

Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee Justice Judith Prakash and Justice VK Rajah., Fellows and Members of the Institute, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner.

Let me also extend a warm welcome to our overseas guests including Dato' Kevin Woo President of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators, Dr. Hiranto, Vice Chairman of Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia (BANI), Mr. Graham Anstee-Brook Chairman Western Australia Chapter of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators, Australia and Dr Colin Ong, President of the Brunei Arbitration Association who made a special trip to Singapore to join us for this evening's celebration. We are honoured by all of your presence this evening.

I will share with you our Institute's immediate plans and long term goals.

**Immediate term :**

Most of you will know that international arbitration in Singapore is growing at an accelerated pace, helped no doubt by the rapid expansion of trade and commerce between Asia, Europe and the United States and the active cross border transactions.

Indeed, Singapore has become increasingly popular a seat for international commercial arbitrations particularly in disputes involving Chinese and Korean entities.

Our Institute seeks to take advantage of this development. More specifically we intend to assist our members to be appointed as arbitrators for these international arbitrations conducted in Singapore.

We intend to do this by firstly, raising the profile of our members as arbitrators of choice in the international stage. The establishment of our own Panel of Arbitrators which includes prominent English Queen's Counsel and well known international arbitrators from Australia, India and the United States is one way to achieve this. The list of all our Panel Members is given prominence in our Institute's recently revamped web site. We intend to publicize the names in our Panel further in our Newsletters and in future events.

You will have heard that in February 2007, our Institute together with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Maritime Lawyers Association of Singapore will co-host the 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators in Singapore. This is a prestigious international maritime arbitrator's conference which will provide an excellent platform and opportunity for our maritime members to establish international contacts and to publicise their arbitration expertise.

Secondly, our Institute will assist members to be appointed as arbitrators by playing an active role in the nomination process for arbitrators for ICC Arbitrations where the seat of

arbitration is in Singapore. With the recent changes in the ICC Singapore nomination procedure, our Institute was selected as one of the organizations which may nominate arbitrators for such arbitrations.

**Longer term:**

In the longer term, the challenge will be to provide opportunities for our junior and less experienced members to be appointed as arbitrators.

In this regard, we are currently exploring Scheme Arbitrations, i.e. arbitrations on a smaller scale for specific industries such as the travel industry. We are at an exploratory stage, and if the Scheme is implemented, we will be in a position to appoint our members as arbitrators.

Such scheme arbitrations will benefit the specific industry concerned as well as the public as end users. In this way, we will be able to also develop and enlarge our pool of experienced arbitrators.

A Sub-Committee headed by our Immediate Past President Mr. Richard Tan has been formed to study this Scheme in detail and make the necessary recommendations.

Our goal in the long term will be to make our Institute the premier Arbitration Institute in the region and to be recognized for the quality of our Panel Arbitrators in terms of their competence, capability and integrity.

**Training :**

Our training and education of arbitrators is and will continue to be a major part of our mission. We will continue to conduct our International Entry Course and our Fellowship Course as well as to provide basic or introductory arbitration courses for other industries and professions in Singapore such as the Shipping Industry and the Real Estate Industry.

We will also continue to be involved with the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Kings College London in their M Sc (Construction Law and Arbitration/Dispute Resolution) Course and with the NUS in their Graduate Certificate in International Arbitration programme.

**International Links:**

Internationally, we have in the last three years established links through memoranda of co-operation with four arbitral institutes in the region namely Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia, the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators, Australia, the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators and the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators.

In April next year we will be assisting the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators in their adjudication training course. We are also in the process of exploring mutual recognition of memberships with the Arbitrators' And Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc.

In the longer term, we are considering setting up chapters in India and Indonesia as we already have members residing in both these countries.

**Thanks:**

In conclusion, let me thank Mr. Naresh Mahtani the Chairman of the organizing committee and all of the members of the organizing committee in successfully organising this evening's gala event.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for your presence this evening to celebrate our 25 years of existence.

All of us who are members of the Institute can be justifiably proud of our Institute's progress and achievements in the past 25 years.

Thank you.

**Raymond Chan**  
**President**