



ASIAN INSTITUTE OF
ALTERNATIVE
DISPUTE
RESOLUTION
Delivering Excellence in ADR

ADR CENTURION

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A report by the AIADR Secretariat

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(ESC)

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The AIADR shall be a repertoire of global jurisprudence, formed by professional membership, recognized by international institutions, striving for the advancement of alternative dispute resolution methodologies, for amicable conflicts management and effective dispute resolution.

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The background is a deep, dark blue. Overlaid on this is a complex, three-dimensional geometric structure composed of numerous thin, glowing light strips. These strips form a series of nested rectangular frames that recede into the distance, creating a strong sense of perspective and depth. The lights have a warm, yellowish-white glow, contrasting sharply with the dark background. The overall effect is reminiscent of a modern architectural installation or a digital art piece.

***“A good set
better than a***

The background is a dark, low-angle photograph of a building's interior structure. Several dark, diagonal beams cross the frame. Three vertical light strips, composed of many small lights, run parallel to each other, extending from the bottom towards the top of the image. The overall mood is dramatic and modern.

***ttlement is
good lawsuit”***

— International Mediation Week

Join the spotlight - submit your profile to the AIADR Newsletter

2025



Submission requirement:

1. Profile Picture
2. Biodata (150 - 200) words

- Available to AIADR members with active membership only
- Limited to 5 slots for each issue.

To submit, kindly email aiadr.editor@aiadr.world

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Membership

Collaborate with us!

Members are welcome to reach out to the Secretariat for assistance or collaboration in organizing webinars on ADR topics of their choice. No charges are levied. Do not miss out on this great opportunity to enhance your resume by delivering a webinar for the benefit of other members and the ADR fraternity. Email us to register your interest!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DATUK PROFESSOR SUNDRA RAJOO

Dear Members,

I am pleased to share with you the 38th Issue of the ADR Centurion. AIADR continues to grow steadily, supported by a wide range of meaningful activities and initiatives. At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our mission of building a truly global platform for alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

I am especially grateful to the Governance Council, Office Bearers, committee members, the AIADR Secretariat, our partner organizations, respected members, and new subscribers for their commitment and support in advancing AIADR's objectives. I encourage all of you to stay connected with us through our social media channels – Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram – where we share our latest news and insights.

As we look ahead, it is also important to pause and reflect on how far we have come as an institute. I am delighted to take this opportunity to update all members of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR) on some of our recent initiatives. Over the past few months, we have hosted a variety of engaging events designed to meet the interests of the ADR community. Whether you are an experienced professional or just starting your journey in ADR, these programmes have created valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and professional growth.

1. From 16 to 21 August 2025, AIADR had the pleasure of conducting the AIADR IMI Mediation

Training Course in Nanning, China, in partnership with the Nanning International Arbitration Court (NIAC) and Guangxi University. The course was led by Dr. Christopher To, with invaluable support from tutors Samrith Kaur, Sharmini Thiruchelvam, Dr. Navin G. Ahuja, and Michael Cover. Their expertise provided participants with practical skills, essential knowledge, and international perspectives that will enhance their mediation practice.

The course created an engaging environment for learning, discussion, and the sharing of experiences. Participants explored real-life mediation scenarios, applied their skills through interactive exercises, and gained confidence in handling complex disputes. This program highlighted the growing importance of mediation as an effective and collaborative approach to resolving conflicts in the region, and marked a significant milestone for AIADR as we expand our reach internationally.

This training reflects AIADR's ongoing commitment to building capacity and supporting professional development in alternative dispute resolution. By equipping practitioners in China and beyond with the tools and understanding they need, AIADR continues to promote best practices, elevate standards, and strengthen the impact of mediation across Asia and internationally.

2. Next, a major highlight this year was the Asia ADR Summit 2025, held from 21 to 25 August at Guangxi University, Nanning, China. The Summit was a landmark success, bringing together over 300 delegates from ASEAN and beyond—including

Highlights

judges, arbitrators, mediators, academics, and practitioners—to explore the future of dispute resolution in Asia’s rapidly changing digital landscape. We were honoured by the presence of The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, Former Chief Justice of Malaysia, whose keynote address set the tone for meaningful dialogue on pressing issues such as online dispute resolution, the role of tribunal secretaries in a digital world, regulating AI in ADR, and the future of virtual hearings.

The programme extended beyond conference halls, with “Discovering Nanning: Cultural and Strategic Insights”, as well as institutional visits and roundtables. Notably, the Roundtable Session “Beyond Borders: Rethinking Arbitration & ADR for a Changing World”, co-organised with Nanning International Arbitration Court (NIAC), and visits to China-ASEAN Commercial Arbitration Cooperation Center (CACACC) and leading law firms in Guangxi, enriched the Summit with valuable exchanges and collaboration opportunities.

The Summit was more than just a conference—it was a convergence of ideas, cultures, and partnerships, reflecting AIADR’s mission to build a stronger, more connected ADR community. I extend my sincere appreciation to our sponsors, partners, co-organisers, speakers, and delegates who made this milestone possible, and I look forward with anticipation to the Asia ADR Summit 2026.

3. Lastly, on 28 August 2025, I had the privilege of presenting in a webinar series hosted by the FAEO-ADR Committee, in collaboration with the Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC). The session, titled “The Role of ADR in Engineering and Technical Disputes”, it explored how alternative dispute resolution can be effectively applied to complex construction, infrastructure, and technical conflicts.

