



ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



It is an honour to address you as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AIAC. This annual report provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on the significant strides that we have made throughout the year 2024 in strengthening the AIAC's position as a premier international arbitral institution.

I have had the privilege of working alongside the esteemed members of the AIAC Board of Directors, first under the leadership of our former Chairman, YA Tan Sri Ahmad Terrirudin Mohd Salleh and presently with YBhg. Tan Sri Mohd Dusuki bin Mokhtar to advance the strategic direction of the AIAC. I am grateful for the unwavering support of the Management team and the AIAC staff, working cohesively in driving operational excellence while upholding integrity and good governance towards strengthening AIAC's footing on the global alternative dispute resolution (ADR) stage.

The year 2024 has been a transformative one for AIAC, marked by significant milestones that reaffirm our continued commitment to advancing ADR. Since my appointment as CEO on 7th August 2024, my primary focus has been on strategically promoting the AIAC's services, strengthening our growth trajectory, and leveraging the AIAC's global presence and visibility as a key player in the international ADR landscape.

A defining milestone of the year has been the AIAC's ongoing institutional restructuring which geared towards operational efficiency in line with global best practices. A key outcome of this effort is the establishment of the AIAC Court of Arbitration, a significant leap in reinforcing the AIAC's independence and enhancing its holistic case management services. The AIAC Court of Arbitration is envisioned to play a pivotal role in overseeing appointments and institutional decision-making for ADR cases, ensuring greater transparency, efficiency that upholds ethical and professional excellence.

In pursuit of these objectives, the AIAC has intensified its capacity-building initiatives, fostering proactive engagement with various stakeholders and positioning the AIAC as a

thought leader in the global ADR world. A testament to these efforts is our successful hosting of over 180 events throughout the year, each serving as a platform to promote AIAC's services, gather thought leaders for contemporary ADR discourse, expand our collaborative networks and reinforce our role in shaping the future of ADR. Beyond strengthening domestic partnerships, the AIAC prioritises deepening its engagement with regional and international arbitral institutions to expand its global reach and impact.

As we look forward, I am confident that our collective efforts and visions carried through by the institutional reform initiatives, will propel the AIAC to greater heights. The groundwork laid in 2024 – through institutional restructuring, enhanced strategic initiatives coupled with the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration – will nourish our strength and equip us for stronger positioning in this ever-evolving ADR industry. We welcome all our stakeholders to join us in leveraging the strengths and shaping a future defined by innovation, excellence and leadership in ADR.

To round-off this message, I wish to take this opportunity to offer you an overview of the upcoming outreach and plans for the year 2025:

- a. AIAC's digitalisation through the case management portal for enhanced user-experience, efficiency and accessibility;
- b. Regional and global outreach that aimed at fostering closer partnerships and greater visibility at international legal and ADR platforms; and
- c. Launch of the AIAC Suite of Rules 2026 that offers simplified, transparent and user-centric procedures in line with the spirit of the institutional reform initiatives.

DATUK ALMALENA SHARMILA JOHAN
Chief Executive Officer,
AIAC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



2024 was a watershed year for the AIAC. There were many defining moments reflecting the initiatives of the AIAC undertaken out of the will to innovate, transform, and progress.

Foremost was the formalisation of the Supplementary Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) on 20th February 2024. This paved the way for substantial reform of AIAC's governance structure. The AIAC Court of Arbitration will replace the office of the Director. This initiative required amendments to two key legislations that provide statutory mandates for AIAC's work; namely the Arbitration Act 2005 and the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012. The Arbitration (Amendment) Act 2024 and the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication (Amendment) Act 2024 were both passed by Parliament in July 2024. The change in the organisational structure also required the AIAC to undertake comprehensive revision of the AIAC's suite of Rules; thus starting a two-year continuous and consultative process before its eventual adoption in 2026.

I am confident that these reforms which have the support of AALCO and Malaysia as well as stakeholders, will augment the AIAC's appeal as a preferred institution for ADR services in the region and globally.

Last year, the AIAC experienced notable growth in caseload numbers. This reflects the growing trust and confidence towards the AIAC from the users at large. On the matter of empanelment, there was a conscious effort to reflect the AIAC's commitment to promote diversity and inclusivity within the industry. The latest additions to our panels will further strengthen our institutional capacity to meet

the rising demand for quality dispute resolution services both locally and internationally.

I am grateful for the support and the overwhelming response of the ADR community in these initiatives and look forward to your continued engagement. I must also thank the AIAC team, without exception for their commitment and dedication. We must capitalise on the momentum, and continue to strive for greater success and recognition.

DATO' MARY LIM THIAM SUAN

Director,
AIAC

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



YBHG. TAN SRI MOHD DUSUKI BIN MOKHTAR
Chairman,
Board of Directors,
AIAC

With the ongoing institutional reforms that aimed at elevating the AIAC's eminence, the inaugural AIAC Board of Directors carries the pillar mandate of overseeing the governance of the AIAC while steering the strategic directions for continued, sustainable growth for the years to come. The institutionalisation of the precursor AIAC Advisory Board signifies the mutual vision between the Malaysian Government and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in reinforcing greater transparency, efficiency and governance at the AIAC.

As the Chairman, it is my honour to lead the AIAC Board of Directors with a diverse leadership and expertise to unleash this new chapter at the AIAC, focused on excellence, innovation and good governance. The Board and I pledge our commitment to leading the AIAC's strategic institutional and business

flourishment, reaffirming its standing in Asia and globally.

Helming this leadership role from my predecessor Chairman – YA Tan Sri Ahmad Terrirudin bin Mohd Salleh – whom I record appreciation for his dedication throughout, I am further obliged to thank distinguished members of the AIAC Board of Directors and the AIAC colleagues for the enthusiasm, diligence and unwavering support. Our solidarity is the pillar of strength as we leverage, navigate and strive for enhanced efficiency, transparency while bolstering greater confidence towards the AIAC.

As we embark on this transformative journey, the AIAC is not only advancing its internal structures but also widening its reach and impact. The Board envisions the AIAC as a pivotal platform that strengthens Malaysia's positioning as a hub for legal

innovation and a trusted venue for resolving international commercial disputes.

In tandem with this, we are placing greater focus on building enduring relationships with stakeholders from the judiciary, legal professionals to industries and academia, ensuring that AIAC continuously evolves as a user-centric, globally competitive institution. On that notion, we invite all stakeholders to join hands with the AIAC as we move forward with beaming optimism and determination to cement the AIAC's enduring excellence and a hallmark of Malaysia's testament to fostering effective alternative dispute resolution.

YBHG. TAN SRI MOHD DUSUKI BIN MOKHTAR
Chairman,
Board of Directors,
AIAC

AALCO SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Since 1978, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) has enjoyed a longstanding and productive partnership with the Government of Malaysia in supporting the growth and development of the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC). As the first arbitral institution established under the auspices of AALCO, the AIAC stands as a concrete manifestation of AALCO's original vision - to develop regional centres of excellence that promote accessible, fair, and credible mechanisms for dispute resolution in Asia and Africa.

In accordance with the Host Country Agreement between AALCO and the Government of Malaysia, the AIAC is accorded a status that enables it to enjoy certain immunities and privileges under Malaysian law. This legal framework reflects not only its international standing but also ensures the Centre's independence and its ability to discharge its mandate in line with global best practices.

AALCO's initiative to establish Regional Arbitration Centres - today comprising six Centres in Kuala Lumpur, Cairo, Lagos, Tehran, Nairobi, and Hong Kong SAR - was rooted in its main objective to enhance the accessibility and quality of international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services in the Asian-African region. This initiative reflects the commitment of AALCO to address the longstanding need for reliable and regionally anchored dispute resolution mechanisms, as an effective means for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Over the years, AALCO has played a central role in advancing robust and sustainable ADR frameworks that contribute not only to regional development but to the international legal order as a whole. The AIAC remains a cornerstone of this legacy. With continued dedication and cooperation, I am confident that it will maintain its position as a centre of excellence and a leader in arbitration and ADR in the years ahead.

The year 2024 marks a significant milestone for the AIAC, as it embarks on a new chapter of institutional reform and strategic transformation. The signing of the Supplementary Agreement



H.E. DR. KAMALINNE PINITPUVADOL
Secretary-General,
Asian-African Legal Consultative
Organization (AALCO)

between AALCO and the Government of Malaysia in February 2024 has laid a strong foundation for this renewal. It affirms our shared commitment to strengthening the AIAC's institutional framework and enhancing its operational capabilities, positioning the Centre to meet the evolving demands of international dispute resolution.

The achievements documented in this year's Annual Report reflect not only the AIAC's strong institutional growth, but also the exemplary dedication of its leadership and staff in fulfilling its mandate. The ongoing reforms including the establishment of the AIAC Court of Arbitration represent a forward-looking step towards consolidating the Centre's reputation for excellence.

As Secretary-General of AALCO, I take this opportunity to encourage all AALCO Member States to continue their support and engagement with the AIAC and the other Regional Arbitration Centres operating under AALCO's auspices. Let us

continue to uphold the enduring vision that led to the establishment of regional mechanisms dedicated to reinforcing institutional capacities within our regions and contributing to the development of a more inclusive and effective global dispute resolution framework.

On behalf of AALCO, I extend my warmest congratulations to the AIAC for its outstanding achievements over the past year. We look forward to witnessing its continued progress as it moves forward into a new era of institutional growth and leadership in dispute resolution.

H.E. DR. KAMALINNE PINITPUVADOL
Secretary-General,
Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization
(AALCO)

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (LAW AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM)'S MESSAGE

YB TUAN M. KULASEGARAN

Deputy Minister,
Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform),
Malaysia



The amendments to the Arbitration Act 2005 and the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 reflect the Government of Malaysia's dedication to refining and aligning our legal framework with global developments and best practices. Coupled with the ongoing institutional reforms at AIAC, I am confident that these developments will further elevate its standing, placing the Centre on par with other leading arbitral institutions across the globe.

Equally important are the AIAC's strong partnerships with stakeholders across government, industry players and the regional as well as international ADR community. Through exceptional events, flagship programmes and collaborative initiatives, the Centre will continue to thrive and chart the right course in shaping the future of ADR in the region and globally. These efforts, guided by a capable and dedicated team at AIAC, ensure that Malaysia remains at the forefront of global dispute resolution conversations while expanding opportunities for knowledge-sharing and innovation.

Having witnessed the AIAC's achievements thus far, I am optimistic that the AIAC will continue advancing its mandates as entrusted by AALCO and the Government of Malaysia, which was further reinforced through the signing of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement.

With that, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the AIAC for its continued success in the years ahead.

YB TUAN M. KULASEGARAN

Deputy Minister,
Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform),
Malaysia

MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (LAW AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM)'S MESSAGE



YB DATO' SRI AZALINA OTHMAN SAID

Minister,
Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform),
Malaysia

2024 has been a defining year for the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), marked by transformative reforms and landmark achievements, including the historic signing of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the AALCO – one of the most significant milestones since AIAC's establishment in 1978. This agreement reaffirms our unwavering commitment to good governance, transparency, integrity, and impartiality in fulfilling the AIAC's mandate.

Equally momentous was the tabling and passing of the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2024 and the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication (Amendment) Bill in July 2024. These reforms, together with the establishment of the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration, modernise Malaysia's arbitration framework and strengthen global confidence in the AIAC as a trusted arbitral institution. Coupled with the ongoing institutional restructuring, these developments chart a bold course to position Malaysia and the AIAC

as a premier hub for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) on the world stage.

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of our stakeholders and partners – from the judiciary, legal fraternity, industry leaders and academia to our international counterparts. Your collaboration through joint initiatives, landmark events and capacity-building programmes has been instrumental in advancing the AIAC's reform journey. It is through these partnerships, alongside the dedication of the AIAC's capable team, that the AIAC continues to expand its influence and strengthen its role in the global ADR landscape.

Malaysia's strategic geographic location and its reputation as a neutral, cost-effective arbitration hub uniquely position the AIAC to meet the growing demand for ADR in Asia and beyond. With Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025, we stand at the cusp of Asia's rise as a global economic powerhouse. I am confident the AIAC is well placed to seize these

opportunities and stand alongside the world's leading arbitral institutions.

The AIAC's transformation is an ongoing journey — one that requires stability, visionary leadership and an unwavering commitment to excellence. With its renewed focus, robust governance and steadfast dedication to global standards, I am confident the AIAC will continue to rise in prominence on the international stage. I look forward to witnessing AIAC's continued success in this exciting new chapter.

YB DATO' SRI AZALINA OTHMAN SAID

Minister,
Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform),
Malaysia

ABOUT THE AIAC

The Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC or Centre), established in 1978 pursuant to a Host Country Agreement between the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and the Government of Malaysia, is a premier global arbitral institution dedicated to providing innovative, efficient and impartial dispute resolution services for commercial and legal disputes. Accessibility and cost-efficiency remain central to the AIAC's operations, making it a trusted platform for commercial and legal disputes.

The AIAC administers arbitration matters under its own versatile Arbitration Rules and acts as an appointing authority under the Arbitration Act 2005 as well as the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. A unique feature of the AIAC is its role as the sole administrative authority under the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA 2012). In addition, the AIAC also provides domain name dispute resolution services under the auspices of the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre (ADNDRC) for UDRP matters and the Malaysian Network Information Centre (MYNIC) for MYDRP matters.

Beyond dispute resolution, the AIAC remains committed to expanding its capacity-building initiatives. Its dynamic calendar of conferences, seminars and thought-leadership events fosters innovation and collaboration in this Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) domain. Further, through initiatives like the Young Practitioners' Group (YPG), the AIAC nurtures the next generation of dispute resolution professionals in line with its reputation as a forward-thinking institution dedicated to continuous growth and excellence.

The AIAC reached a defining moment in its evolution with the formalisation of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and AALCO. This landmark reform introduced enhancements to the Centre's governance, structure and administration with the institutionalisation of the AIAC Board of Directors from its predecessor – the AIAC Advisory Board, for strategic leadership and paving the way for the establishment of the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration.



These changes reflect Malaysia and AALCO's steadfast commitment to elevating the AIAC's international prominence. With robust support from the Government of Malaysia and AALCO, the AIAC is poised to amplify its impact, solidifying Malaysia's reputation as a leading ADR hub and a trusted seat for international arbitration. These reforms underscore the Centre's dedication to aligning with global standards and delivering unparalleled services to its users, domestically, regionally and internationally.

Pursuing this objective, a Protem Committee for the AIAC Court of Arbitration was constituted in June 2024 with its members appointed by the Hon. Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform). The Protem Committee was tasked with laying the groundwork for the AIAC Court of Arbitration, focusing on developing its mechanisms, protocols and operational framework to ensure its seamless functionality. The Protem Committee helmed by Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan as the Chairperson along with 19 other distinguished members with extensive expertise in law and ADR from around the globe, brought significant credibility and insight to this restructuring endeavour.

August 2024 saw the appointments of Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan as the Director of the AIAC as well as Datuk Almalena Sharmila Johan as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AIAC. Under the leadership of the two prominent women figures in the legal and ADR community, the AIAC is poised for upward trajectory, operational excellence and reinforce robust governance practices, all while upholding the very fundamental principles of integrity, transparency and good governance.

The AIAC is resolutely committed to advancing its mission of delivering exceptional dispute resolution services, with refined Suite of Rules aligning with international standards and offering innovative features that strengthen the Centre's reputation as a premier arbitral institution. These developments, coupled with Malaysia's strategic location, robust support and reputation as a safe seat for arbitration, position the AIAC to expand its global presence and compete effectively with other leading international arbitral institutions.



ABOUT AALCO



The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1956 to serve as a consultative body for its 49 member states on

mutual interest. Comprising countries from Asia and Africa, AALCO plays a vital role in fostering collaboration and dialogue on international legal issues such as dispute resolution, international trade law and environmental law. The purpose and objectives of AALCO, amongst others, include to serve as an advisory body to its member states in the field of international law and as a forum for Asian-African co-operation in legal matters of common concern.

There are six international arbitration centres established under the auspices of AALCO, with the AIAC's establishment in Kuala Lumpur being the first of its kind. The other regional arbitration centres are located in Egypt, Nigeria, Iran, Kenya and Hong Kong SAR. The AIAC as well as the other regional arbitration centres' operations align with AALCO's broader objectives of fostering legal co-operation among its member states and promoting the development of ADR in Asia and Africa.

AIAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following the institutional reforms of the governance structure of AIAC under the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) relating to the Asian International Arbitration Centre Malaysia (AIAC) signed on 20th February 2024, the AIAC Board of Directors (BOD) was constituted on 4th April 2024.

The AIAC BOD comprises six members, led by the current chairman, YBhg. Tan Sri Mohd Dusuki bin Mokhtar, who succeeded the former chairman, YA Tan Sri Ahmad Terrirudin bin Mohd Salleh following the latter's appointment as a Federal Court Judge. Serving alongside him is the current Deputy Chairman, YBhg. Datuk Shireen Ann Zaharah Muhiudeen, together with other four board members, namely Mr. Andrea Carlevaris, YBhg. Datuk Philip Chan Hon Keong, Mr. Stephen Fietta, KC and YBhg. Datuk Zamri bin Misman.

The AIAC BOD oversee the operation and business strategy of AIAC and ensure good corporate governance. In alignment with the vision of the Malaysian Cabinet and AALCO, the AIAC BOD is strengthening the AIAC's strategic growth to be on par with leading arbitral institutions worldwide, while ensuring effective check and balance mechanisms within the system.



AIAC
ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

ANNOUNCEMENT
4TH APRIL 2024

APPOINTMENT OF THE AIAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In conjunction with the formalisation of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization ("AALCO") relating to the Asian International Arbitration Centre (Malaysia) ("AIAC") on 20th February 2024, the AIAC is presently undergoing a series of restructuring and institutional reforms to enhance the Centre's transparency, efficiency and good governance.

The restructuring and institutional reform initiatives represent a significant leap forward from the rebranding of the AIAC back in 2018, involving the internationalisation of its brand identity from the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLCA) to the renowned AIAC, as it is known today.

As we continue our journey of implementing the restructuring initiatives, the AIAC is pleased to welcome the official constitution of the inaugural AIAC Board of Directors, signifying an institutionalisation of the precursor AIAC Advisory Board. Under the leadership of a Chairman, the AIAC Board of Directors is collectively responsible for overseeing the Centre's management and spearheading its growth into a leading arbitral institution regionally and internationally.

Aligned with the spirit of the Supplementary Agreement, the AIAC Board of Directors comprise:

Chairman : YBhg. Datuk Ahmad Terrirudin bin Mohd Salleh
(Attorney General of Malaysia)

Deputy Chairman : YBhg. Datuk Shireen Ann Zaharah Muhiudeen
(Non-Executive Director of Media Prima Bhd/ Former Chairman of Bursa Malaysia Bhd)

Board Members : YBrs. Tuan Zamri bin Misman
(Director General, Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department)
YBhg. Datuk Philip Chan Hon Keong
(Former Legal Practitioner/ Managing Director)
Mr. Stephen Fietta, KC
(International Public Law Practitioner/ International Arbitrator/ Senior Visiting Lecturer King's College, London)
Mr. Andrea Carlevaris
(Former Secretary General of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and Director of the ICC Dispute Resolution Services/ International Arbitrator)

In alignment with the collective aspirations of the Malaysian Cabinet and the Supplementary Agreement, the AIAC Board of Directors is entrusted with future-proofing the strategic development of the AIAC on par with the top-notch arbitral institutions globally, while maintaining effective check and balance mechanisms within the system.

