



THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS

President's Message AGM 2018

Dear Members,

The Council's main aim and priority over the past 12 months has been to raise and enhance the status and value of the MIArb membership.

To achieve this goal, the Council's focus and mission over the past year has been to provide new and existing members with a platform and the tools to become successful or even more successful ADR practitioners by offering-

- a recognised and affordable gateway into the ADR profession.
- greater career opportunities, through qualifications that are credible and recognisable.
- effective and inexpensive opportunities for learning and education.
- regular social and networking opportunities.

The Council has also worked hard to raise and enhance the standing and profile of the Institute within Malaysia and internationally. Within Malaysia, the Council has sought to achieve this goal through partnerships and regular collaborations with the Malaysian Judiciary, the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), industry bodies such as Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) and professional bodies such as the Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Persatuan Akitik Malaysia (PAM) and Royal Institute of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), as well as institutions of higher learning such as Universiti Malaya (UM) and Brickfields Asia College (BAC). Whereas internationally, the Council has sought to achieve this goal through regional groupings and collaborations such as the Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF), in which the Institute plays a key and leading role.

Overall, it has been an eventful year for the Institute with the main highlights being:-

- 1) Launch of the MIArb Debate Series in honour of Mr. Jonathan Yoon, a former Deputy President and committed supporter of the Institute, as well as a wonderful friend and human being. The inaugural debate was held on 25 October 2017 between Dato' Varghese George (retired Judge of the Court of Appeal) and Mr. Mohanadass Kanagasabai (Past President of MIARB) on the topic "*This House Believes that the scope to challenge a domestic arbitration award under the Arbitration Act 2005 is too narrow at present*".

- 2) Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum Conference which was held on 14th October 2017 in Hong Kong at the Grand Hyatt, Hong Kong.
- 3) Year-end networking party held on 15 December 2017 at the AIAC, which was attended by approximately 30 guests including the Honourable Justice Dato' Lee Swee Seng, representatives from the AIAC (then KLRCA), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, IEM, MBAM and the RISM, as well as former MIArb Presidents, Office Bearers and Council Members.
- 4) Courtesy visit to IEM which was held on 2 January 2018.
- 5) Courtesy visit to RISM which was held on 11 January 2018
- 6) Courtesy visit to PAM which was held on 23 January 2018.
- 7) Inaugural National Arbitration Conference held on 8 February 2018 at the AIAC with the theme "Future of Arbitration in Malaysia", which was held to raise the level and quality of the debate and discussion on arbitration in Malaysia.
- 8) Membership Upgrade Course which was held on 24 and 25 February 2018.
- 9) Diploma Course in Commercial Arbitration in Collaboration with BAC which was held between July 2017 and June 2018.
- 10) CIDB Conference on "Avoiding Dispute: Lessons from the Past" in collaboration with MBAM, MIARB and RISM which was held on 5 April 2018 at Vistana Hotel, Bukit Jambul in Penang.
- 11) Public Lecture on the "Future of Arbitration in Malaysia" at Universiti Malaya held on April 27, 2018.
- 12) MIArb CPD Seminar Series in collaboration with AIAC, inaugural seminar titled "*The Advantages of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Resolution of Disputes*" which was held on 7 June 2018 and presented by The Honourable Justice Nantha Balan a/l E. S. Moorthy, Judge of the Kuala Lumpur High Court.
- 13) Exclusive MIArb Networking Session held on 7 June 2018 at the AIAC.

In closing, I am happy to report that interest in the Institute and its activities continues to be strong and vibrant both from within and outside of Malaysia. The Institute admitted a total of 5 Fellows (of whom 4 are from overseas), 21 Members and 10 Associates over the past year.

I am also happy to report that the financial health of the Institute remains robust and sustainable.

I wish to acknowledge and thank my predecessors on the Council for their efforts in building a solid foundation for the growth and stability of Institute which is now in its 27th year.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my fellow Council Members and Puan Raja Junaidah from the Secretariat for all their hard work and commitment in making the 2017/2018 term a successful one for the Institute, and to all our members for their continued support.

With all good wishes,



SUDHAR THILLAINATHAN

President

(2017 – 2019)