I highlighted that ADR processes provide timely, cost-efficient, and expert-driven solutions – qualities that offer a clear alternative to protracted and expensive litigation. This is especially vital in sectors where unresolved disputes can lead to severe project delays and significant financial risks. Beyond efficiency, I emphasized how ADR

also fosters flexibility and preserves working relationships – an essential factor in industries like engineering and construction, where collaboration across multiple stakeholders determines the success of a project.

What made this particularly meaningful was how closely it aligned with AIADR’s mission to advance ADR as a practical, accessible, and effective tool for dispute resolution worldwide. By engaging in these global conversations, AIADR reinforces its commitment to raising awareness, strengthening best practices, and broadening the reach of ADR across regions and industries.

It was encouraging to witness the strong participation from professionals across diverse fields, all eager to explore ADR’s potential in shaping the future of dispute resolution. Sessions like this reaffirm not only the growing recognition of ADR’s value but also the important role that AIADR plays in advancing its adoption on the international stage.

In closing, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members for their steadfast participation and support in our activities and events. Your ongoing involvement is vital to the success and impact of our initiatives, and we deeply appreciate your commitment. As we look forward to 2025, we remain committed to delivering even greater value to our members and to the broader ADR community.

Dissenting Opinion of an Arbitrator in the Context of Artificial Intelligence



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Introduction

Dissents in arbitration are commonly presented as separate declarations, but this is not the only way disagreement is expressed. Sometimes, a dissent or clarification on a specific issue is incorporated directly into the award text, particularly when the disagreement is minor or pertains to a less central matter, making a separate declaration unnecessary. In such cases, you might encounter phrases like, "...the arbitrator [name] disagrees regarding the relevance of..." or a more anonymous alternative such as, "...one arbitrator differs as to the computation...". While anonymous dissents are not prohibited, they somewhat miss the mark. The purpose of dissent is for an arbitrator to publicly distance themselves from a particular viewpoint they cannot endorse. Anonymity undermines this objective, and it is often easy to identify the anonymous dissenter anyway.

Dissents should avoid overt criticism of the majority opinion, as this only detracts from the award's value without offering any real benefit. Fortunately, the norm is quite the opposite: dissenters typically show respect and deference to the majority, often carefully acknowledging their colleagues in the introductory remarks. Usually, the majority does not respond to the dissent. However, in some cases, the divide between the minority and the majority is so significant that it leads to a subtle but noticeable tension, which, if present, is typically expressed with a certain level of finesse.

There is also a rare breed of habitual dissenters, who, fortunately, seem to be fading away. These individuals tend to attach a "Dissenting" note to nearly every award, often driven by a misguided but improper desire to show loyalty to the party that appointed them. This practice is generally unhelpful and undermines the integrity of the arbitration process.¹

¹ <https://journal.arbitration.ru/analytics/dissenting-opinions-and-why-they-should-be-tolerated/>

With the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, the role of arbitration is undergoing significant changes. In this context, the dissenting opinion of an arbitrator becomes not only a tool for expressing disagreement or emphasizing important aspects of a case but also a key element in analyzing and interpreting the use of AI in arbitration.²

Arbitration Process Highlighting Dissenting Opinion: Figure 1 shows the key stages of the arbitration process, emphasizing the role of a dissenting opinion.

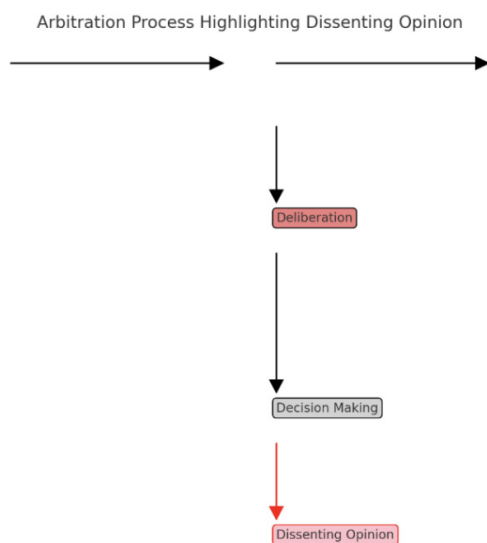


Figure 1. Integration of AI in Arbitration and the Role of Dissenting Opinions. (drawn by AI)

By providing arbitrators with the opportunity to articulate their individual interpretations, dissenting opinions offer valuable insights into alternative readings of the facts or legal principles at play. This, in turn, can significantly enhance the depth, quality, and integrity of the arbitral award, ensuring that the decision is as well-rounded and robust as possible.³

Historical Development

The history of arbitration extends over several centuries, during which dissenting opinions have consistently played a pivotal role in shaping the course of justice. Across the ages, these dissenting voices have been instrumental in the development of legal precedents and the enhancement of arbitration practices. By presenting alternative viewpoints and interpretations, dissenting opinions have often influenced the trajectory of future cases and contributed to the ongoing refinement of legal principles. In the realm of international arbitration, dissenting opinions have left an indelible mark, particularly in landmark cases where arbitrators have voiced their disagreement with the majority. These contributions have enriched the legal discourse, fostering a deeper and more nuanced understanding of justice that continues to evolve with each new case⁴

Examples of dissenting opinions can be found in international arbitration cases, where arbitrators have expressed their disagreement with the majority decisions. These dissenting opinions have often contributed to the development of legal precedents and the improvement of arbitration standards. By providing alternative viewpoints and interpretations, dissenting opinions have enriched the discourse within the arbitration community and have influenced the evolution of legal principles and practices.