The AIAC welcomes the restructuring and institutional reform initiatives with optimism, as they reflect the unwavering dedication of the Government of Malaysia (as the Host Country) and AALCO to strengthening the AIAC's neutral standing, independence and efficiency in the global ADR ecosystem, thereby further solidifying Malaysia's position as a premier ADR hub both domestically and internationally.

END OF ANNOUNCEMENT

ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE
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Bangunan Sultanin, Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin, 50000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



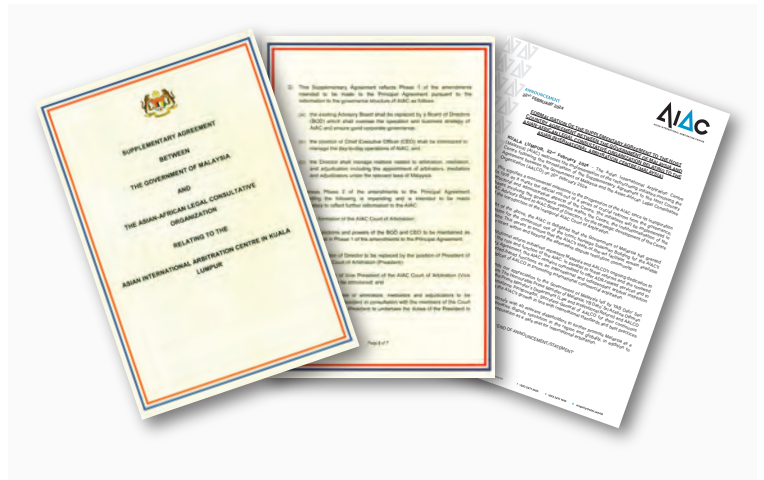
THE AIAC TEAM

The AIAC is proud to have over 60 professionals from distinct backgrounds, cultures and histories – comprising both local and international members from various regions. These individuals are spread across key departments, including the Legal Services, Finance, Business Development, Human Resources and Operations. Our staff members are the pillars of the Centre, each playing a vital role in delivering the most effective and dynamic ADR services to our users from all over the world. The dedication and commitment to excellence demonstrated by every individual in the Centre stands as a testament to its endless accomplishments and continuous triumphs over the past decades.

AIAC'S INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS INITIATIVES

SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT

The formalisation of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and AALCO in February 2024 signifies a monumental milestone in the progression of the AIAC since its inauguration in 1978 as it marks the official roll-out of a series of crucial reforms from the governance, structural and administrative aspects of the Centre. These reforms include the institutionalisation of the AIAC Advisory Board to AIAC Board of Directors, the establishment of the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration, and enhancements to the Centre's administrative framework.



PROTEM COMMITTEE FOR THE AIAC COURT OF ARBITRATION

The Protem Committee for the AIAC Court of Arbitration (Protem Committee) was constituted on 1st June 2024 following the formalisation of the Supplementary Agreement with a mandate to develop the AIAC Court of Arbitration's mechanisms, protocols, and operational framework for the establishment of the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration (Court).

The Protem Committee consists of 20 expert members from over 9 jurisdictions, including Malaysia, the United Kingdom, China, India, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Kenya, chaired by our Director, Dato' Mary Lim. The Protem Committee was assisted by a Secretariat co-led by our Assistant Directors, Mr. Danesh Chandran and Ms. Heather Yee supported by Ms. Kho Yui Ting, Ms. Prissilla John, Ms. Sneha Iyer, Ms. Ooi Wei Qian and Mr. Vishnu Menon.

Over the following months, the Protem Committee convened several meetings to deliberate on the proposed Court's structure, new rules, governance standards, and processes to ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability in line with AIAC's institutional reforms and restructuring initiative. The Protem Committee concluded its mandate in December 2024, submitting its Final Report to the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU JPM).



PROTEM COMMITTEE FOR THE AIAC COURT OF ARBITRATION

MALAYSIA



CHAIRPERSON

DATO' MARY LIM THIAM SUAN
Director of the AIAC; Retired
Federal Court Judge of Malaysia

UNITED KINGDOM



DR. CAN EKEN
Assistant Professor and Deputy Director,
Durham International Dispute Resolution
Institute

SINGAPORE



MR. CHAN LENG SUN, SC
Senior Counsel and Chartered
Arbitrator

HONG KONG SAR



DR. CHRISTOPHER TO
Barrister-at-law and Arbitrator

CHINA



PROFESSOR HUANG JIN
Professor of Law and President,
Chinese Society of International Law

SPAIN



**MR. JUAN
FERNÁNDEZ-ARMESTO**
Professional Arbitrator

UNITED KINGDOM



MR. JONATHAN LIM
Legal Practitioner

MALAYSIA



MS. KAMILAH KASIM
Legal Practitioner and Arbitrator

KENYA



PROFESSOR KARIUKI MUIGUA
Legal Practitioner; Senior Lecturer at
Faculty of Law, University of Nairobi

MALAYSIA



MR. KUMAR A/L THANGARAJU
Legal Practitioner; Former Deputy
Secretary-General, Olympic Council of
Malaysia

MALAYSIA



DATO' MAH WENG KWAI
Retired Court of Appeal Judge of Malaysia;
Legal Consultant and Arbitrator

MALAYSIA



**DATO' SERI MOHD
HISHAMUDIN BIN MD YUNUS**
Retired Court of Appeal Judge of
Malaysia; Legal Consultant and Arbitrator

SINGAPORE



MR. NG JERN-FEI, KC
Foreign Counsel and Legal Practitioner

MALAYSIA



**DATUK DR. PRASAD
SANDOSHAM ABRAHAM**
Retired Federal Court Judge of Malaysia;
Arbitrator; Deputy Chairman of
Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission

INDIA



JUSTICE K.S.P. RADHAKRISHNAN
Retired Judge of the Supreme Court of
India and Arbitrator

MALAYSIA



MS. SHANTI ABRAHAM
Legal Practitioner, Arbitrator and Mediator

UNITED KINGDOM



PROFESSOR STEVEN P. FINIZIO
Legal Practitioner; Deputy Director,
SOAS Arbitration and Dispute
Resolution Centre (SADRC)

CHINA



MR. SUN WEI
Legal Practitioner

MALAYSIA



MR. TAN KEE HENG
Legal Practitioner

SAUDI ARABIA



MR. ZEYAD KHOSHAIM
Legal Practitioner

TASK FORCE ON THE AMENDMENTS OF ARBITRATION ACT 2005 [ACT 646] AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PAYMENT AND ADJUDICATION ACT 2012 (CIPAA 2012) [ACT 746]

In recognition of the need to streamline and modernise the Arbitration Act 2005 [ACT 646] and Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA 2012) [ACT 746] to strengthen ADR frameworks in Malaysia in harmonisation with the international best practices, a Task Force was established by the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU JPM) to undertake the studies on the legislative amendments of the Arbitration Act 2005 and CIPAA 2012.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR ARBITRATION ACT 2005



Chaired by the Deputy Director-General (Policy and Development) of BHEUU JPM, Dato Dr. Punitha Silivarajoo together with the Assistant Directors, Mr. Danesh Chandran and Ms. Heather Yee, consultation sessions were undertaken with the relevant ADR stakeholders including agencies, legal practitioners, industry experts and institutions to gather feedback and recommendations on the potential improvements to the Arbitration Act 2005. Effective



measures in advancing Malaysia as a preferred seat of arbitration and hub for ADR were also discussed. The proposed changes included the much-anticipated legalisation and regulation of third-party funding in arbitration and the establishment of the AIAC Court of Arbitration. A separate consultation session with experts was also conducted to engage in-detail discussions on the proposed amendments to the Arbitration Act 2005.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR CIPAA 2012



Similarly, a stakeholder consultation relating to the amendments of the CIPAA 2012 were also undertaken to gather feedback and suggestions from the industry players and stakeholders towards the proposed amendments to CIPAA 2012. Co-chaired by Hon. Justice Dato' Lim Chong Fong (Court of Appeal Judge, Malaysia) and Dato Dr. Punitha Silivarajoo (Deputy Director-General (Policy and Development), BHEUU JPM), the session garnered extensive insights and recommendations on the potential improvements to CIPAA 2012 as well as effective measures in advancing the Malaysian adjudication framework, in tandem with international standards and best practices.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

965

Total matters
received by AIAC

792

Adjudication
Cases

158

AIAC-administered
+ *ad hoc* arbitration

MYR**6.1**
billion

Total sum
in dispute

Registered Cases

748

matters
were registered

Pre-Registered Cases

166

PFCs in
adjudication cases

51

PFCs in
arbitration cases

Appointments

551

Total
Appointments

435

Adjudication
Appointments

101

Arbitration
(AIAC-administered + *ad hoc*)
Appointments



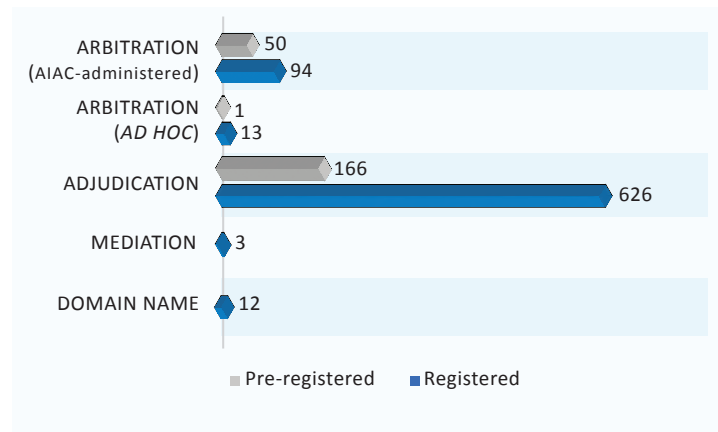
2024 OVERVIEW

Over the years, the AIAC has received over 7,000 cases, both domestic and international originating from all regions of the world.

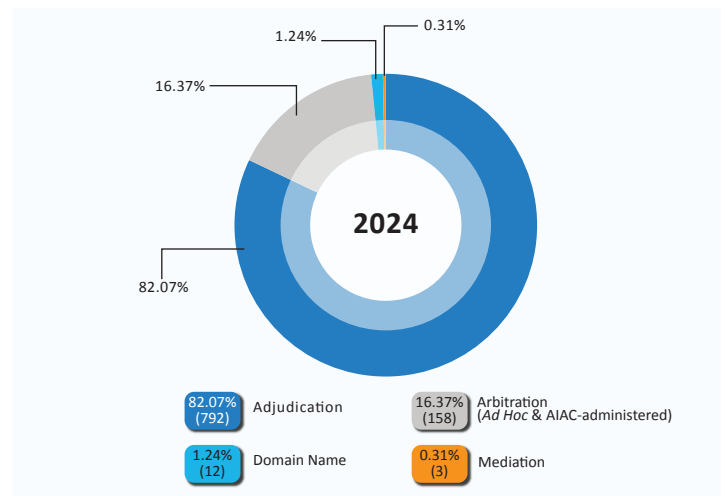
NUMBER OF CASES WITH THE AIAC

Total Matters Referred to the AIAC in 2024

In 2024, the AIAC received a total of 965 matters, encompassing both registered and pre-registered cases. This marks a decisive 10% increase in the total number of ADR cases referred to the AIAC from the previous year.



Adjudication cases constitute 82.07% (equivalent to 792 cases) of the total cases referred to the AIAC, followed by 158 (16.37%) arbitration cases involving both the AIAC-administered and *ad hoc* arbitration.

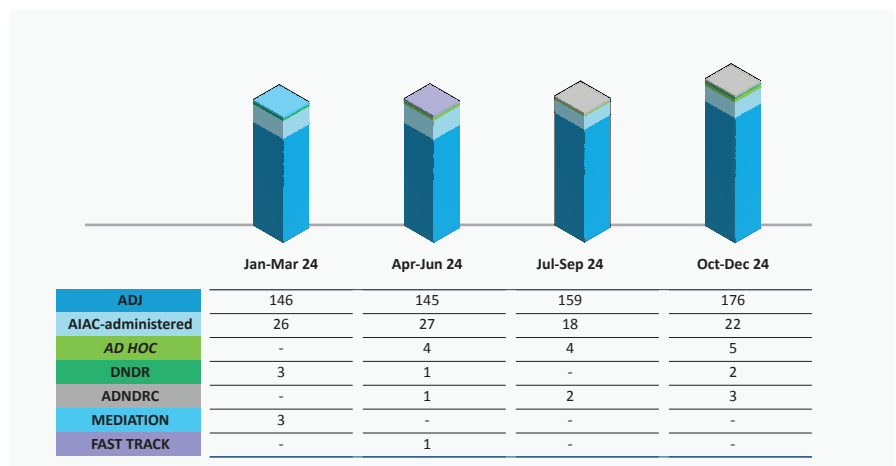


Overview of Monthly Case Registration

Registered

Out of the 965 matters received in 2024, a total of 748 cases were registered at the AIAC. August saw the registration of 108 cases for adjudication. Incidentally, August has also been the busiest month of the year, as the AIAC received a total of 121 cases for registration of adjudication as well as arbitration cases.

Notably, AIAC-administered arbitration cases remained stable throughout the year, with peaks recorded in May and October, with 13 cases each.

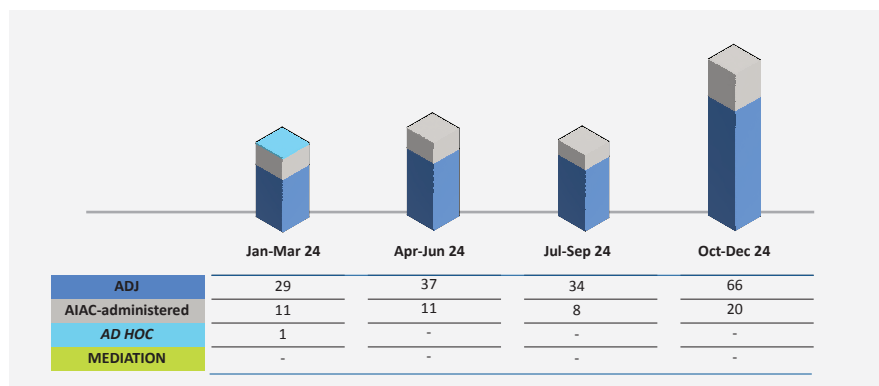


Pre-registered

At the AIAC, it is common for a matter to be assigned with a pre-registered case number (PFC) before the registration is finalised. PFCs arise when matters are referred to the AIAC without complete accompanying documentations or requisite payment.

The PFC status is also conferred upon in instances where parties decide not to pursue the matter after filing the notice to the Director of the AIAC to register the adjudication or arbitration matter. Similarly, the AIAC is also unable to register cases when the parties do not intend to proceed further with the proceedings in circumstances where a settlement is reached.

The total number of PFCs in adjudication cases varied throughout 2024 with the highest number recorded in November with 26 cases and the lowest in March with 4 cases. Similarly, the total number of PFCs in AIAC-administered arbitration cases fluctuated as it peaked at 9 cases in October as compared to 1 PFC case recorded in June.



Total Amount in Dispute of the Total Matters Referred to the AIAC in 2024

In 2024, the total amount in dispute for the AIAC-administered arbitration cases was around MYR 4.3 billion¹, equivalent to USD 979 million². This marks a significant increase from the total amount in dispute in the previous year, which stood at around MYR 3.5 billion, indicating a growth of 22.85%.

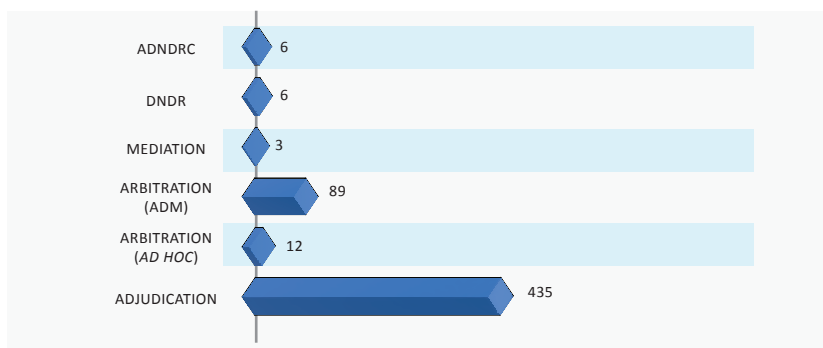
On the other hand, the AIAC experienced a significant increase at 38.46% in the total quantum of disputes adjudicated under CIPAA 2012. In 2024, the total amount in dispute stood at around MYR 1.8 billion, compared to around MYR 1.3 billion in 2023.

| TYPE | AMOUNT IN DISPUTE |
|-------------------|--|
| Adjudication | RM1,830,809,098.59 |
| Arbitration (RM) | RM4,279,386,806.21 |
| Arbitration (USD) | USD 23,526,256.01 Equivalent to: RM 105,268,232.52 (at a conversion rate of USD1 = RM 4.4745 from bnm.gov.my as of 21 st January 2025) |
| Domain Name | |
| Mediation | |
| TOTAL | RM6,215,464,137.32 |

¹ Following the exchange rate on 21st January 2025.

² Following the exchange rate on 21st January 2025.

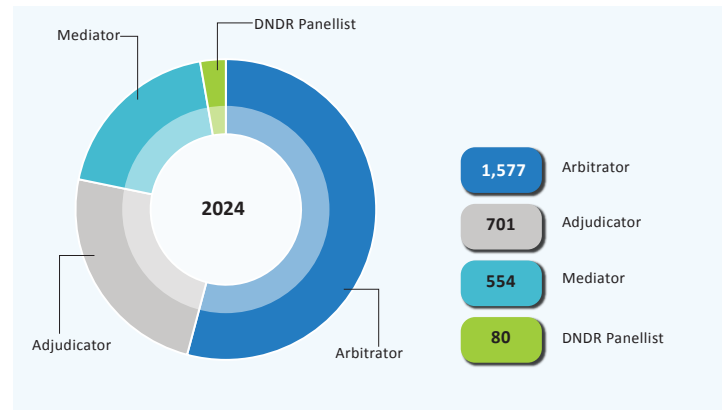
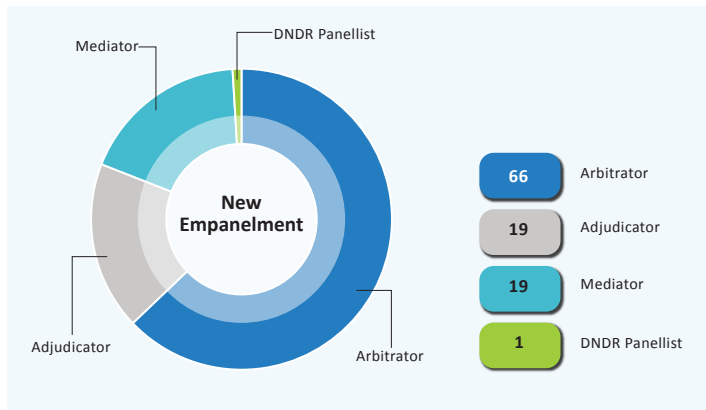
Total Number of Appointments by Categories



In 2024, the AIAC recorded a total of 551 appointments. Of these, 435 were appointments for adjudication cases, amounting to 78.95%. Further, a total of 18.33%, or 101 appointments, were related to arbitration matters, both AIAC-administered and *ad hoc* cases.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PANELLIST (TO DATE)

The AIAC has consistently maintained a diverse panel of arbitrators, adjudicators, mediators and domain name dispute panellists from various jurisdictions, expertise and backgrounds. As of 2024, the AIAC has empanelled a total of 105 ADR professionals, comprising of 66 arbitrators, 1 DNDR panellist, 19 mediators, and 19 adjudicators. This brings the AIAC's empanelment to a grand total of 2,912 panellists.



