



CHAIRMAN'S SEPTEMBER 2021 MESSAGE

As I write this message, Singapore is proudly hosting *Singapore Convention Week 2021*. The event brings together top practitioners from across the world in the field of international dispute resolution. During the week, legal practitioners, business executives and government officials from around the world will hear from thought leaders in the field of international dispute resolution. The *Singapore Convention on Mediation* (its official name) is a multilateral treaty which offers a framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation. It applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.

One of the highlights of Singapore Convention Week is the inaugural UNCITRAL Academy co-organised by the Singapore Ministry of Law and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The UNCITRAL Academy comprises fireside chats and panel discussions on topics relating to international dispute resolution. To celebrate Singapore Convention Week, a dinner was held at the Marina Bay Sands on 7 September 2021, where a limited number of delegates were able to attend in person. It was refreshing and a pleasant change (from meeting virtually) to be able to meet and mingle with fellow legal practitioners after a hiatus of more than 18 months. It is hoped that with the higher vaccination rates, there will be further relaxation of social distancing rules and the possibility of further in-person gatherings. Singapore Convention Week culminates with the SIAC Virtual Congress 2021 on 10 September 2021, where a stellar line up of speakers will discuss the current international arbitration environment.

The Singapore Branch's flagship event, the Annual SIAC-CI Arb debate was held virtually on 13 July 2021 with Nigel Blackaby QC and Mahesh Rai (proposition), up against Tai Heng Chen and Elaine Wong (opposition), debating the motion "*This House believes that Arbitral Institutions must impose a limit on the number of Repeat Appointments from the Same Party.*" The Judges for the debate were Sapna Jhangiani QC, Christopher Lau QC and Dana MacGrath. We are delighted that more than 200 people from across the world logged in to watch the lively debate. Our congratulations to the proposition who won the debate based on a poll by the audience. Congratulations also to Mahesh Rai for being voted as the best debater.

Our arbitration courses continue to be in strong demand. We conducted the first Accelerated Route to Fellowship (ARF) under the new Pathways Programme, with a total of 17 delegates attending the course. We are also conducting an Introduction to Arbitration course at the end of October 2021. Finally, the Maldives International Arbitration Centre (MIAC) has invited the Singapore Branch to conduct an Introduction course for its members and this will be delivered virtually on 22 September 2021.

It remains for me to thank all members and fellows for your support during these challenging times. We have to date had to suspend all our proposed in-person events due to the applicable social distancing rules. We are exploring the possibility of having our Annual Members' Night in person some time in November, depending on the restrictions applicable then. Do keep up to date on the latest developments and announcements at our [webpage](#).

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