



East Asia
Branch

CIArb

BRANCH CHAIRMAN REPORT 2013 / 2014

Highlights of 2013

The East Asia Branch affairs are governed by a Committee comprising 16 elected members and 2 co-opted members, who hold the following positions:-

Committee Chair	Man Sing Yeung
Immediate Past Chair	Joe Gilfeather (ex-officio)
Vice Chair	Richard Leung & Christopher To
Branch Secretary	Cheryl Je
Branch Treasurer	Cordia Yu
Public Relations Officer	Johnson Lee
12 other members	Paul Barrett, Jessica Chan, Kanice Chan, Martin Doris, David Fong, Menachem Hasofer, Louise Barrington, Houchih Kuo, James Lau, William Leung, Mary Thomson, Lawrence Lee

Other than the above, we have a nos. of sub-committee members helping us in implementing the planning.

Membership

As at March 2014, the total Branch membership stood at 1,700. Of these, 493 (30%) were Associates, 842 (50%) members & 365 (20%) fellows. 1,430 were in Hong Kong, whilst the next two largest groups were in the Mainland China (85) and Japan (54).

The Branch had about 1,500 members in the past session 2010-2011. It had a steady growth rate of 4% annually.

Thanks are due to Johnson & James in taking care of the membership affairs.

Mediation

Since 2010, the Branch had collaborated with the Department of Justice & other 7 professional organisations to establish the Joint Mediation Helpline Office Ltd. ("JMHO"). This collaboration is on going with promotion events on mediation, & referral service to our members as mediator generally & on specialised scheme like Land (Compulsory Sale Redevelopment) Ordinance.

Recently, we have been invited to join the Guangzhou Hong Kong & Macau Commercial Mediation Forum which comprises major mediation service bodies in the regions in order to promote the mediation in the Pearl Delta regions & Qianhai through the alliance. It was initiated by the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration. The Institute has shown its support for such alliance.

Thanks are due to Richard, Johnson & Lawrence for their dedication.

Professional Development & Training

For arbitration assessment courses, the Branch had been holding regular courses leading to fellowship:

The Branch held an Introductory course in Hong Kong on 30 November 2013.

An Accelerated Route to Fellowship assessment course was held on 28 & 29 September 2013 at which 28 candidates attended.

The Branch conducted an Award Writing Preparatory Seminar in Hong Kong on 10 February 2014. An Award Writing Exam was held on 27 February 2014 in which 35 members from the East Asia region sat in the examination.

A Peer Interview was held on 4 December 2013 with 17 candidates in HK and further Interview would be planning half yearly. Some interviews with Indonesia Chapter had recently been made via SKYPE.

The Branch expects more Chartered Arbitrator interviews to be conducted soon for candidates who have fulfilled the Institute's requirements.

Thanks are due to Paul, Christopher & Jessica for planning & organising the courses from time to time.

For arbitration training courses toward membership or fellowship grades, a fair nos. of Hong Kong members have expressed interest. We have completely converted the Institute's materials to accord with the Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance and shall run Module 1 (Law of Obligations & Civil Evidence), Module 2 (Laws of Arbitration), Modules 3 (Practice & Procedure) and/or Module 4 (Award Writing) in early 2014. Thank Paul for making it.

Programme

Our evening talks on international commercial arbitration topics were being well attended toward 40 members on average. Since May 2013, we have held 15 evening talks with a fellow cocktail reception in Hong Kong so far.

The Branch had run a series of Nuts & Bolts arbitration seminars which are related to some basic arbitration knowledge for junior members. The last seminar was in June 2013.

We are now fixing another series of Nuts & Bolts arbitration seminars. It would be focussing on construction law starting in these few months.

Other than that, some other new topics like family arbitration, arbitrator liability have been organised.

Thanks are due to Menachem & David for management of the Programming, particularly in seeking guest speakers from time to time.

Regional & Chapter Development

The Branch had continued & extended its programme of activities throughout the East Asia region: Indonesia, Japan, Philippine & Taiwan Chapters, & Beijing, Shanghai & Shenzhen Groups. Local chapter committees manage affairs in each territory, which communicate and report to the Branch from time to time.

A mock arbitration co-hosted by Philippine Chapter with PI Arb etc in RAIF & a mediation introduction course in Taiwan were held both in June 2013. A roundtable discussion meeting with an international arbitrator had been held in Beijing in mid-September. A seminar was jointly organized with Singapore Academy of Law on 18 November 2013 in Taiwan.

The Nuts & Bolts Series of Arbitration Seminars had also been live-linked to Taiwan & Philippine earlier on.

Introductory Course had been held in Beijing & Shanghai on 10 January & 1 March 2014 respectively.

Various training courses leading to associate, membership or fellowship grades would be planned around East Asia region particularly in Taipei, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai & Shenzhen in spring 2014.

