SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION ACADEMY 2026



From 14 November to 20 November 2026, the Centre for International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) held its flagship annual Singapore International Arbitration Academy (SIAA).

Every year, CIL brings together some of the world's renowned experts in international arbitration for a weeklong in-person programme on investor-State dispute settlement designed specifically for government officials, private practitioners, and academics. SIAA 2026 was the 13th iteration of the Academy. The SIAA 2026's Faculty comprised 36 speakers based in 10 different countries. The number of participants reached 57 delegates from 23 different countries. The 2026 Academy received excellent feedback, with nearly 80% of the participants rating it 5 overall on a scale of 1-5.

As a culmination of the SIAA, participants were given the opportunity to argue in investor-State arbitration proceedings before a tribunal composed of world-leading

arbitrators. The hypothetical for the mock arbitration revolved around the intersection of international investment law and climate change.

The problem touched upon a variety of legal issues that advocates had to address, such as *i)* defining the contours of a “protected investment”; *ii)* ascertaining the existence and relevance of legitimate expectations, including expectations of good governance; *iii)* addressing regime interactions in international law; *iv)* and debating the State’s police powers and right to regulate and their interaction with treaty-based general exceptions. SIAA participants involved in the arbitration exercise were provided with consultations and coaching throughout the week.



DAY ONE | 14 Nov 2026

The Academy started with a welcome address delivered by Professor N. Jansen Calamita (Head of the International Economic Law and Policy programme at CIL) and Ms Celine Lange (Lead of the International Dispute Resolution Programme at CIL).



Ms Celine Lange



Prof N. Jansen Calamita

Following the welcome address, Professor Calamita introduced the week-long programme and provided an overview of the Moot Problem to the participants.



Prof Makane Moïse Mbengue

The participants then benefitted from a lecture on international environmental law, delivered by Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue (University of Geneva). He discussed landmark developments in the field leading all the way up to the recent advisory opinions of international courts and tribunals on climate change. The theme was pertinent to the Moot Problem on which participants would later prepare.



Prof Vincent-Joël Proulx

After this session, Professor Vincent-Joël Proulx (NUS Law) gave a lecture on the sources of public international law, and their relationship with international investment law, a foundational subject for the Academy.

Day One ended with a questions and answers session concerning the Moot, which was followed by a networking reception.



DAY TWO: 16 Nov 2026

After a one-day rest break on 15 November, this day began with Dr Romesh Weeramantry (Clifford Chance) elucidating upon the rules of interpretation of investment treaties, focusing on Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969.



Dr Romesh Weeramantry



Dr Stefanie Schacherer

Participants were then engaged on another foundational topic in the field, namely, the definition of “investor” and “investment” under the variety of treaties in international investment law, through a lecture delivered by Dr Stefanie Schacherer (Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University).

This was followed up by a two-part interactive session introducing the institutional and procedural ecosystem of ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes), delivered by Ms Frauke Nitschke (ICSID Chief Counsel) along with her colleagues Dr Jon Chevry and Mr Yuichiro Omori (Senior Counsel and Lead Counsel respectively, ICSID Case Management Teams). This session was particularly relevant to the moot participants, as the arbitration in the moot problem proceeds under the ICSID Rules.



From left to right: Mr Yuichiro Omori, Dr Jon Chevry, and Ms Frauke Nitschke

Afterwards, Mr Aditya Singh (White and Case) contextualised the differences between ICSID and non-ICSID arbitration.



Mr Aditya Singh

The last substantive session of the day featured a practical workshop on the drafting of an arbitration request, led by Ms Sapna Jhangiani KC (Blackstone Chambers), where the participants were divided into groups. The groups had the opportunity to draft a request for arbitration, drawing on facts from the moot problem, on which Ms Jhangiani provided her feedback.



Ms Sapna Jhangiani KC



One of the breakout groups



Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos

Day Two closed with a briefing on the practical aspects of the upcoming Moot, led by Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos (Senior Research Fellow, International Economic Law and Policy, CIL).

This briefing complemented insights that the mooters had previously received through interviews of SIAA alumni that had been recorded for their benefit, featuring Ms Claire Lim, Mr Jorge Escalona, and Mr Martin Munyoto. The alumni highlighted lessons and best practices on research, teamwork, and advocacy in the moot based on their past experiences in earlier editions of the SIAA. The interviews were collated by Mr Sidney Tambasi Netya (Research Associate, CIL). The SIAA 2026 team thanks these alumni for sharing their advice to the mooters.