In one case, a dissenting opinion created a preliminary issue in the sequel of that case. In *Waste Management v. Mexico I*, the majority dismissed jurisdiction because of claimant's failure to provide under Article 1121(2)(b) of the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S.-Can.-Mex., Dec. 17, 1992, 32 I.L.M. 605 (1993), a waiver of the right to initiate or continue, before any tribunal or court, dispute settlement proceedings with respect to the measures taken by the Respondent that are allegedly in breach of NAFTA. *Waste Management v. Mexico I*, ICSID Case No. ARB(AF)/98/2 (June 2, 2000) (Award)⁵

² https://iccwbo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/icc-arbitration-and-adr-commission-report-on-leveraging-technology-for-fair-effective-and-efficient-international-arbitration-proceedings.pdf?utm_source

³ https://cdn.arbitration-icca.org/s3fs-public/document/media_document/media012970228026720van_den_berg-dissenting_opinions.pdf

⁴ https://www.iusea.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=81:2011-04-13-10-15-08&catid=11&Itemid=39

⁵ <http://ita.law.uvic.ca/documents/WasteMgmt-Jurisdiction.pdf>.

The dissent disagreed and added that the majority decision had a “drastically preclusive effect,” *id.* ¶ 9, with the result that “the entire NAFTA claim has been undone,” *id.* ¶ 63. In *Waste Management v. Mexico II*, the respondent relied on the dissenting opinion in *Waste Management I*. *Waste Management v. Mexico II*, ICSID Case No. ARB(AF)/00/3 (June 26, 2002) (Decision on Mexico’s Preliminary Objection concerning Previous Proceedings).⁶

The Tribunal, which was composed of different arbitrators, rejected the respondent’s argument, observing:

The dissenting arbitrator’s characterization of the effect of the decision cannot be decisive, even if the characterization was clear and unambiguous (which it is not). Only a majority of the Tribunal could determine the effect of its decision, and as noted there is no indication on the face of the award that the majority expressed any view on the matter.⁷

Some authors nonetheless believe that “dissenting (and concurring) opinions have a significant and beneficial role to play” and that “treaty arbitrators should refrain from elevating collegiality over the expression of individual judgment on a significant point of investment international law”. By contrast, the tribunal in *Rompetrol Group N.V. v. Romania* specifically refused to opine on the legal authority of dissenting opinions, declining to follow Professor Weil’s approach in *Tokios Tokelés v. Ukraine*.⁸

Statistics show that the majority of dissenting opinions are expressed by arbitrators in favor of the party that appointed them. For example, according to the annual statistics of the ICC in Paris in 2001, there were a total of 24 dissenting opinions, 22 of which favored the party that had appointed the arbitrator expressing the dissenting opinion.⁹

Dissenting opinions appear to have become an

accepted practice in international arbitration. The current debate concentrates on their procedure, form, and content. Alan Redfern noted that “at present, a generally relaxed attitude towards dissenting opinions seems to be taken not only by the arbitral institutions, but also by the arbitrators themselves ...”¹⁰

As a legal matter, arbitrators generally may render a dissenting opinion in investment arbitrations. It is even treaty law, at least for those investor-state arbitrations conducted under the auspices of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID): “Any member of the Tribunal may attach his individual opinion to the award, whether he dissents from the majority or not, or a statement of his dissent.”

Artificial Intelligence has been predicted to be used in a wide variety of tasks in international arbitration, including the appointment of arbitrators, legal research, drafting and proofreading of written submissions, document translation, case management and document organization, cost estimations, hearing arrangements (such as transcripts or simultaneous foreign language interpretation), and the drafting of standard sections of awards (such as procedural history).

Nonetheless, most attorneys feel the effect on their profession will be minimal. This misses the fact that AI is being used in a variety of fields of law, including contract analysis, legal research, and electronic discovery. For example, computer applications are available to assist attorneys in analyzing the opposing party’s written filings and providing pertinent case law that was omitted or delivered thereafter.

Unsurprisingly, artificial intelligence in law is a burgeoning industry.

⁷ <https://jusmundi.com/en/document/publication/en-dissenting-opinions-in-international-arbitration>

⁸ https://www.italaw.com/cases/920?utm_source

⁹ Albert Jan van den Berg, Dissenting Opinions by Party-Appointed Arbitrators in Investment Arbitration, in M. Arsanjani, J. Cogan, R. Sloane, and S. Wiessner (eds), *Looking to the Future: Essays on International Law in Honor of W. Michael Reisman* (Martinus Nijhoff 2011) 821.

¹⁰ https://cdn.arbitration-icca.org/s3fs-public/document/media_document/media012970228026720van_den_berg--dissenting_opinions.pdf?utm_source

When contemplating the viability of using AI for arbitral decision-making, some have speculated on the plausibility of robot-arbitrators, but little study has been conducted on the possible consequences of this usage. Typically, authors either argue that AI is inevitable in the future or express skepticism, based on the notion that some human aspect is required to assure empathy and emotional justice.

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sion-making processes and theories thereof.¹¹

Ethical and Legal Aspects

The integration of AI into arbitration raises important ethical and legal questions. These challenges revolve around transparency, confidentiality, and the protection of parties' rights. In this context, dissenting opinions can play a crucial role in identifying shortcomings and guiding the development of more robust standards.

