

Enforcement of Cross-Border Commercial Settlement Agreements: Application and Prospects of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China

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Abstract

With the advancement of globalization, the importance of international commercial dispute resolution mechanisms has become increasingly prominent. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, as an important legal document in the field of international commercial Mediation, provides a unified legal framework for the enforcement of cross-border commercial settlement agreements and enhances the international status of Mediation as a means of dispute resolution. The article provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of the Convention on China's commercial mediation system and its application in China, and discusses the challenges of the Convention to China's legal system, especially the deficiencies in procedural norms, qualification of mediators, and the enforceability of mediation agreements. The article also examines the practice of Chinese courts in enforcing settlement agreements under the Convention, and points out the challenges that China faces in adapting to the requirements of the Convention in terms of the adaptability of its legal system, the need for adjustments in judicial procedures, the upgrading of the professional qualifications of mediators, and the strengthening of international cooperation. Finally, the article puts forward a series of policy recommendations to promote the effective implementation of the Convention in China and looks ahead to China's potential role in the global commercial dispute resolution arena. Through an in-depth study of the Convention, the article aims to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for the development and internationalization of China's commercial mediation system.

Keywords: *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, international commercial settlement agreements, Chinese commercial mediation, legal framework, enforcement mechanisms

1. Introduction

With the deepening development of globalization, international commercial activities have become increasingly frequent, and the ensuing number of cross-border commercial disputes has also been on the rise. Against this backdrop, an efficient and cost-effective dispute resolution mechanism is of particular importance. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* was born out of necessity, providing a unified legal framework in the field of international commercial Mediation and aiming to facilitate the implementation of cross-border commercial settlement agreements.¹ The signing and entry into force of the Convention signified the unprecedented attention given to international commercial mediation at the legal level, and its influence and practical value

¹ Wang Guohua, Shi Changyan, (2023). The Conflict between the Singapore Convention and China's International Commercial Mediation Mechanism and the Way to Solve It. *Annual of China Maritime Law*, 34(02), 37-48.

could not be ignored.

The introduction of the Convention not only provides a clear legal basis for the cross-border enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements, but also greatly enhances the international status of mediation as a means of dispute resolution. As far as China is concerned, with the promotion of the “Belt and Road” Initiative and the accelerated pace of Chinese enterprises going global, China’s position in the global economy is becoming more and more prominent, and the demand for international commercial dispute resolution is also growing. The application of the Convention is of great significance to the improvement of China’s commercial mediation system, the enhancement of its international commercial dispute resolution capacity and the optimization of its international trade and investment environment.¹ Therefore, an in-depth analysis of the application of the Convention in China and its potential impact is of great theoretical and practical value in promoting the development and internationalization of China’s commercial Mediation system.

2. Overview of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*

The background and development history of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* stems from the urgent need for efficient resolution of international commercial disputes in the context of globalization, in particular the lack of cross-border enforceability of Mediation, as a non-adversarial and cost-effective means of dispute resolution, has become a major obstacle restricting its wide application.² In order to fill this gap, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has been working on the formulation of relevant international rules since 2014, and after years of discussions and multi-party consultations, it finally adopted the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in 2018, which will be opened for signing in 2019 and formally enter into force in 2020, marking a new milestone in the field of international commercial mediation, and providing a new framework for the international commercial settlement agreements globally, providing a unified legal framework for their implementation.

The core content and features of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* are reflected in the fact that it provides a clear framework for the cross-border enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements, establishes standards for the international and commercial character of settlement agreements, stipulates that settlement agreements must be in writing, and sets out in detail the conditions and procedures for enforcing a settlement agreement, including the materials required to be submitted by the parties to an application for enforcement, and the limited grounds for refusal of enforcement by the State in which enforcement is to take place. The Convention also sets out the conditions and procedures for the enforcement of settlement agreements, including the materials required by the parties to apply for enforcement and the limited grounds for refusal of enforcement in the country of enforcement. In addition, the Convention emphasizes respect for the autonomy of the parties, reduces judicial intervention in the enforcement of settlement agreements and improves the efficiency of enforcement, while balancing the convenience and fairness of enforcement by clearly stipulating the circumstances under which enforcement may be refused, ensuring the legality and legitimacy of the enforcement of settlement agreements.³

The impact of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* on the enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements have been far-reaching, as it has not only harmonized the international standards for enforcing international commercial settlement agreements and reduced the legal uncertainty and complexity of cross-border enforcement, but also strengthened the confidence of commercial subjects in choosing Mediation as a means of dispute resolution by providing direct enforceability. By clearly stipulating the conditions for enforcement and the limited grounds for refusal of enforcement, the Convention provides clear guidance to the courts of the country where enforcement is to take place, thus enhancing the international recognition and enforceability of settlement agreements, promoting the development of the international commercial Mediation system, strengthening cooperation and coordination among different jurisdictions, and providing a more efficient and harmonious means of resolving international commercial disputes.

