

## **BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT EAST ASIA BRANCH 2006**

**Chairman: Glenn Haley**  
**Secretary: Douglas Wardale**  
**Treasurer: Jean Peter Ho**

1. I am pleased to report that the Branch has had another successful year.

### Highlights of 2006

2. For me, the highlights of the past year have been as follows:
  - 2.1. Inaugural Winnie Whittaker Memorial Lecture. It is with sadness that I note that this is our first AGM since Winnie's untimely passing. Branch committee meetings just aren't the same without her presence. We have however instigated an annual memorial lecture. This year's lecture was presented on 18 April 2006 by Peter Caldwell, one of Winnie's long standing friends.
  - 2.2. Vis East Moot. The Vis East Moot, of which the Branch is the chief financial supporter (underwriter), has had another successful year. This year we had an impressive 32 teams; and the event has generated a (projected) small surplus of almost HK\$20,000. In my view, the Branch can rightly feel proud of the part that it has played in making this yearly event a reality. It is an extremely worthwhile utilization of Branch funds. I take this opportunity to thank Louise Barrington for her efforts in relation to this event.
  - 2.3. Charitable status. I reported in last year's report that at last we had secured confirmation from the Inland Revenue Department here in HK that, if we adopt the Branch Model Rules, we will qualify for charitable status. As also reported, however, we needed to revise the BMRs further, to accommodate the Agenda for Change amendments. This amendment process took some time, but we received final confirmation from IRD just recently that the amended BMRs will still qualify us for charity status. It is my intention to put the finally approved BMRs to the Branch, at an EGM, in the near future.
  - 2.4. EAB members continue to hold important management positions within the Institute. Our region continues to be well represented in the new management arrangements of the Institute. Teresa Cheng continues to serve as one of the members of the Board of Trustees. Colin Wall currently is serving his year as the President of the Institute Thanks to both Teresa and Colin on behalf of the Branch.
  - 2.5. Continued financial stability. Under the watchful eye of our new Treasurer, Peter Ho, the Branch remains in a healthy financial state. Please refer to his Treasurer's Report for the full details.

### Courses

3. This last year once again has been a busy one for courses.
4. Entry and Special Members courses were held in Hong Kong. The Branch also assisted in the organisation and running of the Diploma in International Arbitration and Russian Special Members courses, both held here in Hong Kong. The Branch also assisted the Philippine Dispute Resolution Centre to run two conferences in Manila, on "Interaction Between the Courts and Arbitral Tribunals" and "Arbitration for the Judiciary".
5. We also conducted a Mock Mediation and a Demonstration Arbitration, both of which were very well attended.
6. We also ran Part IIA and part IIB courses.

### Seminars / Talks

7. Seminars and talks again proved popular this year, with all of our events being well attended. Specific talks were provided by Phillip Capper, Pierre Karrer, Richard Kreindler, Doug Jones, WordWave, Peter Caldwell (twice), Philip Yang, Teresa Cheng, Tony Houghton, Prof D Mark Cato, Harold Crowter, Colin Wall and John Cock. Thanks to all speakers for their time and efforts. Thanks also to SCLHK and HKI Arb for collaborating with us again this year on joint events.
8. Phillip Capper gave a talk to members in Beijing on 4 November 2005.

### Social Events

9. The Fellows Cocktails again proved to be an entertaining evening. The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 12 May 2006. The social events associated with this year's Vis East Moot once again provided our members with the opportunity to mix with and exchange ideas with the eager young minds who will become the arbitrators of tomorrow. A cocktail party was held in Manila following the conclusion of the conferences referred to above. A cocktail party was held in September 2005 to welcome the successful candidates from our April 2005 entry course, and a similar event was held in April 2006 for the successful candidates from the November 2005 entry course.
10. A cocktail reception was held on 27 February 2006 to allow branch members the opportunity to meet President, Colin Wall. It had been hoped that the Institute's new patron, Mrs Anson Chan, would also be able to attend, but other commitments prevented this. Another reception will be organised, so that members may meet Mrs Chan.

### Membership

11. The past year was yet another steady as she goes year as regards membership. We did see a (very) slight decrease in overall Branch membership numbers, down from 1,584 to 1,580. The incoming Committee will continue to review membership numbers, including renewal percentages.

### Young Members

12. James Kwan and Gavin Denton have ensured another steady year for our Young Members Group. The YMG made a group visit to the arbitral bodies in Beijing in April 2006. The YMG intends to hold an international conference for young members in Hong Kong, later this year.

### Regional

13. With Tony Houghton at the helm, the Regional Sub-Committee continues with its ambitious programme of spreading the good word throughout the region. Particular attention has been paid to how best to promote arbitration throughout the Mainland. Much work remains to be done, but a good start has been made. Attention also was given to Manila, Jakarta, Japan, Singapore, Macau, Taiwan and Mongolia (Tony Houghton continues with the long term plan to try to develop the Mongolian Branch). Tony continued with the Branch's philosophy of ensuring that the Regional Sub-Committee includes representatives from all parts of the region. Colin Wall, as President, will assist the Branch in setting up chapters throughout the region, during this year.

### Publications and Web Site

14. The Branch continues to be represented on the Editorial Committee of the "Asian Dispute Review" journal. The web site is updated regularly, and we presently are looking at engaging a web designer to revise and "breathe new life" into the web design. The Branch newsletter has been revived, and thanks to Andrzej Cierpicki for making this a reality - and for producing such a worthy product.

### Votes of Thanks

15. On a personal note, I wish to thank all of the members of the Branch Committee for their efforts this year. Thanks also to Primrose and other staff at HKIAC for their dedication and organisation skills.
16. It is with sadness that we bid farewell - for the time being at least - to a number of our current Committee members who are not standing again in this year's committee elections. Peter Ho, Sue Myint, Charlie Manzoni, James Kwan and Gavin Denton.
17. Finally, here's looking forward to yet another bright and busy year ahead.