Algorithm Transparency

One of the key issues in using AI in arbitration is the transparency of algorithms. Arbitrators and parties involved must have access to information on how these algorithms operate, what data is used, and how decisions are made. A dissenting opinion from an arbitrator can highlight the lack of transparency and suggest ways to improve it.¹²

Following the recent development in generative AI, some courts have already issued practice notes requiring counsel to disclose the use of AI in the preparation of materials filed with the court (see, e.g., the practice note from the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba in Canada).¹³ This is something that parties who wish to see more transparency over the use of AI in arbitration may want to encourage tribunals to do.¹⁴

Confidentiality and Data Protection

The use of AI in arbitration raises issues of confidentiality and the protection of personal data. It is crucial that the data of the parties involved in the process is safeguarded against unauthorized access and misuse. Arbitrators can express a dissenting opinion if they believe that these principles have been violated

¹¹ <https://woxsen.edu.in/research/white-papers/exploring-the-use-of-ai-in-legal-decision-making-benefits-and-ethical-implications/>

¹² https://drs.cpradr.org/rules/protocols-guidelines/icca-nyc-bar-cybersecurities?utm_source

¹³ https://www.manitobacourts.mb.ca/site/assets/files/2045/practice_direction_-_use_of_artificial_intelligence_in_court_submissions.pdf?utm_source

¹⁴ https://www.manitobacourts.mb.ca/site/assets/files/2045/practice_direction_-_use_of_artificial_intelligence_in_court_submissions.pdf?utm_source

As AI develops, the dissenting opinion of an arbitrator will play an increasingly significant role in shaping new standards and practices in arbitration. This may include the development of ethical codes, regulation of AI use, and improvement of process transparency.

Increasing Trust in Arbitration

The dissenting opinion of an arbitrator can enhance trust in arbitration by demonstrating that decisions are made considering all aspects of a case and adhering to ethical standards. This is particularly important in the context of AI use, where transparency and fairness are often questioned. The dissenting opinion of an arbitrator in the context of artificial intelligence not only opens up new possibilities but also introduces significant challenges and considerations. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into arbitration processes, the role of dissenting opinions becomes crucial in ensuring that decisions are scrutinized and debated thoroughly.

The integration of AI in arbitration brings about concerns regarding bias, algorithmic transparency, and accountability. Dissenting opinions can address these concerns by highlighting any perceived shortcomings in the AI's decision-making process and advocating for improvements. They serve as a safeguard, ensuring that AI applications in arbitration are continuously evaluated and refined to meet high ethical standards.

Conclusion

In conclusion, dissenting opinions remain a cornerstone of arbitral independence and integrity, and their importance is only amplified in the era of artificial intelligence.

As AI-driven tools increasingly assist in legal research, case management, and even elements of reasoning, dissenting opinions provide a necessary safeguard to ensure that technological efficiency does not come at the expense of fairness or procedural justice. They serve as a powerful instrument for scrutinizing arbitral reasoning, encouraging transparency, and fostering trust in outcomes, particularly in complex cross-border disputes.

Looking ahead, dissenting opinions may evolve into a recognized form of soft law, shaping ethical standards, procedural best practices, and regulatory frameworks for AI in arbitration. By capturing minority perspectives, they can help define the boundaries of algorithmic decision-making, create benchmarks for accountability, and ensure that tribunals remain anchored in principles of due process and equity.

Finally, the thought experiment of an “AI arbitrator” generating its own dissenting opinion underscores the irreplaceable human element in dispute resolution.

While artificial intelligence can provide analytical support, dissent is ultimately an expression of conscience, independence, and professional judgment—qualities that remain uniquely human. This perspective emphasizes that, even as technology advances, the legitimacy of arbitration will continue to rely on the critical and independent voice of the human arbitrator.



The Highlights of the 2nd Asia ADR Summit 2025 – East Meet Algorithm: The Future of ADR in Asia’s Digital Wave

2025



The 2nd Asia ADR Summit 2025 concluded with great success at Guangxi University, Nanning, China, from 21 to 25 August 2025. Over 300 delegates from ASEAN and beyond gathered for this landmark event, including judges, arbitrators, mediators, academics, practitioners, and thought leaders from the legal and business communities. The Summit served as a vibrant platform for discussing the future of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Asia’s fast-changing digital and commercial environment. This year’s Summit was co-organized by the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR), the Nanning International Arbitration Court (NIAC), and Guangxi University, with the support of a wide range of partner institutions. Together, we created an event that reflected the importance of collaboration in shaping the future of ADR in Asia and beyond.

The Summit was honoured by the presence of the Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, Former Chief Justice of Malaysia, who delivered the Keynote Address. Her speech set the tone for the days that followed – balancing respect for the traditions of dispute resolution while embracing the opportunities presented by technology and innovation. Her insights highlighted the essential role of ADR in promoting access to justice, efficiency, and cross-border cooperation, particularly in an era where digitalisation is transforming every aspect of society.

Over the five days, the Summit featured a diverse programme of keynote speeches, panel discussions and roundtable dialogues. The sessions covered a wide spectrum of timely and thought-provoking themes, including the rise of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in managing Asia’s rapidly expanding e-commerce disputes, the evolving role of Tribunal Secretaries in a technology-driven legal environment, and the regulatory challenges and transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in ADR. Discussion also examined the future of virtual hearings and e-mediation, the increasingly complex role of expert witnesses in a digital ADR landscape, and the differences between institutional and ad-hoc arbitration in Asia’s growing digital economy.