TOTAL NUMBER OF ROOM BOOKINGS

Hearing Rooms Report January 2024 - December 2024

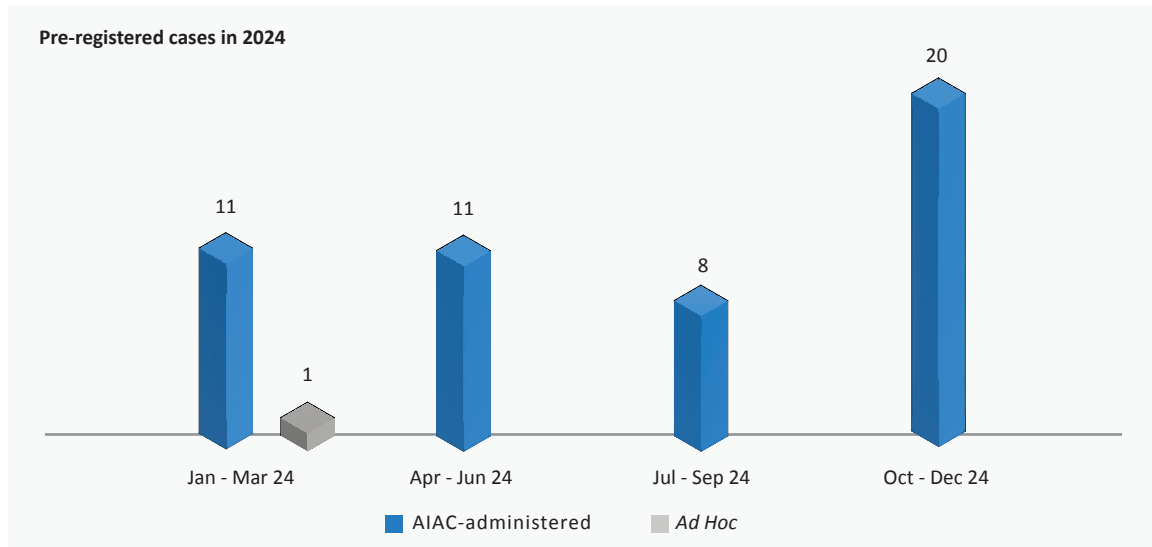
| Type of Roms/ Service | | Jan - Mar | Apr - Jun | Jul - Sep | Oct - Dec | Total Usage of the Year | Grand Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| HEARING ROOMS | Breakout Room | 33 | 68 | 44 | 71 | 216 | 943 |
| | Small Hearing Room | 56 | 73 | 56 | 44 | 229 | |
| | Medium Hearing Room | 65 | 67 | 63 | 80 | 275 | |
| | Medium Hearing Room with CRT | 15 | 21 | 15 | 9 | 60 | |
| | Large Hearing Room | 33 | 25 | 19 | 12 | 89 | |
| | Large Hearing Room with Advanced CRT | 9 | 22 | 14 | 10 | 55 | |
| | Seminar Room | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| | Seminar Room with Advanced CRT | 0 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 15 | |
| TOTAL | Physical Hearing | 181 | 221 | 167 | 158 | 727 | 735 |
| | Virtual Hearing | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | |

CASE ANALYSIS

CASE ANALYSIS FOR ARBITRATION

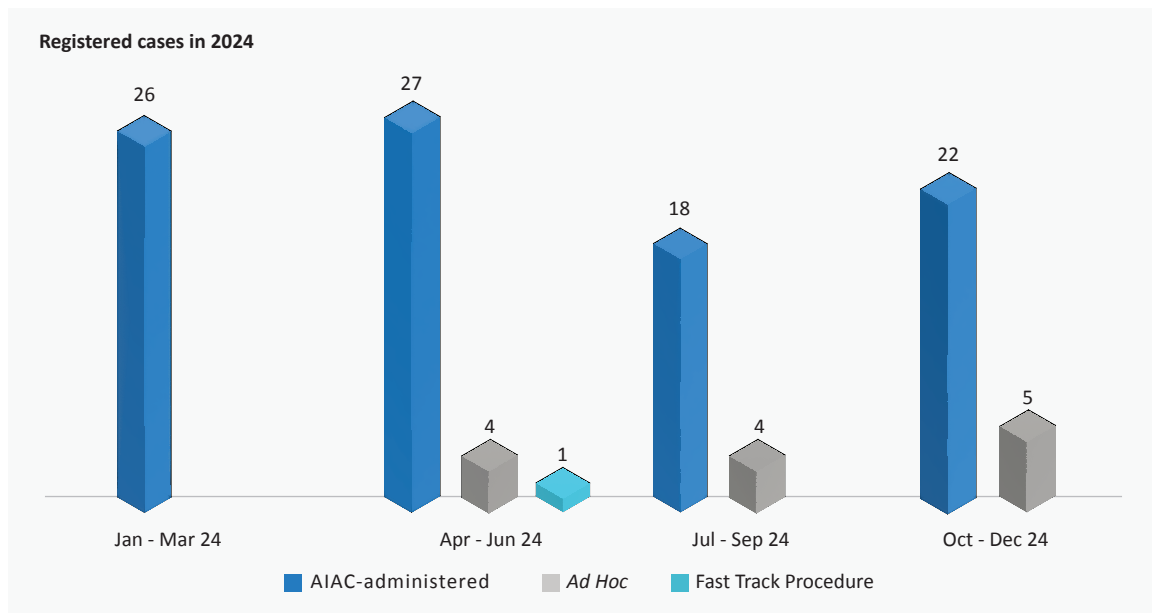
1.1 Pre-registered Cases in 2024

In 2024, the total number of pre-registered arbitration cases amounted to 51. Of these cases, majority 50 cases were AIAC-administered, while only 1 case was *ad hoc*.



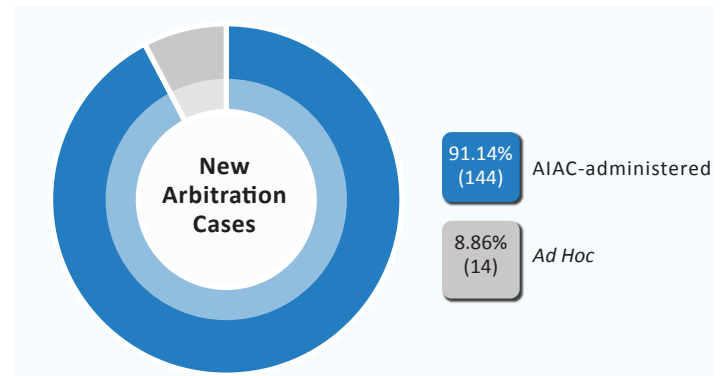
1.2 Registered Cases in 2024

In 2024, the registered arbitration cases recorded are 94 cases in total. The AIAC-administered cases represent 88% out of a total of 107 cases and the *ad hoc* recorded was 13 cases representing 10% of the total cases.

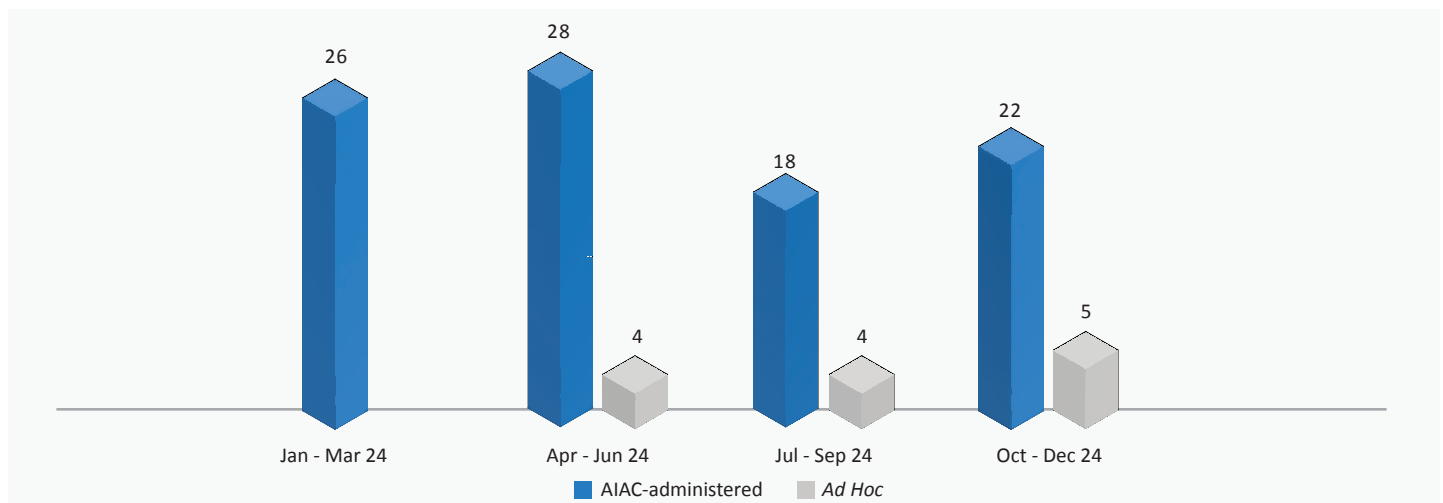


1.3 AIAC-administered vs *Ad Hoc*

In 2024, the AIAC received a total of 158 new arbitration cases (registered and pre-registered matters), in which 144 cases were AIAC-administered matters while the remaining 14 cases were *ad hoc* appointments under the Arbitration Act 2005.



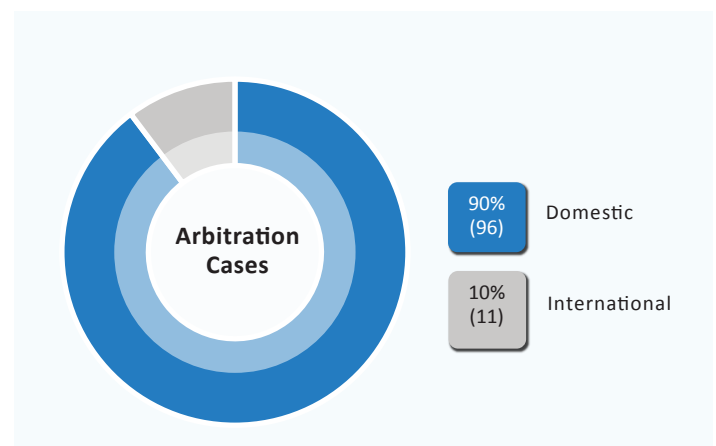
1.4 AIAC-administered vs *Ad Hoc* Monthly Registration



As illustrated in the chart above, May, August and October emerged as the busiest months for the AIAC in 2024, having recorded the highest number of arbitration cases, including both registered and pre-registered matters. In May, the AIAC saw a peak with 14 AIAC-administered cases and 2 *ad hoc* arbitration cases, reflecting heightened activity during this period. Similarly, August recorded a significant number of cases, with 12 AIAC-administered cases and 1 *ad hoc* case, demonstrating consistent activity as parties continued to utilise arbitration as a preferred dispute resolution mechanism in the latter half of the year. October followed closely, with 13 AIAC-administered and Fast Track arbitration matters as well as 2 *ad hoc* cases, making it another exceptionally active month.

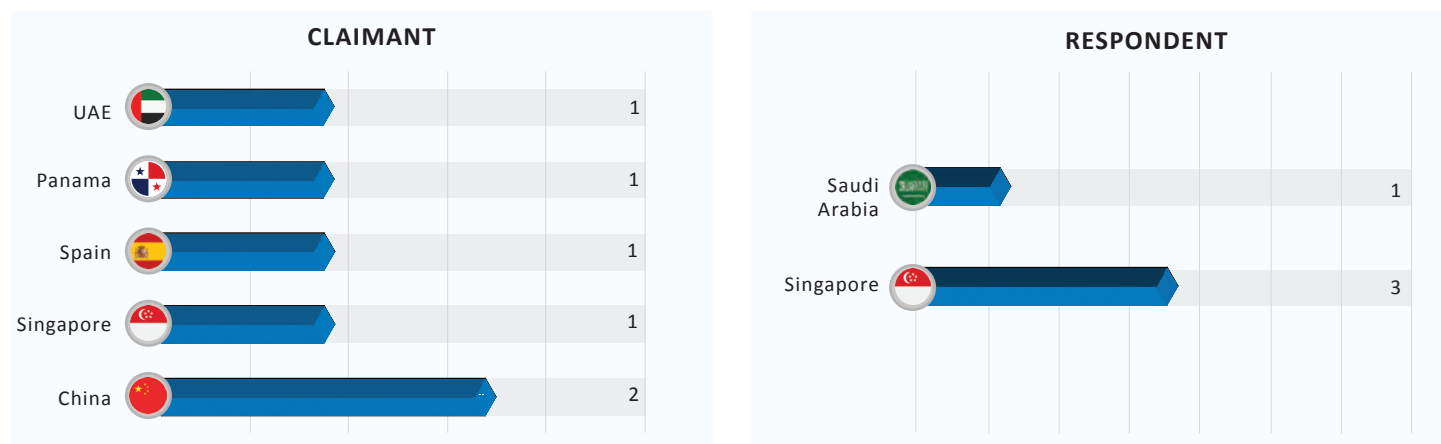
1.5 Domestic vs International Registration

In 2024, the total number of arbitration cases handled by the AIAC reached 107, comprising of 96 domestic cases and 11 international cases. Notably, the number of international arbitration cases remained consistent as the previous year, while there was a slight increase in domestic arbitration cases, reflecting growing confidence in the AIAC's services within the jurisdiction.



1.6 Foreign Nationalities

In 2024, the AIAC handled cases involving 10 international parties from various jurisdictions, namely Singapore (4 cases), China (2 cases) and one case each from Panama, Spain, UAE and Saudi Arabia.



1.7 Amount in Dispute

The total amount in dispute for the arbitration cases referred to the AIAC was around MYR 4.3 billion³ equivalent to USD 998 million⁴. The AIAC experienced an increase in terms of the total quantum in dispute for the AIAC-administered cases compared to the two previous years i.e. 2022 and 2023.

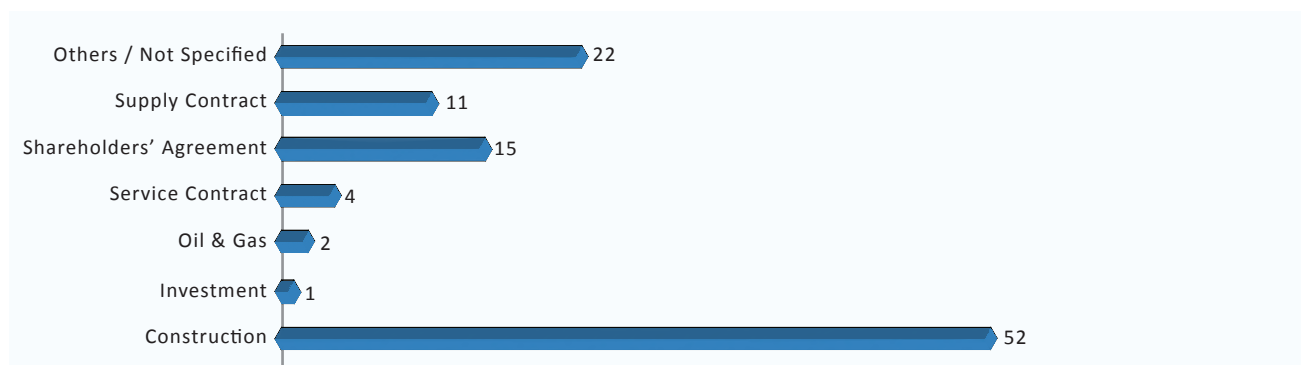
| TYPE | AMOUNT IN DISPUTE |
|-------------------|--|
| Arbitration (RM) | RM4,279,386,806.21 |
| Arbitration (USD) | USD 23,526,256.01 (RM105,268,232.52)* Converted at a conversion rate of USD 1 = \$4.4745 from bnm.gov.my as of 21.1.2025 |

³ Following the exchange rate on 21st January 2025 for claims in foreign currencies.

⁴ Following the exchange rate on 21st January 2025.

1.8 Area of Dispute

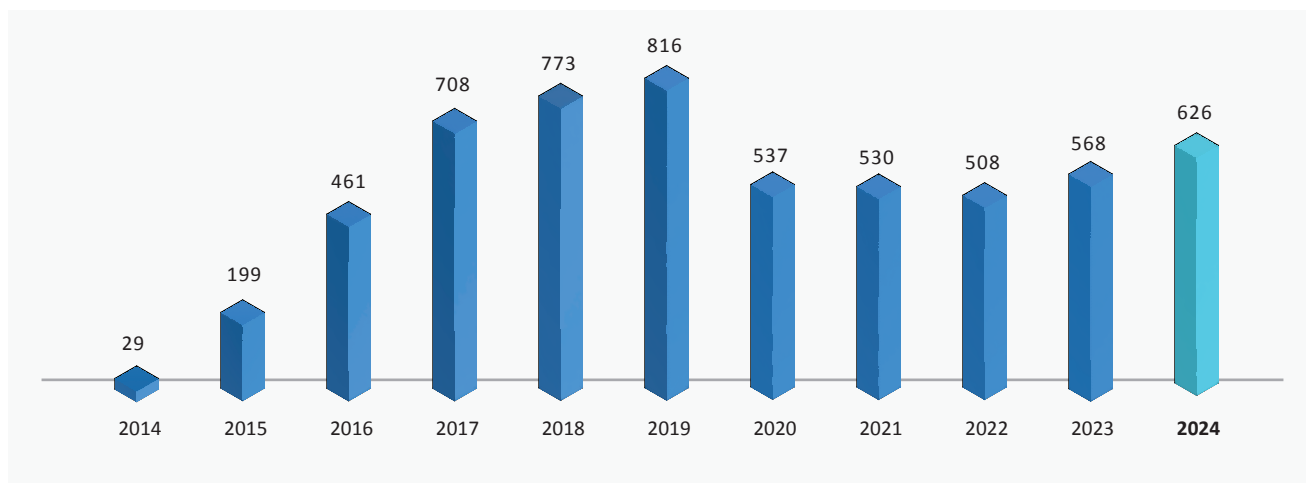
Resembling the trend of previous years, construction-related arbitrations are at the top of the cases referred to the AIAC at 48.60%. In the second and third places are the shareholders' agreements and supply contracts, at 14.02% and 10.28% respectively.



