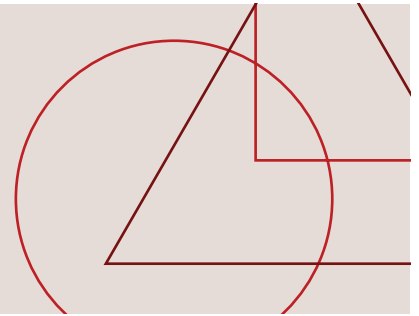




**“Arbitration & Technology: Utopia, Armageddon, or Ragnarok?”
Webinar on 16 July 2025**



On 16 July 2025 Ciarb EAB had the pleasure of virtually hosting Ambassador David Huebner on the topic of “Arbitration & Technology: Utopia, Armageddon, or Ragnarok?”. Ambassador Huebner was “interviewed” by Caroline Thomas. Over 40 people attended.

Ambassador Huebner, a highly experienced arbitrator based in California who has handled numerous cases around the world, is in his second year of service as chair of Ciarb’s Global Board of Trustees.

Five messages that stood out for us were:

1. 🧠 AI is a society changing dynamic like the internal combustion engine 🚗, telephone 📞 and internet 🌐. But AI is even less susceptible to human control 🤖 and will impact the whole legal system.
2. 🔥 Care needs to be taken before arbitrators and counsel deploy technology such as AI – we need to learn to use it properly first so that concerns about confidentiality and accuracy are addressed. Also, certain technology needs to mature before it is fit for purpose.
3. 💡 A word of advice is to mould our own futures (to be proactive rather than reactive). This applies to engaging early with technology and AI – as Ciarb and various arbitral institutions are doing. It also applies to young lawyers taking charge of their own careers.
4. 🌐 Re Ciarb, the board of trustees and secretariat are working to increase the focus on our members and to increase the Ciarb value proposition to members.
5. 🏠 Mentorship should be viewed as an obligation for those who have become successful in their fields. Being a mentor is not difficult, and mentors should listen as much as they talk 🗣️. It is also important that mentors consider tangible ways of being helpful such as making introductions and advocating for their mentees.

*Caroline Thomas
Co-Optee of Ciarb (EAB)*

Happy Hong Kong Arbitration Week 2025!

This edition brings a few highlights of the last few months.

This edition of the newsletter unfortunately accompanies with it sad news as our beloved Karen Mill passed away recently.

Karen was a force of nature and a doyen in the field of arbitration. Her tireless efforts played a key role in the development of arbitration in the APAC region in particular in Indonesia.

She was also a fierce advocate of equality and a mentor to many who wanted to gain a foothold in arbitration. She will be sorely missed.



Ronald Pang



On 3 September 2025 Ciarb EAB had the pleasure of hosting a talk on the English Arbitration Act 2025 entitled “Appeals in Arbitration: Comparison Between England and Hong Kong” by Dr Kyriaki Noussia and Dr David Fong,

The talk highlighted the recent changes to the English Arbitration Act 2025 and common approaches adopted in appellate process in the context of arbitral awards. This was contrasted with the Hong Kong’s approach highlighted with case authorities.

The event was well attended by members.

A big thank you to Dr Noussia and Dr Fong for their insightful presentation.

*Ronald Pang
Vice-Chair of Ciarb (EAB)*

Ciarb (EAB) YMG 6th Annual Conference 12 September 2025



On 12 September 2025, the YMG welcomed attendees to its 6th Annual Conference at the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. The theme for the conference was *Resolving Disputes in a Changing World*.

With panels coordinated by various YMG chapters, and a number of international speakers, the event offered a unique opportunity to hear a range of perspectives on issues impacting arbitration.

The conference commenced with a Keynote Address by Queenie Lau SC who shared her insights on a number of the panel topics as well her experiences of career development and exploring new opportunities.

The morning panels focussed on Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Disputes (coordinated by the YMG Korea chapter) and Technology in Arbitration: From AI to e-hearings (coordinated by the YMG Japan chapter). With 11 participants across the 2 panels drawing on their experience in numerous jurisdictions, attendees were exposed to new and developing approaches to these issues.

The afternoon panels focussed on ESG disputes (coordinated by the YMG Taiwan chapter), Recent Developments in Arbitration and the Law (a joint effort of the YMG Macau chapter, the YMG Vietnam chapter and Hong Kong members) before concluding with an examination of Social Media and Arbitration (coordinated by the YMG Indonesia chapter). The afternoon panels saw lively discussion, along with the morning's topics (in particular AI and Technology) coming up in the context of each of the panels.

After the formalities of the panel sessions were over, attendees headed to The China Club to enjoy food and drinks as well as the opportunity to connect with others from across the EAB jurisdictions. The opportunity to connect members and guests of the EAB YMG is a highlight for the YMG Committee.

The YMG would like to thank all of those involved in the conference (attendees, speakers, organisers, sponsors and supporting organisations) and thoroughly looks forward to seeing members at the next Annual Conference!

*Mat Brigs
Co-Chair of Ciarb (EAB) YMG*



"Introduction to International Arbitration" by Ciarb) East Asia Branch and the Wuhan Arbitration Commission 20 September 2025

Co-hosted by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ciarb) East Asia Branch and the Wuhan Arbitration Commission, the Ciarb East Asia Branch successfully delivered a one-day in-person training course titled "Introduction to International Arbitration" in Wuhan on 20 September 2025.

The event attracted well over 100 participants, primarily legal professionals practising in mainland China, including lawyers, in-house counsel, academics, and arbitration practitioners. The course provided a comprehensive overview of the fundamentals of international arbitration, covering key principles, procedural frameworks, and practical insights into arbitral proceedings. It also served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and professional networking among attendees.