Each session brought together distinguished experts from across jurisdictions, who shared both theoretical insights and practical experiences. Delegates engaged in robust discussions, exchanging perspectives that reflected the diversity of Asia’s legal traditions, commercial priorities, and cultural contexts. The sessions underscored that ADR is not merely a legal mechanism, but a bridge between economies, industries, and people. As technology continues to reshape commerce, ADR practitioners must also evolve – adopting digital tools while remaining grounded in principle of fairness, neutrality, and accessibility.

The Summit's success was made possible through the strong support of sponsors, partners, and organisers. AIADR extends its deepest appreciation to its sponsors – Ricky Tan and Co., Chung Ting Fai & Co., Belden Advocates & Solicitors, RDS Partnership, Messrs Halim Hong & Quek and Messrs Harold & Lam Partnerships and lastly C. H. Tay & Partners – for their generous contributions. Special thanks also go to the co-organizers, Nanning International Arbitration Court and Guangxi University, whose partnership was instrumental in delivering a world-class programme. Equally important were the many supporting organizations that lent their expertise and networks to the Summit. Their participation reaffirmed that ADR's future lies in collaboration across institutions, sectors, and borders. Behind the scenes, the AIADR Secretariat and a team of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure smooth logistics, coordination, and delegate support throughout the event. Their contribution reflected the spirit of service that underpinned the Summit.

The Summit was not confined to formal discussions. Day 4 introduced a special programme titled “Discovering Nanning: Cultural and Strategic Insights”. Delegates were invited to explore the city through a curated cultural tour, which provided both relaxation and learning. Participants discovered Nanning's role as a cultural hub and as a rising strategic centre for ASEAN-China collaboration. The tour offered a unique opportunity for informal networking, cultural exchange, and building friendships that extended beyond professional boundaries. This experience served as a reminder that dispute resolution, at its heart, is about understanding diverse perspectives and fostering cooperation.

The final day of the Summit was devoted to forward-looking dialogue and institutional engagement. The programme began with a Roundtable Talk Session at NIAC titled “Beyond Borders: Rethinking Arbitration & ADR for a Changing World”. The session, jointly organized by AIADR and NIAC, featured distinguished panellists including Inbavijayan Veeraraghavan, Dr. Mukti Ram Rijal, Clarence Lun, Tran Van Nam, Atty. Sixto Jose C. Antonio, Dr. Djamel El Akra, and Shiyi Zuo. The discussion emphasized the need to reimagine ADR in response

to global shifts – from digitalization to geopolitical changes – while ensuring that systems remain fair, adaptable, and relevant to stakeholders across Asia and beyond.

Following the roundtable, delegates visited the China-ASEAN Commercial Arbitration Cooperation Center (CACACC), where they learned about its initiatives in promoting cross-border dispute resolution. This visit highlighted the growing importance of regional collaboration in strengthening institutional frameworks for ADR. The programme also included visits to two leading law firms: Guangdong Jinqiao Baixin Law Firm and Guangxi Guanghe Law Firm. Delegates were welcomed into their offices, where they gained first-hand understanding of how local firms are engaging with both domestic and international clients. These visits provided practical insights into how legal practice is adapting to new challenges, while reinforcing the value of knowledge-sharing between jurisdictions.

With these activities, the Asia ADR Summit 2025 officially came to a close. Delegates departed Nanning with not only new knowledge but also fresh networks, partnerships, and ideas to carry forward into their respective practices and institutions. The Summit was more than a conference; it was a convergence of ideas, cultures, and collaboration. It celebrated achievements while opening doors to new opportunities. Above all, it reminded participants of the shared mission of ADR: to provide fair, efficient, and accessible solutions to disputes in an increasingly complex world.

As AIADR looks ahead, the Summit's success in Nanning will serve as a foundation for future initiatives. The Institute remains committed to advancing ADR education, practice, and policy in Asia and beyond. The journey does not end here – instead, it marks the beginning of a new chapter. The 2nd Asia ADR Summit 2025 has set a high standard, and preparations are already underway for the next edition. We look forward to welcoming delegates once again in 2026, where the dialogue will continue, and where together we will keep shaping the future of ADR.

ASIA ADR SUMMIT 2025: "SILVER" Sponsor Highlight

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ASIA ADR SUMMIT 2025: "PLANTINUM" Sponsor Highlight