CASE ANALYSIS FOR ADJUDICATION

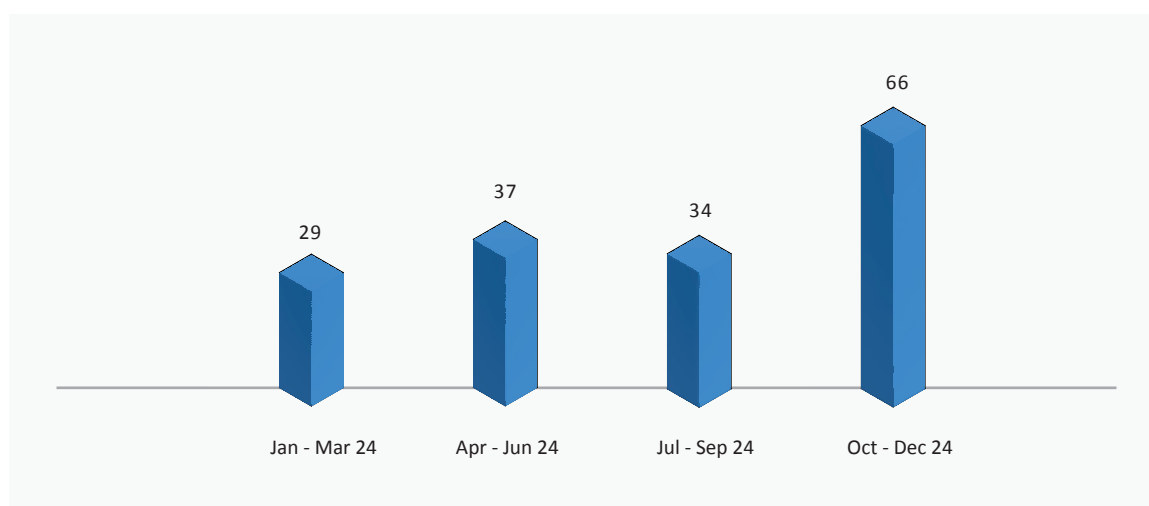
2.1 Historical Case Registration since 2014

Commencing with merely 29 cases in 2014, the statistics experienced a substantial increase each subsequent year, reaching a peak of 816 in 2019. Thereafter, a gradual declination ensued, with 2020 marking 537 cases, followed by a further decrease in 2021 with 530 cases. The trend persisted into 2022 and 2023, with 508 and 568 cases, respectively. However, the adjudication cases referred to the AIAC increased in 2024 with 626 cases recorded. The cumulative sum over the entire period stands at 5,755 adjudication cases, offering a comprehensive overview of its evolution over a specified timeframe.



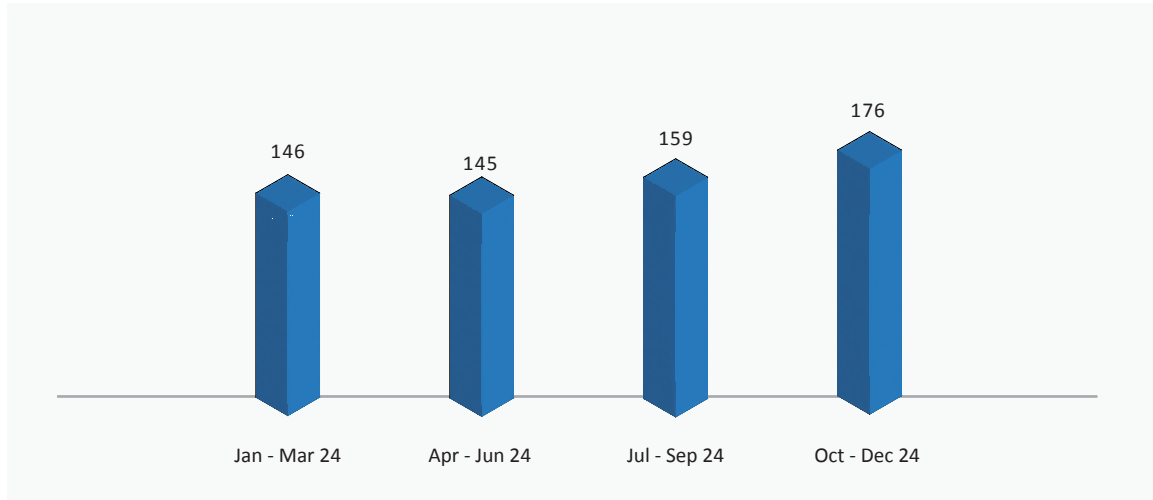
2.2 Pre-registered Cases in 2024

In January, 10 adjudication cases were pre-registered, with fluctuations observed throughout the year. The numbers peaked in November with 26 pre-registered cases, followed closely by December with 24 pre-registered cases recorded.



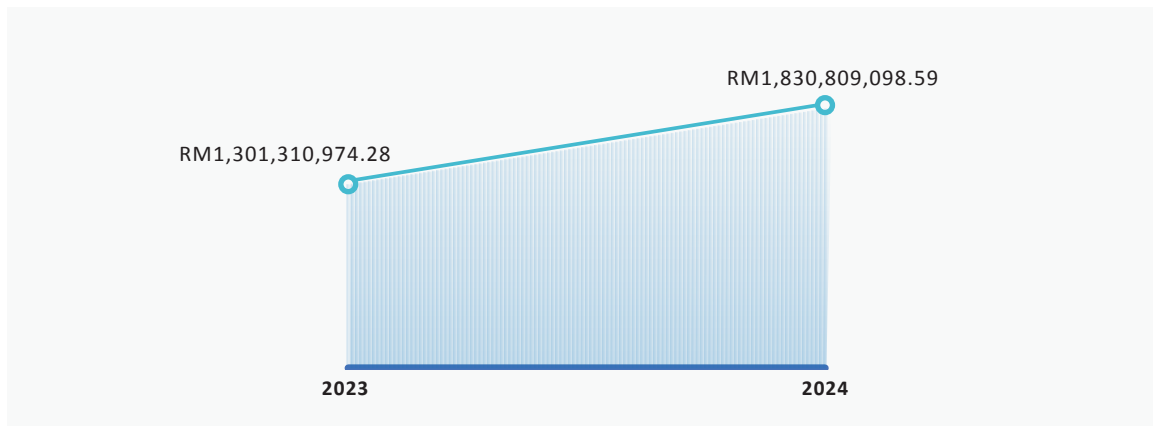
2.3 Registered Cases in 2024

In August, there was a significant increase in the registered adjudication cases which peaked at 108 cases. Other notable peaks in 2024 include the months of October (72 cases), January (68 cases) and December (60 cases). The cumulative total of registered cases in 2024 is 626 cases, a noteworthy increase compared to the previous years.



2.4 Amount in Dispute

The total value of the claimed amounts in dispute in adjudications in 2024 stands at RM1,830,809,098.59, marking an increase from RM1,301,310,974.28 in 2023.



2.5 Project Site Locations

In keeping with the trends observed in 2022 and 2023, the highest number of adjudication cases (45.36%) related to projects in the Klang Valley, i.e. Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. The regions with the lowest number of adjudication cases are Labuan, Putrajaya and Kelantan respectively.

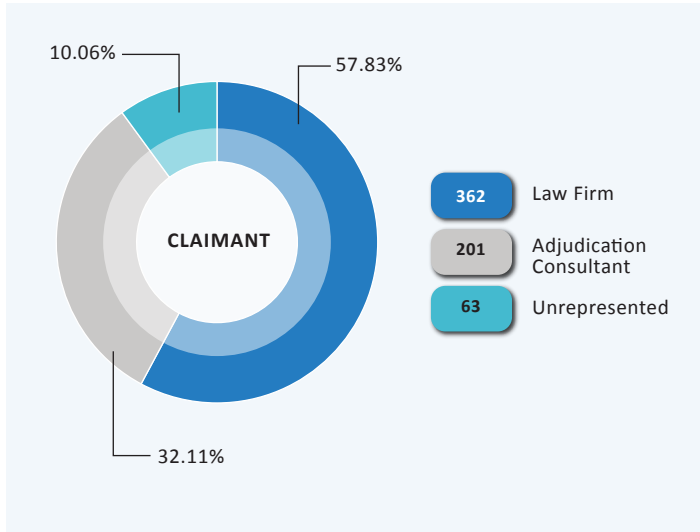


| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Johor | 54 | 9 | Pulau Pinang | 49 |
| 2 | Kedah | 37 | 10 | Perak | 21 |
| 3 | Kelantan | 8 | 11 | Perlis | - |
| 4 | Kuala Lumpur | 129 | 12 | Putrajaya | 6 |
| 5 | Labuan | 1 | 13 | Sabah | 25 |
| 6 | Melaka | 13 | 14 | Sarawak | 37 |
| 7 | Negeri Sembilan | 34 | 15 | Selangor | 155 |
| 8 | Pahang | 40 | 16 | Terengganu | 17 |

2.6 Parties' Representatives

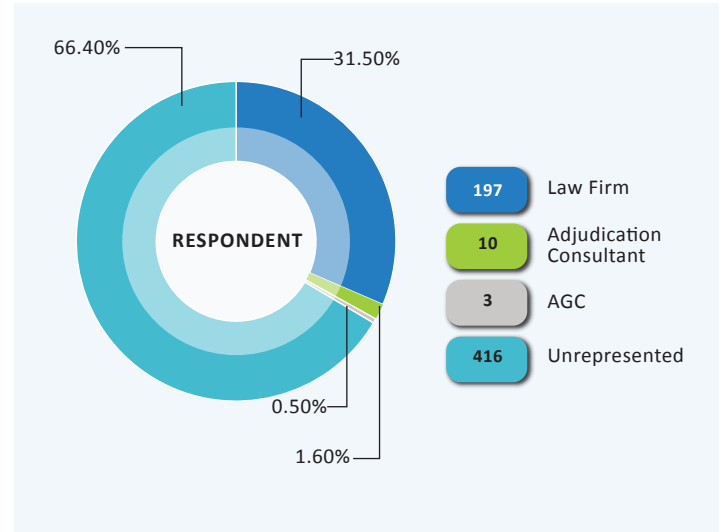
In 2024, the primary categories for parties' representatives were law firms, adjudication consultants, the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) and self-represented parties.

Claimants were predominantly represented by law firms (57.83%), followed by adjudication consultants (32.11%), while 10.06% proceeded without any representation.



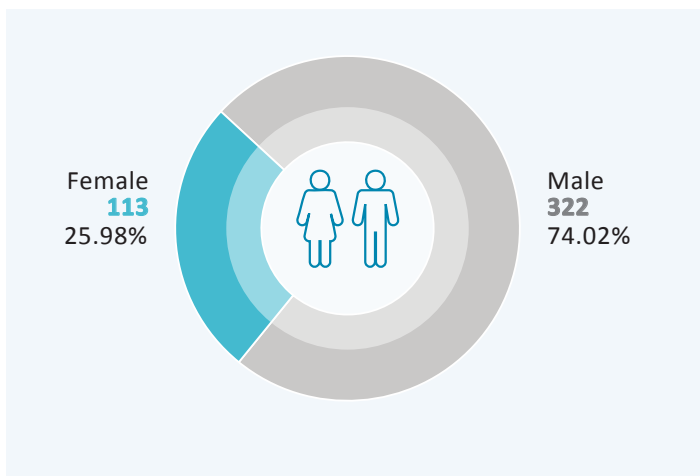
For Respondents, the majority (66.40%) were self-represented, with 31.50% engaging law firms. A smaller percentage sought assistance from adjudication consultants (1.60%) and the AGC (0.50%).

This reflects a continued trend of Claimants opting for professional representation whereas Respondents were largely unrepresented.



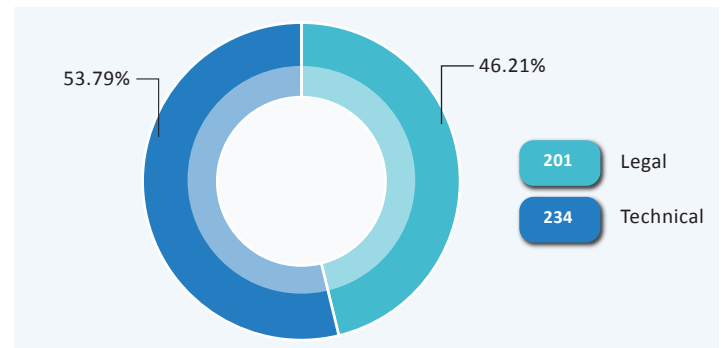
2.7 Gender Diversity in Appointment of Adjudicators

Out of the 435 appointed adjudicators, 113 were female (25.98%).



2.8 Appointment of Adjudicators

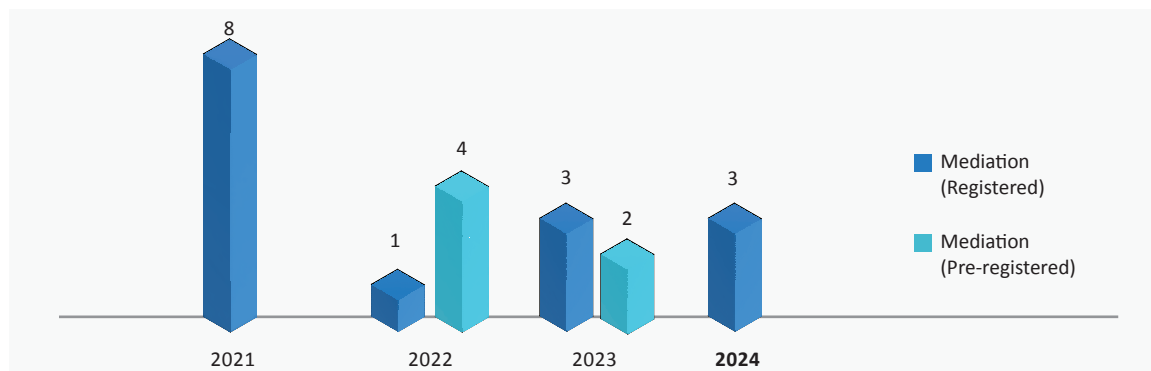
In 2024, a total of 435 adjudicators were appointed, with a nearly balanced distribution between adjudicators with legal and technical backgrounds. Adjudicators with a technical background comprised the majority at 234 appointments, while those with a legal background accounted for 201 appointments. This reflects a diverse pool of adjudicators appointed, with a slight preference for technical expertise in adjudication appointments.



CASE ANALYSIS FOR MEDIATION

3.1 Historical Case Registration since 2021

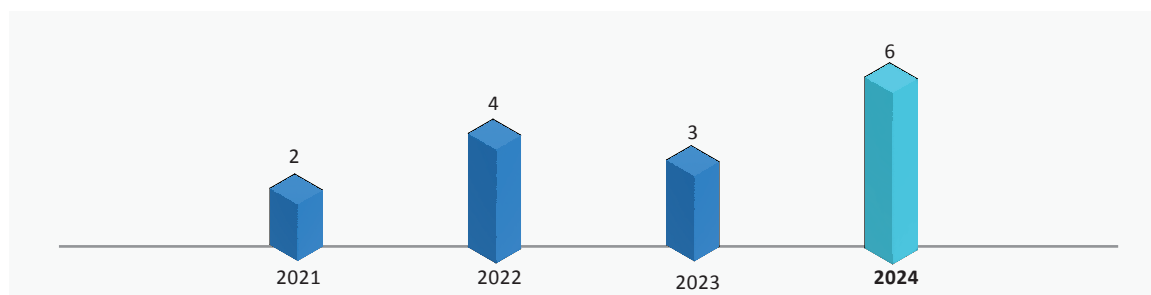
In 2024, the number of registered mediation cases remained steady at 3, consistent with 2023. However, no cases were pre-registered.



CASE ANALYSIS FOR DNDR

4.1 Historical Case Registration since 2021

The number of DNDR cases has shown an overall upward trend over the years. In 2021, there were 2 cases registered, which doubled to 4 in 2022. The figure dipped slightly to 3 cases in 2023 before increasing to 6 cases in 2024, marking the highest number recorded within this period. This indicates a growing engagement in domain name dispute resolution over the years.

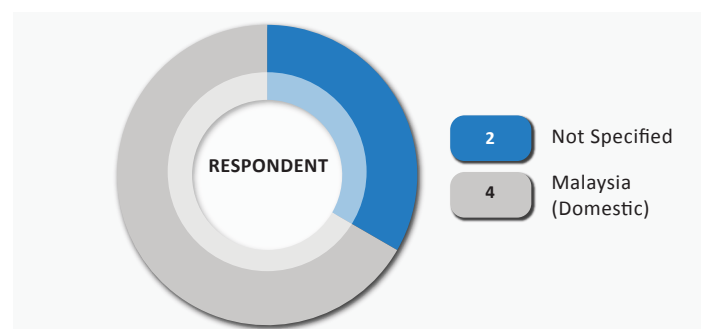
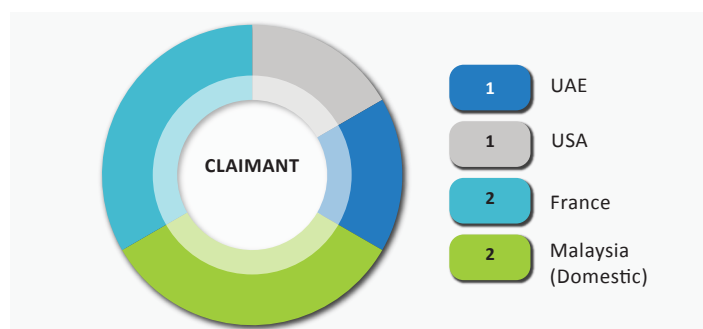


4.2 Geographical Origin of Parties in 2024

In 2024, the Claimants in DNDR cases originated from a diverse range of jurisdictions, sighting parties from the UAE, the USA and France.

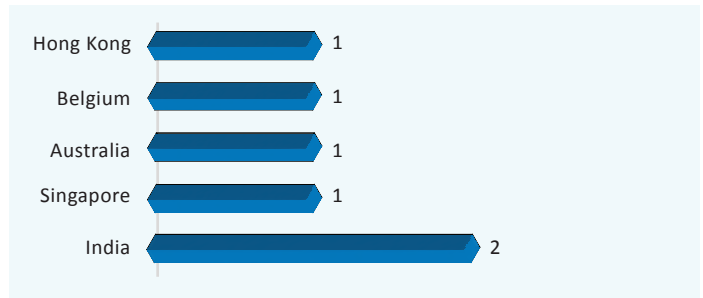
As for Respondents, majority were based in Malaysia, while in 2 cases, the Respondents' geographical origins were not specified.

This data highlights the international nature of domain name disputes, with foreign Claimants initiating most cases while the Respondents were predominantly domestic entities.



4.3 Geographical Origin of Panellists in 2024

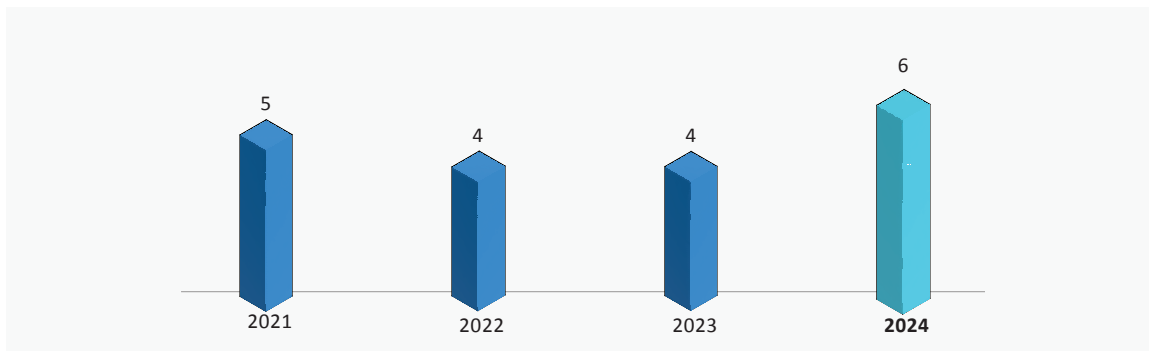
In 2024, DNDR cases were adjudicated by a diverse panel of experts from various jurisdictions. The highest representation came from India with 2 panellists, followed by Singapore, Australia, Belgium and Hong Kong with one panellist each, bringing the total to 6 panellists.



