



KAIROS

SEIZING THE **ADR** MOMENT

VENUE

AUDITORIUM, AIAC

DATE

7TH - 11TH OCTOBER 2025

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

9TH OCTOBER 2025

GENERAL ADMISSION

Day 1 & 2	Free Admission
Day 3, 4 & 5*	RM 1,650
Day 3 & 4	RM 1,150
Day 5 (Construction Day)	RM 650
Virtual Pass	RM 900
Student (Undergraduate)*	RM 500
Gala Dinner (per person)	RM 370
Gala Dinner (10 pax)	RM 3,500

* Complimentary Gala Dinner for Full Conference Pass

EARLY BIRD PROMO!

Day 3, 4 & 5	RM1,410
Group of 3 Tickets	RM3,960
Group of 5 Tickets	RM6,188
Group of 7 Tickets	RM8,085

For further information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact asiaadrweek@aiac.world/ +603 2271 1000

Until
20th September 2025

PROGRAMME

DAY 3 (THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2025)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Special Remarks

10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Official Launch of the Asia ADR Week 2025

10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Networking Break

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. **Session 1 - From Code to Clause: Discovering AI Footprint on the Efficiency, Ethics and Evolution of Arbitration**

Arbitration, being among the key mechanisms for resolving cross-border commercial and investment disputes, offers an opportunity for an increased integration of disruptive technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

This session provides a comprehensive discussion on the prospects of AI from the regional and international perspectives, the impact of advanced algorithms in analysing voluminous data and information, administering arbitrations, setting standards and fostering development within the field. Citing practical experiences and case precedents, the speakers will discuss the common AI tools utilised by lawyers and stakeholders in international disputes while charting the forward-looking strategies for a responsible use of AI in arbitration.

12:10 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Keynote Address

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Session 2 - Reframing ISDS: The Birth of New Language of Investment Justice**

This session will examine the evolving legitimacy crisis surrounding investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms through the lens of *Kairos* – a moment of both opportunity and crisis. The panellists will discuss the current backlashes against ISDS, including accusations of favouritism towards well-developed nations, lack of transparency and disproportionate corporate influence, which signal a pivotal turning point in the history of international investment law. This discussion will delve into the evolving perception on investment arbitration and the future of resolving investment disputes – including a dialogue on how arbitral institutions such as the AIAC are well-equipped to handle investment disputes.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Networking Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Session 3 - From Tradition to Transformation: Capturing the Court's *Kairos* Moment**

In today's globalised legal landscape, institutional courts of arbitration symbolise key pillars in the resolution of complex and cross-border disputes, offering structured frameworks and specialised guidance that bolster both efficiency and integrity of arbitration.

This session will delve into the central role these institutional courts play – not only in managing arbitration proceedings and ensuring procedural efficiency but also in shaping best practices and setting industry ethics and standards while navigating emerging challenges through innovation and reform.

Join us in this discussion as we explore how institutional arbitration can be refined and reimaged to meet the demands of an increasingly interconnected and complex world.

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Networking Break

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Session 4 - (Fireside Chat) Sanctions, Sovereignty and Settlement: Navigating Disputes in an Era of Global Fracture**

Amid escalating geopolitical tensions and a global order under strain, sanctions have become a tool used to pressure states into complying international legal obligations and to deter further breaches of international agreements. Over time, sanctions have evolved in scope and intensity, extending across various industries and targeting a spectrum of entities and individuals, which saw a shift in terms of the mode through which these disputes are resolved.

The fireside chat will feature discussion on the difficulties faced by sanctioned parties in instituting and defending legal actions, the practical and administrative impact of sanctions on arbitration proceedings and the viability of mediation as a practical solution.

6:00 p.m. onwards Networking Reception

DAY 4 (FRIDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2025)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Session 1 - Commercial Mediation in Focus: Bridging Shariah Principles and Global Standards**

This session brings together mediators, in-house counsel, Shariah scholars and Islamic finance practitioners to discuss the growing role of mediation in resolving Islamic finance and commercial transactions-related disputes. The panel will discuss the complexities of cross-border disputes and explore the ways to institutionalise mediation frameworks that uphold Shariah integrity while meeting international standards and commercial expectations. This session aims to foster a holistic dialogue on the best practices as well as collaborative approaches to promote mediation as a credible, Shariah-compliant dispute resolution pathway for both the regional and global Halal industry.

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Networking Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Session 2 - The Post Award Journey: Comparative Perspectives on Arbitration Reforms and Cross-Border Challenges**

Enforcing arbitral awards often present various challenges, primarily stemming from potential flaws in the arbitration process or the enforceability of the award itself. Legislative amendments on the arbitration framework thus become crucial for several reasons, among others, to ensure the laws stay relevant to evolving business practices, technological advancements, international legal norms as we continue to foster greater trust and confidence in the system.

This session will guide you through the global legislative movements and arbitration-targeted reforms towards harnessing recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and addressing other practical challenges in the arbitration landscape.

