

In August this year, we wrote about the increasing popularity of arbitration as a means of resolving transnational disputes in "[Arbitration Centres Ride BRI Wave](#)". We were also in attendance at the recent SIAC-CIETAC Beijing Conference on Effective Resolution of Belt & Road Disputes, where one of Asia's largest dispute resolution bodies strengthened ties with key Chinese institutions as a means of promoting training and collaboration in this area.

China is the second most significant caseload contributor to Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), with disputes arising from a wide range of sectors, including:

- Disputes related to international trade
- Commercial dispute
- Maritime/shipping disputes

Earlier this month, we attended the inaugural SIAC-CIETAC Beijing Conference on Effective Resolution of Belt & Road Disputes. At the Beijing Conference, SIAC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)¹ with the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC). This signing is representative of the two institutions looking to promote international arbitration as the preferred method of dispute resolution for resolving international disputes.

Under the MOU, SIAC and CIETAC will set up a joint working group to discuss SIAC's proposed Cross-Institution Consolidation Protocol. SIAC and CIETAC will also work together to jointly promote international arbitration as a means of servicing the needs of businesses. The institutions will also co-organise conferences, seminars and workshops on international arbitration in China and Singapore.

CIETAC Vice-Chairman and Secretary-General Wang Chengjie said it will work closely with SIAC "to extend our outreach efforts to existing and potential users of international arbitration in China and Belt and Road economies."

Singapore's reputation as a global arbitration hub then received a further boost, with the signing of a second MOU with Peking University (PKU) Law School. SIAC's MOU with PKU, signed 16 October 2018, will see the parties collaborate in such a way that PKU will even offer a module on "SIAC and Institutional Arbitration", as part of the law school's syllabus. It also commits SIAC to hosting PKU students for internships and joint training workshops.

PKU's Vice-Dean Guo Li, said he looked forward to academics and practitioners from both sides gathering "to share their unique insights and perspectives on international arbitration."

Singapore Institute of Arbitrators President Dinesh Dhillon added: "Such institutional cooperation is vital to the effectiveness of arbitration as a means of international dispute resolution."

Due to the increasing demand for arbitral administration services, as a result of projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative, we expect to see similar agreements struck between key arbitral bodies in the region. We will continue to monitor this evolving trend with interest.

Contacts

Greg Steinepreis

Partner, Perth
T +61 8 9429 7505
E greg.steinepreis@squirepb.com

Tim O'Shannassy

Associate, Perth
T +61 8 9429 7602
E tim.oshannassy@squirepb.com

¹ Signed 12 October 2018.