



Branch Chair Report 2019/2020

The Committee

The East Asia Branch is run by a Committee comprising of 16 elected members who hold the following positions:

Committee Chair	Nicholas Turner
Immediate Past Chair	Mary Thomson (ex-officio)
Vice Chair	David Fong
Branch Secretary	Donovan Ferguson
Branch Treasurer	John Cock
Other Committee members	Helen Au, Mingchao Fan, Glenn Haley, Lawrence Lee, Richard Leung, David Luk, Vincent Li Christopher To, Albert Yeu, Micky Yip and Cordia Yu

In addition to the above, we have a number of co-opted members on various subcommittees helping us in carrying out various activities and they include Mac Chan, Giovanna Kwong and Saniza Othman.

We also have a number of observers; Stephen Chu, Gina Leung, Joseph Leung, Anny Wong, Jagmeet Makkar and Scott Ramsden.

Membership

As at end of March 2020 the total Branch membership stood at 2,158. Out of these, 482 (22 %) were associates, 1,083 (50%) were members and 524 (24%) were fellows, the rest 54 (4%) were retired and students. The Branch has a net gain of 134 new members in the past year.

A table showing the distribution of branch membership around the region is set out below.



Region	No as of February 2020	No as of March 2019
Bangladesh	1	0
Cambodia	3	2
Canada	1	0
China	137	123
Egypt	1	1
Hong Kong	1608	1578
Indonesia	54	54
Japan	72	60
Korea	47	43
Macau	32	34
Malaysia	6	3
New Zealand	1	1
Oman	1	0
Philippines	71	63
Singapore	2	2
Taiwan	57	41
Thailand	1	1
UK	4	3
UAE	1	0
Vietnam	57	15
Total	2,158	2,024

My thanks go to Cordia for taking care of our membership affairs.

Financial Position

The Branch finances remain healthy, with net assets of some HK\$4.8m at the end of 2019.

Notwithstanding the non-receipt of subvention for the first time last year, we finished the year with a relatively modest deficit of around HK\$200,000. This was substantially less than the estimated deficit of around HK\$1.5m for the year, in our budget. There are a number of reasons for this improved position, which are explained further in the Treasurer's note



accompanying the accounts. One particular aspect worth mentioning is course revenue. While total course revenues were substantially less than for the 2018 “bumper year”, courses overall contributed higher than estimated net revenue of nearly HK\$600,000 to the Branch’s coffers in 2019. I refer members to the Treasurer’s report for further details of the Branch’s financial position.

Thank you to John Cock for taking care of the finances of the Branch.

Professional Development & Training

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

Date	Course
10 April 2019	Adjudication Introduction Course in Hong Kong
13 April 2019	Module 4 (Award writing exam) in Hong Kong
27 April 2019	Entry course for HFW
14 September 2019	Award Writing Exam, Taipei
21 September 2019	Maritime arbitration course, run with SkillsPlus in Hong Kong
1 and 2 November 2019	ARM course in Tokyo
11 and 12 December 2019	ARM course in Hong Kong
6 December 2019	Half day seminar in Macau, organised in conjunction with CIETAC Hong Kong and the Macau Lawyers Association
18 to 20 December 2019	ARF course in Hong Kong
June and December 2019	Arbitration training, in conjunction with US Government, for senior lawyers from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives
March 2020	
16 April 2020	Introduction to International Arbitration, Jakarta

The Branch will be rolling out the New Pathways for training courses and assessments, developed under the stewardship of Dr Paresh Kathrani.

There are many to thank for helping with the planning, organising, participating in the courses and assessments. In Hong Kong, thanks go to Glenn, Mary, Richard, John, Man Sing, Stephen, Jagmeet, Lawrence and Christopher. For regional courses, thanks go to all Chapter Convenors as well as Camilla Godman, Director Asia Pacific.



Also, our gratitude goes to the organisations that have collaborated with us and provided us with their invaluable assistance making the courses and assessments possible.

Mediation

Since 2010, the Branch has collaborated with other professional bodies and joined the JMHO for promoting mediation awareness.

West Kowloon Mediation Centre opened in November 2018 and the Branch jointly supports, with other 8 local institutions, to allow members to conduct mediations referred from Small Claims Tribunal from Judiciary. There have been over 130 cases completed.

Thank you to Lawrence and Joseph who sits on the committees of mediation bodies which the Branch collaborates.

Programme

Since May 2019 to the present, the Branch has scheduled evening seminars/talks (including those jointly held with the YMG). A number of planned events have had to be postponed because of the situation in Hong Kong over the last year.

The talks which were held were well attended and covered various topics, with details as follows:

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)
2 May 2019	Meeting Today's Challenges to Prepare for the Future	Mr Thomas Halket, President of the Institute
11 July 2019	Objectives and Developments of the IDAR office	Dr. James Ding
7 August 2019	Building a legal path for non-legal professionals (jointly organized with The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors)	Mr John Cock, Ms Cheryl Je and Ms Adela Mao
5 September 2019	14 th Winnie Whittaker Memorial Lecture: Revisiting the Inaugural Lecture "Must Arbitration be a Bloodbath?"	Mr. Peter Caldwell
5 December 2019	Diversity in Arbitration: A Perspective From the Bench (jointly organized with YMG)	The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin
7 January 2020	New Development of Online Dispute Resolution in Asia and the Concept of eBRAM	Mr. Daniel Lam, SBS, JP



In addition, the team has also organized the Fellow's Cocktail Party on 27 August 2019. The Annual Dinner has been postponed to a date to be fixed.

