

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS (EAST ASIA BRANCH)

MINUTES OF THE 53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2025
AT THE HONG KONG CLUB IN HONG KONG

Mr. Donovan Ferguson, Branch Chairman, chaired the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Donovan Ferguson (Branch Chair), Mr. John Cock (Branch Treasurer), Mr. Micky Yip (Branch Secretary), Mr. Paul Barret (CI Arb Trustee), Mr. David Luk, Mr. Christopher To, Ms. Wenny Huang, Mr. Nicholas Turner, Mr. Richard Leung, Mr. Ronald Pang, Ms. Felda Yeung, Mr. WK To, Mr. Jagmeet Makkar and various other Branch members, with more than 30 people in physical attendance and online.

Apologies received were from Ms. Gina Leung, Mr. Glenn Haley and Mr. David Fong.

Mr. Donovan Ferguson welcomed the members and confirmed that there were sufficient members present to form the quorum. The Annual General Meeting commenced at 6:19pm.

The following business was conducted:

1. To approve the Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting

- 1.1 The Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting were posted on the Branch website prior to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chairman invited questions and comments and none were made. The Minutes were taken as read.
- 1.3 A motion to approve the minutes was proposed by Mr. Jagmeet Makkar and seconded by Mr. Lawrence Lee.

1.4 The motion was passed unanimously.

2. To receive the Branch Chairman's Report

2.1 The Branch Chairman's report was posted on the Branch website prior to the meeting. The Chairman briefly went through his report and invited queries/ comments on the report and none were made.

2.2 As of 22 April 2025, the total East Asia Branch membership stood at 2,853 (down from 3,011 in 2023 and about the same as 2,887 in 2022. Out of these, 580 (20%) were Associates, 1,132 (40%) were Members and 602 (21%) were Fellows, the rest 539 (19%) were retirees and students.

2.3 The Branch completed a number of training courses and assessments as follows:

Date	Course
August to November 2024	Module 1 course for HKIE in Hong Kong
September to November 2024	Module 1 course in Hong Kong
November 2024	Introduction to International Arbitration in Tokyo
November 2024	Introduction to International Arbitration in Taipei
November and December 2024	ARF course in Hong Kong
February 2025	Introduction to International Arbitration in Indonesia

2.4 In addition, the CIArb Asia Pacific Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration which was held in Singapore in March 2025. This is a collaboration between East Asia, Singapore and Australia, and it is the first time we have been able to run this course since 2019.

2.5 For Mediation, since 2010, the East Asia Branch has collaborated with other professional bodies and joined the Joint Mediation Helpline Office ("JMHO") for promoting mediation awareness.

- 2.6 With statutory adjudication coming into force this year, the East Asia Branch has concluded its discussions with HKIAC in relation to the training and accreditation of adjudicators who will be on HKIAC's list. This training will begin in May 2025 and there has been very significant interest from people in Hong Kong who wait to be on HKIAC's list.
- 2.7 The Chairman thanked all committee members and the retiring members in particular for their contribution to the CIArb EAB's activities during the last session.
- 2.8 A motion to approve the Chairman's Report was proposed by Mr. Nicholas and seconded by Mr. Peter Catwell.
- 2.9 The motion was passed unanimously.

3. To receive the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2024

- 3.1 The draft Treasurer's report was posted on the Branch website prior to the meeting. The Treasurer explained this report remains a draft and subject to revision pending finalization of audit of the Japan Chapter accounts.
- 3.2 The 2024 Branch Accounts (after audit adjustments) show total receipt of HKD 1.45 million, and expenditure of HKD 1.36 million, resulting in a surplus of HKD 90 thousand. This is the first surplus since 2019. With the Branch's net assets carried forward from 2023 of HKD 3.4 million, we closed the year in a healthier position, with net asset of HKD 3.5 million.
- 3.3 Additionally, we had a discussion with HKIAC in terms of administrative costs.
- 3.4 Vincent To asked why we cannot record down those courses and sell them to our subscribers, that would help a lot because not everyone can attend the courses that day. John Cock explained saying there are certain challenges to this suggestion, including but not limited to that both the Branch and Head Office run the courses together and permission is

required.

