



Chartered
Institute of
Arbitrators

CI Arb

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Singapore Branch: 2015 AGM – Directors’ Report

Introduction

2015 is a milestone year for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Singapore Branch and indeed, for Singapore. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chartered Institute and the 50th anniversary of Singapore as an independent nation. It also marks the 5th anniversary of the formation of the Singapore Branch. The Chartered Institute, the Singapore Branch and Singapore can look back with pride at the accomplishments and successes that each has enjoyed over the past decades.

Singapore has developed a strong reputation as a leading global centre for dispute resolution and international arbitration. We have strong hopes that the seeds planted by the Chartered Institute in Singapore a few short years ago by the formation of the Singapore Branch will lead to even greater growth of international arbitration and other methods of alternative dispute resolution in Singapore and the region and further the missions and objectives of the Chartered Institute here and globally.

Membership

As of the end of July 2015, the Singapore Branch has 364 members, namely, 104 Members, 81 Associate and 179 Fellows.

Directors

As of the date of this year’s AGM (28 August 2015), the Singapore Branch has 15 Directors:

1. Richard Tan (Chairman)
2. Chou Sean Yu (Vice-Chairman)
3. Jonathan Choo (Hon. Secretary)
4. Richard Hayler (Hon. Treasurer)
5. Raja Bose
6. Timothy Cooke
7. Benjamin Giaretta
8. Alastair Henderson
9. Rajan Menon
10. Kent Phillips
11. Balasamy Rengarajoo
12. Paul Sandosham
13. Matthew Wills
14. Francis Xavier SC
15. Andrew Yeo

Kent Phillips and Alastair Henderson joined as Directors on 9 May 2014.

Rajan Menon has notified the Board of Directors of his intention to retire as a Director after this year’s AGM. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Board extends its thanks and appreciation to Rajan for his years of service as a Director.



Events

Some of the major events held in 2014/2015, including those planned to take place this year, 2015, include:

CI Arb Singapore Centenary Conference

The Singapore Branch is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators by organizing the CI Arb Singapore Centenary Conference on 3-4 September, 2015 in Singapore, at the Marina Bay Sands. The Singapore Centenary Conference is one of the flagship events to celebrate the Centenary, following celebrations in Birmingham, Hong Kong, London and Zambia. The theme of the Singapore Conference is “*The Age of Innovation: Addressing the Perils and Promises of Arbitration*”. We are delighted to have the Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, who is also the Patron of the Institute, as the Key Note Speaker, and many distinguished speakers from around the world speaking on innovations that will address new challenges and shape the future of arbitration. The new CI Arb Guidelines will also be launched and discussed during this Conference.

We are grateful to the organizing committee of the Singapore Conference, chaired by Paul Sandosham, and which includes Francis Xavier SC, Richard Tan and other members of the Singapore Branch, for working hard over the past year to put together what promises to be a memorable and successful conference, and to the numerous sponsors and organizations for their strong support of this conference.

3rd ALA(S)-CI Arb-SCCA Golf Triangular Challenge

Over the last three years, this friendly annual triangular golf challenge tournament has helped to forge stronger ties among the ASEAN Law Association (Singapore), the CI Arb Singapore Branch and the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association and to provide a platform for members of these associations to interact with one another. The 3rd CI Arb-ASEAN Law Association-Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Golf triangular challenge together with the Singapore Branch's annual golf tournament was held on 25 June 2015 at the tough but picturesque Seletar Country Club. Boosted by a strong team, ALA retained the trophy for the triangular challenge which they won last year. The Singapore Branch won the 1st inaugural triangular event. At the same time, the Singapore Branch had its own competition for its members and the winners were:

Winner: Lee Ah Teng
1st Runner-Up: Richard Tan
2nd Runner-Up: Simon Sloane

We are grateful to Chou Sean Yu and Tan Liam Beng for helping to organize this event.

CI Arb Singapore Members' Evening 2014

The CI Arb Singapore Branch Mid-year Members' Evening 2014 was held at the Raffles Hotel on 30 July 2014.

Some 80 members and guests attended, from Singapore and abroad, for an informal evening of drinks and canapés as well as a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues. We were privileged to have Justice Quentin Loh attend the Member's Evening as the Guest of Honour.

Members, guests and new members were welcomed by the Chairman of the Branch, Mr Richard Tan, who welcomed new members, spoke briefly about the activities of the Singapore Branch for the past year and acknowledged the members of the Branch's committees who assisted with its activities.



