



20
25

SCMA YEAR IN REVIEW

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2025: ADVANCING SCMA IN AN EVOLVING MARITIME LANDSCAPE



2025 has been a year marked by intensified geopolitical uncertainty, continued energy transition, and rapid advances in technology. Against this backdrop, the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA) has remained focused on its core mission: To provide accessible, fair, and industry-led dispute resolution services that support the global maritime and trade communities. Our work over the past year has centred on deepening partnerships, expanding regional outreach, and strengthening Singapore's position as a trusted hub for maritime arbitration.

KEY MILESTONES AND INITIATIVES

A key highlight of 2025 was our flagship SCMA Conference held on 25 March in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week 2025. We were honoured to welcome Minister Edwin Tong SC, then Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, who gave a keynote speech on navigating global geopolitical, economic and sustainability challenges, and also Singapore's long-term commitment to supporting the maritime industry and maritime dispute resolution.

Held biennially, the Conference focused on the theme "Charting the Future of Maritime Arbitration in a Fast Changing and Complex World: Geopolitics, Innovation and Sustainability", and brought together industry professionals, business leaders and legal practitioners to deliberate on current maritime issues such as digitalisation and cybersecurity, climate change and maritime disputes, as well as geopolitical conflicts and maritime incidents.

Our Perspectives Seminar Series with four English law chambers - Essex Court Chambers, 7 King's Bench Walk, 36 Stone and Twenty Essex - continued to provide a platform for robust discussions on contemporary legal issues in England and Singapore. The Series reinforce SCMA's role as a thought leader in modern maritime jurisprudence.

During the Singapore Convention Week, SCMA and the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) co-organised a seminar titled "Trade and Geopolitics: Navigating the Waves of Uncertainty", which examined how shifting trade flows and geopolitical risks are reshaping trade patterns and impacting negotiations of shipping contracts. The Seminar also discussed how Alternative Dispute Resolution, such as arbitration and mediation, contributes to the efficient resolution of disputes in uncertain times.

Our SCMA Pledge also continued to gain traction, with 13 new signatories added during 2025, reflecting the confidence that industry stakeholders place in SCMA as a neutral, specialist forum for maritime dispute resolution.

EXPANDING OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

2025 saw an expanded effort to extend SCMA's reach across key maritime hubs. Outreach and promotional trips to Bandar Seri Begawan, Bangkok, Beijing, Chennai, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Imabari, Jakarta, Mumbai, Seoul, Sydney, Shanghai, Tianjin and Xiamen enabled SCMA to engage stakeholders in various jurisdictions and showcase our offerings.

Formal collaboration frameworks were also expanded through a series of Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Administrative Committee of the Xiamen Free Trade Zone, Dalian Maritime University, Maritime Silk Road Chamber of International Arbitration Promotion, Tianjin Arbitration Commission, Tianjin Lawyers Association, and Xiamen Lawyers Association. These partnerships provide a structured basis for joint programming, professional exchanges, and knowledge sharing, while promoting the adoption of SCMA Rules in maritime and trade contracts.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

SCMA continued to invest in thought leadership and professional development. On 2 October 2025, we held a Workshop for Panel Arbitrators which focused on the quality and enforceability of arbitral awards, while reinforcing best practices in arbitral reasoning and procedure.

Our three Working Groups on Methanol, Ammonia, and Cybersecurity continued to provide a platform for industry, legal, and technical experts to come together and address emerging issues and risks in relation to future fuels and digitalisation. These cross-sector initiatives help position Singapore at the forefront of legal and commercial innovation in future fuels and maritime cybersecurity.

The Methanol Working Group has produced the Singapore Methanol Bunkering Contract 2025, which may be adopted by industry players, in line with MPA's issuance of methanol bunkering licences from 1 January 2026.

We remain committed to the next generation of maritime and arbitration professionals, and served as Principal Sponsor and Secretariat for the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot (IMLAM) 2025, which was held in Sydney.

ENGAGING THE MARITIME ECOSYSTEM

SCMA's three councils continued to play a central role in guiding the institution's development.

