

Evolution not Revolution: Investor-State Dispute Settlement reform at UNCITRAL WG III



CI Arb
evolving to resolve

Thursday
22 August 2019
5.30pm – 7.30pm

Clifford Chance
12 Marina Boulevard
Tower 3, #25-00
Marina Bay Financial Centre
018982 Singapore

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As part of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' contributions to the ongoing debate on the future of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), this panel session is being held to explore some of the key issues raised by the deliberations of UNCITRAL Working Group III.

Ahead of the group's next session in Vienna this October, the panel brings together a range of expert perspectives on ISDS reform from academia, legal practice and government.

Programme*

5.30pm Registration

6.00pm Introduction by Lewis Johnston ACI Arb

6.10pm Panel discussion chaired by Romesh Weeramantry

7.15pm Questions

7.30pm Drinks reception

* Please note that this programme may be subject to change

Speakers Bios

Romesh Weeramantry



Romesh Weeramantry is Counsel at Clifford Chance Asia and specialises in complex arbitrations involving cross-border commercial or joint venture disputes and foreign investment treaty claims.

His publications include: The Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance: Commentary and Annotations (2nd edition, Sweet & Maxwell 2015) (General Editor); Treaty Interpretation in Investment Arbitration (Oxford UP 2012); and International Commercial Arbitration: An Asia-Pacific Perspective (Cambridge UP 2011). He is a General Arbitration Editor of the Hong Kong White Book; a General Editor of the Asian Dispute Review, a member of the Editorial Board of the ICSID Review; and a member of the IBA Sub-Committee on Investment Treaty Arbitration.

Romesh is a member of the Clifford Chance Asia Political Change team.

Chin Heng Ong PPA(G)



ONG Chin Heng is Senior State Counsel in the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore, where he has served since 2005. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the National University of Singapore, and subsequently a Master of Laws (majoring in International Legal Studies) from New York University. He is called to the Bar in Singapore and New York.

Chin Heng currently oversees the work of the International Economic Law practice group in his Division. He has handled numerous matters in this area of law, such as negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement and Singapore's FTAs with the European Union, China, the Eurasian Economic Union, and ASEAN; as well as several of Singapore's bilateral investment treaties. He was also counsel in Singapore's intervention as a Third Party before the World Trade Organization for a trade dispute concerning IT products. He continues to be heavily involved in negotiations and advisory work on economic law, as well as in ongoing work at UNCITRAL and ICSID on investment arbitration reforms.

Apart from economic law, Chin Heng has also dealt with other international law matters, including the sovereignty dispute before the International Court of Justice over the island of Pedra Branca, as well as issues concerning maritime security and counter-proliferation.

Nicholas Lingard

The head of Freshfields' international arbitration practice in Asia, Nick is an experienced international arbitration counsel and advocate.

He leads one of the most active treaty arbitration practices in Asia, representing both investors and states, in high-profile, politically complex cases around Asia and the world.



Nick also represents clients in commercial and construction disputes across a variety of industries, under all major arbitral rules, including ICC, SIAC, UNCITRAL, HKIAC, KLRCA, JCAA, AAA and NAI, and under all major systems of law.

He provides public international law advice to government and private clients and accepts occasional appointments as arbitrator.

Nick is recognised as a leading international arbitration practitioner by all the major directories, including as a Band 1 "Leading Individual" for arbitration in Singapore by Legal 500. He was recently named "International Arbitration Lawyer of the Year" at the Asia Legal Awards.

A former law clerk to the Chief Justice of Australia, Nick was educated at the University of Queensland, where he graduated at the top of his class in law and Japanese, and Harvard Law School where he was a Frank Knox Memorial Fellow.

Nick speaks English and Japanese.

Locknie Hsu



Locknie Hsu is a full Professor of Law at the School of Law, Singapore Management University. She received her legal training at the National University of Singapore and Harvard University, and is a member of the Singapore Bar. She has received several teaching awards and in 2017, she was conferred the Outstanding Service Award by the ASEAN Law Association.

Locknie specialises in international trade and investment law, including areas such as e-commerce, free trade agreements and dispute resolution in regional arrangements.

Lewis Johnston ACI Arb



An accomplished policy professional with extensive experience in political engagement and campaigning, Lewis joined the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2018. He has responsibility for the Institute's policy development and influencing strategies across all aspects of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), including international commercial arbitration, civil justice reform, mediation and conflict avoidance. He also oversees the Research team, developing insights and fresh thinking across the discipline and managing the publication of The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management.

Before joining CI Arb Lewis was Parliamentary Affairs Manager at RICS where he led on standards adoption strategies with Government. He obtained an MSc in International Development and Security from the University of Bristol, and prior to the 2010 General Election worked as Campaign Coordinator for the then Minister for Health Mike O'Brien QC.

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