3. Interface Between China’s Legal Framework for Commercial Mediation and the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*

The legal system of commercial mediation in China consists mainly of the *People’s Mediation Law*, the *Civil Procedure Law* and relevant judicial interpretations. The *People’s Mediation Law* provides the basic framework

¹ Liu Jing, (2023). On the Commercial Mediation System under the One-Stop International Commercial Dispute Resolution Platform — The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* as a Perspective. *Journal of Henan Administrative Institute of Politics and Law*, 38(03), 118-130.

² Feng Dongdong, (2023). Improvement of the enforcement mechanism of China’s international commercial mediation agreement in the context of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. *Chinese Review of International Law*, (02), 143-160.

³ Chen Yazheng, (2023). The Problem of Sham Mediation in International Commercial Mediation and China’s Response: The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* as a Perspective. *Commercial Arbitration & Mediation*, (01), 93-110.

for mediation in China, while the Civil Procedure Law clarifies the procedures for judicial confirmation of mediation agreements.¹ In China, commercial mediation is mostly practiced by arbitration institutions or specialized mediation centers, such as the Mediation Center of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC). These mediation organizations usually handle domestic and foreign commercial disputes by referring to international mediation rules and combining them with Chinese legal practice. However, there are still deficiencies in China's commercial mediation in terms of procedural norms, qualification of mediators, and enforceability of mediation agreements, which limit the efficiency and effectiveness of commercial mediation to a certain extent.

An analysis of the compatibility of Chinese law with the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* shows that there are certain differences between Chinese law and the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* with respect to commercial mediation. First, the form requirements for settlement agreements are different. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* explicitly provides that settlement agreements must be in writing. This means that all settlement agreements to which the Convention applies need to be documented in writing to ensure their formality and enforceability. In Chinese law, on the other hand, the formal requirements for mediation agreements are more relaxed. For example, under the *People's Mediation Law*, a mediation agreement reached through mediation by a people's mediation committee may be in writing or may be an oral agreement, as long as the people's mediator records the content of the agreement. This flexibility may pose a challenge when enforcing international commercial settlement agreements, as the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* has more stringent requirements for written form. Second, the independence of the conciliation process differs. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* requires that the settlement agreement arise from an independent mediation process. This means that the conciliation process needs to involve a third-party conciliator, not just a settlement reached by the parties themselves. In China, a settlement agreement generally refers to an agreement reached by the parties themselves, whereas a conciliation agreement refers to an agreement reached with the assistance of a third party. This distinction does not exist in the context of the Convention, which emphasizes the conciliation process with the participation of a third party. Third, the degree of emphasis on party autonomy differs. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* emphasizes party autonomy, i.e., respect for the autonomous will and decision-making power of the parties in the conciliation process. Chinese law, on the other hand, focuses more on judicial confirmation of the conciliation agreement by the court, i.e. the enforceability of the conciliation agreement often requires confirmation by the court. In China, the conciliation agreement reached by a commercial industry organization does not have enforceability or finality, and is equivalent to a civil contract in legal nature, which is only enforceable after review by the court. Fourth, the judicial confirmation procedures are different. In Chinese law, the implementation of the mediation agreement often requires judicial confirmation by the court, which is reflected in the *Civil Procedure Law*, which stipulates the procedures and effects of court mediation. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, on the other hand, provides an international framework for the enforcement of settlement agreements that does not rely on judicial confirmation by national courts. These differences indicate that there is a certain degree of incompatibility between Chinese law on commercial mediation and the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, and that further adjustments and improvements are needed to meet the new requirements of international commercial mediation.

The challenges faced by China in implementing the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* mainly include the problem of adaptation of the legal system, the need for procedural adjustments in judicial practice, the enhancement of the professional quality of mediators and the strengthening of international cooperation.² For example, Chinese courts need to establish enforcement procedures consistent with the Convention, including formal and substantive review of settlement agreements. At the same time, China needs to train a group of professional mediators who are familiar with international mediation rules and the requirements of the Convention in order to improve the internationalization of commercial mediation. In addition, China needed to strengthen its cooperation with other countries in the field of commercial mediation and jointly promote the implementation and enforcement of the Convention on a global scale.