CASE ANALYSIS FOR ADNDRC

5.1 Historical Case Registration since 2021

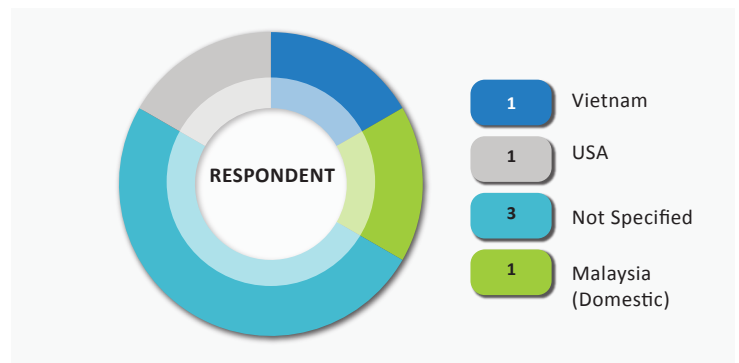
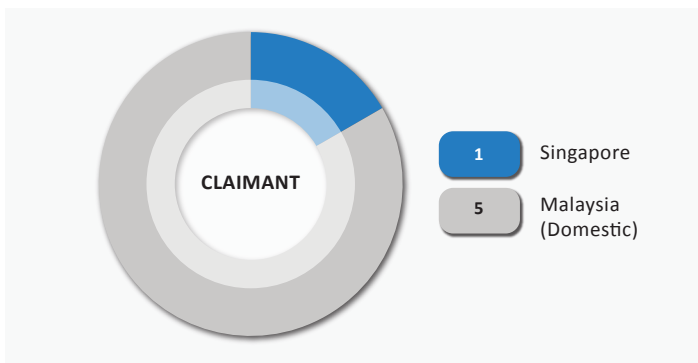
The number of ADNDRC cases has shown a gradual increase over the years. In 2021, 5 cases were registered, followed by a slight dip to 4 cases in both 2022 and 2023. However, 2024 saw a rise to 6 cases, indicating renewed engagement in domain name dispute resolution.



5.2 Geographical Origin of Parties in 2024

In 2024, majority of the Claimants in ADNDRC cases were based in Malaysia with 5 cases and 1 case in Singapore.

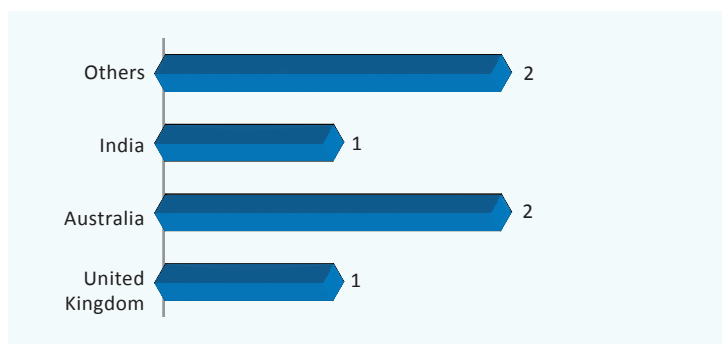
For Respondents, the geographical distribution appeared to vary. One Respondent each originated from the USA, Malaysia and Vietnam, while the remaining 3 cases did not specify the Respondent's location.



5.3 Geographical Origin of Panellists in 2024

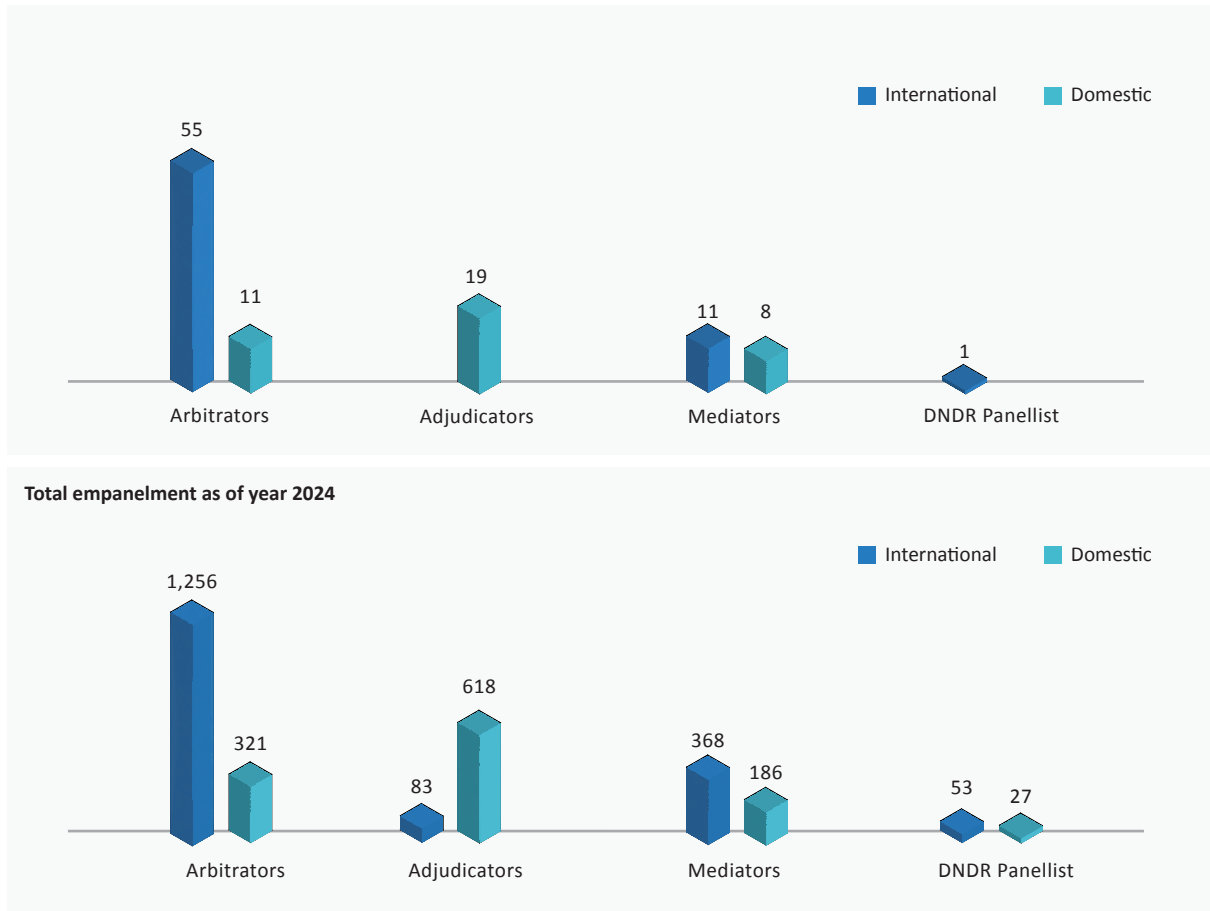
In 2024, ADNDRC cases were handled by panellists from diverse jurisdictions. Australia had the highest representation with 2 panellists, followed by the UK and India with 1 case each. The remaining 2 panellists were from other jurisdictions.

This distribution underscores ADNDRC's commitment to appointing panellists from various legal backgrounds and regions to ensure a well-rounded and impartial dispute resolution process.



EMPANELMENT

EMPANELMENT OVERVIEW IN 2024



TOTAL ARBITRATORS EMPANELLED IN 2024

In 2024, a total of 66 new arbitrators were empanelled by the AIAC, demonstrating a strong and diverse growth in the arbitration domain. Among those, 18 were female which is a positive step towards gender diversity, alongside 48 male arbitrators.

In line with the AIAC's aspirations to expand our presence and reach globally, there were 55 new international arbitrators inducted to our panel of arbitrators. Further, 11 new domestic arbitrators were also empanelled, which reflects our continued support for local expertise in this field.

All in all, the AIAC's panel of arbitrators boasts an impressive number of 1,577, with a healthy representation of 321 domestic and 1,256 international arbitrators.

TOTAL ADJUDICATORS EMPANELLED IN 2024

In 2024, the AIAC's panel of adjudicators saw an addition of 19 new professionals, 4 of whom were female, marking a positive step towards enhancing gender diversity within the adjudication domain.

In a nutshell, the AIAC's total number of adjudicators currently stands at 701, which includes 618 domestic and 83 international adjudicators. The substantial representation of domestic professionals in adjudication ensures a robust and localised approach to adjudication, while the international presence provides a valuable global perspective.

TOTAL MEDIATORS EMPANELLED IN 2024

In 2024, the AIAC's panel of mediators welcomed 19 new professionals, including 14 male and 5 female mediators. These figures demonstrate a positive trend towards gender inclusivity, with a healthy representation of female mediators compared to previous years.

It is noteworthy that the empanelment of mediators in 2024 has a strong international presence, with 11 international mediators compared to 8 domestic mediators joining the panel.

In total, the AIAC's panel of mediators currently stands at 554, with 186 domestic and 368 international mediators. The balance between the local and international expertise reflects a well-rounded panel equipped to tackle a wide range of disputes from both domestic and global perspectives.

TOTAL DNDR PANELLIST EMPANELLED IN 2024

In 2024, the DNDR panel welcomed 1 new international male panellist. This addition helps to maintain a balanced blend of domestic and international expertise within the DNDR panel.

As of 2024, the total number of DNDR panellists has reached 80, with 27 domestic and 53 international panellists.

GENDER DIVERSITY OF NEWLY EMPANELLED PROFESSIONALS










In 2024, the AIAC has successfully empanelled 105 new professionals, with a positive gender distribution comprising of 78 males and 27 females. In our efforts to embrace gender diversity, this reflects a strong representation of women at 26% of the newly empanelled professionals.

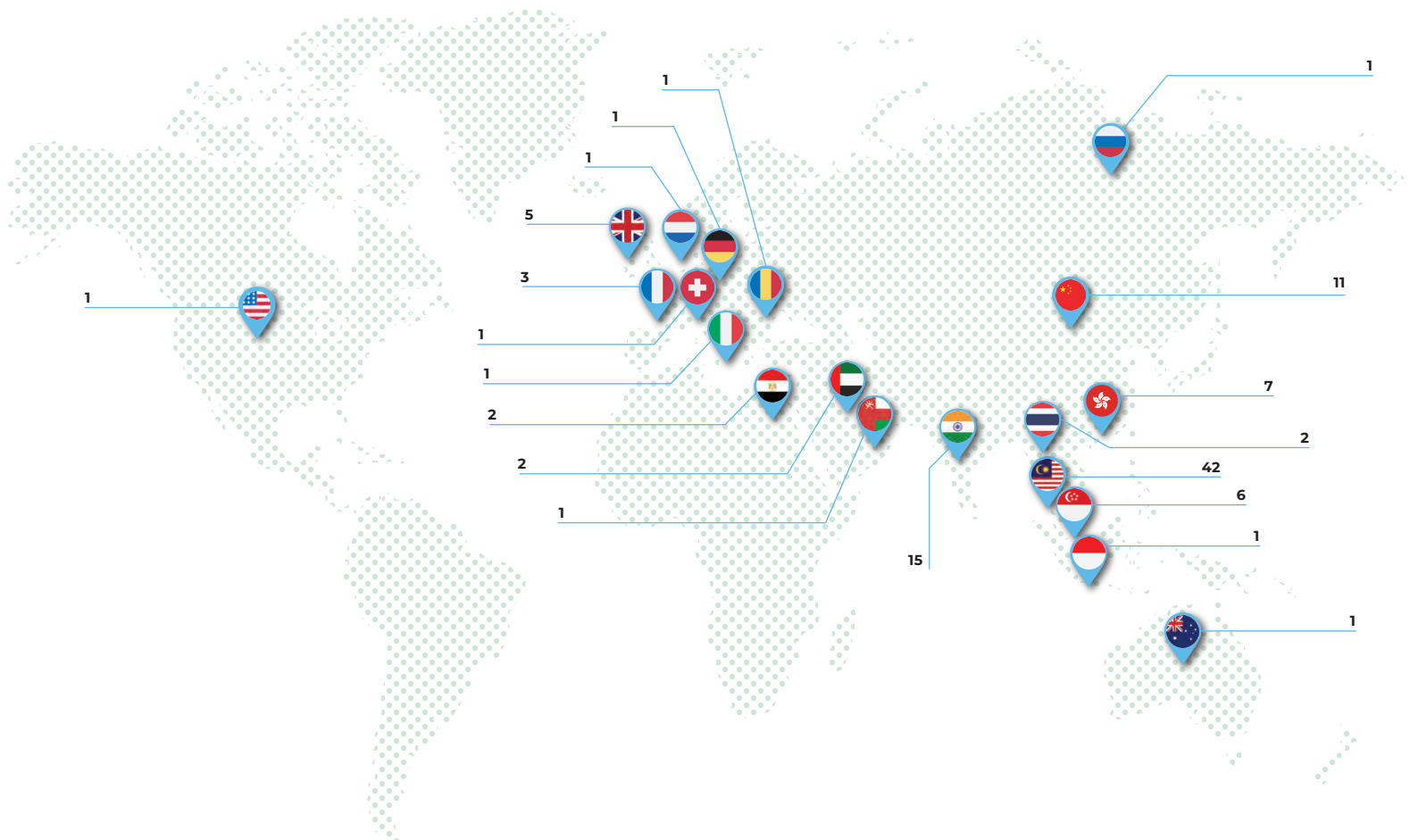
The growing inclusion of female professionals, though still underrepresented compared to their male counterparts, is a promising step forward in creating a more balanced and inclusive professional environment.



NATIONALITY OF NEWLY EMPANELLED PROFESSIONALS

In 2024, 105 new professionals were empanelled from 19 countries, reflecting a strong global presence. Malaysia leads with 42 empanelled professionals, followed by India and China with 15 and 11 professionals respectively. The panel also includes experts from Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, Australia, France, the United Kingdom and other regions.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|---|---|--|---|
|  Australia | 1 |  Hong Kong SAR | 7 |  Netherlands | 1 |  Switzerland | 1 |
|  China | 11 |  India | 15 |  Oman | 1 |  Thailand | 2 |
|  Egypt | 2 |  Indonesia | 1 |  Romania | 1 |  UAE | 2 |
|  France | 3 |  Italy | 1 |  Russia | 1 |  United Kingdom | 5 |
|  Germany | 1 |  Malaysia | 42 |  Singapore | 6 |  USA | 1 |



EVENTS

AIAC'S FLAGSHIP EVENTS

In 2024, the AIAC continued to fulfil its key role as a leading regional dispute resolution centre through a series of flagship events that convened both young and experienced ADR practitioners, academics, and ADR stakeholders from Malaysia and around the world. Asia ADR Week 2024 remained the hallmark event, providing a premier platform for in-depth discussions on emerging trends and developments in alternative dispute resolution. In addition to this, the organisations of conference, congress, summit, and forum further facilitated the exchange of practical insights from distinguished professionals. The official launch of the Standard Form of Building Contract underscored AIAC's expanding outreach efforts to dispute avoidance products besides reinforcing its growing influence and active engagement within the ADR landscape.

ASIA ADR WEEK 2024

The AIAC held its annual flagship event, the Asia ADR Week themed, *"Supernova: Igniting the Transformation of ADR"* from 17th to 19th October 2024. The event welcomed several distinguished guests, with the Keynote Address delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof. The Special Address was delivered by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform), YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said. With more than 60 experts and an overwhelming number of participants, the Asia ADR Week 2024 provided a dynamic platform for discourse, learning, collaboration and networking. The sessions spanned various issues relating to the ADR practices such as jurisdictional issues in intellectual property rights disputes, interplay between ESG and international arbitration as well as the discretionary powers of the arbitral tribunal. Special focus was on the institutional courts of arbitration as the AIAC is set to establish its AIAC Court of Arbitration alongside the legal reforms to the Arbitration Act of Malaysia. Novel topics such as paradigm shifts in arbitration in outer space and aviation were also explored. Indeed, just as a supernova's explosion radiates light across the universe, the ADR practitioners illuminated the pathways to dispute resolution, breaking barriers and forging innovative solutions across borders.



AIAC YPG CONFERENCE 2024 - VIVID VERDICTS: PAINTING THE FUTURE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION



The AIAC and the AIAC Young Practitioners' Group (AIAC YPG) hosted the AIAC YPG Conference 2024 entitled, *"Vivid Verdicts: Painting the Future of Dispute Resolution"* on 5th March 2024, in conjunction with the AIAC APAC Pre-Moot. The Conference witnessed the gathering of a wide range of professionals and experts in the field of alternative dispute resolution, sparking highly engaging discussions. The first session entitled, *"Interim Insights: Debating the Dynamics of Arbitral Measures"*, explored interim measures available under the AIAC Arbitration Rules 2023 and the Arbitration Act 2005, focusing on their enforceability and effectiveness. The second session, *"Show Me the Money!: Best Practices in Costs Allocation in Arbitration"*, examined various costs involved in the arbitration proceedings and discussed the criteria used by the tribunals in awarding costs, including the 'winner-takes-all' approach.

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONGRESS 2024: REDEFINING ITS HORIZON - MALAYSIA, ASIA AND BEYOND

On 27th August 2024, the AIAC hosted the International Arbitration Congress, themed "*Redefining Its Horizon: Malaysia, Asia and Beyond*". The Congress featured a Special Address by YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform), who highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards in international arbitration. The Congress included three insightful sessions. The first session aptly explored the features, challenges and prospects of the Court of Arbitration given the forthcoming AIAC Court of Arbitration. The second delved into the history and future collaboration of AALCO's arbitration centres; and the final session focused on the essential factors that define a premier arbitration seat, with particular attention to the role of the judiciary. The Congress saw strong participation, with 186 attendees engaging in dynamic discussions on the future of arbitration in Malaysia, Asia and beyond.



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF AIAC STANDARD FORM OF BUILDING CONTRACT (SFC) 2024



The official launch of the AIAC Standard Form of Building Contract (SFC) 2024 on 17th January 2024 marked a significant milestone in the construction industry. Attended by ADR practitioners, lawyers, academics and industry leaders, the event emphasised the need for efficient dispute avoidance mechanisms in the rapidly growing post-pandemic construction industry. This event which aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the SFC's evolution since its first edition in 2018, included two sessions where the esteemed panel of speakers discussed the current principles, procedures and issues in the construction industry whilst comparing various standard forms of contract and addressing gaps in the existing contracts. The SFC 2024 was highlighted for its clarity and precision in resolving these issues. The event concluded with a networking session, fostering valuable connections amongst attendees.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF AIAC ISLAMIC STANDARD FORM OF BUILDING CONTRACT (i-SFC) 2024

The official launch of the AIAC Islamic Standard Form of Building Contract (i-SFC) 2024 on 18th January 2024 was a historic moment in the construction industry, marking the groundbreaking integration of Shariah principles into construction agreements. The AIAC was grateful to have a stellar panel of speakers and moderators who provided the participants with an illuminating exploration on the potential of Shariah in penetrating the construction industry during the first session. The second session's discussions which focused on the future of the i-SFC enlightened the participants, contributing to the overall success of the official launch ceremony.



ASIAN SPORTS ADR SUMMIT - MASTERING THE PLAYBOOK



The AIAC launched the Asian Sports Arbitration Rules during the Asian Sports ADR Summit - Mastering the Playbook on 19th January 2024, underscoring a firm commitment to revolutionising the landscape of sports-related dispute resolution. This Summit commenced with the first panel discussion exploring the strategic application of institutional rules, highlighting how the Asian Sports Arbitration Rules address a spectrum of issues from contractual conflicts to doping allegations. The Summit progressed with a compelling exploration of the intersection between technology, sports and alternative dispute resolution. The distinguished panel dissected the transformative impact of technological advancements on the future of sports governance and dispute resolution strategies. The Summit culminated in a dialogue on combating exploitation and misconduct within the sports domain while safeguarding its ethical foundations with the esteemed panel scrutinised strategies to uphold sportsmanship principles and the need to foster an inclusive sports community.