DAY THREE: 17 Nov 2026



Prof Mark Feldman

Professor Mark Feldman (Peking University STL) began the day with a session on the Fair and Equitable Treatment standard, one of the most important and controversial standards under international investment law.



Prof Tomoko Ishikawa

Similarly, Professor Tomoko Ishikawa (Nagoya University) provided a lecture to the participants on expropriations under international investment law.



Ms Celine Lange

This session was followed by a presentation and interactive seminar delivered by Ms Celine Lange concerning local communities in investment arbitration.



Mr Bryce Williams

Participants were then introduced to the institutional and procedural ecosystem of the Permanent Court of Arbitration by Mr Bryce Williams (Acting Representative for Singapore and Legal Counsel, PCA).



Ms Gitta Satryani

The day continued with a practical workshop delivered by Ms Gitta Satryani (Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer), on the topic of document production in investment arbitration. Participants were once again divided into groups and given the opportunity to draft document production requests, as well as replies to such requests, drawing on the facts of the moot problem.



One of the breakout groups

The day closed with an expert coaching session for the claimant and respondent teams in the upcoming moot court, led by Mr Joshua Hiew (Duxton Hill Chambers (Singapore Group Practice)), Ms Ritika Bharti (Associate, A&O Shearman) for the claimant team, Ms Reshma Nair (Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer) and Mr Sidney Tambasi Netya (CIL).



Beginning of the coaching session

DAY FOUR: 18 Nov 2026





Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos

After reaching the halfway point of the substantive content of the programme, Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos began this day by recounting a comprehensive summary of the various topics discussed thus far at the Academy. He then provided a lecture on ongoing Investor-State dispute settlement reform at UNCITRAL Working Group III.



Prof Manjiao (Cliff) Chi

The day continued with a lecture on general exceptions under investment treaties (especially national security and self-judging clauses) delivered by Professor Manjiao Chi (University of International Business and Economics, Beijing).



From left to right: Ms Celine Lange and Dr Cameron Ford OAM SC

Following the focused discussion on arbitration as a mode of investor-State dispute settlement, participants were then introduced to considerations surrounding alternative modes of dispute resolution, particularly mediation, by Ms Celine Lange After her presentation on the topic, Ms Lange engaged in a conversation with Dr Cameron Ford (independent arbitrator and mediator) on the specific challenges associated with the use of mediation.



Ms Samantha Tan

Thereafter, Ms Samantha Tan (Freshfields) held a lecture on dissecting a case from the claimant's perspective. Ms Tan looked at the *Eurus* case, where a Japanese investor brought a claim against Spain challenging a series of regulatory reforms affecting the renewable energy sector. This case was particularly relevant to the participants, as the moot problem featured similarities to this dispute, involving an investor-State claim arising from changes to the renewable energy's regulatory framework of a State.



Mr David A. Pawlak

Having heard about the claimants' lawyers' perspective on dissecting a case in investment arbitration, participants were then introduced to the host State's point of view by Mr David A. Pawlak (independent arbitrator and attorney), who focused on the methods for analysing a case, as well as strategies for States in investment arbitration.





Mr J. Christopher Thomas KC

Participants were, thereafter, hosted by a partner of the SIAA 2026, Wong Partnership LLP, where Mr J. Christopher Thomas KC (independent arbitrator) provided an evening talk on the evolution of ethics rules in arbitration from 1872 forward, focusing on the *Alabama Claims* arbitration.

DAY FIVE: 19 Nov 2026



Justice Hon'ble Ms Indu Malhotra

After a brief recap of the previous substantive sessions by Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos, the day began with the keynote lecture of the Academy, delivered by Justice Hon'ble Ms Indu Malhotra (former Judge of the Indian Supreme Court, Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and independent arbitrator), on the topic of 'The importance of investment law literacy for government officers'.



From left to right: Solicitor-General Ms Daphne Hong, Mr Kraijakr Thiratayakinant, Prof N. Jansen Calamita, and Mr David A. Pawlak

In a similar vein, the day continued with a panel session on State management of investment treaty obligations, moderated by Solicitor-General Ms Daphne Hong (Solicitor-General and Director-General, International Affairs Division, at the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore). The expert panel included Mr Kraijakr Thiratayakinant (Minister Counsellor at Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Professor N. Jansen Calamita, and Mr David A. Pawlak (independent arbitrator and attorney).