With regard to the adaptability of the legal system, China needs to revise its existing laws on commercial mediation to comply with the requirements of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. This includes clarifying the scope of application of commercial mediation, standardizing mediation procedures and improving the legal effect of mediation agreements. For example, although China has signed the Convention, there is still a gap between the relevant legislation and judicial practice and its core requirements, and the main problems include

¹ Xiong Hao, (2022). The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* and China's Commercial Mediation Legislation under the Perspective of Contextualism: Centering on the Mediation Model. *Jurists Review*, (06), 17-30+191.

² Wen Jinling, (2022). Study on the Enforcement Mechanism of China's Commercial Mediation Agreements under the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. *Commercial Arbitration & Mediation*, (05), 122-137.

the fact that international mediation agreements are not yet enforceable in China, the individual mediation system has not yet been established, and the concept of enforcement of commercial mediation has yet to be changed. Therefore, China should actively create conditions for the ratification of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, and in particular should clarify the independent relief function of international commercial mediation in China's legal system.

At the same time, China also needs to establish a system of accreditation for commercial mediators that is in line with international standards, so as to ensure the professionalism and impartiality of mediators. This can be achieved by referring to Singapore's certification system and training program and establishing a full-process, systematic mechanism. The enhancement of the professional quality of mediators is another important challenge that China faces in the implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. China needs to strengthen the training and education of mediators to enhance their professional skills and international perspective. In addition, China needs to establish a set of professional codes of ethics for mediators to regulate their behavior and ensure the fairness and transparency of the mediation process. For example, invited mediators should fully respect the parties' wishes to choose mediation or other dispute resolution methods, and should not go against the parties' will or coerce them to accept mediation.

In judicial practice, Chinese courts need to adjust the existing judicial confirmation procedures to bring them more in line with the provisions of the *Singapore Convention on Conciliation*. This may involve adjustments to the standard of review of conciliation agreements, enforcement procedures, and so forth. Specifically, the people's courts may be responsible for the operational guidance and training of enrolled mediation organizations and mediators, as well as for providing information for performance appraisals and disciplinary actions; the business authorities and industry organizations are responsible for the day-to-day management of mediation organizations and mediators and for recognizing and rewarding them, as well as for disciplinary actions. Pilot courts shall optimize management methods, explore the system of elevation and appointment of mediation organizations and mediators, allow parties to choose mediation organizations and mediators consensually, and establish a system of "blacklists" of defaulting parties, mediation organizations and mediators.

The strengthening of international cooperation is also a key aspect of China's implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. Through exchanges and cooperation with other countries, China has not only been able to draw on advanced international commercial mediation experience and practices, but also to promote the harmonization and coordination of international commercial mediation rules. For example, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice has played an active role in this regard, relying on China International Trade in Services Fair, Zhongguancun Forum and other platforms for opening up and cooperation with the outside world, to comprehensively showcase the Beijing arbitration industry's experience and latest achievements in foreign-related legal services, and to provide practical support and countermeasure suggestions for the formulation of international rules. These platforms not only promote international exchanges of Beijing's arbitration industry, but also contribute Chinese wisdom to the development of international commercial mediation. In addition, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice also encourages arbitration institutions in Beijing to "go out" by establishing cooperative relationships and signing cooperation agreements with more than 80 international arbitration institutions and organizations, as well as creating the "*One Belt, One Road*" Arbitration Institutions Beijing Joint Declaration and its cooperation mechanism, which further enhanced Beijing's influence in the field of international commercial dispute resolution. Through these initiatives, China is playing an increasingly important role in the global commercial mediation field and contributing significantly to the development of international commercial mediation.

With regard to the enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements, Chinese courts need to establish an efficient enforcement mechanism to ensure that settlement agreements can be enforced in a timely and effective manner. This includes expeditious examination of applications for the enforcement of settlement agreements, and the enforcement of settlement agreements that meet the requirements of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, while providing clear reasons for the rejection of settlement agreements that do not meet the requirements. In addition, Chinese courts need to strengthen the supervision and management of enforcement procedures to prevent abuse and misconduct in the enforcement process. Through these measures, China can better adapt to the requirements of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of commercial mediation. In order to achieve this goal, Chinese courts can draw on mature domestic and international experience and formulate advanced mediation rules to improve the efficiency of mediation. For example, the new version of the mediation rules promulgated by the CCPIT Mediation Center emphasizes the convenience of the mediation process, respect for the parties' autonomy, and an efficient mediation period, requiring mediation to be completed within 30 days, which greatly satisfies the parties' need for efficiency in dispute resolution. At the same time, the new rules significantly reduce mediation fees to save costs for the parties, which is also an important factor in attracting parties to prioritize the use of mediation to resolve disputes. Through these concrete measures, Chinese courts are able to more effectively enforce

international commercial settlement agreements and enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of commercial conciliation.