The training was led by Richard Leung JP, Chair of the East Asia Branch PRC Subcommittee. He was joined by a distinguished

Remembering Karen Mills: Discussion on Reforming Indonesian Arbitration Law". 28 August 2025

On 28 August 2025, our Indonesian Chapter held an even in honour of Karen Mills, a longtime committee member of Ciarb (EAB) and ubiquitous figure in the arbitration filed in the APAC region.

The East Asia Branch mourns the passing of our highly valued Committee member Karen Mills C.Arb FCIArb.

The event was well attended with many members of the Indonesian arbitration committee attending and sharing their stories and memories of our beloved Karen Mills. As many of our members may know, Karen was a long standing figure in the committee and we invited some of our members to say a few words in Karen's Memory:-

Glenn Haley, a past chairman of East Asia Branch currently responsible for the Indonesian Chapter said, "Karen will be greatly missed not only by the Ciarb family, but by the arbitration community in Indonesia (where she was a senior and well known practitioner and one of the driving forces in the establishment of the Ciarb presence in Indonesia) and by the arbitration community throughout the East Asia Branch footprint. Karen also was a great supporter of the Vis East Moot since its inception. Karen will be missed as a dear and faithful friend to many of us."

Gina Leung chair of East Asia Branch said, "Karen was a long-standing supporter of the East Asia Branch. During her time with the Committee, she actively supported the Branch's activities and was the driving force in the establishment of the Indonesian Chapter. Karen has also provided tirelessly support to the Ciarb Young Members Group.



Mary Thomson, a past chairlady of East Asia Branch said, "Even before I met Karen Mills, her name was synonymous with arbitration in Indonesia and well known outside her adopted country, especially amongst Singapore practitioners. She was tenacious with strong views, which some found difficult, when it came to fighting for people and causes she believed in. But we worked well together over the decades in promoting and presenting Ciarb courses in Jakarta. She was generous, meticulous but she also had a creative side, a collector of beautiful objects of art. Karen, I miss you already."

Anthony Houghton, a past chairman of East Asia Branch said, "Karen took Indonesia to her heart, and as one of the few international arbitration practitioners in that country in her early years there recognised that the country should be well recognised on the international arbitration map. To foster arbitration 'best practice' Karen was instrumental in founding Indonesia's Chapter of the Ciarb and was devoted to the promotion of arbitration in the country and the region. Through her encouragement, the Branch was able to offer arbitration education to many practitioners, the judiciary, and students. She will be much missed by her many friends, and by the many people whose arbitration knowledge and skills she helped nurture."



team of instructors and facilitators, including Micky Yip (Secretary of the East Asia Branch), Lawrence Tam (Committee Member), Bronco But, and Edward Chow. Their collective expertise in arbitration and engaging delivery contributed to the course's success and positive reception.

This initiative reflects Ciarb East Asia Branch's ongoing commitment to promoting arbitration education and capacity-building across the region, and marks another milestone in its collaboration with key institutions in mainland China.

*Gina Leung/Mickey Yip
Chair of Ciarb (EAB)/Secretary of Ciarb (EAB)*



The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch) is accepting applications for the following four courses.

Accelerated Route to Fellowship (International Arbitration) Course

To provide a fast-track route to Fellowship through the International Arbitration Pathway. This course focuses on the process, practice and procedures in International Arbitration which is an essential requirement for qualification as a Fellow and for those who aim to practice as an International Arbitrator



Refresher Course: 30 October 2025
Assessment Date: 13 – 14 November 2025
Exam Date: 5 December 2025

Accelerated Route to Membership (International Arbitration) Course

To provide a fast-track route to Membership through the International (i.e. nondomestic) Arbitration Pathway. The course covers the law underpinning the process and procedure of International Arbitration. It is therefore valuable for anyone who is conversant with the law and practice of International Arbitration generally, whether as a party or party representative.



Assessment Date: 19 November 2025
Exam Date: 20 November 2025

Current East Asia Branch Membership

The Branch currently has under 3,000 members in the region. Find out the composition of the Branch membership in the diagrams below.

Distribution by Membership Grade

(excluding the Retired Members and Students)

Fellow	Associate	Member
633	641	1,139

Distribution by Gender of Members



Distribution by Region

Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar and others	23
Macau	36
South Korea	48
Vietnam	103
Japan	105
Philippines	125
Indonesia	151
Taiwan	156
China	565
Hong Kong	1,642

The above statistics are current as of August 2025.

Ciarb East Asia Branch

The East Asia Branch provides a regional organisation for members of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators who are residents in the geographical area of Hong Kong, mainland China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Mongolia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Thailand and Singapore, formerly part of the Branch, were constituted as separate branches in 2003 and February 2010 respectively.

The objectives of the Branch are to promote, encourage and facilitate the practice of settlement of disputes by arbitration, mediation and other means of dispute resolution, and generally to support and promote the status and interests of the Institute.

Ciarb East Asia Branch Committee 2025–2026

Ex-Branch Chair – **Donovan Ferguson**, Branch Chair and PR & External Communications – **Gina Leung**, Treasurer – **John Cock**, Secretary & Membership – **Micky Yip**, Vice Chair & Mediation – **Lawrence Lee**, Vice Chair – **Ronald Pang**, Adjudication – **Nicholas Turner**, Regional (Others) – **Glenn Haley**, Vis East & Mentoring – **Jennifer Wu**, Regional (PRC) – **Richard Leung**, Programme – **David Luk**, Diversity – **Felda Yeung**, PD&T – **Stephen Chu**, IT & Website – **Lawrence Tam**, Newsletter & Social Media – **Eric Ng**, **Christopher To**, YM&G Chair – **Mathew Briggs**, **Caroline Thomas** & **Wenny Huang** (Co-Optees), EAB Trustee – **Paul Barrett** (Observer)

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