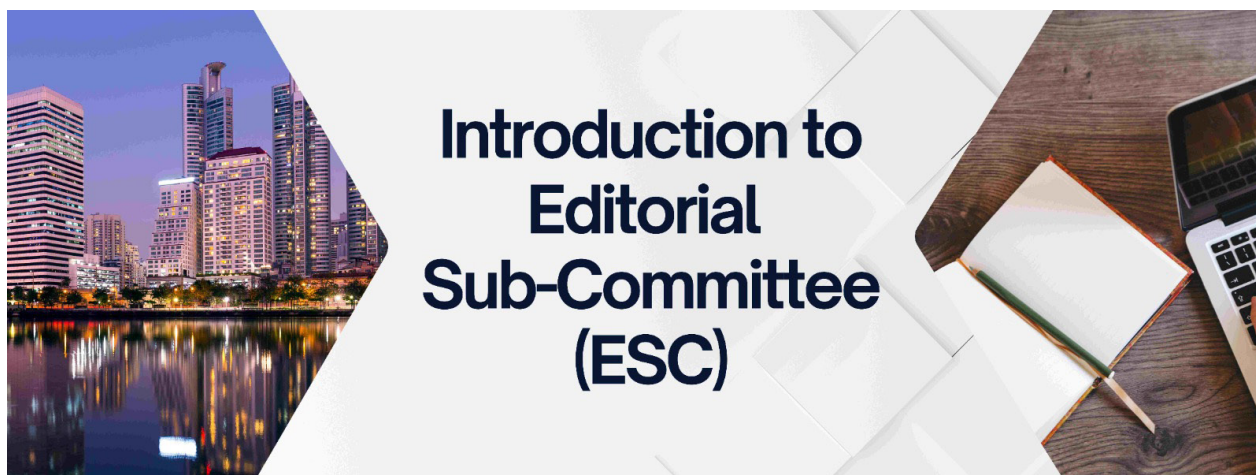
2025



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Chung Ting Fai & Co. is a boutique law firm based in Singapore, recognized for its commitment to delivering high-quality legal services across multiple jurisdictions including Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and China. With a reputation for professionalism and integrity, the firm has built a strong foundation in both local and international legal arenas, offering strategic counsel and tailored solutions to clients worldwide. Specializing in a wide range of legal fields, including civil and commercial law, dispute resolution, and cross-border probate and family office. The firm has become a trusted partner for individuals, businesses, and multinational corporations alike. The firm's multi-jurisdictional expertise allows it to navigate the complexities of cross-border transactions and international legal frameworks with precision and insight. A key strength of the firm lies in its team of highly qualified bilingual lawyers. Our lawyers are efficiently bilingual, and some lawyers are multilingual. The firm is known not only for its technical expertise but also for its client-centric approach, prioritizing clarity, responsiveness, and long-term results. Whether representing clients in court, advising, or assisting with regulatory compliance, the firm consistently upholds the highest standards of legal excellence.

As a forward-thinking and globally connected law firm, Chung Ting Fai & Co. remains committed to guiding clients through the evolving legal landscape with confidence and clarity.



The Editorial and Publications Committee (ESC) is a core pillar of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR). It is entrusted with overseeing all aspects of the Institute's publications, including the AIADR Newsletter and the AIADR Journal. The Committee ensures that these publications remain authoritative, credible, and respected sources of knowledge in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). A central responsibility of the ESC is to uphold and enhance the reputation of the Newsletter and Journal by maintaining the highest editorial and ethical standards. This includes implementing robust peer review processes, in line with internationally accepted guidelines, to guarantee the accuracy, integrity, and scholarly value of every published work.

The ESC is also actively engaged in content development. It solicits contributions from practitioners, academics, and experts, while also preparing original pieces that cover a wide range of formats—research and review articles, commentaries, short updates, and editorials. By doing so, the Committee ensures that AIADR's publications remain current, diverse, and reflective of global discourse in ADR. To support contributors, the ESC develops and maintains clear submission procedures, including the General Guidelines for Submission of Articles for Publication and the Authors Undertaking and Declaration Form. It also oversees the review process for submitted works and establishes mechanisms to address authors' concerns or grievances swiftly and fairly.

In addition, the ESC plays a critical role in planning and coordinating publication timelines. It ensures that both the Newsletter and Journal are released punctually in accordance with approved schedules, reinforcing AIADR's commitment to consistency and professionalism. Overall, the Editorial and Publications Committee (ESC) is vital to AIADR's mission of knowledge sharing and thought leadership in ADR. By curating high-quality publications, supporting authors, and maintaining rigorous editorial standards, the ESC strengthens AIADR's standing as a trusted voice in the global ADR community.

Highlights

2025



Dmitry Marenkov

Chairperson ESC Committee

Dmitry Marenkov, LL.M., FAIADR, FCI Arb, is an in-house legal counsel and regularly acts as arbitrator in international commercial cases. He has participated in more than 30 international arbitrations under various rules, including appointments as co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator and presiding arbitrator. Dmitry is also an Accredited Mediator (London School of Mediation). In 2019 he joined the Approved Faculty List of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

A Fellow of the Asian Institute of ADR and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Dmitry is included in the list of arbitrators of the following arbitral institutions: Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC), International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICAC/MKAS), Arbitration Centre at RSPP, Russian Arbitration Center, Chamber of Arbitrators (Belarus).

Dmitry Marenkov has published a number of articles or chapters in legal periodicals and loose-leaf handbooks and appeared as speaker in seminars and conferences. His working languages are English, Russian and German.



Dr. Shahrizal M Zin

Vice-Chairperson ESC Committee

Dr. Shahrizal M Zin FCI Arb, FAIADR, FMI Arb is a legal academic and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practitioner. He read law at the University of Malaya as a Public Service Department scholarship recipient. He graduated with LL.M. from the University of Malaya and held a Ph.D. from Monash University, Australia. He has been awarded a diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (DipIC Arb) from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) UK and admitted as a fellow since 2016. He is also a fellow of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR) and the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (MIARB).

