigned from the organisation to pursue personal interests.

The search for his successor is underway and Mr Loong will remain at SMC until his last day in end June to ensure a smooth transition. A search committee to look for a suitable candidate for the position has been formed and SMC will make an announcement at the appropriate time.

Mr Loong joined the Singapore Academy of Law, the parent company of SMC, in March 1997 and later became involved in the work of SMC when it was set up in August that year. He was appointed Executive Director of SMC in 2004, a position he has held since.

The Honourable Justice Belinda Ang, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of SMC, said: “On behalf of Singapore Mediation Centre, I would like to thank Seng Onn for his dedicated service to SMC over the last two decades.

“Seng Onn’s leadership has been instrumental in positioning SMC as the premier provider of alternative dispute resolution services in Singapore. During his tenure, we have experienced a healthy growth in the volume of cases mediated as well as grown significant services such as adjudication under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act.

“I understand his need to take time off after more than 20 years of working and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.”

Justice Ang said Mr Loong will serve in a part-time consultant role at SMC after June.

Mr Loong said: "I am confident that the organisation will remain in strong, capable hands and my successor will be committed to the same ethos and values that underpin the important work we do for our clients."

The Singapore Mediation Centre is Singapore's leading provider of alternative dispute resolution services. This includes its core offering of mediation services which does not require parties to go to court to settle their differences. Its other services include adjudication, neutral evaluation, collaborative family practice and Singapore domain name resolution service.

SMC has mediated close to 4,000 matters, worth over \$9 billion since its launch on 16 August 1997. About 70% of these cases are settled, with 90% of them being resolved within one day, attesting to the effectiveness of mediation.

Last year, the quantum of disputes mediated and adjudicated by SMC totalled \$1.1 billion and \$4.9 million respectively.

SMC is one of four designated mediation service providers under Singapore's Mediation Act 2017, which means that mediation settlements administered by SMC can be converted into court orders that are immediately enforceable.

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About the Singapore Mediation Centre

Established in 1997, SMC pioneered the use of mediation as the mainstream mechanism for dispute resolution, as well as training in negotiation and conflict management. Today, SMC offers a suite of alternative dispute resolution services which brings clarity and objectivity to complex situations. These services include mediation, neutral evaluation, collaborative family practice and domain name dispute resolution. Through our panel of professional mediators with legal and industry expertise, SMC is well-placed to manage difficult negotiations and unlock standstills for businesses by providing cost-effective and timely solutions. At SMC, our vision is to help all businesses fully appreciate the value of mediation as a strategic risk-management tool that they can count on in commercial dealings.

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