

BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

EAST ASIA BRANCH

The East Asia Branch has enjoyed a busy and successful year. This report summarises some of the key points and highlights.

Singapore: We were pleased and proud to see the establishment of the Singapore Branch in January 2010. A little over 250 members of the Branch resident in Singapore have now transferred to the new Branch. We congratulate Christopher Lau SC on his appointment as the Inaugural Chair and wish him and his committee good fortune. Particular thanks are due to Jayems Dhingra who served on both the Branch and Chapter Committees in the last year and undertook much of the hard work associated with the establishment of the Branch. We very much look forward to working with the Singapore Branch in the coming years.

CIETAC Conference: On 9 April, we jointly organised with the CIETAC South China Sub-Commission a half day conference on International Arbitration Involving PRC Parties. In addition to Dr Han Jian, Secretary-General and Mr Liu Xiaochun, Deputy Secretary General of the CIETAC South China Sub-Commission and other delegates from CIETAC and South China we were joined by Ms Annette Magnusson, Secretary-General of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. The event attended by over 70 delegates was followed by a reception. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange of experience and ideas regarding the development of arbitration. Thanks go to Richard Leung, chair of the organising sub-committee, Jessica Chan and Cheryl Je for their efforts in organising this event.

Joint Mediation Helpline: The Branch has joined with the HKIAC and other interested bodies to establish the Joint Mediation Helpline service, as frontline service to offer assistance to parties interested in resolving disputes by mediation. Thanks go to Man Sing Yeung and Nicholas Longley for their efforts in this regard. Thanks are once more due to Man Sing Yeung for his leadership of this project.

PSDAS Video: With the assistance of funding from the Hong Kong Government's PSDAS Scheme the Branch was able to fund and publish a DVD of a mock arbitration. This was recorded at an event on 6 June 2009 and followed up by seminars in July and November.

The Vis East Moot: The Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, was once more a great success. A record number of 75 teams participated in the event. The winning team this year in the oral arguments was the Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat of Freiburg Germany. Particular thanks are due to Louise Barrington for her continued efforts in leading this event.

Programme: We have had an active year in terms of our programme. We have held a speaker meeting at least once every month and on most occasions twice. Our thanks go to Richard Barton, Mike Charlton, Paul Darling, Jessica Fei, Paulo Fohlin, Richard Hill, Peter Ho, Kaj Hober, Doug Jones, Cheng Yee Khong, Nicholas Longley, Danny McFadden, Stephen Ruttle, Mary Thompson, Colin Wall for participating. Thanks also go to Raymond Au who has chaired the Programme Sub-Committee.

Institute Representation: EAB members continue to hold important positions within the Institute. Colin Wall represents the East Asia region on the Board of Trustees. Louise Barrington serves on the Education and Membership Committee. Giovanna Kwong serves on the Practice and Standards Committee.

Financial Position: The Honorary Treasurer, Joe Gilfeather, continues to manage the Branch funds to ensure that the Branch remains financially healthy. Please refer to his Treasurer's Report for full details. The Branch again operated at a modest deficit for the financial year, it continues to invest in the development of the Chapters.

Continuing Professional Development: The Branch Committee and the Professional Development Sub-Committee continue to work towards addressing the Institute's revised schemes for continuing professional development. We had hoped to be able to roll out a programme of training for the various pathways to membership during the course of the year, unfortunately this has not proved possible. However, the Committee will continue to work on this project and we would hope that next year's Committee would be in a position to begin to provide this training. It is intended that this training will be based upon the new arbitration ordinance once finalised. However, if necessary, the Branch will provide "jurisdiction-neutral" courses with a view to addressing this outstanding need.

Entry Courses were held in Hong Kong in May and November and in Indonesia in December.

Winnie Whittaker Memorial Lecture: The 2009 lecture was delivered by Andrejz Cierpicki and was well attended.

Membership: As at 30 March 2010, the total Branch membership stood at 1,669, after the transfer of members to the Singapore Branch. Of these, 1,447 were in Hong Kong, whilst the next two largest groups were in the Mainland China (99) and Indonesia (38).

Young Members Group: The YMG has enjoyed a busy and varied year. In addition to events focused on developing members knowledge of alternative dispute resolution a varied programme of community service, sporting and social activities have been undertaken. Plans are currently

underway for a delegation to visit Shanghai. The YMG has been chaired by Johnson Lee this year.

Publications and Website: The Branch continues to be represented on the Editorial Committee of the "Asian Dispute Review" Journal by Paul Barratt and Paulo Fohlin. The Branch newsletter continues to be published quarterly, and particular thanks are due to Paulo for his efforts as Editor and prime mover in ensuring that we publish the newsletter regularly. The website has been updated regularly under the management of Sacha Cheong.

Notes of thanks: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Branch Committee for their considerable efforts in the past year. I would particular like to thank John Cock, Immediate Past Chair, for his assistance and guidance to me.

I would also like to thank our retiring committee members, who will not be standing for re-election:

Paul Barrett: Paul is a long term Committee Member, who has been the stalwart of the Entry Course. In the last year, he has also served as Chair of the Professional and Development Sub-Committee.

Peter Caldwell: Peter has served on the Committee for many years in a variety of roles. His sage advice will be sadly missed.

Anthony Houghton SC: Tony has similarly served on the Committee for many years and in recent years has been the Chair to the Regional Sub-Committee. He has been instrumental in developing the Chapters throughout the region.

Sacha Cheong: Sacha has been responsible for the maintenance of our website, which he has done with dedication and efficiency.

In addition Jayems Dhingra will be standing down, as a result of the establishment of the Singapore Branch.

Thanks also to Primrose Law and the staff of the HKIAC for their dedicated support without which the Branch could not function.

Timothy Hill
Branch Chairman
East Asia Branch
April 2010

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