

New leaders at Young ICCA

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Maria Lokajova and Jim Morrison

Prague-based **Maria Lokajova** and Sydney-based **Jim Morrison** have been named as the new co-chairs of Young ICCA following the group's first leadership election.

The pair will take over for a two year term in January, joining **Tim Foden** of Allen & Overy in London, who became a co-chair earlier this year.

They will replace **Marika Paulsson** and **Lise Bosman**, who launched Young ICCA during the ICCA con-

gress in Rio de Janeiro in 2010. Both have replacement roles, Bosman as ICCA's first executive director and Paulsson as chair of the advisory board of Young ICCA.

Paulsson tells GAR it was felt that Young ICCA members should be able to have a say in their leadership, hence two candidates were put up for each co-chair position ahead of an e-mail vote. She says that Lokajova, of Squire Sanders in Prague, has excelled as a Young ICCA events coordinator this year, while Morrison, of Allens Arthur & Robinson, has recently launched the group's Asia-Pacific desk and participates in the Young ICCA mentoring programme.

"When coming up with the idea of Young ICCA with **Antonio Parra** in 2008, I thought such a group could make a difference," she tells GAR.

"It done so - bridging the gap between law school and law firm and between jurisdictions overpopulated with arbitration firms and jurisdictions where the notion of arbitration has been accepted but the resources needed for practice are yet to arrive".

"Lise and I are confident that our original strong vision for an organisation committed to making space for young lawyers outside the mainstream will be carried forward by the three new co-chairs," Paulsson says. "Young ICCA's motto 'opening the doors' is essential for international arbitration in tomorrow's world".

Since its launch in 2010, Young ICCA has hosted its signature training workshops for young practitioners in Buenos Aires, Geneva, The Hague, Miami, Mauritius, Prague, Seoul, Singapore and Stockholm. This week, it hosted a workshop in Berlin to coincide with the opening of the German Arbitration Institute's new office in the city. A further event will take place in Washington, DC, on 1 November.

It also co-hosts a seminar series with the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the most recent of which saw Canadian arbitrator and ICCA governing board member **Yves Fortier QC** discuss the UN's role as "an agent

of progress” in international law on 19 October . The talk will shortly be available for viewing on the ICCA website.

Young ICCA members have also participated in ICCA’s New York Convention roadshows and are conducting an inquiry into practices surrounding the use of tribunal secretaries in arbitrations, coordinated by **Niuscha Bassiri**, a partner at Hanotiau & Van den Berg in Brussels. A Young ICCA scholarship has been launched for the winner of an annual essay prize, in conjunction with the University of Miami.

The group has “regional desks” dedicated to Africa and the Asia-Pacific and is about to establish one for Europe. A Latin American desk will be launched to coincide with a Young ICCA workshop in Bogotá, Colombia, in February 2013.

The Africa desk is coordinated by Bosman, a South African, and has active members including **Emanuel Dike**, general counsel at the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration in Lagos, Mauritian barrister **Jamsheed Peeroo** and **Ndanga Kamau**, a Kenyan national working at King & Spalding in Houston.

Members of the desk have already created databases of information about arbitration institutions, university programmes and training opportunities in Africa for the Young ICCA website and conducted research into New York Convention-related decisions in African jurisdictions (for presentation at the Mauritius roadshow in May 2012).

Morrison’s Asia-Pacific desk, though not yet as active, is expected to undertake similar projects.

The soon-to-be-launched European desk, meanwhile, will be coordinated by two Geneva-based practitioners: **Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler** associate **Ieva Kalnina** and Lalive partner Noradéle Radjai. One of its first projects will be helping to arrange a New York Convention roadshow in Italy next year.

Young ICCA has over 860 members (including some 760 younger members and 100 more experienced practitioners known as “buddies”).