



CHAIRMAN'S DECEMBER 2021 MESSAGE

As we enter the last month of the year, it is an opportunity to look back on what has continued to be a challenging year for many. Just as the world was slowly overcoming the impact of COVID-19, we have recently been hit by a new variant of the virus, Omicron. Despite the challenges faced, I am glad that we were able to resume our arbitration courses, where we saw a total of 139 candidates attend Modules 1, 2 and 3 as well as the Introduction and Accelerated Route to Fellowship Courses. I am pleased to report that our current Branch Membership stands at 349 members and 261 fellows.

One of the tasks I enjoy most in my capacity as a faculty member of CI Arb is conducting the peer interview for candidates who have successfully completed the Award Writing examination. This is the final step to become accredited as a Fellow of CI Arb. Those who have attained the FCI Arb qualification will know look back with satisfaction at the hard work put in to obtain this universally recognised accreditation. I congratulate the 21 members of the Singapore Branch who became Fellows in 2021.

The last quarter of the year saw a changing of guard at the SIAC. On 1 October, Ms Lucy Reed succeeded Mr Gary Born as the President of the Court of Arbitration. In early November, the SIAC announced the appointment of Ms Gloria Lim as its new CEO and the promotion of Mr Kevin Nash to Registrar. On behalf of the Singapore Branch, I extend my congratulations to Lucy, Gloria and Kevin and I look forward to continuing our collaboration with the SIAC.

On 11 November, the Branch hosted its first in-person event of the year, "*Spotlight on Arbitration Advocacy*" which coincided with the launch of the Branch's publication "*A View from the Other Side: Advocacy Tips from Leading Arbitrators of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators*". We were delighted to have 90 guests join us for dinner at the Raffles Hotel followed by the launch of the publication and a panel discussion. We were honoured to have our Patron, the Honourable Justice Quentin Loh as the guest of honour at the event. The booklet contains invaluable tips on arbitration advocacy from 50 renowned arbitrators from across the world. My thanks to each of the contributors for sharing their words of wisdom for arbitration practitioners. My thanks also to our branch members, Sapna Jhangiani QC, Gerald Leong, and Roger Milburn for conceptualising this project and bringing it to fruition. We have since received numerous requests for copies of the booklet. As a member of the Branch, do keep a look out for a copy of your complimentary booklet which is being made mailed to you. In light of the overwhelming demand for the booklet, we are doing a second print run and also plan to make a soft copy of the booklet available online. Do keep a lookout on our website for further details.

The Young Members Group hosted our second in-person event at the end of November entitled "*Becoming An Arbitrator: Surviving the Long Night 2.0*". Zhuo Jiaxiang and Angela Yap moderated the session with Chiann Bao, Kevin Nash, Foo Yuet Min, Kate Apostolova and Alessa Pang sharing tips and insights on starting out as an arbitrator and building a sustainable career as a young arbitrator.

On behalf of the Singapore Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) as the BIAC celebrated its 10th Founding Anniversary in October. The BIAC and the Singapore Branch have had a close relationship for many years now, with the BIAC and Singapore Branch jointly conducting arbitration courses in Singapore for Bangladeshi practitioners between 2017 to 2019.

I also extend our congratulations to the Maldives International Arbitration Centre (MIAC) on its official launch on 8 November 2021. We have collaborated with the MIAC for several years now, with several tutors from the Singapore Branch conducting several arbitration courses in Maldives.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest thanks to all members for their support during what has been another challenging year. My thanks also to every member of the Singapore Branch board of directors, committees, and sub-committees for their tireless efforts in organizing the courses, conducting tutorials and organizing the various events (both in-person and virtual) that we have been able to host this year. Finally, my thanks to Sunita, our secretariat, who literally single-handedly ensures everything runs smoothly.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable festive season and may you find time to recharge and refresh as we look to 2022 with renewed optimism.

Paul Sandosham, C.Arb, FCI Arb
Chairman, CI Arb Singapore
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