Tokens of appreciation were presented to arbitral institutions who worked with the Singapore Branch in the past year, including the Branch's major 2-day conference in 2014, the Intellectual Property, Technology, Media and Technology Arbitration Symposium (IPMTAS) 2014, held earlier in the year, as well as to those members of sub-committees who worked on various projects.

Justice Quentin Loh then announced the winners of the CI Arb Singapore 2014 Essay Competition held in conjunction with Thirty-Nine Essex Street Chambers and presented the prizes – see further details below under 'Young Members'. The cash prizes for the competition were kindly sponsored by Thirty Nine Essex Street Chambers. After the formalities, members and guests mingled over canapés and free flow of wine and drinks until late into the evening.

Talk by Neil Kaplan CBE QC on 'The Do's and Don'ts of Presenting a Case to Arbitrators'

We were delighted to have Neil Kaplan speak on the topic of presenting cases in international arbitrations and the different techniques. Neil gave invaluable practical advice and tips on this topic to a large and appreciative audience.

Talk by Colin Wall on 'Does Combining Mediation and Arbitration Really Work?'

We were privileged to have Colin Wall, a former President of the CI Arb speak to members in May 2014 on the subject of combining mediation and arbitration. We are deeply saddened by his passing on 18 July 2015, and have lost a great friend and distinguished colleague. In this talk, Colin spoke of the many advantages of combining mediation with arbitration, and the different techniques and perspectives from different jurisdictions.

CI Arb-WIPO-SIAC Intellectual Property, Media & Technology Arbitration Symposium 2014: Innovation Under The Global Spotlight – Overcoming Challenges, Changing Mindsets

The Branch in association with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre organised the CI Arb-WIPO-SIAC Intellectual Property, Media & Technology Arbitration Symposium 2014 (IPMTAS 2014), at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore on 13 and 14 March 2014. The Senior Minister of State for Law & Education, Ms Indranee Rajah was the Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker.

The 2-day Symposium was attended by over 120 delegates and distinguished speakers, leading IP, arbitration and ADR experts and business leaders from around the world who shared their experiences and addressed key and topical issues, best practices and new solutions on the avoidance and resolution of disputes in the converging areas of IP, media and technology. The symposium was particularly significant following on the heels of the Singapore IP Hub Master Plan announced by the Singapore government under which, Singapore aims to become a global IP hub with a world-class infrastructure and eco-system where businesses and investors are secure in protecting their rights, transacting deals across borders and resolving their disputes. We were delighted to have the support of the IP Academy and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and many other organizations for this symposium.

We are grateful to the organizing committee for IPMTAS 2014, led by Jonathan Choo and comprising various members of the Singapore branch, for working hard to make the Symposium a success.



Young Members

CI Arb Singapore Branch Young Members Essay Competition

2014 was the second year running that the CI Arb Singapore Branch held a Young Members Essay Competition in conjunction with Thirty Nine Essex Street Chambers. The Essay Title was ***“Asia’s diversity: the strength of Asia’s arbitration centres lies in their differences not in their similarities”***.

The competition was open to everyone below the age of 40 working or resident in Asia. Close to 50 entries were submitted. The essays were judged by a panel consisting of Justice Quentin Loh, Richard Tan, Neil Block QC, Edwin Glasgow QC, Peter Rees QC and David Brynmor Thomas from Thirty Nine Essex Street Chambers. Thirty Nine Essex Street Chambers sponsored the prizes for the competition. The winners were announced by Justice Quentin Loh at the 2014 Members’ Evening, where Justice Loh noted the high quality of the entries and the judges’ difficulties in separating the top candidates during the several stages of the judging process. The winners of the essay competition were:

First prize: Mr Benson Lim You Yu
Second prize: Ms Debby Lim Hui Li
Third prize: Mr Gerald Leong

CI Arb Singapore Branch Young Members Essay Competition (2015)- in progress

This year, the CI Arb Singapore Branch in conjunction with 39 Essex Street Chambers is continuing its Essay Competition 2015 for the third successive year. The title of the 2015 Essay Competition is: **“Innovation in international arbitration: does the Emperor need new clothes?”** The Essay Competition is being run this year in conjunction with the CI Arb Singapore Centenary Conference and open to persons below the age of 45 working or resident in Asia at the date the entry is submitted. The Closing Date for entries was 14 August 2015 and winners will be announced at the Centenary Conference Gala Dinner on 4 September 2015.

We are grateful to Kent Phillips for acting as chair of the Events sub-committee.

Professional Development and Courses

We continue to offer arbitration courses at various levels to upgrade the level of knowledge and expertise of our members and members of the public, and have conducted courses not only in Singapore but in other countries in collaboration with professional organizations in those countries and our colleagues from the regional branches and chapters. Workshops and courses have been held in Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam and the Maldives.