He regularly sits as an arbitrator and adjudicator concerning construction claims under Arbitration Act (2005) and CIPAA 2012. He is the author of several publications, among others, Common Issues in Malaysian Adjudication: Guide to CIPAA 2012, Cases and Materials (LexisNexis, 2020), and 'Reappraising Access to Justice: A Critical Review on State Recourse to Counterclaim' in Alan Anderson and Ben Beaumont, ISDS: Reform, Replace or Status Quo (Wolters Kluwer, 2020). He is currently acting as a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University Technology MARA (UiTM).



Dr. LAM Wai Pan, Wilson

Member ESC Committee

Dr. LAM Wai Pan, Wilson is a fellow member of HKI Arb, AIADR, IDRRMI and IPostdocA. He obtained the LLM (Arbitration & DR) at the University of Hong Kong in 2009. He completed the Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the California State University, Monterey Bay, Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley in 2021. He obtained the Doctor of Business Administration at Brittany University in France, Vern University of Applied Sciences in Croatia and UCAM University in Spain in 2022. He was conferred the Honorary Doctorate in Laws and Adjunct Professor of SABI University in France in 2019 and 2020 respectively. He is the Adjunct Professor and Senior Expert (Project Management) at the Yuenpei Business School of the Peking University (2020 – 2023). He also serves as Deputy Dean of the China Quality Institute (2021 – 2024).

Dr. Wilson Lam is an Architect, Authorized Person, PMP, ITIL Expert & Digital Leader, ISO 31000 Risk Manager, CCBM in professional background. He is on the Panel of Arbitrators (SCIA, FAIDRRMI, HKIA); HKIAC Arbitrator Appointment Advisory Board (2014-2017 and 2020-2023); various Panels of Mediators in Hong Kong, Mainland PRC and internationally and Panel of Adjudicators (HKIA, HKI Arb, HKIAC, AIAC, HKICAdj and SCADJ).



Ramalingam Vallinayagam

Member ESC Committee

Ramalingam Vallinayagam is a qualified Advocate in India and is currently being called to the Bar of England & Wales in March 2023. He holds an LLM in International Dispute Resolution from King's College London. Ramalingam has been associated with Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot since 2018 as a speaker and as an arbitrator. He has also coached the King's College, London mooting team for the Skadden FDI moot in 2022. Until 2021, Ramalingam practiced before various tribunals and High Courts in India specialising in commercial and insolvency disputes. He currently specialises in public international law advising sovereign States on various issues including investor-State arbitrations

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Ajit Kumar Mishra

Member ESC Committee

Ajit Kumar Mishra is a distinguished dispute resolution expert with over 25 years of experience in project management, international procurement, contract management, risk management, and infrastructure financing. He is currently Director (Works) at IRCON International Ltd., a central public sector enterprise, and previously led the Contract Management Division as Executive Director for a USD 12 billion World Bank/JICA-funded project in India. An engineer, lawyer, and manager by training, he holds a B.Tech. in Civil Engineering, an LLM in International Dispute Resolution, an MBA in International Business, and a Diploma in International Arbitration.

A Fellow of CIArb and Prime Dispute (UK), Mr. Mishra is a FIDIC Certified Adjudicator (on the President's List) and Certified Trainer. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Society of Construction Law, India, ICC Arbitration & ADR Committee delegate, and ICC Institute of World Business Law member. His contributions span arbitration, adjudication, dispute boards, and academic publications.



Professor LEE C G, John

Member ESC Committee

John is a Fellow of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR) and a trainer in mediation advocacy and arbitration. He serves with a number of esteemed institutions, including Singapore Ministry of Law, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Zhuhai International Court of Arbitration (China), AIAC, AIADR, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Singapore as well as the Consumer Association of Singapore.

His areas of interest span international commerce, intellectual property, and sustainability. He has authored over a dozen publications, including his latest co-authored book, ADR: The Future of Dispute Resolution.

John is currently a visiting professor at Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia, and an adjunct professor at Renmin University, China. He contributes regularly to peer-reviewed journals both as an author and member of editorial boards.

Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of a Chinese state-owned enterprise—a joint venture between the Jilin Provincial Government and a subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Singapore's sovereign wealth fund).



Girija Krishan Varma

Member ESC Committee

Girija Krishan Varma is a trusted expert in dispute resolution, conflict management, and legal strategy with extensive experience as a certified mediator, arbitrator, and lawyer. She has mediated over 250 domestic and cross-border disputes across sectors including entertainment, pharmaceuticals, construction, and IP-intensive industries, achieving an exceptional 95% settlement rate, including resolving a 27-year-old litigation within 10 days. As an arbitrator, she has delivered well-reasoned awards and represented clients before leading forums such as SIAC, ICC Singapore, and DIAC. She has also argued landmark cases before India's High Courts and Supreme Court.

Girija has held senior legal roles at Microsoft, Standard Chartered, HCL–Hewlett Packard, Singer, and Escorts, where she managed IP enforcement, arbitrations, regulatory compliance, and commercial negotiations. Currently, she serves as an Independent Director on the boards of a renewable energy company and a fintech firm. Widely recognized as an ADR and IP law expert, she also designs training programs and supports community mediation initiatives.



Sagar Kulkarni

Member ESC Committee

Sagar Kulkarni, FCI Arb, FAIADR is an accredited mediator, arbitrator, and seasoned legal professional with over 14 years of experience in cross-border regulatory compliance, corporate investigations, and international dispute resolution. He is Vice-Chairman of the Editorial Sub-Committee (ESC) at AIADR, Founder Advocate at LexWit, Pune, and Senior Legal Consultant at Mezzle, Dubai.