In general, China faces a series of challenges in implementing the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, but these challenges also provide opportunities for the reform and development of China's commercial mediation system. By strengthening the legal system, upgrading the professional quality of mediators, enhancing international cooperation and establishing an efficient enforcement mechanism, China can better implement the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* and enhance its status and influence in international commercial dispute resolution.

4. Analysis of the Application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China

The legal effect and enforcement procedures of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China are the focus of the analysis in this paper. As a signatory to the Convention, China is obliged to enforce international commercial settlement agreements in accordance with its provisions. This requires Chinese courts to align their enforcement procedures with the provisions of the Convention, especially in reviewing the legality and enforceability of settlement agreements.¹ Chinese courts are required to enforce settlement agreements in accordance with national procedures pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention and to review requests for refusal of enforcement on the grounds set out in Article 5 of the Convention. The role of the Chinese courts in this process is to ensure that the enforcement of settlement agreements does not violate Chinese public policy, while guaranteeing that the legitimate rights and interests of the parties are respected. The implementation of the Convention has placed new demands on the Chinese legal system, particularly with regard to the cross-border enforcement of settlement agreements, requiring Chinese courts to respect the provisions of international conventions while upholding the dignity of national laws.

The role and practice of Chinese courts in enforcing transnational commercial settlement agreements is reflected in the application and enforcement of the Convention.² According to the *Civil Procedure Law* and relevant judicial interpretations, Chinese courts have the right to enforce mediation agreements that have been judicially recognized. Under the framework of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, Chinese courts need to adjust their enforcement practices to the characteristics of international commercial settlement agreements. This includes recognizing the international and commercial nature of settlement agreements and reviewing the legality of the mediation process. Article 1 of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* defines "internationality" to include two situations: where two or more of the parties to the conciliation agreement have their places of business in different States; and where, although the parties to the conciliation agreement have their places of business in the same State, a substantial part of the performance of the obligations under the conciliation agreement is not performed in that State, or (iii) the matter to which the agreement relates is not most closely connected with that State. This means that even two enterprises in the same country are international agreements as long as they involve issues such as the return of foreign property. In the course of enforcement, Chinese courts need to determine whether a settlement agreement is international in nature based on these criteria to determine whether the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* applies. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* aims to promote and regulate the use of conciliation by international commercial subjects to resolve cross-border disputes, so the commercial nature of the settlement agreement is an important condition for its application. Commerciality usually involves disputes arising from commercial transactions or commercial activities, and Chinese courts need to examine the content of a settlement agreement to determine whether it involves a commercial transaction or activity in order to recognize its commercial nature. The legality of the conciliation procedure is a prerequisite for the enforcement of a settlement agreement. Chinese courts need to examine whether the conciliation procedure complies with the relevant legal provisions, including the qualifications of the conciliator, the fairness of the conciliation procedure and the voluntariness of the parties. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* emphasizes good faith conciliation and effective enforcement, and therefore the court needs to ensure that the conciliation process does not violate public policy, that there is no false conciliation, and that the outcome of the conciliation is lawful and legitimate in its review. In practice, Chinese courts also need to deal with enforcement requests involving foreign parties, which requires courts to have knowledge of international law and be able to properly handle legal issues involving different jurisdictions. Chinese courts also need to take into account the voluntary nature of the settlement agreement during the enforcement process and ensure that the enforcement procedure does not unduly interfere with the autonomy of the parties. This is a challenge for Chinese courts, as it involves not only the application of the law, but also an understanding of the culture and practice of international commercial mediation.

¹ Feng Zihan, (2022). Conflict and Response between the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* and Chinese Legal System. *HuXiang Law Review*, 2(02), 103-117.

² Wang Xingyuan, (2021). The Dilemma and Breakthrough of the Application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China. *Journal of Harbin University*, 42(09), 68-72.