3.5 A motion to approve the accounts was proposed by Mr. Lawrence Lee and seconded by Mr. Ronald Pang.

3.6 The motion was passed unanimously.

4. To elect members of the Branch Committee

4.1 The Branch Secretary explained that as the 12 nominations received exceeded the available positions of 5 on the Branch Committee, a vote was deemed necessary and has been conducted.

4.2 The Branch Secretary reported on the Independent Scrutineer's Report on the Election of Branch Committee Members for the year 2025/2026 dated 17 April 2025, and offered to make a copy available to members, if requested following the meeting.

4.3 The procedures agreed upon as set out in the Scrutineer's Report are as follows:-

- (a) To receive voting papers by post or e-mail;
- (b) To review the voting papers received on or before 6 p.m. Hong Kong time on 14th April 2025 and examine for votes not more than 5 candidates;
- (c) To check the name of electors with the membership list provided by the Branch;
- (d) To check the e-mail address of those replies by e-mail are registered with the Branch Secretary as one of the instructions set out in the voting papers;
- (e) Those voting papers received after 6 p.m. Hong Kong time on 14th April 2025 will not be taken into account for election purposes; and
- (f) To count and record the number of votes in favour of each candidate.

4.4 On the basis of the agreed procedures, it was confirmed:-

- (a) A total of 169 ballot papers were received on or before 6 p.m. Hong Kong time on 14th April 2025;
- (b) 34 ballot papers were rejected;
- (c) The reasons for the above rejections were that the ballot papers were duplicated, the e-mail address of the electors were invalid, and there was no proper indication of “x” or “✓” in the ballot papers;
- (d) 4 ballot papers were rejected on the ground that they were received after the deadline for voting;
- (e) A total of 135 ballot papers were taken into account for the election.

4.5 The conclusion showed the total number of votes in favour of each candidate, in accordance with the information contained on the above-mentioned 135 ballot papers.

4.6 The Branch Secretary then read out the election result of the Scrutineer's Report, i.e. the number of valid votes in favour of each of the candidates (in alphabetical order, by surname):-

		Number of votes in favour of the candidates
1.	EERNISSE, Arie	30
2.	HUANG, Yiwen (Wenny)	38
3.	IDRIZ, AneI	22
4.	MILLS, Karen	30
5.	NG, Eric	47
6.	ROMPOTIS, Phillip	30
7.	TAM, Lawrence	46
8.	THOMAS, Caroline	42
9.	TO, Christopher	86
10.	YEU, Albert	11
11.	YEUNG, Felda	62
12.	YIP, Micky	49

4.7 The Branch Secretary reported that the Committee Members (2025/2026) shall be as follows:

1. Stephen CHU
2. John COCK
3. Donovan FERGUSON
4. Glenn HALEY
5. Lawrence LEE
6. Gina LEUNG
7. Richard LEUNG
8. David LUK
9. Eric NG (newly elected)
10. Ronald PANG
11. Lawrence TAM (re-elected)
12. Christopher TO (newly elected)
13. Nicholas TURNER
14. Jennifer WU
15. Felda YEUNG (newly elected)

16. Micky YIP (re-elected)

4.8 Mr. Donovan Ferguson would continue on the committee as an *ex officio* member as Past Chairman.

4.9 The Chairman thanked all committee members and the retiring members in particular, Mr. David Fong and Mr. Jerry Zhang, for their contribution to the CI Arb EAB's activities during the previous sessions.

5. To appoint the Honorary Auditors

5.1 The Branch Chairman offered a vote of thanks to Messrs. Bakers Tilly Hong Kong Limited who had acted as the auditors for the past year.

5.2 A motion to appoint Messrs Baker Tilly Hong Kong Limited and such other auditor as approved by the committee as honorary auditors for the forthcoming year was proposed by Mr. Nicholas Turner and seconded by Mr. Lawrence Lee.

5.3 The motion was passed unanimously.

6. To transact any other necessary business

6.1 Presidential election year.

6.2 WK To, APIAC (Singapore Arbitration Centre) collaborations?

6.3 A vote of thanks to Donovan Ferguson for leading the Branch as the Chairperson was raised by Paul Barrett. Nicholas Turner and Jagmeet Makkar seconded it.

6.2 The meeting formally closed at 6:49pm.

Signed by: Donovan Ferguson
Branch Chair 2024/2025