

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Singapore Branch 2018 AGM – Directors’ Report

Introduction

2017/2018 was a fruitful year for the Singapore Branch.

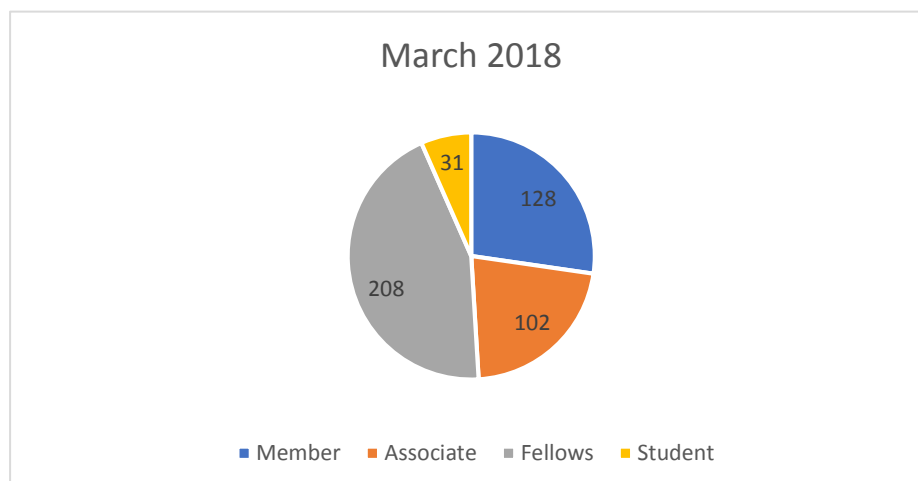
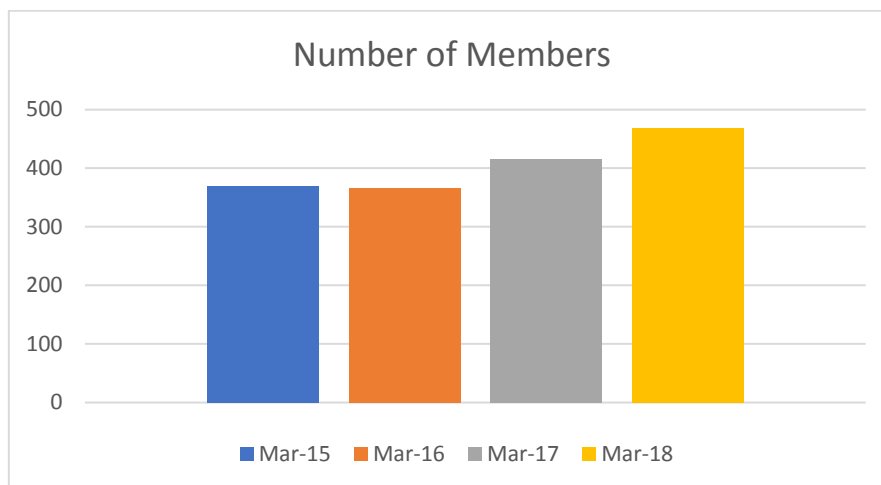
Membership grew about 19% from 395 in end 2016 to 469 as of March 2018.

The Branch had also organised more courses and events in 2017/2018, about double that conducted in 2016.

Significantly, the Branch successfully organised the CI Arb Singapore Members’ Evening 2017, which over 100 members attended and which the Branch used as a platform to welcome all its new members and Fellows.

Membership

As of March 2018, the Singapore Branch has **469** members, namely, 128 Members, 102 Associate, 208 Fellows and 31 students.



Directors

At this year's AGM, 5 Directors, namely, Richard Tan, Wills Matthew Jonathan, Andrew Yeo Khirn Hin, Chou Sean Yu and Kent Phillips retired pursuant to Article 35(1) of the Branch's Constitution. Of the 5 Directors who were due to retire at this AGM, Richard Tan, Andrew Yeo Khirn Hin, Chou Sean Yu and Kent Napier Phillips notified the Secretary of their intention to stand for re-election pursuant to Article 35(4) of the Branch's Articles of Association.