The case analyses show that, in the process of enforcing settlement agreements under the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, Chinese courts are gradually developing a set of enforcement mechanisms that conform to both international standards and the domestic legal environment.¹ Although there are not yet many cases of direct application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China, there are already some cases that reflect the attitude and practice of Chinese courts in enforcing international commercial settlement agreements. In these cases, Chinese courts usually first confirm whether the settlement agreement meets the requirements of the Convention, including the international and commercial nature of the agreement and whether it arises out of an independent Mediation process. Subsequently, the courts examine whether the settlement agreement is subject to the refusal of enforcement situations listed in Article 5 of the Convention, such as the parties' capacity to act, the validity of the agreement, and whether the conduct of the conciliator violated the Mediation guidelines. In specific cases, Chinese courts have demonstrated their respect for the spirit of the Convention, as well as their adherence to domestic laws and public policies. Through these cases, it can be seen that Chinese courts, in the process of gradually adapting to and applying the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, are striving to balance the relationship between international obligations and domestic laws, so as to promote the effective implementation of international commercial settlement agreements in China.

The implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* is of great significance to the development of China's commercial mediation system. It not only provides international legal support for commercial mediation in China, but also provides a new direction for domestic commercial mediation practice. With the globalization of China's economy and the promotion of the "Belt and Road" initiative, Chinese enterprises are increasingly involved in international commercial activities, and the ensuing cross-border commercial disputes are also increasing. The application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* provides Chinese enterprises with a more efficient and low-cost means of dispute resolution. At the same time, it also requires Chinese courts to take into account changes in the international legal environment and the adaptability of domestic laws when enforcing international commercial settlement agreements. This has a positive effect on enhancing the international competitiveness and influence of Chinese commercial mediation.

In conclusion, the application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China is a complex and challenging process. It involves not only the application and enforcement of the law, but also the reform and improvement of China's commercial mediation system. With the in-depth implementation of the Convention in China, Chinese courts will accumulate more experience and practice in enforcing international commercial settlement agreements, which is of great significance in promoting the development and internationalization of China's commercial mediation system.²

5. Prospects and Recommendations for the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China

The potential impact of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* on China's commercial mediation system is far-reaching and heralds a significant change in commercial mediation in China. The Convention not only provides international legal support for commercial mediation in China, but also promotes the convergence of the domestic mediation system with international standards. With the in-depth implementation of the Convention, China's commercial mediation system will become more standardized and professionalized, and the international recognition of mediation procedures and results will be enhanced. In addition, the professional quality of Chinese commercial mediation organizations and mediators is expected to be strengthened to meet the requirements of international commercial mediation. The implementation of the Convention is also likely to promote the improvement of China's commercial legal system, especially in the areas of enforcement of settlement agreements, accreditation of mediators and code of conduct. At the same time, the internationalization of China's commercial mediation system will be accelerated, which will help to enhance China's influence in the field of global commercial dispute resolution.

China's position and role in international commercial mediation is becoming increasingly prominent. As a major player in the global economy, China has become an important force in international commercial mediation. With the promotion of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the accelerated pace of internationalization of Chinese enterprises, China's role in international commercial mediation is becoming increasingly important. The signing and implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* provides an opportunity for China to play a greater role in international commercial mediation. China can utilize its influence in international trade to promote the formulation and improvement of international commercial mediation rules and contribute Chinese wisdom to global commercial dispute resolution. At the same time, China can strengthen exchanges and

¹ Chen Meng, (2021). Construction of Chinese Commercial Mediation Rules in the Context of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*. *Commercial Arbitration & Mediation*, (03), 16-32.

² Duan Ming, (2021). The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* and the Legislative Options for Commercial Mediation in China. *Commercial Arbitration & Mediation*, (02), 17-30.

cooperation with other countries in the field of commercial mediation, share mediation experience and resources, and enhance the international competitiveness of Chinese commercial mediation. In addition, China can also provide an efficient and fair way to resolve international commercial disputes through the establishment and improvement of an international commercial mediation platform.¹