With a strong academic background—holding an LLM in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS-Geneva), qualifications in International Commercial Arbitration (Queen Mary University, London), and training in AI, ODR, and mediation—Sagar advises global businesses in sectors such as SaaS, energy, construction, fintech, renewable energy, and emerging technologies.

He has extensive experience in structuring cross-border transactions, drafting and negotiating agreements, advising on investment, trade, tax, and technology law, and resolving disputes through arbitration, mediation, and litigation. Recognized for his pragmatic, business-oriented legal advice, Sagar regularly assists companies in aligning compliance and dispute management with strategic goals, particularly in fast-evolving regulatory and technological landscapes.

Highlights

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Sr Lim Kok Sang

Member ESC Committee

Sr Lim Kok Sang is the Principal of Sang QS Consult. As a Registered Consultant Quantity Surveyor with the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia, he holds Fellowships in RISM, RICS, CIArb, and AiADR. He serves as a panel arbitrator and adjudicator with AIAC, BICAM, and AiADR, and is a qualified mediator recognized by the International Mediation Institute.

With over 28 years of experience across Malaysia, Ireland, and the UAE, Sr Lim has contributed significantly to building and civil engineering projects, alongside active involvement in professional organizations and advisory committees. Academically, he holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Quantity Surveying, an M.Sc. in Project Management, and an LLM in Construction Law & Arbitration (Distinction).

His diverse experience in quantity surveying, contract management, and dispute resolution establishes him as one of the industry's respected multi-disciplinary professionals.



Dr Nur Emma Mustaffa

Member ESC Committee

Dr Nur Emma Mustaffa holds a degree in law and is currently serving as a Professor at the Quantity Surveying Department, Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology, Setapak, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She is a Fellow of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution and is a committee member of the AIADR ESC.

She has been in the academic line for nearly three decades. Her academic interest centers around Construction Law, Procurement, Dispute Resolution and Building Information Modelling contracts. She acted as reviewers for various local and internationally acclaimed journals. The Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia and Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia appointed her as a team member to give her legal inputs in developing guidelines for them.



Wong Hua Siong

Member ESC Committee

Mr. Wong Hua Siong obtained his LL.B (Hons) from the University of Malaya in 2005, followed by an LL.M in 2009. He further earned a Post-graduate Diploma in Shariah Law and Legal Practice from IIUM in 2014 and an MBA (Management, with Distinction) from IIUM in 2019.

Admitted to the Malaysian Bar in 2006, Mr. Wong practiced as an advocate and solicitor, gaining extensive experience in conveyancing, banking, and financing transactions, covering both conventional and Islamic frameworks. He has advised on property developments, sub-sale transactions, loan restructuring, and security arrangements.

Mr. Wong is also experienced in civil and commercial litigation, particularly in banking, financial services, bankruptcy, and corporate insolvency. His litigation practice spans contractual disputes, landlord-tenant conflicts, winding-up proceedings, debt recovery, negligence, probate, divorce, and tort-related claims.

Currently serving at Multimedia University (MMU), he combines his academic expertise with rich practical experience, contributing to both teaching and research in law and dispute resolution.



Highlights From AIADR's Past Events

2025

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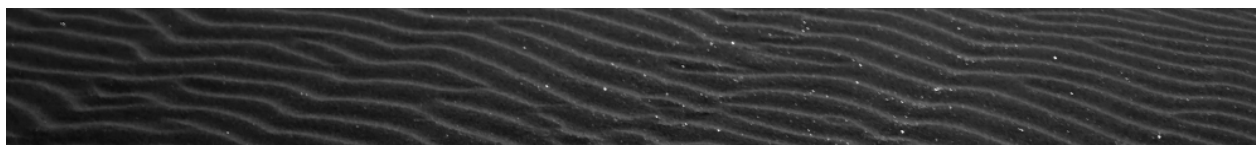


Picture Taken at the 2nd Asia ADR Summit in Nanning



Picture taken at the 2nd Asia ADR Summit in Nanning

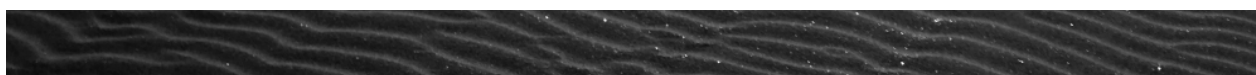
Highlights From AIADR's Past Events



Cultural performance by students of Guangxi University during the Asia ADR Summit networking dinner



A picture of Tengku Maimun during her Keynote Address at the 2nd Asia ADR Summit



Upcoming Events.

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12th December 2025

AIADR Mediation Training Course

17th & 18th December 2025

AIADR workshop on Arbitral Awards

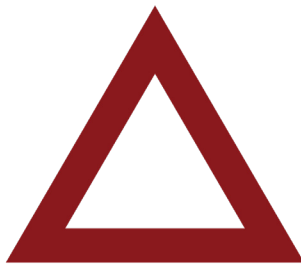
22nd December 2025

Workshop with Nanning International Arbitration Court



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ADR Centurion is the bimonthly Newsletter of AIADR containing contributions from individual authors, for distribution to the members of AIADR, ADR practitioners, professionals from trade & industry and associated organizations. The constructive feedback and comments from the readers are most welcomed.

Next Cut-off Date for Submission of Contributions:

Newsletter: 1st November 2025

Journal : 15th October 2025

Direct your queries to aiadr.editor@aiadr.world.



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