

# "The Power of Gender Parity: Opportunities and Challenges in International Arbitration"

In 2014, the ICCA Miami Conference gathered to discuss the question: "who are the arbitrators?" The answer from panelists was - "male, pale, and stale". Statistics show that in many jurisdictions, female law students exceed 50%. Yet the number of females who make it to partnership in international law firms drops to 20%. Worse, the figure of female partners in international arbitration practices globally can be as low as 1 out of 10. While the number of females appointed as arbitrators is on the rise, some Asian arbitral institutions are appointing only 10% females or less.

This has prompted the arbitration community to launch a number of initiatives, most notably the Equal Representation in Arbitration (ERA) Pledge in 2015. The ERA Pledge calls for a commitment to increase the number of female arbitrators on an equal opportunity basis, with the ultimate goal of full gender parity.

Arbitral Women and the Thailand Arbitration Center are joining forces for the first time to address the crucial issue of gender equality in international arbitration.

## Panelists:



**Vanina Sucharitkul**

International Arbitrator,  
Senior Lecturer  
'Universite Paris Descartes  
Attorney-at-law (California)  
Director ArbitralWomen



**Noppramart Thammateeradaycho**

Counsel  
Tilleke & Gibbins



**May Tai**

Partner  
International Arbitration  
Managing Partner, Asia  
Herbert Smith Freehills



**Camilla Godman**

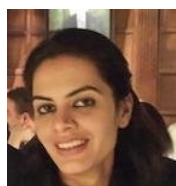
Director of Membership  
Chartered Institute  
of Arbitrators (CI Arb)  
Former Deputy Registrar SIAC



**Tan Swee Im**

International Arbitrator Member  
39 Essex Chambers (Kuala Lumpur)

## Moderator:



**Manini Brar**

Consultant, Dept. of Economic  
Affairs, Ministry of Finance,  
Govt. of India

## Opening remarks:



**Pasit Asawawattanaporn**

THAC Managing Director  
President of APRAG



**Louise Woods**

Partner in Vinson & Elkins'  
London office

## Event details

Time: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. BKT  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. CEST  
Date: 10 September 2020  
Zoom ID: 965 2623 8704

You will hear from a panel of prominent female dispute resolution experts in Asia in an interactive webinar to address a range of topics:

- Why is there a gender imbalance in international arbitration?
- Why should gender equality in international arbitration matter?
- What more can be done to achieve gender parity?
- What can the Asian arbitral community, and the Thai arbitration scene, do to improve gender equality?

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## Supporting Organization:



## Get to know our panelists



**Vanina Sucharitkul**  
International Arbitrator  
Senior Lecturer at  
L'Universite Paris Descartes  
Attorney-at-law (California)  
Director ArbitralWomen

Vanina Sucharitkul specializes in international commercial arbitration and investment arbitration. She has over 15 years' experience advising local and international clients on a diverse range of cross-border disputes in San Francisco, Paris, Bangkok, and Hong Kong. Qualified in California, Vanina Sucharitkul has acted as counsel and advocate in arbitrations across multiple jurisdictions under the auspices of institutions including, amongst others, ICC, HKIAC, SIAC, AAA, and TAI. Vanina Sucharitkul has served as Thailand's Court Member to the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce since July 2012 and is currently sitting as arbitrator. She is director of ArbitralWomen and maintains leadership positions in a number of organizations.



**May Tai**  
Partner  
International Arbitration  
Managing Partner, Asia  
Herbert Smith Freehills

May Tai specialises in all types of cross-border China-related international arbitration. She is based in Hong Kong but also spends time in Herbert Smith Freehills' Shanghai and Beijing offices. She has previously practised in Herbert Smith Freehills' London, Singapore and Tokyo offices.

In her cases, May has advised governments, government owned-entities and commercial clients. Her practice covers a wide range of commercial and regulatory issues including shareholder disputes, joint venture disputes as well as investment arbitrations. She has acted as counsel and advocate in arbitrations under various rules (ICC, HKIAC, SIAC, CIETAC, LCIA, ICSID, SCC arbitration and *ad hoc* arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules) and court proceedings.

May has also acted as arbitrator and/or emergency arbitrator in ICC, HKIAC and SIAC proceedings. She was the China representative to the Regional Coordinating Committee for ICC YAF from 2010 to 2013 and CEDR accredited mediator since 2014.