From left to right: Dr Matthew Secomb, Ms Celine Lange, and Dr Aloysius Llamzon

The Academy was then hosted at Maxwell Chambers, one of the partners of SIAA 2026. There, a debate was held on the topic of third-party funding in investment arbitration, moderated by Ms Celine Lange, with the expert speakers respectively given positions for and against the propositions. The panel included Dr Matthew Secomb (independent arbitrator) and Dr Aloysius Llamzon (King and Spalding).



From left to right: Prof N. Jansen Calamita, Mr Emmanuel Jacomy, and Mr James Nicholson

A panel was then convened on the topic of damages in investor-State arbitration, focusing on principles, valuation and strategy, which was moderated by Professor N. Jansen Calamita and featured legal expert Mr Emmanuel Jacomy (A&O Shearman) as well as an economic consulting expert, Mr James Nicholson (FTI Consulting).



From left to right: Ms Celine Lange, Ms Amanda Lees, Ms Swee Yen Koh, and SC Dr Cameron Ford OAM SC

The final substantive session of the programme, and appropriately the last before the mock arbitration to be held the next day, focused on the tribunal's point of view. It was moderated by Ms Celine Lange, and included expert arbitrators Ms Amanda Lees (Mallesons), Ms Swee Yen Koh SC (Wong Partnership LLP), and Dr Cameron Ford OAM SC (independent arbitrator and mediator).

In the closing of the day, the claimant and respondent teams participating in the mock arbitration received their final coaching sessions, once again, by expert coaches Mr Joshua Hiew, Ms Ritika Bharti, Ms Reshma Nair, and Mr Sidney Tambasi Netya.

DAY SIX: 20 Nov 2026

This was the last day of the Academy and was centred around the mock arbitration. The arbitral tribunal, chaired by Mr J. Christopher Thomas KC (independent arbitrator), included Ms Chiann Bao (ArbBoutique) and Prof Chester Brown SC (University of Sydney Law School). The tribunal secretary was Mr Sidney Tambasi Netya.



From left to right: Ms Chiann Bao, Mr J. Christopher Thomas KC, and Prof Chester Brown SC

The mock arbitration was organised in two rounds of oral argument, including rebuttals and surrebuttals. Each team comprised four oral advocates, and a supporting research team of five members (nine in total). After the conclusion of the oral argument, the tribunal withdrew for a deliberation, following which it provided constructive feedback to the mooters. The tribunal also announced the awardees of the SIAA 2026 Excellence in Oral Advocacy Award, namely, Mr Arijit Sanyal (Skywards Law, India) and Mr Samuel Wee Liong Chye (Singapore Housing and Development Board).



Mr Arijit Sanyal (Claimant Advocate 1)



Ms Lazola Nomkala (Claimant Advocate 1)



Ms Kexian Ng (Claimant Advocate 2)



Ms Thi Thai Anh Vũ (Respondent Advocate 2)



Mr Linh Chu (Claimant Advocate 3)



Mr Samuel Wee Liong Chye (Respondent Advocate 3)



Ms Nomazulu Yvonne Ndlovu (Respondent Advocate 4)



Mr Jun Marr Denila (Claimant Advocate 4)

After the conclusion of the mock arbitration, an award and certificate ceremony was held, recognising the participation of the 57 delegates at the SIAA.



SIAA Excellence in Oral Advocacy Awardees With the Tribunal

Finally, a drinks reception was held at Maxwell Chambers, marking the closure of SIAA 2026, with participants from all over the world celebrating their newfound friendships.











SIAA 2026 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Pictured below is the organising committee of the SIAA 2026, including the following research staff from CIL: Professor N. Jansen Calamita and Ms Celine Lange (Co-Directors), Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos, Mr Abhijeet Shrivastava, and Mr Sidney Tambasi Netya.

Along with them are members of the CIL events team, namely, Ms Geraldine Ng (Associate Director, Events), Ms Elith Choo, Ms Vennice Lim, Ms Anni Cheng, and Ms Summer Poh. Also pictured is Ms Rashmi Raman, Research Fellow at CIL.



The SIAA 2026 organising committee looks forward to another excellent iteration of the Academy in 2027, after taking stock of the valuable feedback received from the participants.

We wish our warmest congratulations to the 57 delegates for their perseverance and learnings throughout the SIAA 2026, and reiterate our immense thanks to our sponsors, faculty, and partners!