Regional & Chapter Development

The Branch continues to extend its programme of activities throughout the East Asia Region: Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, South Korea, Macau, Mainland China and Myanmar. Local chapters/committees/Convenors manage affairs in each territory and communicates and reports to the Branch from time to time.

There have been exchanges with 12BS about the structure of CI Arb's presence in Vietnam, and the Branch Chair will brief members orally about this at the AGM.

In Mainland China, since the coming into effect of the new Foreign NGOs Management Law in 2017, we have not held CI Arb courses on the Mainland. However, the matter is still being considered by Mingchao's sub-committee on China as well as Camilla Godman's regional office.

Young Members Group (YMG)

Throughout the past year, the YMG has been active organising both technical talks for members, which are listed above.

The YMG also organised (sometimes jointly with other young members' groups of professional bodies) social events and community services for members, including:

Western Cuisine Cooking Class;

Brewery Tour & Beer Tasting Workshop;

A Mid-Autumn Festival Elderly Visit community service project (co-organised with the Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service Choi Hung Community Centre for Senior Citizens-Day Care Service).

Thanks to Mac Chan and his YMG committee for their enthusiasm and dedication and to Helen for her promotional endeavours to the universities.

Vis East Moot

The Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Moot celebrates its 17th year in 2020. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the face to face Vis East Moot has been postponed to a date to be fixed.

For the first time in its history, a Virtual Vis East Moot (VVE) was held on the scheduled dates 22 - 29th March 2020. VVE was made possible with IT assistance from two organisations; eBRAM provided the interface for Microsoft Team.

About 70 teams registered to compete on VVE and the opening of the VVE took place in the form of a webinar. This year, the moot used the LCIA Rules.



Thanks to Mary for taking care of the Branches relationship with the Vis East moot.

Diversity

In the past year, the Diversity sub-committee has organized three events, which received the support from prominent international arbitrators, other professional bodies and our Young Members Group, which were all well attended:

Date	Topic	Speaker(s)
7 August 2019	Building a legal path – An insightful panel for non-legal professionals Jointly organized with the HK Institute of Surveyors (Quantity Surveying Division)	The panel of speakers, including legal and non-legal professionals
21 October 2019	New Ways to Champion Diversity Joint event with ArbitralWomen	A panel of leading arbitrators, including Neil Kaplan QC
5 December 2019	Diversity in Arbitration: A Perspective from the Bench Jointly organized with the Young Members Group and supported by the HKIAC	The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin

Our thanks go to Giovanna for ensuring the Branch's promotion of inclusiveness in ADR.

Working with other institutions

The External Communication Committee has been in liaison with and the Branch continues to support organisations which promote ADR including:

Date	Event
30 & 31 May 2019	The Lighthouse Club International Construction Conference: “Constructing, Contracting, Consulting, Collaborating and Caring along the Belt and Road”
15 and 16 Aug 2019	The 2019 Colloquium on International Law organized by the Asian Academy of International Law
23 October 2019	The 9th Annual GAR Live Hong Kong conference
4 November 2019	The 3rd UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit organized by the Asian Academy of International Law
6 to 8 November 2019	The 2nd LAWASIA Conference titled “Harmonisation through Synergy” organized by the Law Society of Hong Kong
8 November 2019	The SCLHK One Day International Conference 2019
18 November 2019	The CI Arb 2019 International Arbitration Conference organized by the Australian Branch
21 and 22 November 2019	“Embracing the Changing Dynamics” and “Shipping in the Challenging Times” organized by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Hong Kong Branch
29 November 2019	The Asia Pacific NEC Users' Group Conference

Our thanks go to David who handles our public relations and external communications.

Website

The Branch continues to maintain its website (www.ciarbasia.org) together with our LinkedIn page. The website brings the most up-to-date information on upcoming programs and events, including training courses to our members.

We have been in the process of enhancing the functionality of the website, to include the latest news on the front page and easy access to events the Branch supports. Once complete we will make a formal announcement. Suggestions from members for further improvements are always welcome.

Thanks go to Micky Yip and John Cock for managing the website keeping us up to date and Vincent Li for looking after the LinkedIn page.



Newsletter

The Branch issued quarterly newsletters in April, July and October 2019, and January 2020. Since the beginning of 2019, the Newsletter has been issued electronically, alongside the quarterly publication Asia Dispute Review. We hope you have been receiving these valuable publications.

Thanks go to Gina who has corralled articles for the Newsletter and for the editors and authors of articles for the ADR publication.

Institute Representation

The Branch continues to hold important positions within the Institute. Paul Barrett takes over from Anthony Houghton SC and represents the East Asia region on the Board of Trustees.

Vote of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members, subcommittee members, Chapter Convenors, co-opted members, observers, guest speakers on various talks and all Branch members for their support and active participation in the past year. It has an honour and a privilege to serve you.

Development Business Plan 2020/2021

The Branch will continue to provide education, training, events, talks, workshops, and build relations with universities and other professional bodies. We will also continue to support and collaborate with other arbitral bodies (locally and internationally) and organizations including government departments in the arbitration and ADR sphere.

We will explore ways to collaborate and develop partnerships with the business community with a view to broadening the membership. We will encourage further development of YMG activities, including the formation of additional YMG's in the Chapters, and also promote diversity and inclusion, in all its forms.

The Government's redevelopment of the West Wing government building is reaching its conclusion. The Branch has been allocated space and we are in the process of considering how we might use that space to provide better services to our Branch members. There may be a certain amount of capital expenditure required, which the Branch has anticipated.

Nicholas Turner
Branch Chair
April 2020