May speaks fluent English, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and Bahasa (Malaysia and Indonesia).



**Noppramart  
Thammateeradaycho**  
Counsel  
Tilleke & Gibbins

Noppramart is one of Thailand's most well-regarded transportation and shipping industry lawyers, with over 20 years' experience in international litigation and arbitration. Noppramart is engaged in trial and appellate advocacy at all levels of the Thai courts. Noppramart has also represented clients in many international arbitration cases in Thailand and other Asian countries, including Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. She has handled many cases as counsel under the rules of the ICC, SIAC, HKIAC, Indonesian National Arbitration Institute (BANI), NCAC (Cambodia), Thai Arbitration Institute (TAI) and Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC), as well as UNCITRAL and **GAFTA** rules. Her general practice covers various industries, including construction, insurance and reinsurance, telecommunication, and media and technology.

Noppramart also has extensive experience in handling complex maritime litigation, including marine casualties, collision, fire, salvage, towage, oil pollution, ship building and repair, enforcement of ship mortgage, wet and dry cargo, and marine insurance matters. She has successfully handled a number of several ship arrests and releases, and is regularly relied upon by international shipping industry clients for her ability to provide quick, practical, effective solutions in urgent situations.

## Get to know our panelists



### Camilla Godman

Director of Membership for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb)

Camilla is a disputes lawyer, arbitrator and is currently Director of Membership for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb). Before establishing CI Arb's APAC Office (CI Arb's first office outside UK), she was a senior associate in the Ashurst disputes team until 2012 and then Deputy Registrar at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

Camilla has extensive experience in international arbitration, multi-forum litigation and mediation. She is on the SIAC panel. In addition to general commercial disputes, Camilla's arbitration experience includes: joint venture & shareholder disputes, energy, construction and infrastructure disputes, sale & purchase agreements and international trade. Camilla has advised under ICC, UNCITRAL, SIAC and LCIA Rules as well as ad hoc arbitrations. Camilla has acted for parties in various jurisdictions including Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, China, Australia, Middle East and Europe. Camilla regularly teaches CI Arb's international arbitration courses and has written many articles and guides to arbitration.

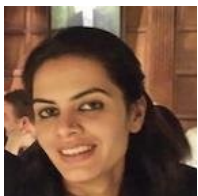
At CI Arb, Camilla is responsible for overseeing the strategic development and support of the global membership. Camilla works closely with the active branch network in the delivery of CI Arb services. She seeks to identify new opportunities for CI Arb to strengthen engagement with members and the ADR community. Camilla is committed to the growth of ADR and to its enormous benefits



### Tan Swee Im

International Arbitrator  
Member 39 Essex Chambers  
(Kuala Lumpur)

Tan Swee Im is a Chartered Arbitrator and an international arbitrator member at 39 Essex Chambers, based in their Kuala Lumpur office. Her focus is on the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors with extensive experience ranging from the early procurement strategy stage, to contract drafting, advisory during the project life, through to dispute resolution. She has spent more than 30 years in these sectors in counsel and advisory roles, including having been seconded to the KL International Airport and Malaysia-Singapore Second Crossing projects, been an in-house counsel and founded a boutique legal firm in 1999. She is now a fulltime Arbitrator and Adjudicator and Accredited Mediator. She is a panel arbitrator of AIAC, SIAC, HKIAC, an Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple), FCI Arb, FMI Arb, FAIADR, FCI OB, FMSAdj, FDBF and holds a Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration



### Manini Brar

Consultant, Dept. of  
Economic Affairs, Ministry of  
Finance, Govt. of India

Manini Brar is enrolled as an Advocate in India and a Solicitor of England and Wales, United Kingdom. A Commonwealth Scholar, she has a specialisation in Public International Law from the University of Cambridge (LL.M.).

Manini has been practicing in the areas of commercial law and international arbitration for ten years. She has been a Deputy Counsel with the Secretariat of the ICC Court of Arbitration (Hong Kong), and acted as a Tribunal Secretary and counsel in international commercial arbitrations, together with representing the Government of India in investor-state disputes.

She currently advises the Government on the review / negotiation of international investment and the resolution of investor-state disputes. The Ministry of Finance is a nodal ministry for issues related to international investment law within the Government of India.