Course held in 2014 were:

- Module 1 Laws of Obligations & Civil Evidence (7 January to 19 August 2014)
- CI Arb Introduction Course (Cambodia) (24 to 25 January 2014)
- Training in arbitration for certain members of the judiciary for a foreign country visiting Singapore (February 2014)
- Introduction to International Arbitration (21 February 2014)
- Module 4 International Award Writing (31 March to 8 August 2014)
- Accelerated Route to Membership (ARM) (27 March 2014 to 28 March 2014)
- Module 2 Laws of International Arbitration (10 March to 10 July 2014)
- Accelerated Route to Fellowship (ARF) (21 May to 22 May 2014)
- Training in arbitration for certain members of the judiciary for a foreign country visiting Singapore (June 2014)
- Introduction to International Arbitration (Maldives) (5 to 6 September 2014)
- Module 3 Practice and Procedure (6 October 2014 to 2 April 2015)



Courses planned and/or held in 2015 are as follows:

- CI Arb Introduction Course (Myanmar) (28 to 29 January 2015)
- CI Arb Introduction Course (Vietnam) (31 July and 1 August 2015)
- Accelerated Route to Fellowship (ARF) (18 September to 19 September 2015)
- Module 1 Laws of Obligations & Civil Evidence (5 October 2015 to April 2016)
- Module 3 Practice and Procedure (5 October 2015 to March 2016)
- Module 2 Laws of International Arbitration (12 October 2015 to March 2016)
- Module 4 International Arbitration Award Writing (26 October 2015 to February 2016)
- Introduction to International Arbitration (20 November 2015)
- Accelerated Route to Membership (ARM) (27 November to 28 November 2015)

We are grateful to all the tutors, moderators, markers and assessors on the Approved Faculty List of the CI Arb who have taken time from their busy schedules to assist in these courses in their respective roles. They included:

Richard Tan
Francis Xavier SC
Chou Sean Yu
Paul Sandosham
Benjamin Giaretta
B. Rengarajoo
Alastair Henderson
Andrew Yeo
Amanda Lees
Teresa Cheng SC
David Cheah

We are also grateful to the Professional Development sub-committee, chaired by the Chairman, Richard Tan, and its members, and to the Secretariat for assisting with the running of the courses.

In addition, we are also grateful to the SIAC, ICC and AAA/ICDR for sending representatives to speak at some of the courses on institutional arbitration as special guest speakers.

Finances

The Singapore Branch's Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 has been circulated to members.

The Branch's financial position remains healthy and at the end of the financial year the Branch maintained a strong positive cash balance. Earnings grew from the revenue obtained from the many courses conducted by the Branch, which will sustain the operations of the Branch going forward and allow more programmes, courses and events to be organized.

We are grateful to the Hon. Treasurer, Richard Hayler, for his work and the Secretariat.

New website

Over the past year, a new website was planned and in July 2015, the Singapore Branch launched its new website at www.ciarb.org.sg

We are grateful to the Publications and Website committee, led by Jonathan Choo and comprising various members of the Singapore branch, for their hard work in getting the new website up and running. The new website will enable information on forthcoming courses and events to be better disseminated. It also has a new feature which is a publicly available Members' Directory. Members who wish to be listed in the directory may complete a Website Member Directory Form and submit those to our Secretariat for consideration.



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Amendments to Articles of Association

In June 2015, the Branch held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to pass a Special Resolution to adopt various amendments to the Articles of Association of the Company. These amendments were made to update the former Articles of Association and to address various issues, including allowing Ordinary Members of the Branch comprising members of the Institute whose address of residence, as shown on the member's profile and recorded in the central membership database of the Institute to vote, and not as before, only members of the company limited by guarantee to vote. Consequential amendments were also made to other provisions of the Articles of Association. Members who wish to view the amended and updated Articles of Association may download a copy from our new website.

We are grateful to Chou Sean Yu, the Hon. Secretary, Jonathan Choo, and the other members of the ad hoc sub-committee who helped review and work on the amendments, with advice from an external law firm.

New Regional Director

The Institute recently appointed Camilla Godman as Regional Director to serve the Far East and Australasia. We warmly welcome Camilla to this new position and look forward to working with her.

Richard Tan
Chairman, Singapore Branch, Chartered Arbitrator, FCI Arb

Chou Sean Yu
Vice-Chairman, Singapore Branch

Jonathan Choo
Hon. Secretary, Singapore Branch

Richard Hayler
Hon. Treasurer, Singapore Branch

On behalf of the directors of the Singapore branch

28 August 2015