



International Insolvency Institute Asia Pacific Regional Conference

November 20, 2026 | Guangzhou City, China

INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY INSTITUTE (III) ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

The International Insolvency Institute (III), in cooperation with the Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators (GABA), is pleased to announce the III Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2026, to be held in Guangzhou, China, on 20 November 2026.

The Conference will bring together leading judges, insolvency practitioners, restructuring professionals, academics, policymakers, financial institutions and market participants from across the Asia-Pacific region and other international restructuring centers to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing Asia in an increasingly interconnected restructuring environment.

As cross-border restructurings become more frequent and restructuring jurisdictions compete to attract international cases, Asia is assuming an increasingly important role in shaping the future of global restructuring practice. Against this backdrop, the Conference will explore how markets, courts and cross-border solutions are redefining Asia's place in the global restructuring landscape.

Conference Schedule

09:00 – 18:00
Friday, November 20, 2026

Venue (Changed!)

Conrad Guangzhou

Address:

No. 222, Xingmin Road, Zhujiang
New Town, Tianhe District,
Guangzhou 510623, China

Website:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/canxwci-conrad-guangzhou/>

Repositioning Asia in the Global Restructuring Landscape: Markets, Courts and Competition

全球重组格局中的亚太再定位：市场、法院和跨境解决

The programme will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions and a concluding fireside chat addressing:

- Competing Restructuring Regimes: Asia-Pacific's Insolvency Reform in a Competitive Global Environment
- Cross-Border Recognition and Judicial Cooperation in Practice
- Beyond the Courtroom: Out-of-Court Restructuring, Arbitration and Mediation
- Asia's Restructuring Market: Developing the Next Generation of Restructuring Hubs, etc.

Registration

Registration will be completed via email. Please send a message with the following details to sign up.

Email: gdaba@gdaba.org.cn; yanshuaidong@ruc.edu.cn

Subject: Registration – III Asia-Pacific Conference Guangzhou Forum (20 November 2026)

Required information: Full Name, Nationality, Gender, Passport/Travel Document Number, Telephone, Email, Affiliation, Position/Title, and a short biography (approx. 100 words), arrival and departure date.

Participation in the Conference is free of charge. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses. The local host, the Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators (GABA), will provide meals and coffee breaks during the Conference. For certain specially invited speakers, panelists, and distinguished guests, GABA may, at its sole discretion and subject to availability, provide hotel accommodation support. Any such arrangements will be communicated directly to the individuals concerned.

Participants are encouraged to make travel and accommodation arrangements as early as possible.

GABA Contact Information

Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators (GABA)

Website: www.gdaba.org.cn

Address: Room 1706, 17th Floor, China Mayor Plaza, 189 Tianhe North Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou.

Tel: 020-83622537 / +86 13926177652

Office Hours: 09:00–12:00; 14:30–17:30 (Beijing time)

Contact Person:

Ms. GE, Jun; email: gdaba@gdaba.org.cn

Mr. YAN, Shuaidong; Tel: +86 178-0101-9219; email: yanshuaidong@ruc.edu.cn

VISA and Entry Information

Participants should independently verify visa and entry requirements applicable to their nationality. Those requiring invitation letters should indicate this in their registration email. Visa requirements vary by jurisdiction. Participants may consult the website of the nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate for applicable visa requirements. Certain foreign nationals may qualify for China's 240-hour transit-without-visa policy when arriving by international air travel and meeting all applicable requirements. Different rules may apply for entry by train, land border crossings, or other means of transport. Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents before departure. GABA will provide necessary assistance upon request.



Conference Schedule

09:00 – 18:00

Friday, November 20, 2026

Venue:

Conrad Guangzhou,
Guangdong Province, PRC

Welcoming banquet (6:30-8:30pm), November 19

Opening Session (9:00–9:40am)

- **Vice President of Guangdong High People's Court**
- **Taiyan Huang**, Vice President, China Law Society
- **Zhengfu Zhu**, President, Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators
- **Stephan Madaus**, Chair, International Insolvency Institute (III) (2026–2027); Chair Professor, School of Law, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- *Moderator: Jingxia Shi, Co-Chair, III Asia-Pacific Regional Committee; Wu Yuzhang Chair Professor, RUC Law School*

Panel 1 (9:40–11:00am)

Competing Restructuring Regimes: Asia-Pacific's Insolvency Reform in a Competitive Global Environment

全球制度竞争下的亚洲重整制度改革

- Discussion: Legislative reform, preventive restructuring, restructuring venue competition, rule alignment, implementation of the UNCITRAL Model Law, and institutional capacity across Asia.
- *Key Question: Can Asia-Pacific build globally competitive restructuring regimes?*
- **Sumant Batra**, Former President, INSOL International; President, Society of Insolvency Practitioners of India
- **Judge Jung Hwa YOU**, Seoul Bankruptcy Court; Judge for Cross-Border Cooperation and Coordination (CBCC)
- **Lin Yu**, Judge, Supreme People's Court of China (TBD)
- **Smitha Menon**, Partner, Wong Partnership LLP, Singapore; Co-Chair, III Asia-Pacific Regional Committee
- **Neil McDonald**, Partner, Restructuring, Kirkland & Ellis, Hong Kong
- **Yuri Sugano**, Partner, Nishimura & Asahi, Japan
- *Moderator: Lingqi Wang, Partner, Fangda Partners, Shanghai*

Coffee Break (11:00–11:20 a.m.)

