



CHAIRMAN'S JULY MESSAGE

Apologies first for the slightly delayed July message. I thought it worth waiting for the 10th Annual GAR Awards Ceremony which was held virtually on 9 July 2020. It was worth the wait! I am delighted to announce that the award for innovation by an individual or organisation went to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, for its witness conferencing guidelines. As many of you will know, this project was conceived and driven by members of the Singapore Branch. Timothy Cooke (Vice-Chair of the sub-committee on witness conferencing established by the Singapore Branch of CIARB in 2017) and Camilla Godman (Director of Membership at CIARB) received the award on behalf of CIARB. Congratulations again to the team that put the guidelines together.

At the end of June 2020, Catherine Dixon, the recently appointed Director-General of CIARB hosted a feedback session with the Chairs and other representatives of the Australia, East Asia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand Branches. I attended the session, which was conducted remotely, together with Amanda Lees, Mahesh Rai and Michael Peer. Catherine shared CIARB's plans for developing a revised strategy. The current draft strategic aims are as follows:

- Globally promote the constructive resolution of disputes.
- Inclusive global thought leader.
- Develop and support an inclusive global community of diverse dispute resolvers.

The session was also a good opportunity for the Branch Chairs to discuss issues impacting members in their respective jurisdictions, including subscription fees, the CIARB website, improving communication between members of different branches as well as with 12 BS, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on courses and events organised by the Branches.

The inaugural Global CIARB Conference which was to be hosted in Singapore in November 2021 has not been pushed back to March 2022. It is hoped that the current restrictions on social distancing will be lifted completely by then.

While some business activities have resumed following the implementation of Phase 2 of the Circuit Breaker in Singapore, the social distancing restrictions that remain in place make physical gatherings and in-person courses unfeasible. As such, our regular events and courses shall continue to be held online until such social distancing restrictions are lifted. Do check out the Branch website <http://www.ciarb.org.sg/> for updates on events and courses.

Paul Sandosham, Chairman