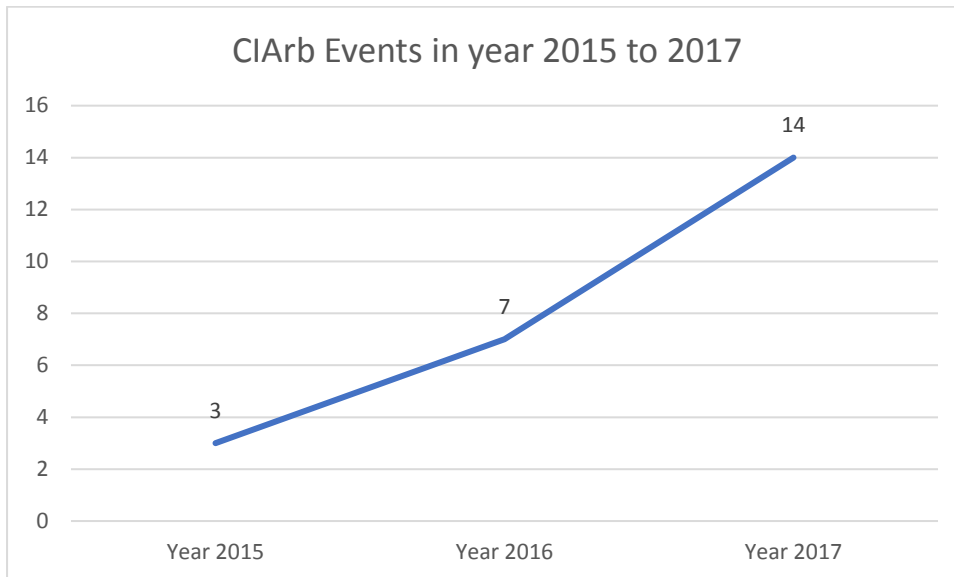
With the election of Directors to be conducted under Articles 14A and 36(3) of the Branch's Constitution to elect the following candidates: Richard Tan, Andrew Yeo Khirn Hin, Chou Sean Yu, Kent Phillips and Steven Lim Yew Huat, the Board will be at its maximum strength of 16 Directors.

Events

Several events were organised in 2017/2018, reaching out to a total attendance of **979** participants. The events were, namely:

1. CI Arb Talk on "Presenting Expert Evidence: What Arbitrators Want (and Need) To Know" by Jon Prudhoe & Garry Crossley (26 April 2017)
2. 5th ALA(S)-CI Arb-SCCA Friendly Triangular Golf Game (1 June 2017)
3. SIAC-CI Arb Debate (8 June 2017)
4. CI Arb Talk on "PO1: The end, or the beginning?" by Professor Janet Walker (27 June 2017)
5. CI Arb YMG July Supper Club, Guest of Honour – Christopher Lau SC (20 July 2017)
6. CI Arb YMG Roundtable Event on "How to Develop a Career in International Arbitration" (5 September 2017)
7. CI Arb YMG September Supper Club, Guest of Honour – Dr Michael Hwang SC (28 September 2017)
8. CI Arb YMG November Supper Club, Guest of Honour – Judith Gill QC (22 November 2017)
9. CI Arb Singapore Branch International Arbitration Competition 2017
10. CI Arb Members' Evening 2017 (29 November 2017)
11. CI Arb Talk on "Accelerated Receipt, A 'Risky' Business" by Iain Potter (4 October 2017)
12. CI Arb YMG Lunchtime Talk on "IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Commercial Arbitration: The Common Law and Civil Law Approaches" by Professor Hilmar Raeschke-Kessler (20 October 2017)
13. CI Arb Talk on Computer Forensics by David C. Rule (24 October 2017)
14. CI Arb – SIAC Workshop 1: The SIAC Court and the SIAC Secretariat (24 January 2018)
15. CI Arb YMG Roundtable Event on "How to Develop a Career in International Arbitration" (30 January 2018)
16. CI Arb – SIAC Workshop 2: Starting an Arbitration (7 March 2018)
17. CI Arb Talk on Guerilla Tactics in International Arbitration by Rashda Rana SC (QC) (5 April 2018)
18. CI Arb YMG April Supper Club, Guest of Honour – Anneliese Day QC & Leigh-Ann Mulcahy QC (17 April 2018)
19. CI Arb – SIAC Workshop 3: Applications under the SIAC Rules 2016 (23 April 2018)

The Branch would like to thank the Events Sub-Committee, led by Timothy Cooke, and the YMG Sub-Committee, led by Sapna Jhangiani and Richard Hayler, for its hard work in organising the many events.



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. We look forward to doing so under the new pathways offered by CI Arb.