In order to better implement the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China, a series of policy measures are recommended to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. First, strengthening the legal system is key. There is a need to formulate and improve domestic laws that dovetail with the Convention and clarify the procedures and standards for the enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements. This includes ensuring the effective interface between domestic laws and the Convention, as well as providing a clear legal basis and operational guidelines for international commercial conciliation within the domestic legal framework. In this way, it can ensure that international commercial mediation is fully recognized and supported in the Chinese legal system. Secondly, it is also crucial to enhance the professional quality of mediators. A qualification and training system for mediators should be established and improved to enhance their professional skills and international perspective. This involves not only training in mediation skills, but also an in-depth understanding of international commercial law and practice. By improving the professionalism of mediators, the quality and efficiency of the mediation process can be ensured, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of mediation as a means of dispute resolution. In addition, the establishment of an international commercial mediation platform is also an important measure to enhance China's competitiveness in the field of international commercial mediation. It can rely on organizations such as the China International Commercial Court (CICC) to provide one-stop mediation services, including case acceptance, management of the mediation process, and enforcement of mediation results. Such a platform can provide Chinese enterprises with convenient mediation services, and at the same time attract foreign enterprises to choose China as a place to settle commercial disputes. Meanwhile, strengthening international exchanges and cooperation is also indispensable. Cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the field of commercial mediation should be pursued to share best practices and promote the unification and harmonization of international commercial mediation rules. This will not only help enhance China's influence in the field of international commercial mediation, but also help Chinese enterprises better understand and adapt to the rules and practices of international commercial mediation. Raising public awareness is also key. Through publicity and education, it is important to raise public awareness and acceptance of commercial mediation and encourage commercial entities to choose mediation as their preferred method of dispute resolution. This can be achieved by organizing seminars, publishing promotional materials, and publicizing in the media to raise public awareness of the advantages of mediation. Optimizing judicial confirmation procedures is also an important aspect of enhancing the efficiency of mediation. The judicial confirmation process of settlement agreements by courts should be simplified and optimized to reduce the time and financial costs for the parties. This can be achieved by formulating clear judicial confirmation processes and standards, as well as improving the efficiency of courts in handling such cases. Finally, strengthening theoretical research and practical exploration is also essential. Academics and practitioners should be encouraged to conduct in-depth research on the Convention, explore implementation paths suitable for China's national conditions, and provide theoretical support for policy formulation. This includes an in-depth interpretation of the provisions of the Convention, as well as research into how the Convention can be effectively utilized in practice to resolve commercial disputes.

Through the above measures, China can better implement the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, enhance the international status of Chinese commercial mediation, and contribute China's strength to international commercial dispute resolution. The implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* will contribute to the modernization and internationalization of China's commercial mediation system, and at the same time will promote China's greater role in the field of global commercial dispute resolution. With the continuous improvement of China's commercial mediation system and the deepening of international cooperation, China is expected to become one of the important centers of international commercial mediation, providing efficient and fair solutions to global commercial disputes.

6. Conclusion

Through an in-depth analysis of the application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China and its significance for China's commercial mediation system, this paper reveals the important impact of the Convention on the practice of commercial mediation in China. The application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* has provided international legal support for commercial mediation in China, promoted the convergence of the domestic mediation system with international standards, and enhanced China's influence in

¹ Sun Nanxiang, (2021). Ratification and Implementation of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China. *Chinese Journal of Law*, 43(02), 156-173.

the field of global commercial dispute resolution. The application of the Convention not only brings new opportunities for Chinese commercial mediation, but also poses challenges, especially in terms of the adaptation of the legal system, procedural adjustments in judicial practice, the enhancement of the professional quality of mediators and the strengthening of international cooperation.

The application of the *Singapore Convention on Mediation* in China shows that China has made some progress in the implementation of international commercial settlement agreements, but it still needs to further improve the relevant legal system and enforcement mechanism. The implementation of the Convention requires Chinese courts to respect the provisions of international conventions while upholding the dignity of national laws, which has a positive effect on enhancing the international competitiveness and influence of Chinese commercial mediation. In addition, the internationalization of China's commercial mediation system will be accelerated, which will help to enhance China's position in the global commercial dispute resolution field.

In terms of future research directions and application prospects in practice, this paper suggests continuing to deepen the research on the *Singapore Convention on Mediation*, especially in the areas of enforcement mechanism of international commercial settlement agreements, qualification system of mediators, and international cooperation. Future research could pay more attention to specific cases of application of the Convention in China's judicial practice, analyze the specific impact of the Convention on China's commercial mediation system, and how to further optimize China's legal system of commercial mediation in order to better adapt to the requirements of the Convention. At the practical level, China can further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the field of commercial mediation, share mediation experience and resources, and enhance the internationalization of commercial mediation in China. At the same time, China can also provide an efficient and fair way for international commercial disputes to be resolved through the establishment and improvement of an international commercial mediation platform, thereby promoting the development and internationalization of China's commercial mediation system and contributing Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to international commercial dispute resolution.

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