



## CHAIRMAN'S JUNE MESSAGE

As we enter June, we see many countries across the world slowly exiting the restrictions in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. In Singapore, on 2 June, the Government relaxed some of the restrictions that have been in force as part of the Circuit Breaker protocols for the last couple of months.

At the end of May, Paul Barrett, the CI Arb Trustee for East Asia organised a virtual meeting with regional branch chairs from the East Asia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore branches. It was a good opportunity for the different branches to meet and to provide feedback to Paul before the Trustees meet later this month.

The candidates attending the Module 4 Course took their final award exams earlier this week. In a change to the usual format, the exam was conducted from 29 May to 3 June, with candidates submitting their scripts online. This is the last batch of candidates to take the Module 4 Course under the old Pathway programme. We wish them all the best as they seek to become Fellows of CI Arb.

In the Courts, the English Court of Appeal in *Enka Insaat Ve Sanayi AS v OOO Insurance Company Chubb & Ors*, provided guidance on the relationship between the governing law of the agreement, the proper law of an arbitration clause in such agreements, and the parties' choice of the seat of arbitration. It held that where the parties had not expressly provided for the governing law, there will be a strong presumption that the law of the arbitration agreement will be the law of the seat chosen by the parties.

Finally, on events, CI Arb's 10<sup>th</sup> Roebuck Lecture takes place on 11 June 2020 with the theme '*Getting ahead of the curve: How arbitration can better meet the needs of parties, people and planet*'. It will be delivered by Cherie Blair CBE QC. Details of how to register for Lecture can be found here <https://www.ciarb.org/events/roebuck-lecture-2020/>. Regionally, the Singapore branch together with the East Asia and Malaysian branches are hosting a joint seminar on Virtual Hearings on 9 June 2020. We look forward to you joining us at the seminar. Do check our branch website for details.

**Paul Sandosham, Chairman**