KUALA LUMPUR FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION 2024

On 13th November 2024, the AIAC in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, organised the Kuala Lumpur Forum on International Arbitration 2024 entitled, *"The Future of International Arbitration: Reforms and Innovations"* at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. This Forum brought together global experts to discuss trends and challenges shaping the ASEAN's arbitration landscape, as Malaysia prepared to assume ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025. A Special Address was delivered by Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret of UNCITRAL. The Forum explored ASEAN's growing influence on global arbitration, legal frameworks and judicial approaches to arbitral awards. Discussions also addressed challenges such as third-party funding, integrity in arbitration and the role of AI in reshaping arbitration practices. The Forum showcased ASEAN's leadership in alternative dispute resolution and emphasised innovative reforms driving regional and global growth in the field.



AIAC'S EVENING TALK SERIES, FIRESIDE CHATS AND WEBINARS

In 2024, the AIAC delivered a robust line-up of knowledge-sharing engagements through its Evening Talk Series, Fireside Chat, and Webinar, each designed to deepen understanding of emerging issues in arbitration and ADR.

AIAC EVENING TALK SERIES 2024

The Evening Talk Series featured three sessions with speakers from Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia, offering practical insights on international arbitration and mediation, variation works in construction contracts, and strategic considerations in cross-border construction arbitrations.

The AIAC hosted its first evening talk series of 2024 entitled, *"Between Theory and Practice: A Conversation on International Arbitration and Mediation"* on 5th January 2024 with the esteemed guest speaker sharing insights on the intricacies of international commercial arbitration and mediation. This engaging session

speaker sharing insights on the intricacies of international commercial arbitration and mediation. This engaging session provided participants with valuable perspectives on the practical application of arbitration and mediation theories.

The AIAC hosted its second evening talk series entitled, *"Variation Works: Issues Concerning Original Work Scope and Power to Vary"* on 21st March 2024 which brought together experts and professionals from the construction industry. The speakers discussed case laws and drawing from their deep expertise, introduced the audience to various methods in assessing conflicting terms regarding the original work scope, both expressed and implied. Some of the key topics included the extent of power to vary, conflicts in business quantities and the nuances of omitting clauses in contracts.

The AIAC hosted its third evening talk series entitled, *"Strategic Considerations and Technological Innovations in International Construction Arbitrations in Southeast Asia"* on 29th May 2024, focusing on strategic advantages of international construction arbitration in Malaysia and Singapore. Experts discussed the importance of explicitly selecting and stating the applicable law for arbitration agreements. They also highlighted the significance of agreeing upon and documenting a protocol for technology use at various stages of the arbitration process. Practical advice was given on incorporating these elements into procedural orders or terms of reference to pre-empt potential challenges and ensure a smooth arbitration process.



FIRESIDE CHAT: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE BENCH AND BAR ON ARBITRATION IN INDIA & MALAYSIA



The AIAC hosted the event, *"Fireside Chat: Perspectives From The Bench and Bar on Arbitration In India & Malaysia"*. Ms. Iram Majid, Executive Director of APCAM, provided insights on India's recent strides in the arbitration sector. Justice Surya Kant Sharma, sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India provided an overview of arbitration in Asia. The headline event was the Fireside Chat moderated by Justice Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan, retired Judge of the Federal Court of Malaysia and joined by Justice Surya Kant, Mr. Anil Xavier, President of the

Indian Institute of Arbitration & Mediation (IIAM) as well as Tan Sri Dato' Cecil Abraham, an esteemed international arbitrator and advocate from Malaysia. The speakers analysed how the courts in India and Malaysia have dealt with various issues in arbitration, and the evolution of jurisprudence over the last decade. The event concluded with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the AIAC and Asia-Pacific Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (APCAM).

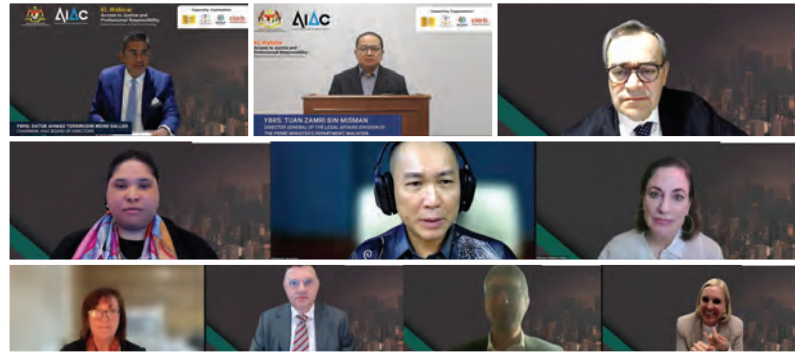
KL WEBINAR - ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

The AIAC in collaboration with BHEUU JPM hosted a webinar entitled, *"KL Webinar - Access to Justice and Professional Responsibility: Global Perspectives on Third-Party Funding"* on 15th May 2024. This KL Webinar was held to gather global perspectives towards regulating third-party

funding in light of the growing consensus for transparency and professional responsibility in this funding industry. The panel for the first session engaged in a detailed analysis of the liberalisation of the maintenance and champerty doctrines in common law to legalise third-party funding

and the challenges ahead in regulating third-party funding of arbitration. The panel was moderated by Mr. Álvaro López de Argumedo with an esteemed panel comprising of Professor Victoria Shannon Sahani, Ms. Kim M. Rooney and Dato' Nitin Nadkarni.

The second session focused on justice, professional responsibility, ethics in the context of third-party funding and the efficacy of various mechanisms such as regulations and codes of practice in addressing these concerns. This session was moderated by Professor Dr. Jason Chuah with a distinguished panel comprising of Professor Catherine A. Rogers, Ms. Marjolein van den Bosch-Broeren and Dr. Can Eken.



ADR TALKS

Responding to the global interest surrounding the practical application of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and its future trend, AIAC organised a variety of ADR Talks in collaboration with international institutions and local institutions as well as private law firms.

INTERNATIONAL

TALK OF THE TOWN: ARBITRATION, EMERGING TRENDS AND THE SCALE OF JUSTICE

On 9th August 2024, the AIAC and the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) Hong Kong Arbitration Center organised a joint event in Hong Kong SAR entitled, “*Talk of the Town: Arbitration, Emerging Trends, and the Scale of Justice*”. The event was supported by the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister’s Department, HKSAR Department of Justice, FHKI, HKGCC, Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong, MAYCHAM, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, CIArb East Asia Branch, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre and HK-ASEAN Foundation. There were four integral aspects wherein the first examined the interplay between arbitration



and insolvency, addressing the issues such as the effect of arbitration clauses on the insolvency process. While the second aspect addressed the rise of litigation funding and its pros and cons, the penultimate aspect dealt with ethical issues such as conflict-of-interest arising from

repeat appointments and underscored the importance of the IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration. The final aspect sparked an enlightening discussion on the application of artificial intelligence in arbitration proceedings.

SEAT OF ARBITRATION: DISCOVERING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT DISPUTES

In conjunction with the China Arbitration Week 2024, the AIAC and CIETAC, Beijing jointly organised an event in Beijing entitled, “*Seat of Arbitration: Discovering the Fundamentals of International Trade and Investment Disputes*”. The session witnessed a lively discussion on the seat of arbitration for multi-party cross-border

disputes and the evolving landscape of arbitration in the context of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. The visit to China by the AIAC delegation marks a significant milestone in enhancing institutional collaborations and reinforcing the AIAC’s global presence in alternative dispute resolution.



DOMESTIC (JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH INSTITUTIONS)

JDRN-AIAC SYMPOSIUM 2024: CAPACITY BUILDING IN JUDICIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The AIAC, in partnership with the Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN) and supported by the Inns of Court Malaysia (ICM) hosted the JDRN-AIAC Symposium 2024 entitled, “Capacity Building in Judicial Dispute Resolution”. The event brought together distinguished judges and legal professionals, including 30 visiting judges from 11 jurisdictions, to explore evolving ADR mechanisms with a focus on judicial capacity-building. The Symposium featured an opening address by the AIAC’s Director, Dato’ Mary Lim Thiam Suan, who emphasised the importance of specialised training for judges. A panel session, moderated by the AIAC’s Assistant Director, Ms. Heather Yee Jing Wah, included renowned speakers namely, Lady Justice Sarah Jane Asplin, Justice Dato’ Lim Chong Fong and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, who shared insights and strategies for strengthening judicial expertise in mediation, arbitration as well as other ADR methods. The event served as a platform for speakers to exchange their jurisdiction-specific experience on judicial training in ADR and highlight effective strategies for enhancing judicial capacity in ADR.



GREAT WALL OF ALLIANCE: FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION



The AIAC in collaboration with CIETAC, Beijing organised an event entitled, “Great Wall of Alliance: Forum on International Commercial Arbitration and Dispute Resolution” to mark the remarkable 50-year milestone of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations. This event comprised of four sessions, artistically themed as “The Green Silk Road”, “The Digital Silk Road”, “The Maritime Silk Road” and the “The Economic Silk Road” to explore ADR in different industries. The first session concentrated on the opportunities and challenges associated with dispute resolution of green projects under the Belt and Road Initiative. The second session discussed the technological advancements and digital infrastructure including the use of Online Dispute

Resolution mechanism for resolving technology-related disputes. The third session focused on the maritime trade, particularly shipping regulations, the new challenges faced by maritime industry and possible resolution of the same. The final session addressed trade barriers, investment protection, supply chain and quality control issues, while touching base on the role of arbitral institutions in resolving like disputes.

ELEVATING ASIAN ARBITRATION: THE LATEST PRACTICE AND PROSPECT IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION IN CHINA AND MALAYSIA

The AIAC together with CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Centre to organised the event entitled, “Elevating Asian Arbitration: The Latest Practice and Prospect in International Arbitration in China and Malaysia” on 20th September 2024. The Opening Remarks were delivered by the representatives of both the institutions, Mr. Wang Chengjie, Vice Chairman & Secretary General of CIETAC and Datuk Almalena Sharmila Johan, CEO of the AIAC. The first session explored the transformation of dispute resolution mechanism in China and Malaysia with reference to the challenges faced in the Data Era and construction dispute resolution. The session also discussed on the AIAC’s reform



initiatives and the legislative amendments to Malaysia’s arbitration statute. The second session discussed the best practices in Chinese and Malaysian arbitration domains and the use of technology in the same. The event which was attended by 76 physical and 86 virtual participants, and concluded with Closing Remarks from the AIAC’s Director, Dato’ Mary Lim Thiam Suan.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Sustainable Growth and Intellectual Property Forum was hosted by the Intellectual Property and Innovation Research Centre (IPIRC), in collaboration with the AIAC and Xiamen University Malaysia. The event drew over 120 participants from Malaysia, Singapore, China and other regions, representing both the academic and business industries.

Esteemed speakers and panellists explored topics structured around four dynamic plenary sessions, focusing on key themes including *“ADR, Collaboration and IP”*, *“Innovation and Intellectual Property”*, *“ESG and Intellectual Property”* and *“Frontier Technologies and IP”*.



GLOBAL TRADE MEDIATION NETWORKING FORUM: BUSINESS RIGHTS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The AIAC together with the Malaysian Guangdong Import & Export Chamber of Commerce (MGIECC) organised an event entitled, *“Global Trade Arbitration Networking Forum: Business Rights and Consumer Protection”*. Following the introductory sessions by the joint organisers, the participants were presented

with an overview of the AIAC’s products and services. This was followed by an in-depth panel discussion on legal avenues for businesses and consumers in resolving commercial disputes. The event concluded with a tour of the AIAC and a networking session.



BIM – AIAC SUMMIT APPROPRIATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) in collaboration with the AIAC hosted the Summit entitled, *“BIM – AIAC Summit on Appropriate Dispute Resolution”* on 15th March 2024. The Summit brought together professionals from diverse fields to discuss issues relating to dispute resolution spanning across various sectors including

medical and health, pure and applied sciences, engineering, accounting, business and commerce, as well as construction. It culminated with a session on potential collaborations across industries, with the speakers highlighting future initiatives for ADR advancement.

BORNEO ADR WEEK 2024: RESHAPING DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN BORNEO

On 18th July 2024, the AIAC organised an event entitled, *“Reshaping Dispute Resolution in Borneo”* during the Borneo Arbitration Week 2024. The first session entitled, *“All Hands on Deck: Positing Malaysia as a Preferred Seat for International Arbitration”* dissected invaluable insights by esteemed panellists

during the session. The panel emphasised the need for a collective effort to advance Malaysia as a preferred seat for international arbitration whereas the second session explored on *“Seizing ADR Opportunities in Regional Markets”*, followed by an engaging question and answer session with the participants.



GC ROUNDTABLE WITH TOBY LANDAU KC



The AIAC along with the Inns of Court Malaysia, David Grief International Consultancy and Chambers Lab organised an event entitled, “GC Roundtable with Toby Landau KC” on 11th November 2024. The session held under the Chatham House Rule was tailored to gain strategic perspectives on managing complex cross-border disputes, discuss emerging trends and best practices in international and investor-state arbitration, and explore practical approaches to mitigating legal and reputational risks.

THE INAUGURAL MASTERCLASS ON ADJUDICATION 2024

On 7th June 2024, the AIAC together with the Society of Construction Law (SCL) Malaysia jointly organised the Inaugural Masterclass on Adjudication 2024, which featured a distinguished line-up of speakers, including members of the judiciary and leading ADR experts in the construction industry. The event commenced with three panel discussions

that explored key areas of the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA 2012), examining its challenges and engaging a jurisdictional analysis of the technical aspects of various adjudication regimes. The final session featured a debate on the interpretation of certain provisions under CIPAA 2012.



DOMESTIC (JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH LAW FIRMS)

A BRIDGE TO A MORE EFFECTIVE ARBITRATION PROCESS IN 2024 – AIAC ARBITRATION RULES 2023



On 4th January 2024, the AIAC co-organised with Shearn Delamore & Co., this thought-provoking seminar entitled, “A Bridge to a More Effective Arbitration Process in 2024 – AIAC Arbitration Rules 2023” at the AIAC. The first session provided an overview of the AIAC’s Fast Track Procedure, discussing how it aims to achieve optimal outcomes with minimal

costs. The second session explored the key features of the AIAC Arbitration Rules 2023, offering attendees a detailed look at the evolving landscape of arbitration. The Seminar concluded with a tour at *Bangunan Sulaiman*, allowing participants to explore one of Malaysia’s most iconic structures and its facilities.

MAKING MALAYSIA AN ARBITRATION POWERHOUSE

On 11th January 2024, the AIAC organised in collaboration with Messrs. Lim Chee Wee Partnership, this fireside chat entitled, “Making Malaysia an Arbitration Powerhouse”. This event offered valuable insight into Malaysia’s potential rise into an arbitration hub in the region. The learned speakers delved into the remarkable

features of the AIAC Arbitration Rules 2023 and the framework of the Malaysian Arbitration Act 2005. In addition, the seminar highlighted Malaysia’s favourable stance towards arbitration as reflected by the government agencies and the local courts.



FRAUD CLAIMS IN COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION: AN ENGLISH LAW & MALAYSIAN LAW PERSPECTIVE



On 30th April 2024, the AIAC hosted "*Fraud Claims In Commercial Arbitration: An English Law and Malaysian Law Perspective*", in collaboration with Messrs. Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership and 2 King's Bench Walk. Held at *Bangunan Sulaiman*, the event attracted a diverse group of experts and professionals from the ADR industry for a rich discussion on fraud claims in arbitration. The event began with the distinguished panel's discussion

navigating on hypothetical fraud scenarios in international arbitration and examining circumstances under which an arbitration award may be set aside due to fraud. The discussion continued by delving into the implications of enforcing foreign awards in light of fraud claims, highlighting the benefits of arbitration in fraud cases from a global perspective and offering strategies to mitigate fraud risks in arbitration proceedings.

TAX & ARBITRATION: UNDERSTANDING DISPUTES IN RELATION TO TAX WARRANTIES AND INDEMNITIES



The AIAC, Messrs. Rajah and Tann Asia and Messrs. Rosli Dahlan Saravana (RDS) Partnership presented a session on the intricacies of tax and arbitration. It delved

into tax warranties, tax indemnity clauses, as well as the preferred mode of dispute resolution which often involves arbitration.

INNOVATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

On 24th June 2024, a seminar entitled, "*Innovations and Best Practices in International Arbitration*" was co-hosted by Messrs. Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW), Messrs. Chooi & Company and the AIAC, discussing key issues related to international arbitration.

Areas highlighted by the panel of speakers, including (i) the critical role of drafting clear and precise arbitration agreements tailored to specific case needs; (ii) strategic approaches to handling jurisdictional challenges early in proceedings, drawing insights from the case of *Reliance Infrastructure Ltd v Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd* [2024] SGHC(I); (iii) the importance of customised approaches in choosing

between pleadings and memorials, bifurcation, and filing of fact witness statements in conducting arbitration; (iv) preparation of compelling expert reports for presenting technical evidence convincingly; (v) enforcement of arbitral award, including interim measures to safeguard the parties' interests during arbitration; (vi) grounds for refusal in the

recognition of arbitral awards in Malaysia; and (vii) the impacts of recent decisions, including the decision of the High Court of Malaya in *Elisabeth Regina Maria Gabriele Von Pezold v Republic Of Zimbabwe* [2023] 1 LNS 2382, which was the first International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) award recognised in Malaysia.



CAPACITY-BUILDING AND INBOUND PROGRAMMES

The AIAC also focuses on capacity building through a range of programmes and initiatives designed to cultivate knowledge and develop practical skills in alternative dispute resolution. Throughout the year, we have hosted 4 workshops and 2 competitions. We also welcomed a total of 71 courtesy visits, comprising of 28 visits locally and 43 visits internationally.

WORKSHOPS

AIAC CONTINUING COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT (CCD) WORKSHOP SERIES

Since the inception of the CIPAA 2012, the AIAC has played a vital role in the resolution of payment disputes arising out of construction contracts. In line with CIPA Regulations, the AIAC sets the competency standards and criteria for adjudicators, and further certifies the qualified adjudicators. To support these initiatives, the AIAC conducted two series of the AIAC Continuing Competency Development (CCD) Workshops in the year 2024.

The first session of the CCD Workshop entitled, *“Case Law Updates on Adjudication”* was held on 22nd March 2024. It covered the decisions published by the Malaysian courts in 2023 with a focus on

remarkable cases that further developed CIPAA 2012 jurisprudence and landscape. The speakers also discussed the impacts of these decisions on CIPAA 2012 adjudication proceedings moving forward.

The second session of the CCD Workshop series entitled, *“Understanding Loss and Expense Claims in Adjudication”* was held on 17th May 2024. This workshop addressed different types of claims arising in the adjudication proceedings, focusing on Loss and Expense claims. Further, the workshop featured discussions on case studies and the necessary considerations in analysing and evaluating these claims.



WORKSHOP ON THIRD-PARTY FUNDING LEGISLATION IN MALAYSIA: CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

On 14th May 2024, the AIAC, in collaboration with BHEUU JPM jointly organised a full-day workshop entitled, *“Workshop on Third-Party Funding Legislation in Malaysia: Charting A Path Forward”*. The session saw the participation of experts from across the globe.

The workshop comprised five sessions and commenced with a presentation on the key issues and challenges arising from third-party funding in Malaysia. This provided background to the common law doctrines of champerty and maintenance and its treatment by the courts in Malaysia. The presentation was followed by an insightful discussion on the eligibility, statutory criteria and fiduciary responsibility of a qualified funder which focused on Hong Kong’s experience in regulating third-party funding. The day’s workshop further discussed the importance of a code of ethics and guidelines on the



best practices to cultivate funders’ professional responsibility, exploring various aspects of third-party funding in the context of potential conflicts of interest in arbitration.