The following courses were held in 2017/2018:

Singapore

- Accelerated Route to Membership (12 April - 13 April) and (27 September - 28 September)
- Accelerated Route to Fellowship (25 April - 26 April)
- Introduction to International Arbitration (28 March 2017) and (18 September 2017)
- Module 1 – Laws of Obligations & Civil Evidence (10 October 2017 - 12 June 2018)
- Module 2 – Law of International Arbitration (10 March 2017 - 12 July 2017)
- Module 4 – International Award Writing (14 October 2017 - 07 March 2018)
- Active Regional Outreach Programme
 - Introduction to International Arbitration for Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) (19-20 January 2017)
 - Introduction to International Arbitration for Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) (7-8 December 2017)

The Singapore Branch was delighted to receive 2 delegation groups from the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) to attend the Introduction to International Arbitration course in Singapore in January 2017 & Dec 2017. The 2-days training was successfully organised for **81** participants. The course provided an understanding of the general principles of international (i.e. non-domestic) arbitration and its relationship to other dispute resolution processes, as well as an introduction to the legal framework of, and good practice and procedure in, international arbitration in their jurisdiction.

Hong Kong

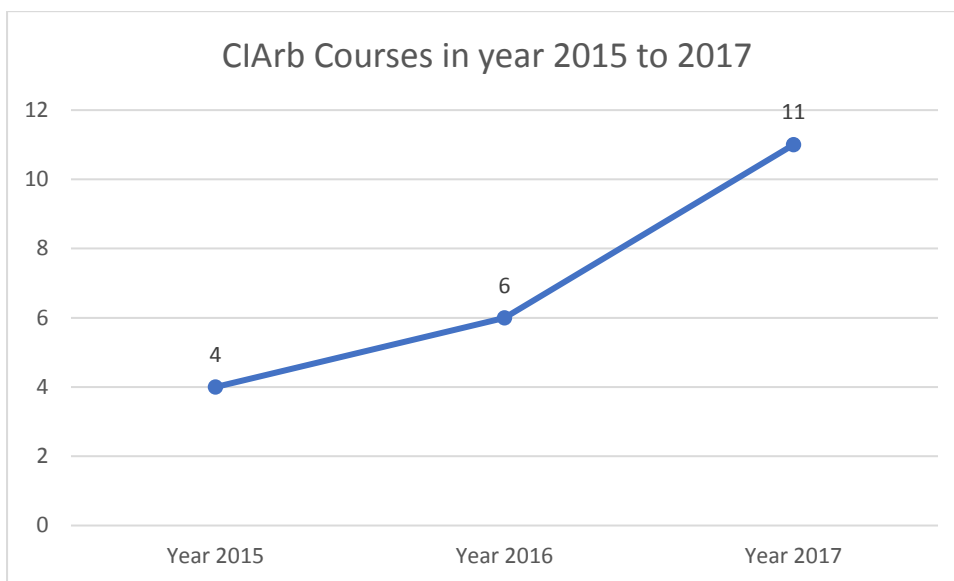
- CI Arb Asia Pacific Diploma in International Arbitration (21 to 29 October 2017)

The 2nd CI Arb Asia Pacific Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration was jointly organised by the Australia, East Asia and Singapore branches of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators as part of its joint venture (the inaugural edition having been successfully launched in Singapore in 2016).

The course faculty comprised international arbitration experts from across Asia-Pacific and around the world led by the course directors Richard Leung and Francis Xavier SC, Immediate Past Chairmen for East Asia Branch and Singapore respectively. A record-breaking participation of 36 participants from Australia, Singapore, India, Switzerland, Germany, Philippines, Indonesia, France, Italy, Oman, Mexico other than Hong Kong and Mainland China attended the course.

The next Diploma will be held in Perth in August 2018.

The number of courses running from year 2015 to year 2017 had increased almost three-fold.



The Branch would like to thank Richard Tan and Francis Xavier for leading the Professional Development Sub-Committee, and in the organisation and management of the many courses undertaken.

Finances

The Singapore Branch's Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 are to be approved at the AGM.

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 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. The Branch is in discussions with London on working out an appropriate reserves policy.

The Branch is grateful for the hard work of the Honorary Treasurer, Richard Hayler and the Secretariat, EPC, in overseeing and managing its financial affairs.

26 April 2018

Reported by
Chou Sean Yu
Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Branch