

**UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF LAW**  
**ASIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW**  
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## **AIFL Seminar**

# **The Meaning and Reach of a Contractual Choice of Law Clause in International Financial Transactions**

**Professor Jan Dalhuisen**

*School of Law, King's College London*

*Paul Hastings Visiting Professor in Corporate and Financial Law, Faculty of Law, HKU*

**Monday, 17 March 2008, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Room 303, 3/F KK Leung Building, University of Hong Kong**

In international commercial and financial contracts it is normal to enter a contractual choice of law, often English law. It is normal to attribute great importance to such a clause but what does it cover? Can it set aside otherwise applicable mandatory law of any sort? What about property law issues, regulatory laws and public international law (especially concerning the protection of investments)? How should such a clause be understood in the context of the modern law merchant or new *lex mercatoria*?

Jan Dalhuisen is Professor in the School of Law since 1996. He graduated from the University of Amsterdam, where he also received his PhD, and from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a Corresponding Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Dalhuisen is a Member of the New York Bar, a well known international commercial arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Before joining the King's Law Faculty he was a senior investment banker, Secretary General of the International Primary Market Association (now ICMA), and senior in house counsel. He is a regular Visiting Professor at UC Berkeley, and also taught at the Tsinghua University in Beijing, the UNSW in Sydney, the University of Utrecht, and the Asser Institute in the Hague. Professor Dalhuisen's main interest is in International Commercial, Financial, Insolvency and Arbitration Law, Legal Theory and Legal History. He has published extensively in these fields in the UK, US, Netherlands, and Italy.

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