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Exclusive Presentation by the AIAC

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Session 3 - Game On, But Who Decides the Rules: E-Sports and Dispute Resolution in the ASEAN Region**

E-sports in Malaysia has seen significant growth, gradually emerging as a major sector within the country's entertainment and digital economy. With the Malaysian government's support and statutory recognition of e-sports as a

legitimate industry, the e-sports market in Malaysia is projected to worth USD 347 million with promising potentials to catalyse substantial investments and initiatives that foster its continuous development. Leveraging comparable growth among the ASEAN member states, the panel will discuss the nature of disputes in e-sports, existing dispute resolution framework and the role ADR can play in resolving such disputes within ASEAN.

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Networking Break

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Session 4 - Debates**

(Debate 1) Double-Hatting in International Arbitration: Is It About Money?

The practice of "double-hatting" – where legal professionals act as both arbitrators and counsel in different cases – often spark intense debate within the international arbitration community. One may favourably argue that it fosters expertise, efficiency and perspectives while critics on the other hand, claim concerns on conflicts of interest that undermine legitimacy of the arbitral processes. At its core, is double-hatting really driven by professional utility or financial motivation?

House A: This House believes that double-hatting compromises impartiality and credibility – it is therefore driven by financial incentives, not fairness.

House B: This House believes that double-hatting enhances experience and perspectives – this debate is about honing professional skills, not economics.

(Debate 2) Disclose or Be Disqualified: Where is the Line?

With the growing demand for transparency and accountability in international arbitration, arbitrators now face increasing pressure to disclose past appointments, professional connections and even indirect relationships. Failure to do so often risk disqualification, challenges to awards and to a certain extent, reputational damage. This debate will confront the critical question: Where should the line be drawn between legitimate disclosure and unnecessary overreach, and is this zealous thirst for disclosure weaponised for procedural abuses?

House A: This House believes that full disclosure and transparency is the foundation of impartiality.

House B: This House contends that over-disclosure risks unnecessary challenges, undermines efficiency and fuels procedural abuses.

6:00 p.m. onwards Networking Reception

DAY 5 (SATURDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2025)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Opening Remarks

10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Keynote Address

10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Networking Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Session 1 - Insolvency vs ADR? The Interface of the Two in Construction Disputes**

The intersection of insolvency and ADR regimes often raises fundamental questions of compatibility. While the ADR regime is designed to provide swift resolutions for cash flow disputes, insolvency law focuses on equitable distribution of assets and protection of creditor interests.

This session will provide an in-depth analysis on the legal standing of insolvent parties in ADR proceedings and the crucial role of adjudicators and/or arbitrators in safeguarding procedural fairness. The speakers will also discuss the key issues and challenges in the interface of these two regimes and explore the practical approaches as well as strategies in navigating these challenges.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Session 2 - Trick or Treat: The Role of Experts and Consultants in the Construction Proceedings**

Experts and consultants play a vital role in construction proceedings by offering specialised insights that assist tribunals or courts in understanding and tackling complex technical issues. Imperatively, experts and consultants' paramount duty is owed to the tribunals or courts and not to the parties – making independence and objectivity essential. Nevertheless, expert evidence is not without controversy. There are instances where experts and consultants are regarded as hindrance such that their opinions are perceived as biased, overly complex or inconsistent.

This session will delve into the core duties and common standards that are expected from experts and consultants, as well as the risks and implications in breaching those obligations. Additionally, the speakers will also examine practical considerations around the concepts of multi-hatting and hot-tubbing, and how these practices influence the assessment and effectiveness of expert testimony.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Session 3 - Demolishing the Old-School: Automation-Driven Transition in the Construction Industry**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation are reshaping the construction landscape – from how construction projects are planned, executed and managed to enhancing project scheduling, resource allocations and risk predictions. The bottom line is that automation streamlines repetitive tasks, improve accuracy and drive productivity.

Beyond operation benefits, this session will explore how AI and automation can be used to effectively resolve construction-related disputes through data-driven insights and improved project transparency. The speakers will also delve into the trends, risks and way forward for leveraging technology in alignment with the evolving expectations of the construction industry.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break**

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Session 4 - The Malaysian Big Dig: A Fireside Chat on the SMART Tunnel Dispute**

The SMART Tunnel stands as one of Malaysia's largest construction undertakings, which was envisioned for flood and traffic management in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. Yet, behind this engineering marvel lies a complex construction-related legal dispute that unfolded in the Malaysian courts, ultimately becoming a landmark case in Malaysia's construction law landscape.

This fireside chat will offer an in-depth discussion on the SMART Tunnel case, examining the legal and technical issues/challenges that arose during the development and operational phases of the project. More than just a retrospective look at a landmark case, this session aims to foster a forward-looking discourse on the key takeaways, best practices and lessons learnt.

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

7:00 p.m. onwards **Asia ADR Week 2025 Gala Dinner**