We are pleased to report that we have finished a Chinese translation on the workbook for the Introduction to International Commercial Arbitration. We are planning to have our 1st training course speaking in Putonghua in mainland China & Taiwan in 2014.

Thanks are due to Mary, Richard & Joe for their leadership of the Regional Sub-committee.

Young Members

The Branch's YMG is also very busy organizing talks & social events. We have our new YMG Chair, Lawrence Lee elected in June 2013. Since May 2013, YMG has organised 18 YMG events in Hong Kong so far, usually academic talks, site visits & universities promotion events. We would be planning how YMG could attract new young members from the Vis E Moot.

Thanks are due to Lawrence, Kanice, Christopher & the YMG committee for their enthusiasm & dedication.

Vis East Moot

The Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot was at its eleventh year. A total of 100 teams took part in the 2014 Moot from five continents – Europe, North & South America, Australia & Asia. This moot has made Hong Kong the "Mecca of Moot" in Asia.

Thanks are due to Louise, Paul & David in taking care of the Vis East affairs.

Presidential Visit

We are now planning the visit by the new President, Mr. Michael Stevens to East Asia in 2014.

Branch Delegation Visit

We had attended the CI Arb Conference in Penang from 22-24 August 2013 & gave an update on the recent development of the Branch in the Branch Chair roundtable discussion meeting with the Director General & the Chair of Board of Trustees.

We had paid a visit to APRAG AGM & conference in Beijing on 27-29 June 2013. The Branch had sent delegations to pay visit to Supreme Court of PRC, CIETAC & Beijing Arbitration Commission in Beijing in January 2014. We were all well received.

Conference

We would have a Conference "Practical Approach to Resolving Disputes in the Construction Industry" jointly organised with HKIAC & HKIE in April 2014. It is expected to attract quite a nos. of ADR & construction practitioners.

Centenary Celebration

It is a great honour for the Branch to host the CIArb Asia Pacific Centenary Conference 2015 in Hong Kong, which is the only second venue other than the UK in holding the celebration.

We have formed a joint working committee with CIArb headquarters & HKIAC chaired by Neil Kaplan CBE QC. The Asian Pacific Centenary Conference has been scheduled on 19 (Thu), 20 & 21 (Sat) March 2015 in Hong Kong. We are now working on the programme & promotion.

We have been working on the detailed logistics and discussing with London about the theme, format etc.

Publication & Website

The Branch continues to be represented on the Editorial Board of "Asian Dispute Review" journal.

The Branch website had been revamped in 2012 & updated regularly. Members could easily on line register the programmes & indicate to us their interest.

The Branch newsletter continues to be published quarterly. We have often made contributions on our programme to the Institute quarterly journal "Resolver".

Thanks are due to Paul, William (both for the journal), Cheryl & Jessica (both for the newsletter & website) for managing them.

Financial Position

With continued spending on Branch & Chapter development, & quite a nos. of evening talks to our members, the Branch has operated at a deficit for this financial year. It was due to the lower exchange rate with the UK subvention & increasing events these two years.

However this deficit would be well within the capacity of Branch reserves to sustain. The Branch is expected to return to surplus as we would be organising more courses in the regions & begin delivery of courses under the Modules programme in 2014.

We have formed a task force on financial planning to devise financial strategies that the Branch would be implementing in these few years to increase source of revenue & reduce the costs.

The Branch would manage Branch funds to ensure that it would remain financially healthy.

Thanks are due to Cordia for her dedication & effort.

Institute Representation

The Branch continues to hold important positions within the Institute. Colin Wall represents the East Asia region on the Board of Trustees, & Christopher for the Institute's IT Committee.

Government Representation

The practice of mediation in Hong Kong was advanced by the enactment of a new Mediation Ordinance with the establishment of Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Ltd, We were appointed by the Department of Justice in its Accreditation Sub-Group to give opinion on the accreditation policy for mediators in Hong Kong.

Votes of thanks

We would like to thank Colin Wall & Joe Gilfeather for their continuous assistance & guidance. Thanks are also due to all over 30 guest speakers for their precious time in preparing & speaking for the Branch.

Thanks are also extended to Cheryl (the Hon. Branch Secretary), Cordia (the Hon. Branch Treasurer), Primrose Law & her team of the HKIAC for their dedicated secretarial support without which the Branch could not operate smoothly.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Branch members for their support & active participation in the past session.

Development Business Plan 2014/2015

As in 2013/2014, the Branch would be providing education, training & other Continuous Professional Development programmes including talks, events, workshops, & building relationships with universities in academic programmes & student affiliateship.

The Branch would keep on responding to governmental public consultations on various legislative changes & issues.

The Branch would attempt to collaborate & develop partnerships with the business, law, construction & maritime communities; organise events, gatherings & young members' group activities with primary professions; & build up relationships with local & foreign arbitral centres.

MAN SING YEUNG
BRANCH CHAIRMAN
APRIL 2014