

CHAIRMAN'S MARCH 2022 MESSAGE



This is my last message as Chair of the Singapore branch. Before I assumed the role of Chair in 2019, my predecessor Sean did warn me that I would be spending at least 2 to 3 hours each day dealing with branch matters. I didn't believe him then. However, he was proved right, I must say. Nevertheless, I have found the time spent on managing the affairs of the branch with my fellow board directors most fulfilling and satisfying. On that note, I must express my gratitude to each member of the board of directors, committee and sub-committees of the Singapore branch for the unwavering support they have given to support me in my role as Chair. While it is tempting for me to recite what I consider to be achievements and accomplishments during my 3-year tenure as Chair, I see little value to that. I am just grateful to have been given an opportunity to serve the Singapore branch. My only regret during my tenure was the limited "face time" I had with members due to the social distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While I think of the successes of the Singapore branch, on a more sobering note, I cannot help but mention the humanitarian crisis following the breakout of war in Ukraine which is now into its fourth week. I have no doubt that we all wish to see a quick end to the hostilities and conflict.

The new year has seen some significant changes in the running of the branch. With effect from the end of March, the secretariat role will be taken over by EPC. EPC will be known to many members as they used to support the branch before the change in support structure in 2017 when CIArb opened the regional directorship in Singapore. On behalf of the branch, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Sunita Tavabalan who has over the past 3½ years single-handedly been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the branch. Sunita will remain with CIArb and support HQ in London on membership matters.

Our CIArb pathway courses kick-off again in April with Module 3 starting on 4 April 2022 followed by Module 1. For those looking to upgrade their qualifications, don't wait any longer. Sign up soon as spaces are limited.

We have two exciting events coming up in April and June. The first is the branch's inaugural thought leadership lecture on 28 April 2022 where Minister Indranee Rajah, Minister Prime Minister's Office and concurrently Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development as well as Leader of the House of Parliament, will deliver the keynote address on climate change, and commercial and policy considerations surrounding the current transitional phase in the global energy market. Minister Rajah's address will be followed by a panel discussion among leaders of industry involved in energy transformation. We are pleased that this will be a hybrid event with 100 persons in attendance and others attending virtually. The event will be held at the Conrad Hotel on 28 April. Due to the capacity limit, do get your tickets early! This will be followed by a fireside chat with CIArb's new global president, Jane Gunn and Claudia Salomon, President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, to be held virtually in June 2022.

Finally, you would have received notices of the branch AGM that will be held virtually on Tuesday 26 April 2022. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

In closing, a personal big thank you to all our members and fellows for your active support of the branch and its activities. I have no doubt the branch is in safe hands and will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Paul Sandosham, C.Arb, FCIArb
Chairman, CIArb Singapore
March 2022