The third session related to disclosure, conflict of interest and transparency measures in third-party funding arrangements, examined the existing

framework across different jurisdictions in the United States. This was followed by an examination of the funders’ liability in arbitration proceedings focused on costs, adverse costs and security for costs, as well as the role of oversight and regulatory mechanisms in third-party funding industry.

2024 ADNDRC PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: STEPS FORWARD TO EXPAND ADNDRC IN ASIAN REGION

On 30th May 2024, the AIAC, in collaboration with HKIAC, CIETAC, KIDRC and Korean Internet & Security Agency (KISA), jointly organised the “ADNDRC Practice Development Workshop 2024: Steps Forward to Expand ADNDRC in the Asian Region”.

Held in Korea, the two-day event featured a series of insightful sessions. Topics included

the role of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in domain name dispute resolution, global internet governance and intellectual property interests, ADNDRC’s case management updates from its four offices and the characteristics and differences of Korea’s domain name dispute resolution compared to Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP). The

workshop further explored the comparison of DNDR providers, nefarious uses of domain names, JP-DRP and KR-DRP policies and procedural features, strategies for online brand protection, the role of domain name monitoring, navigating WEB3 domain names and the impact of artificial intelligence on DNDR.

COMPETITIONS

AIAC APAC PRE-MOOT

The AIAC and Asia Pacific Vis Pre-Moot (APVPM) jointly hosted the first edition of the AIAC APAC Pre-Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot). The General Rounds were conducted virtually from 1st February 2024 to 4th February 2024, involving over 150 teams from across the globe. The Elimination Rounds were held in-person at *Bangunan Sulaiman* in Kuala Lumpur from

6th March 2024 to 8th March 2024. 40 teams participated in the Elimination Rounds after qualifying in the General Rounds, with the team from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad emerging as the Champion for the AIAC APAC Pre-Moot.



7TH INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION 2024



The AIAC co-hosted a mediation competition with the University of Law Moorgate Campus entitled, “*Mediate Wise*”, from 30th September 2024 to 6th October 2024. This collaboration underscores the AIAC’s initiatives in capacity-building and our commitment to nurturing young talents in the ADR industry.

COURTESY VISITS

In 2024, the AIAC continued to welcome a steady stream of visits from diverse jurisdictions and professional communities. Delegations from universities, bar associations, arbitration centres, government institutions, law firms and industry organisations both international and local, engaged with the Centre to learn about its services, initiatives, and developments. These visits not only underscored the AIAC's growing regional and global presence but also fostered meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative opportunities that support the advancement of ADR worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL

| Jurisdictions | Organisation |
|---------------|--|
| Brunei | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre Berhad (BDAC) UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMNB) |
| Cambodia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Dispute Resolutions Researchers Association of Cambodia (ADR Researchers) National Commercial Arbitration Centre (NCAC) |
| China | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beijing Dacheng Law Offices Beijing Jingsh Law Firm Zhengzhou Office Beijing Zhongwen Law Firm Chongqing Arbitration Commission Office Foshan Lawyers Association Hainan Lawyer Association HanSheng Law Offices (Shanghai) Hetao International Mediation Centre JiangXi Lawyers Association Kunming Arbitration Commission People's High Court of Zhejiang Province Shanghai Bar Association Shanghai Intellectual Property Tian Tai Law Firm (Beijing) Yingke Law Firm |
| Ghana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Petroleum Authority (NPA) |
| Hong Kong | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hong Kong Delegation - led by the Secretary of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) comprising representatives from the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Bar Association and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) organisations based in Hong Kong |
| Indonesia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADCO Law, Jakarta ALSA Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP) Anggraeni and Partners Dewan Sengketa Indonesia (DSI) Faculty of Law Universitas Padjadjaran |
| India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Council ATC and from Bombay Bar Association Khaitan & Co O.P. Jindal Global University Saveetha School of Law, Chennai |
| Japan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto |
| Pakistan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBA-Alternative Dispute Resolution International Center (IBA - ADRIIC) Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal Law Firm |
| Russia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moscow State University, Russia |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Singapore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clyde & Co Drew Network Asia PDLegal LLC Wong Partnership |
| United Kingdom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 King's Bench Walk Chambers 39 Essex Chambers Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Careers in Arbitration Opus 2 |
| Vietnam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ho Chi Minh City University of Law |

DOMESTIC

| Organisation |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALSA of Advance Tertiary College (ATC) AON Insurance Brokers (M) Sdn Bhd Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) Chambers Lab Cheang & Ariff Department of Quantity Surveying of International Islamic University Department of Quantity Surveying, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and IIUM Legal Aid Club Kelantan State Bar Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill (LHAG) Malaysian Bar PETRONAS Legal Group RDS Partnership Sarawak Energy School of Law of University Wollongong Malaysia, KDU College Shearn Delamore & Co. The Borneo International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (BICAM) The Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (MIArb) Thomas Philip Law Firm Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) UCSI University School of Architecture & Built Environment Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) University of Malaya Law Society Zul Rafique & Partners |



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENTS

The AIAC consistently prioritises the expansion of its regional and global footprint by keeping abreast of key ADR developments and fostering strong collaborations with our strategic partners below. This ongoing commitment to strategic partnerships reflects the Centre's role as a proactive, globally engaged ADR institution.

BANGLADESH

- Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)

BRUNEI

- Brunei Darussalam Network Information Centre Sdn Bhd (BNNIC)

CANADA

- British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre (BCICAC)

CHINA

- Beijing Arbitration Commission (BAC/BIAC)
- China Maritime Arbitration Commission (CMAC)
- China-ASEAN Legal Research Center (CALRC)
- Chongqing Arbitration Commission (CQAC)
- Guangzhou Arbitration Centre (GZAC)
- Hainan Arbitration Commission (HAC)
- Hainan International Arbitration Court (HIAC)
- International Commercial Dispute Prevention and Settlement Organization (ICDPASO)
- Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (SHIAC)
- Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- Shenzhen Fitian International Commercial Mediation Center (HTIMC)
- The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC)
- Xiamen University Law School (XMU-Law)

COLOMBIA

- Bogota Chamber of Commerce Arbitration and Conciliation Centre

CZECH REPUBLIC

- International Arbitration Court in Prague of the Czech Commodity Exchange in Kladno (PRIAC)

EGYPT

- Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA)

FRANCE

- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

HONG KONG

- AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre
- Asia Pacific Vis Pre Moot
- Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre (ADNDRC)
- eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM)
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- South China International Arbitration Center (HK) (SCIAHK)

INDIA

- Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA)
- International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC)

INDONESIA

- BANI Arbitration Center (Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia)
- Indonesia Dispute Board (IDB)

IRAN

- Arbitration Center of Iran Chamber (ACIC)

JAMAICA

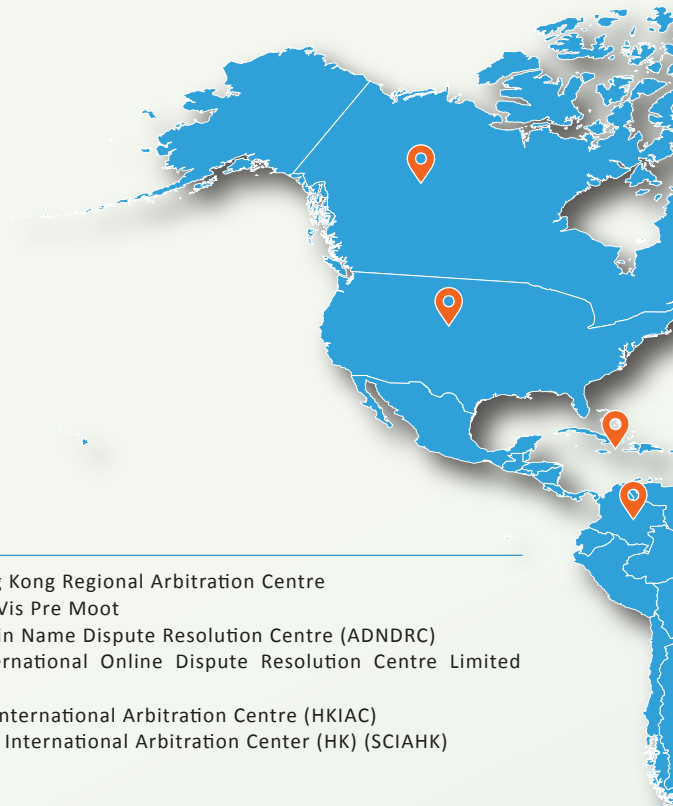
- Faculty of Law, University of West Indies (UWI Mona)
- Mona International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation Limited (MICAM)

JAPAN

- Kobe University

MALAYSIA

- Asian Football Federation (AFC)
- Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM)
- Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM)
- Borneo International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (BICAM)
- International Malaysian Society of Maritime Law (IMSML)
- Inns of Court Malaysia (ICM)
- Labuan Financial Services Authority (Labuan FSA)
- Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (MIArb)
- Securities Industry Dispute Resolution Center (SIDREC)
- University of Malaya (UM)





NEPAL

- Asia Pacific Center for Arbitration and Mediation (APCAM)

PHILIPPINES

- Philippine Dispute Resolution Centre, Inc. (PDRCI)

RUSSIA

- Russian Arbitration Association (RAA)
- Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration (RIMA)

RWANDA

- Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC)

SINGAPORE

- Opus 2

SOUTH KOREA

- Korean Internet Address Dispute Resolution Committee (KIDRC)

SWITZERLAND

- International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS)

THAILAND

- Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC)

TURKEY

- Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre (Tahkeem)

UNITED KINGDOM


- SOAS Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Centre (SADRC)
- University of Law Limited (ULaw)

USA

- International Arbitration Institute of the University of Miami School of Law
- International Centre for Dispute Resolution (the International Division of the American Arbitration Association)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

TOTAL NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS ENTERED IN 2024

In 2024, the AIAC has entered into 16 Memoranda of Understanding or Cooperation Agreements with institutions from across 11 jurisdictions, reflecting the AIAC's strengthened global engagement and its commitment to institutional revitalisation.

| | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| ➤ Asian Football Confederation (AFC) | Malaysia |  |
| ➤ Asia Pacific Center for Arbitration and Mediation (APCAM) | Nepal |  |
| ➤ Borneo International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (BICAM) | Malaysia |  |
| ➤ China Maritime Arbitration Commission (CMAC) | China |  |
| ➤ Chongqing Arbitration Commission (CQAC) | China |  |
| ➤ eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) | Hong Kong SAR |  |
| ➤ Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) | Hong Kong SAR |  |
| ➤ Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) | India |  |
| ➤ Indonesia Dispute Board (IDB) | Indonesia |  |
| ➤ Inns of Court Malaysia (ICM) | Malaysia |  |
| ➤ International Arbitration Court in Prague of the Czech Commodity Exchange Kladno (PRIAC) | Czech Republic |  |
| ➤ Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA) | China |  |
| ➤ Shenzhen Futian Hetao International Commercial Mediation Center (HTIMC) | China |  |
| ➤ South China International Arbitration Center (HK) (SCIAHK) | Hong Kong SAR |  |
| ➤ University of Law Limited (ULaw) | United Kingdom |  |
| ➤ Xiamen University Law School (XMU-Law) | China |  |

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AND EXHIBITION BOOTH IN 2024

The AIAC remains committed to proactively strengthening its engagement with both local and international ADR stakeholders. One of the key speaking engagements in 2024 was the 62nd AALCO Annual Session. Beyond strategic partnerships and speaking engagements, the AIAC continues to broaden its outreach through its official social media platforms including LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram to raise awareness and share key information. The AIAC also expands its visibility and stakeholder interaction by setting up exhibition booths at various events throughout the year.

62ND AALCO ANNUAL SESSION

The 62nd AALCO Annual Session was successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 8th to 13th September 2024. This session gathered over 300 ministers, attorneys-general, ambassadors, international legal experts from across 48 AALCO's member states, and leaders of the six AALCO regional arbitration centres in Malaysia, Nairobi, Lagos, Tehran, Cairo, and Hong Kong SAR.

As the first arbitration centre established under the auspices of AALCO in Asia, the AIAC was invited to present its annual activities report. Mr. Danesh Chandran, Assistant Director of the AIAC, represented the Centre and reported on its key activities, developments, and upcoming institutional initiatives.

This session provided an important platform for the AIAC to outline the significant milestones achieved following the signing of the Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement on 20th February 2024 and the commencement of the Centre's institutional reform initiatives.

In its presentation, the AIAC highlighted key developments, including the establishment of the Board of Directors, the formation of the Protom Committee to the AIAC Court of Arbitration, the growth of caseloads, and the Centre's strengthened collaboration, outreach, and capacity-building initiatives. The delegation also underscored AIAC's expanding regional and international engagement initiatives, reflecting the Centre's commitment to strengthening its institutional framework and service delivery.

Recognising the collective potential of the AALCO regional centres, the AIAC emphasised the importance of deeper cooperation among sister AALCO regional centres. By leveraging the comparative strengths and shared objectives of each centre, the AALCO network can move towards enhanced international visibility and stronger positioning as hubs of excellence in dispute resolution. The AIAC remains committed to supporting these collaborative efforts, with a view to contributing meaningfully to the growth, recognition, and future direction of the global alternative dispute resolution landscape.



EXHIBITION BOOTH

MAJLIS PERASMIAN SAMBUTAN 100 TAHUN JABATAN INSOLVENSİ MALAYSIA

As part of the centennial celebration of the Malaysian Department of Insolvency, the AIAC showcased its role in facilitating efficient dispute resolution processes relevant to insolvency, restructuring, and related fields with a booth setup on 25th July 2024. The event enabled valuable exchanges with government agencies, legal practitioners, and industry players, reinforcing the AIAC's position within the broader justice ecosystem.



THE 17TH WORLD CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS CONVENTION 2024

At this major international business gathering on 9th September 2024, the AIAC had setup a booth and engaged with global Chinese business leaders to highlight Malaysia's growing ADR landscape and the AIAC's competitive offerings. The exhibition booth served as a touchpoint for fostering international networking opportunities and promoting Malaysia as a preferred destination for arbitration and mediation.

MALAYSIA CONSUMER EXPO 2024 @ MUSLIM CULTURE, FOOD & PRODUCTS

The AIAC participated in the Malaysia Consumer Expo 2024 as an exhibitor on 17th December 2024 with booth setup to introduce its services to a diverse consumer participants and to raise awareness about the benefits of ADR in everyday commercial and consumer transactions. The exhibition provided the AIAC with a platform to engage directly with the public, address inquiries, and promote accessible dispute resolution mechanisms.



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

AWARD



The AIAC was honoured to receive the prestigious Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) Excellence Award (Alternative Dispute Resolution) 2024 at the Global Islamic Finance Summit held in September 2024. Since its inception, GIFA has established itself as one of the most respected platforms recognising excellence within the Islamic finance industry. The GIFA Awards Ceremony, held at Villa Nautica in the Republic of Maldives, brought together global leaders in Islamic business and finance. This distinguished accolade recognises AIAC's outstanding achievements in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), particularly through the development and application of its i-Arbitration Rules, which promote Shariah-compliant dispute resolution and contribute meaningfully to the sustainability of Islamic banking and finance within the global financial architecture.



AIAC

ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

AIAC

AIAC'S PRODUCTS

1 AIAC Arbitration Rules 2023 and AIAC i-Arbitration Rules 2023



The 2023 edition of the AIAC Arbitration Rules and i-Arbitration Rules (Rules) represented a significant milestone in the evolution of the AIAC's commitment to providing efficient, transparent and accessible arbitration procedures. These Rules were carefully crafted to align with the UNCITRAL framework, incorporating clear, streamlined provisions designed to reduce ambiguity and enhance the arbitration process for all users.

In 2023, the AIAC took a bold step in optimising the arbitration experience by focusing on simplifying procedures while maintaining fairness. The introduction of key provisions such as the consolidation and joinder mechanisms, third-party funding guidelines as well as the settlement negotiation frameworks effectively opened new doors for parties seeking swift and more accessible resolution of disputes.

With the growing global demand for faster and cost-effective dispute resolution, the revised Rules aimed to meet these expectations by reducing time and costs associated with protracted legal proceedings. Looking forward, the AIAC is currently in the midst of revising its Rules, with the new AIAC Suite of Rules 2026 set to take effect on 1st January 2026.

2 Asian Sports Arbitration Rules



In 2024, the AIAC continued its commitment to advancing ADR in the sports sector, building on years of organising capacity-building initiatives that aimed at promoting the resolution of sports-related disputes. These efforts culminated in the introduction of the Asian Sports Arbitration Rules (Sports Rules), which came into effect on 6th October 2023.

Designed to provide a neutral and independent platform for resolving disputes within the sports community - spanning athletes, teams, federations, agents and other stakeholders - the Sports Rules address the unique complexities of the sports world. These Sport Rules offer two distinct procedures: the general procedure and the special procedure outlined in Appendix II.

The general procedure is intended for a broad range of sports-related disputes, encompassing both financial and non-financial aspects tied to the performance, development and management of sport. The special procedure, detailed in Appendix II, specifically addresses disputes related to athlete selection and eligibility, providing a tailored approach to resolving these critical issues. The AIAC's facilities and services, including the availability of a Special Panel, further support the effective resolution of disputes, reinforcing the AIAC's role as a leading institution in sports arbitration.

3 AIAC Mediation Rules 2023



The AIAC Mediation Rules 2023 provide a clear and efficient framework for every stage of the mediation process from the commencement of proceedings and the appointment of the mediator, to the conduct of the mediation and the final settlement of disputes. These rules empower both parties and mediators to customise the process, ensuring a more effective and flexible approach to dispute resolution. With the growing demand for mediation in the market, it is anticipated that the AIAC Mediation Rules 2023 will see an increased usage and reference in international dispute resolution.

4 AIAC Adjudication Rules & Procedure



The Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA 2012) provides a statutory mechanism for swift resolution of payment disputes in the construction industry. Since its enforcement on 15th April 2014, the CIPAA 2012 has been pivotal in facilitating efficient dispute resolution for cash flow disputes in the construction industry.

In line with its role as the default appointing and administrative authority under Sections 32 and 33 of the CIPAA 2012, the AIAC has developed the AIAC Adjudication Rules and Procedures. These rules and procedures serve to streamline the adjudication process, ensuring smooth and effective implementation. Additionally, to support stakeholders and enhance understanding of the CIPAA 2012 adjudication framework, the AIAC regularly issues circulars and organises the CCD Workshop series and the annual CIPAA 2012 Conference, offering valuable insights and updates to those involved in the construction sector.

5 AIAC Guide to Domain Name Dispute Resolution



The AIAC provides a wide range of services related to domain name disputes. In addition to administering cases under the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP), the AIAC is also the exclusive provider of dispute resolution services under the Malaysian Network Information Centre's Berhad (MYNIC) policy, specifically for '.my' domain names.

The AIAC's comprehensive Guide to Domain Name Dispute Resolution outlines key information on policies, rules, procedures, timelines and stages for both UDRP processes as well as the details on MYNIC's Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (MYDRP).

6 AIAC's Standard Form of Building Contracts



The AIAC's Standard Form of Building Contracts (SFCs) is a set of standardised contracts designed to meet the needs of the construction industry. Notably, the AIAC's SFCs is Malaysia's first ever CIPAA 2012-compliant building contracts, featuring various mechanisms to facilitate the resolution of disputes and deadlocks, including the use of mediation.

