

GAR Live: Beijing

Monday 4 September

CIETAC

Exploring the future of international arbitration disputes in China



PROGRAMME

All times are in China Standard Time (UTC +08:00)

09:00-09:30 **Welcome coffee and registration**

09:30-09:35 **Chairs' opening remarks and welcome from GAR**

Tao Jingzhou, arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers

Matthew Secomb, partner, head of international arbitration, Asia-Pacific, White & Case

09:35-09:40 **Welcome remarks from CIETAC**

Wang Chengjie, vice chairman and secretary-general, CIETAC

09:40-10:10 **Keynote address**

Alexis Mourre, former president, ICC International Court of Arbitration, founding partner, MGC Arbitration

Topic: "The China Century of Arbitration"

10:10-11:10 **Year in review: regional updates**

The panel of leading international names update the audience on key developments from across the globe this past year. They will also share their insight into the potential implications these developments may have in China and what we could expect looking into 2024.

The panel are expected to discuss:

- Notable changes in laws, trends, and initiatives across the globe
- Institutional updates
- Third party funding in China: will it catch on?

Moderator:

Tao Jingzhou, arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers

Panel:

Mariel Dimsey, secretary-general, HKIAC

Alexis Mourre, former president, ICC International Court of Arbitration, founding partner, MGC Arbitration

Gregory Litt, partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Patrick Zheng, partner, Links Law Offices

11:10-11:40 **Coffee break**

11:40-12:40 **China's energy deficit: a hotbed for disputes**

With China recording unprecedented growth over the past two decades, rapid urbanisation has created significant demands and instability in the energy sector. The construction of large-scale infrastructure projects coupled with the need to secure vast amounts of natural resources to support and sustain high levels of growth make China's energy sector a hotbed for disputes for investors.

The panel are expected to cover:

- Notable oil, gas disputes involving Chinese parties
- The latest on China's energy transition and emerging renewables disputes
- Disputes emerging from global competition for natural resources required to meet energy and industrial demands

Moderator:

Peter Chow, independent arbitrator

Panel:

Emmanuel Jacomy, partner, Shearman & Sterling

Duncan Speller, partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher

Crystal Wong Wai Chin, partner, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

Cunyuan Zhang, director & head, China, SIAC

12:40-14:00 **Networking lunch**

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14:00-15:00 AI in international arbitration: a peaceful coexistence?

The use of AI in international arbitration is likely to increase in the coming years, so what does technologically enabled arbitration look like? Can practitioners effectively harness and deploy AI in international arbitration? The panel will consider whether AI in international arbitration can harmoniously coexist or whether it poses a threat to the practice.

The panel are expected to discuss:

- International arbitrations over advanced technology and AI – do we have the correct knowledge and tools to resolve them?
- Stages and functions of arbitration where AI can play a role – reviewing evidence, non-binding decisions and tribunal secretaries
- What's the limit? The rise of Chat GPT and the prospect of AI identifying nuances in complex cases and potentially writing arbitral awards

Moderator:

Matthew Secomb, partner, head of international arbitration, Asia-Pacific, White & Case

Panel:

Lijun Chui, partner, Bird & Bird

Melissa Feng, partner, Gen Law Firm

Matthew Townsend, partner, registered foreign lawyer, Reed Smith

Jennifer Wu, partner, Pinsent Masons

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 The GAR Live Debate

In traditional style, we will hear teams of debaters argue in favour of, or against, a motion. This interactive session will see a judge voice their opinion on what has been heard, consult the audience, and finally choose which side to support, giving reasons for their decision.

Motion: "This house believes connoisseurs prefer ad hoc arbitration"

Lead Judge/Moderator:

Judge Georges Affaki, QICDRC, SCCA board member, international arbitrator

Debaters:

Poornima Hatti, partner, Samvad Partners

Rishab Gupta, barrister, Twenty Essex

Justin Tang, partner, Linklaters

Brad Wang, deputy secretary general, CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Centre

16:30-16:35 Chairs' closing remarks

Tao Jingzhou, arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers

Matthew Secomb, partner, head of international arbitration, Asia-Pacific, White & Case