Panel 2 (11:20am–12:40pm)

Cross-Border Recognition and Judicial Cooperation in Practice

跨境承认与司法协作的实践路径

- Discussion: COMI, recognition of foreign insolvency proceedings and restructuring plans, the Mainland China-Hong Kong SAR cooperation mechanism, judicial coordination, and comparative developments in Singapore, the UK and other major restructuring jurisdictions.
- *Key Questions: What are the most significant recent developments in cross-border insolvency recognition and judicial cooperation? What challenges remain in building an effective cross-border restructuring framework?*
- **James M. Peck**, International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court; Former U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Southern District of New York; Former Chair, III
- **Stephan Madaus**, Chair, III (2026–2027); Chair Professor, School of Law, Martin Luther University
- **Justice Mohamed Faizal Mohamed Abdul Kadir**, Judge, High Court of Singapore
- **Halle-Wittenberg**, Germany
- **Handing Fei**, Deputy Chief Judge, Guangdong High Court (TBD)
- **Kathlene Burke**, Founder, Burke Legal, Ireland
- **Mark Lawford**, Restructuring Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, London
- *Moderator: Jingxia Shi, Co-Chair, III Asia-Pacific Regional Committee*

Lunch Break (1:00–2:20 p.m.)

Panel 3 (2:00pm–3:20pm)

Beyond the Courtroom: Out-of-Court Restructuring, Arbitration and Mediation

法院之外：庭外重组、仲裁与调解

- Discussion: The expanding role of out-of-court workouts, arbitration and mediation in financial distress; coordination between consensual restructuring and formal insolvency proceedings; restructuring disputes involving offshore debt; and the practical contribution of advisers, mediators and courts to negotiated solutions.
- *Key Questions: When can out-of-court restructuring, arbitration or mediation provide a more effective route than formal insolvency proceedings? How should these mechanisms interact with court-supervised restructuring and cross-border insolvency frameworks?*
- **Scott Atkins**, Global Head of Restructuring, Norton Rose Fulbright Australia, Sydney
- **Jose'-Antonio Maurellet**, Senior Counsel, Des Voeux Chambers Hong Kong, 3 Verulam Buildings London (TBD)
- **Blossom Hing**, SC, Co-Head, Corporate Restructuring & Workouts; Director, Dispute Resolution, Drew & Napier, Singapore
- **Desmond Ang**, Partner, Restructuring, Sidley Austin LLP, Hong Kong
- **Zhibin Zheng**, Partner, Beijing Dacheng Law Offices
- *Moderators:*
 - **Mark Bloom**, Partner, Baker McKenzie, Miami; Former Chair, III (2025–2026)
 - **Ya Lian**, Deputy Chief Judge, Guangzhou Bankruptcy Court (TBD)

Coffee Break (3:50–4:10 p.m.)

Panel 4 (3:40pm–5:00pm)

Asia's Restructuring Market: Developing the Next Generation of Restructuring Hubs

亚洲重组市场：建设下一代重整中心

- Discussion: The development of the Greater Bay Area restructuring ecosystem; offshore debt restructurings, schemes of arrangement, bond restructurings and keepwell structures; distressed-debt investment; court specialization; administrator and professional-services markets; and the institutional and market conditions required for internationally competitive restructuring hubs in Asia.
- *Key Question: What will it take for Asia to build the next generation of internationally competitive restructuring hubs?*
- **Steve Kargman**, Founder and President, Kargman Associates International Restructuring Advisors
- **Ian Roger De Witt**, Partner, Tanner De Witt, Hong Kong; Member, III Asia-Pacific Regional Committee
- **Richard Woodworth**, Restructuring and Insolvency Partner, Linklaters, Hong Kong
- **Kwan Kiat Sim**, Partner, Restructuring and Insolvency Practice, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP (TBD)
- **Shuo Dong**, Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators (GABA)
- *Moderators:*
 - **Amelia Tan**, Partner, Carey Olsen, Singapore (TBD)
 - **Shuai Guo**, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Tsinghua University, III Next-Gen Member

Closing Remarks (5:40–5:55 p.m.)

- **Mark Bloom**, immediate past Chair, III
- **Stephan Madaus**, Chair, III (2026–2027)
- **Jingxia Shi**, Co-Chair, III Asia-Pacific Regional Committee
- *Moderator: Zhengfu Zhu*, President, Guangdong Association of Bankruptcy Administrators

Appreciation Dinner (6:30–8:30pm)

Pearl River Night Cruise

Following the conclusion of the III Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Guangzhou on Friday, November 20, 2026, overseas speakers and guests are warmly invited to join an optional Pearl River night cruise. The cruise offers an opportunity to enjoy Guangzhou's spectacular nighttime skyline, including Canton Tower, Haixinsha and the landmarks along the Pearl River, while continuing conversations with fellow conference participants in a relaxed setting.

Time: Approximately 9:00 p.m. onwards

Departure: Conrad Guangzhou

Duration: Approximately 1.5–2 hours, including transportation

Cost: Complimentary for invited overseas speakers and guests

Dress: Casual / conference attire

Transportation between Conrad Guangzhou and the cruise terminal will be arranged by the Conference Organizing Committee.

Participation is entirely optional. Further details regarding the departure time and cruise arrangements will be provided closer to the Conference.