Recognising the increase of construction disputes and varied nature of construction contracts, the AIAC identified an imperative need for introducing dispute avoidance mechanism. In response, the AIAC initiated efforts to develop the SFCs, a pioneering set of contracts specifically designed to proactively avoid disputes.

When disputes are unavoidable, the AIAC's SFCs offer a range of customised alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Focusing on the continuation of construction work and minimising delays, the SFCs incorporate provisions that actively encourage parties to proceed with construction projects even amidst ongoing disputes.

The AIAC's SFCs are accessible for free. Interested users may download the AIAC's SFCs at <https://sfc.aiac.world>.

7 AIAC's Islamic Standard Form of Building Contract



On 18th January 2024, the AIAC launched its Islamic Standard Form of Building Contract (i-SFC) 2024. The i-SFC 2024 serves as one of the AIAC's initiatives to form a dispute avoidance and prevention product that caters to the demands of those looking for Shariah-compliant construction contracts internationally and domestically. It is a reflection of the AIAC's commitment to ethical, equitable and sustainable growth in the construction industry, guided by the enduring principles of Shariah. The i-SFC 2024 is based on the *Istisna'* contract and is in line with the relevant guidelines of Bank Negara Malaysia & Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI).

8 AIAC's Standard Forms – Software Development Contract



The AIAC's Standard Forms – Software Development Contract (SFs-SDC) is designed to address the dynamic demands of the rapidly expanding technological industry. Drafted by the AIAC's Technology Expert Committee (TEC), the SFs-SDC serves as an all-encompassing template for stakeholders within the technological industry.

This standardised form contract not only incorporates the industry's best practices but it is meticulously drafted to ensure a well-managed and balanced distribution of rights and obligations amongst contracting parties. Where disputes are inevitable, the SFs-SDC offers a wide range of tailor-made alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to assist the parties.

The SFs-SDC can be assessed for free at <https://sfc.aiac.world>.

9 AIAC Virtual Arbitration Proceedings Protocol And Virtual Mediation Proceedings



On 25th October 2021, the AIAC released its AIAC Virtual Arbitration Proceedings (VAP) Protocol and Virtual Mediation Proceedings (VMP) Protocol.

These Protocols are designed to regulate the conduct of virtual hearings by offering detailed guidance on the processes and procedures of virtual hearings. The Protocols are divided into two parts with Part I specifying the provisions intended to regulate the conduct of virtual hearings while Part II contains a guide to Protocol. Additionally, the VMP Protocol also includes a flowchart that may be a useful guide for parties and mediators in conducting virtual mediation proceedings.

The VAP and VMP Protocols may be adopted in whole or in part to govern the conduct of virtual hearings. The parties and the arbitral tribunal or the mediator may also vary or use the Protocols as a guideline in developing their own procedures based on their respective needs.

10 Recommended Good Practices



The AIAC has introduced a set of recommended good practices to guide appointed adjudicators, arbitrators and mediators in conducting Adjudication, Arbitration and Mediation proceedings respectively. These non-exhaustive recommendations are intended to guide and assist adjudicators, arbitrators and mediators by providing a streamlined guide and practical references of the institutional and international best practices.

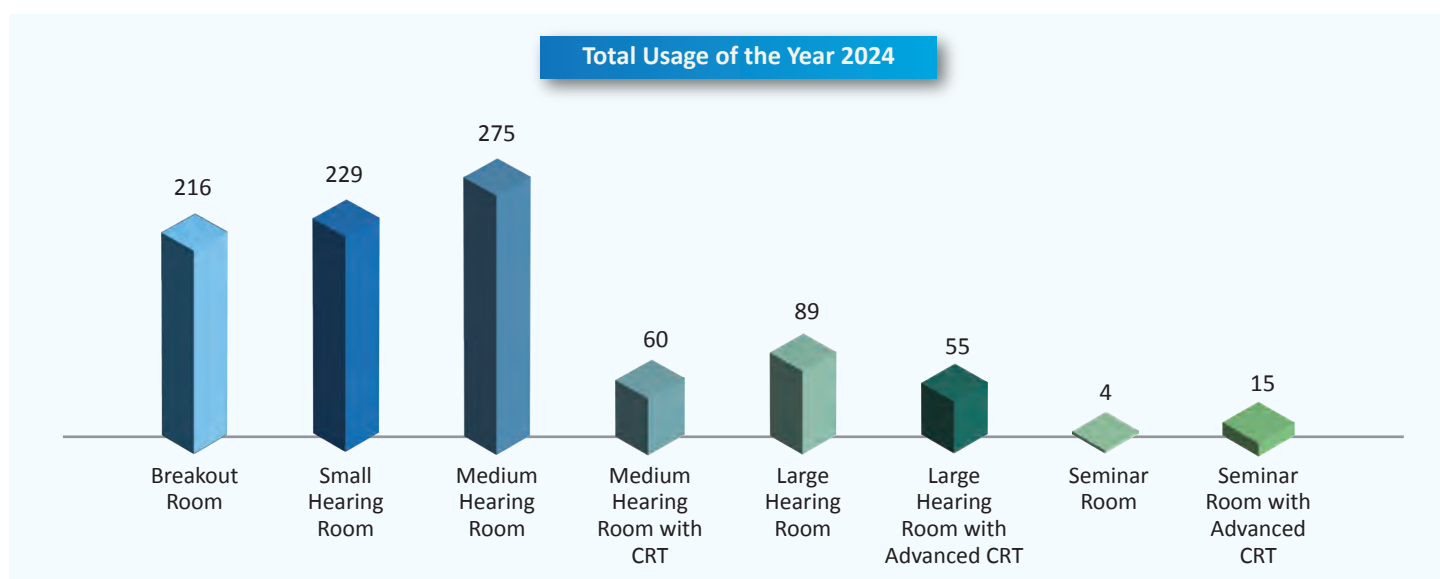
AIAC'S FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The AIAC has established itself as a globally recognised institution for providing ADR services, earning a stellar reputation for its outstanding products, services and facilities. This recognition stems from its dedication to providing top-tier administrative and technical support, ensuring smooth and efficient conduct of ADR processes. Located in the vibrant heart of Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle within *Bangunan Sulaiman*, the AIAC stands as a prominent arbitration hub in Asia.

The Centre features cutting-edge facilities, including a wide range of

hearing rooms, an auditorium, a well-equipped library and a dining area. Surrounded by lush greenery and a serene koi fish pond, these spaces create an ideal environment for focused discussions and conduct of legal proceedings. The AIAC's commitment to excellence goes beyond merely offering physical spaces, we offer comprehensive booking services to ensure efficient scheduling and coordination, crucial for the smooth execution of legal processes.

The total number of hearing room booking for the fiscal year from January to December 2024 is 943.



AIAC'S FACILITIES

The AIAC offers a diverse range of hearing rooms in various sizes, designed to accommodate different expectations and needs. These rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities such as high-quality audio-visual systems, breakout spaces and interpretation services.

Apart from the Hearing and Breakout rooms, the AIAC also provides an ideal setting for large-scale events. Our large capacity venues include two Seminar Rooms with capacity up to 100 pax as well as our theatre-style auditorium which caters up to 240 pax. We offer a fully managed auditorium service, with dedicated staff handling AV mixers, lighting, video queuing and other technical needs for seamless events equipped with large HD LED screens, microphones, speakers and lighting systems.

| Hearing Room Size | Capacity | Number of Rooms |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Small | 10 | 6 |
| Medium | 14 | 10 |
| Large | 22 | 3 |
| Extra-Large | 50 | 2 |

| Breakout Room Size | Capacity | Number of Rooms |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Small | 4 | 7 |
| Medium | 8 | 5 |

The AIAC's rental rates include comprehensive packages such as:



High-speed internet access



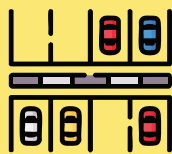
Exclusive lounge access for arbitrators



Audio-visual and technical support from dedicated specialised professionals



Security for all premises, including guard patrol and individually secured rooms



Free-of-charge parking



Complimentary (for hearings): coffee, tea, snacks and drinking water



Complimentary electric vehicle (EV) charging stations

AIAC'S SERVICES

► State-of-the-Art Equipment

The AIAC offers video-conferencing, projection, interpretation, recording, sound and webcasting equipment.



► CRT System: Ultra-modern Court Recording & Transcription System (CRT)

AIAC offers comprehensive Advance CRT Setups which come inclusive with Video Conferencing (VC) and Call Conferencing functionalities. The Advanced CRT systems are built-in within specialised Hearing Rooms.



► Event Management

At the AIAC, we have a team of specialised professionals focusing on in-person, hybrid and virtual events. We also offer logistical assistance including coordination with 3rd party vendors.



► Printing, Photocopying and Scanning Services

The AIAC offers printing and photocopying services as part of its ancillary administrative support for tribunals and on-site activities. These services are available at the AIAC ADR-specialised library and the Business Centre (Reception).





Auditorium | 180 pax



Arbitrators' Lounge



Seminar Rooms | 50-80 pax



ADR-Specialised Library | 70 pax



Outdoor Cafe



Hearing Rooms | 6-25 pax

FUNDHOLDING SERVICES

The AIAC also offers *ad hoc* fundholding services for all types of ADR processes including arbitration, mediation and domain name disputes. This service extend to matters that are not administered by the AIAC.

In this respect, the AIAC has developed a standardised agreement to assist the arbitral tribunal and the parties to enter into a fundholding scheme at the outset of proceedings or at any time during the proceedings.



The AIAC fundholding services encompass the following key features:

2



The annual fee is RM2,800.00 or USD800.00.

4



Funds are collected upon the request of the arbitral tribunal or the parties (where relevant).

1



Funds can be held in Ringgit Malaysia and United States Dollars.

3



All funds are placed in a dedicated account.

5



The AIAC confirms all deposits to the arbitral tribunal and the parties.

Withholding tax is not applicable to the payment (being the release of fund deposited) made by the AIAC which the AIAC holds as a stakeholder, to foreign arbitrators or parties.

The rates for the AIAC's rental and services are as follows:

| | SEATING CAPACITY | WEEKDAY (9.00 A.M. - 5.00 P.M.) | | WEEKEND (9.00 A.M. - 5.00 P.M.) | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | | Fullday (MYR) | Halfday (MYR) | Fullday (MYR) | Halfday (MYR) |
| Extra Large Hearing Room | 50 | 3,680 | 2,300 | 5,865 | 3,680 |
| Hearing Room with Advanced CRT** | 50 | 4,530 | 3,265 | 6,715 | 5,600 |
| Theater (Seminar Room) | 100 | 2,530 | N/A | 4,000 | N/A |
| Classroom / U-shape | 30 | 2,530 | N/A | 4,000 | N/A |
| Large Hearing Room | 14 | 1,265 | 750 | 1,955 | 1,265 |
| with Advanced CRT** | | 3,265 | 2,750 | 3,955 | 3,265 |
| with CRT** | | 3,105 | 2,645 | 3,795 | 3,105 |
| Medium Hearing Room | | 920 | 575 | 1,380 | 920 |
| with CRT** | | 2,530 | 2,185 | 2,990 | 2,530 |
| Small Hearing Room | 8 - 10 | 500 | 350 | 810 | 500 |
| Breakout Room | 6 | 180 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Breakout Room | 4 | 150 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Auditorium | 200 | 3,800 | N/A | 4,900 | N/A |
| Private Dining | | | | | |
| Theater | 50 | 1,500 | N/A | 2,250 | N/A |
| Dining | 50 | 650 | N/A | 1,100 | N/A |
| Arbitrators' Lounge | 80 | 650 | N/A | 1,100 | N/A |
| Pavilion Foyer (Outdoor) | - | 1,500 | N/A | 2,250 | N/A |
| Outdoor Cafe | 100 | 1,200 | N/A | 1,600 | N/A |

Subject to revision by the AIAC from time to time

*Rental rates shall be subject to any or all applicable tax as may be imposed by the Government, and any applicable AIAC management support fees

**Court Recording & Transcription System

ONGOING AND FUTURE PLANS

AIAC SUITE OF RULES

In line with the institutional reform initiatives currently being undertaken, the AIAC is gearing up to launch its new Suite of Rules to align with the ongoing reform processes including the establishment of the AIAC Court of Arbitration. The forthcoming Suite of Rules will reflect the functions of the AIAC Court of Arbitration, including the President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration along with refined provisions mirroring the international standards and best practices. This initiative aims to address global needs of the users, thereby positioning the AIAC as a premier arbitral institution on par with other leading arbitral institutions around the world.

AIAC SPORTS

AIAC Sports embraces a wide array of ADR mechanisms in sports. This portfolio is focused on initiatives to market and expand the reach of the Asian Sports Arbitration Rules globally, wherein the AIAC is committed to promote accessible dispute resolution and dispute avoidance products for sports-related disputes cost-effectively. Our core mission includes prioritising capacity-building initiatives to enhance awareness of contemporary sports-related issues and developments.

DNDR/ADNDRC

The Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre (ADNDRC) was formed to provide dispute resolution services relating to disputed generic top-level domain names (gTLDs). ADNDRC is one of only four dispute resolution service providers in the world and the first and only one located in Asia, to offer dispute resolution services in relation to gTLDs. The ADNDRC (Kuala Lumpur Office) is operated and managed by the AIAC since

October 2009. This domain name portfolio is a specialised marketing portfolio as part of our effort to increase awareness and the number of domain name cases administered by the AIAC. Currently, the legal team is in the midst of updating the AIAC's Guide to Domain Name Dispute Resolution.

MEDIATION ACT

This portfolio is focused on the reform of the Malaysian Mediation Act in line with the Singapore Convention, working together with the government and other stakeholders towards the ratification of this international instrument. The AIAC is also significantly involved in this reform initiative through its substantive contributions as a member of the working-level Committee.

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

By developing an integrated case management system (CMS), the AIAC's ADR Pathway aims to enhance the efficiency of our case management system and existing user support by providing a centralised online platform for case management resources, AI-powered research and assistance. With the robust AI integration in place, such centralisation of data will expedite data retrieval and enhance administrative efficiency.

NEWSLETTER

The AIAC Newsletter is published incorporating articles and write-ups on events organised by the AIAC contributed by external contributors.

ADR JOURNAL

The AIAC ADR Journal is an AIAC's initiative to provide academic and professional insights on updates, trends and developments in arbitration and other forms of ADR. This initiative is undertaken through

article contributions from various experts in the field and reviewed by a panel of peer reviewers. The most recent edition of the Journal was published on 31st December 2024.

AIAC YPG

In line with the AIAC's efforts to support and nurture young talents in ADR, this portfolio focuses on furthering the reach and impact of the AIAC YPG platform in connecting young professionals with the global ADR community. The reinvigorated YPG is aspired to serve as a vital supporting arm of the AIAC, particularly to market the Centre's works and products, promote capacity-building and outreach initiatives across the region and globally.

AALCO ANNUAL ARBITRATION FORUM 2025

Inspired by the spirit of AALCO, the AALCO Annual Arbitration Forum unites thought leaders and practitioners from Asia and Africa to engage in transformative dialogues aimed at shaping a resilient future for ADR across the region. Partnering with the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department and AALCO, the AIAC proudly hosted Forum on 20th and 21st February 2025, which offered an inclusive space for in-depth discussions, examining the latest trends, opportunities and challenges in ADR. The Forum further explored on how regional solidarity and alliance, through the sharing of best practices and innovative solutions, can drive significant empowerment in building a robust ADR framework that meets contemporary global developments.

EVENING TALK AND GUEST LECTURE SERIES

This portfolio focuses on planning and organising talks and discussions in the form of Evening Talks, as well as Guest Lectures

with eminent professionals from all around the world throughout the year. The inaugural Guest Lecture Series was officiated by Professor Emilia Onyema, Director of the SOAS Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Centre (SADRC) on 13th February 2025, sharing valuable insights on the topic *“Seat of Arbitration at the Crossroad: Sustainability versus Global Appeal”*.

ARBITRATION-IN-PRACTICE (AIP)

The AIP Workshop series is aimed at providing practical and professional development training to accredited arbitrators, through conducting workshops in the form of panel discussions. The sessions encompass a wide range of topics, amongst others,

examination of witnesses, conduct of hearings and drafting of arbitral awards.

CONTINUING COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

The CCD Workshop Series is aimed to be interactive and informative for relevant stakeholders who regularly appear and participate in proceedings conducted under the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012. The focused topics of the CCD Workshop Series were selected with the aim of finessing the ability of AIAC-empanelled adjudicators to deal with technical, procedural and substantive matters as well as drafting enforceable decisions.

ASIA ADR WEEK 2025

The ASIA ADR Week is one of the AIAC’s flagship events which aims to bring together ADR practitioners from across the globe to provide a platform for thought-provoking discussions for the stakeholders on the ever-changing landscape of ADR. This event, composed of various discussions on developments in ADR which centers around a specially-curated overarching theme. Moving forward, the Asia ADR Week is set to become the AIAC’s annual celebration featuring diverse ADR-related themes and discourses. It will continue to serve as a global platform for the ADR community around the world to learn, connect and reconnect.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As the AIAC enters a new era of growth and transformation, we remain unwavering in our commitment to provide world-class ADR services for our users on par with other leading arbitral institutions from various jurisdictions. A key milestone in our journey is the inauguration of the AIAC Court of Arbitration, a pivotal step toward enhancing good governance while upholding the principles of integrity, transparency and impartiality in its decision-making processes. These institutional reforms efforts aim to bring forth fundamental checks and balance mechanism, independence and impartiality, transparency and accountability, and the separation of authority within the AIAC framework. Aspired by the Government of Malaysia and AALCO, this restructuring initiative is envisioned to elevate global trust and confidence in the AIAC.

In conjunction with the establishment of the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration, the Centre has undertaken a comprehensive revision of its Suite of Rules. These revisions are designed to reflect the structural reforms to align the Rules with international best practices adopted in other jurisdictions, including the UNCITRAL Model Law.

Looking to the future, the AIAC is focused on significant expansion, both within the Asian region and beyond. The establishment of the AIAC's branch office in Sarawak this year will mark another significant milestone achieved in light of this institutional reform initiative. As part of our strategic vision, we are continuing to engage in dialogues and foster partnerships with institutions across the globe, as well as engaging in targeted marketing for key regions. By doing so, we aim to extend our reach and ensure that the AIAC continues to be a preferred choice for dispute resolution across borders.

In the last 12 months, the AIAC had actively organised and co-organised over 25 domestic and international events, aimed at spreading ADR knowledge as well as fostering cooperation and collaboration with various stakeholders. Rest assured, the AIAC will continue to invest in capacity-building initiatives to create and contribute to building a robust ecosystem where best practices are shared, expertise is cultivated and the profession continues to evolve in line with global trends.

With a proud pedigree of 47 years, the AIAC is steadily approaching its golden jubilee, an important milestone that reflects not only its enduring legacy but also the trust and confidence placed in it by the international community. As we look ahead, the element of internationalisation remains central to our growth strategy. The AIAC will continue to engage actively and work closely with all stakeholders, locally, regionally, and globally to enhance its service offerings and promote best practices. Strategic partnerships - both new and existing, will play a critical role in driving innovation and thought leadership across the ADR landscape. The AIAC is also committed to harnessing cutting-edge technologies and developing forward-looking initiatives that respond to the evolving challenges of international arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution. Through all these initiatives and commitments, the AIAC is well-positioned to further solidify its standing as a global leader in international arbitration and ADR processes while Malaysia is poised to emerge as a key hub for ADR and a safe, neutral seat for international arbitration.





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