

IPBA ASIA-PAC ARBITRATION DAY

| 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 | KUALA LUMPUR |

The IPBA's Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee successfully organised the Inaugural IPBA ASIA-PAC Arbitration Day in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 September 2015. This signature initiative of the Committee's Co Chairs Ms Juliet Blanch and Mr. Mohan Pillay was jointly hosted by the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) and was held at the KLRCA's new premises at Sulaiman Building, Kuala Lumpur.

Following the welcome Address by the Organising Chair of the IPBA ASIA-PAC Arbitration Day, Mr. Mohanadass Kanagasabai of Messrs Mohanadass Partnership, Kuala Lumpur; the conference was officially opened by the Director of KLRCA, Datuk Professor Sundra Rajoo. The Right Honourable Lord Justice Sir Jack Beatson, Lord Justice of Appeal, England & Wales delivered the Keynote Address entitled "Public Policy Considerations on Conflict of Law in International Arbitration."



Building on the Keynote Speech, the focus of the first session of the conference was the topic "The Application of Conflict of Laws Rules in Arbitral Disputes". The session was moderated by Mr. Mohan Pillay, Pinsent Masons MPillay, Singapore and Co-Chair of the Dispute Resolution & Arbitration Committee of IPBA. Distinguished practitioners and academicians from the region made up the first panel namely, Mr. Christopher To of Messrs Christopher Wing To, Hong Kong, Mr. Chan Leng Sun SC of Baker & McKenzie, Wong & Leow, Singapore, Mr. Lionel Persey QC, of Quadrant Chambers, London and Professor Benjamin Hughes of Seoul University, Korea.



After the morning coffee break, the conference resumed on the hot-button topic of “Costs of Arbitration and Third Party Funding”. The session was moderated by Mr. Kevin Prakash, Mohanadass Partnership, Kuala Lumpur and President of the Malaysian Institute Arbitrators. Panellists were Ms. Tan Ai Leen, Registrar, SIAC, Mr. Richard Keady, Bird & Bird, Hong Kong SAR, Dr. Anton G. Maurer, CMS Hasche Sigle, Germany and Ms. Shanti Mogan, Shearn Delamore, Kuala Lumpur. The session proved to be of great interest to the delegates with many questions from the floor.



The third session on “The Operation of Confidentiality and Privilege in International Arbitration” moderated by Mr. Sivakumar Kanagasabai of SKRINE, Kuala Lumpur, had the participants thinking on their feet and exchanging views on a hypothetical scenario on confidentiality and privilege. The panellists for this session were Mr. Francis Xavier SC, Rajah & Tann, Singapore, Dr. Behnhard Meyer, MME Partners, Zurich, Ms. Marion Smith QC, 39 Essex Chambers, London and Mr. Sudharsanan Thillainathan, Shook Lin & Bok, Kuala Lumpur.



The final session dealt with a niche topic “Multifaceted Contemporary Issues in Maritime Dispute Resolution”. The session was chaired by Judge of the Malaysian Court of Appeal, Her Ladyship Datuk Nallini Pathmanathan. The session proved to be highly interesting to both specialists and general practitioners alike.



Session panellists were Ms. Sitpah Selvaratnam, Tommy Thomas, Kuala Lumpur, Ms. Mary Thomson of Pacific Chambers, Hong Kong SAR and Stone Chambers, London and Mr Oon Thian Seng, Oon Bazul, Singapore.



After lunch, the President Elect of the IPBA, Mr Dhinesh Baskaran gave a brief preview of the upcoming IPBA Annual Conference 2016, Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Mohan Pillay as Co-Chair of the Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee delivered the closing remarks. He highlighted the activities of the committee and the sessions planned for IPBA 2016, Kuala Lumpur. On behalf of the IPBA, he acknowledged KLRCA's key role in making the IPBA Asia-Pac Arbitration Day a success including the smooth and efficient organisation of the whole event and making available its superior facilities at the Sulaiman Building.

The Conference ended in the evening on a high note of great camaraderie with a networking cocktail at the KLRCA Pavillion. Consistent with the character of an IPBA event, delegates came from all over the world including United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Korea and Singapore. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive with everyone looking forward to the next IPBA ASIA-PAC Arbitration Day.

The organisers thank all participants and delegates of the IPBA ASIA-PAC Arbitration Day 2015, and also thank the sponsors; Quadrant Chambers, Mohanadass Partnership and Litigation Funding Consultants Rubicon Capital Ltd.



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ORGANISING CHAIR

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