

Annex C: Singapore's Dispute Resolution Capabilities Development Initiatives

Singapore is one of the leading cross-border dispute resolution centres in the world. Undergirded by a trusted legal system, rule of law, and neutrality, we provide a comprehensive suite of international dispute resolution services to meet different business needs. These include litigation, arbitration and mediation. According to the 2018 International Arbitration Survey conducted by Queen Mary University of London in partnership with White & Case, Singapore is the third most preferred seat of arbitration in the world, and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC") is the third most preferred arbitration institution in the world and the most preferred arbitration institution in Asia.

Singapore provides a comprehensive suite of international commercial dispute resolution services, including IP disputes. We are able to do so by:

1. Supporting the development and growth of Singapore international dispute resolution institutions, such as the SIAC, Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration ("SCMA"), Singapore International Mediation Centre ("SIMC"), and Singapore International Commercial Court ("SICC").
2. Welcoming top international dispute resolution institutions to anchor in Singapore to complement Singapore's offerings. Key international institutions with case management offices in Singapore include the World Intellectual Property Organisation Arbitration and Mediation Center ("WIPO AMC"), which is its first overseas office outside Geneva; the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") International Court of Arbitration; the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA"); and the American Arbitration Association - International Centre for Dispute Resolution ("AAA-ICDR").
3. Having an open regime to practice international commercial arbitration. This promotes party choice and gives parties involved in arbitration in Singapore the freedom to engage lawyers and arbitrators of any nationality and use any governing law. Singapore has also invested in developing international commercial mediation by building up institutions, developing capabilities, and updating our laws.
4. Developing good physical supporting infrastructure that is accessible, high-tech, and purpose built. Singapore regularly enhances our world-class hearing facilities. Maxwell Chambers was launched in 2010 as the world's first integrated dispute resolution complex housing both international dispute resolution institutions and practices, and state-of-the-art hearing facilities. In 2019, Maxwell Chambers expanded to the adjacent Maxwell Chambers Suites, tripling its previous size. Today, Maxwell Chambers is home to the highest concentration of case management offices within a facility in the world.
5. Strengthening Singapore's legislative framework to ensure it remains updated, relevant, and responsive to international businesses' needs. For example, in 2020, amendments were made to the International Arbitration Act to enhance Singapore's legal framework for international arbitration. In the area of IP, amendments were also introduced to the Arbitration Act and the International Arbitration Act in 2019 to make clear that IP disputes can be arbitrated in Singapore. This promotes the use of arbitration in IP disputes, and strengthens Singapore's position as a choice venue for the arbitration of international IP disputes.
6. Promoting thought leadership in international dispute resolution. A prime example of this was the Singapore Convention on Mediation. The UN's decision to name the treaty after Singapore is a testament to Singapore's extensive contributions to developing international commercial mediation globally.