The Arbitrators' Representative Council (ARC) provides a collective voice for SCMA arbitrators, offers guidance on best practices, and contributes to the ongoing review of the SCMA 4th Edition Rules. As part of SCMA's ongoing engagement efforts, SCMA organised a workshop "Avoiding Common Pitfalls in the Making of Arbitral Awards" for its panel of arbitrators and is looking to conducting workshops on current issues on an annual basis.

The Members' Consultative Council (MCC) focuses on enhancing the value of membership and broadening SCMA's reach across shipowners, charterers, P&I Clubs, insurers, traders, and law firms. This year, we introduced the Corporate Plus Membership, which allows existing Corporate Members to extend SCMA membership to their affiliated entities and overseas offices, enabling these affiliates to enjoy SCMA membership benefits at a preferential rate.

The In-house Lawyers Group (ILG) supports counsel who oversee legal matters within their organisations and provides a forum for sharing practical experience on managing risk and disputes. This year, we organised two sharing sessions on the enforcement of arbitral awards in India and the UAE.

Together, the ARC, MCC and ILG ensure that SCMA remains firmly rooted in the needs and perspectives of its users and members, consistent with our identity as an institution that is by members, for members.

Our annual Members' Appreciation Night, held on 13 November 2025 at the office premises of Tsao Pao Chee and IMC Shipping, provided an opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements, share updates on institutional developments, and thank our members and partners for their continued support.

In keeping with advancements in digitalisation, we introduced the SCMA Vault. This is an online repository developed with Epiq to add value and support secure and efficient case file management for arbitrators. This initiative reflects our broader commitment to digitalisation and service excellence.

LOOKING AHEAD

Much of our work in 2025 had been undertaken with an eye on the future. We have continued preparations for the International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA) XXIII, which Singapore will host from 22 to 27 March 2026. ICMA XXIII will bring together leading arbitrators, judges, practitioners, academics, and industry participants from around the world, and showcase Singapore's strengths as a centre for maritime and commercial arbitration.

SCMA will also launch its 2026 edition of the Maritime Arbitration Enforcement Series, a compendium of the enforcement process of arbitral awards across multiple jurisdictions.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere appreciation to our members, partners, and stakeholders for their steadfast support throughout 2025. Your continued engagement and confidence enable SCMA to serve the maritime and trade communities effectively, and contribute meaningfully to Singapore's standing as a premier global hub for maritime arbitration.

Chao Hick Tin SC
Chairman of the Board
Singapore Chamber of Maritime
Arbitration (SCMA)

STATISTICS ²⁰/₂₆

83

REPORTED CASE REFERENCES

US\$208,226,438.05

↑ +112% YOY

TOTAL QUANTUM

US\$2,776,352.51

↑ +135% YOY

AVERAGE CLAIM QUANTUM

CATEGORIES:

AFFREIGHTMENT

BUNKERING /

BUNKER SALES AND PURCHASES / DISPUTES

CHARTERPARTIES

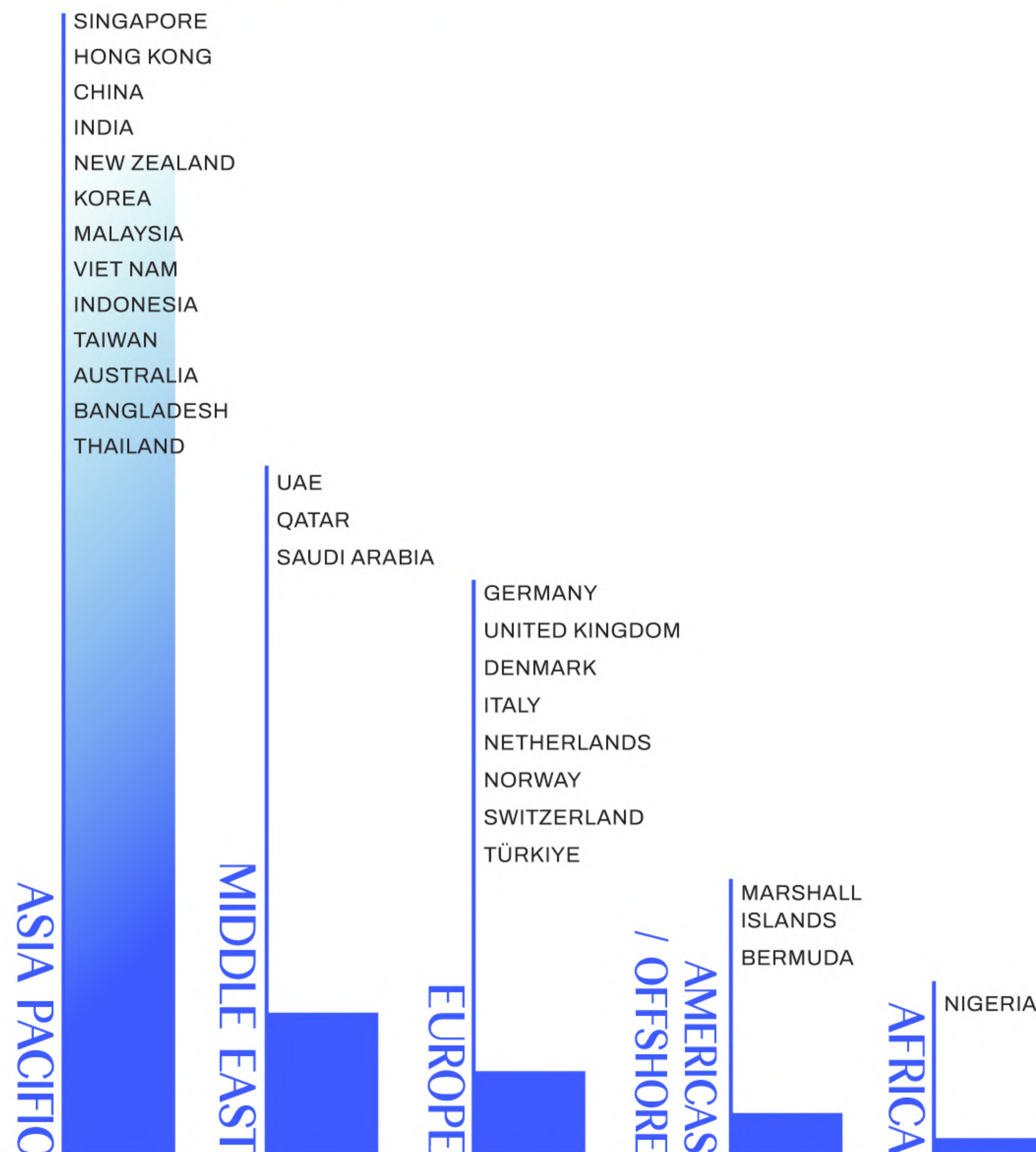
COMMERCIAL SALES

SHIP SALE AND PURCHASE

SHIPBUILDING

COMMODITIES

JURISDICTIONS REPRESENTED IN SCMA ARBITRATIONS



25 MAR 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SCMA CONFERENCE 2025

SCMA hosted its annual conference with Minister Edwin Tong SC, then Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, as the guest of honour.

Held biennially, the SCMA Conference 2025 centred on the theme “Charting the Future of Maritime Arbitration in a Fast Changing and Complex World: Geopolitics, Innovation and Sustainability”, the conference examined emerging industry challenges, facilitated thought-provoking discussions, and offered insights into the evolving landscape of maritime dispute resolution. Through dynamic panel sessions and meaningful networking opportunities, the conference provided a valuable platform for the maritime and legal communities to exchange perspectives and shape the future of arbitration.



KEY MILESTONES AND INITIATIVES

08 JAN 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SCMA PERSPECTIVES SEMINAR SERIES

The SCMA Perspectives Seminar Series serves as a dedicated platform for practitioners, academics, and industry participants to engage in discussions on the developments that shape maritime law and arbitration. In 2025, SCMA held four Perspectives Seminars, each featuring leading experts who shared practical insights, comparative analyses and case-based perspectives on key issues ranging from appeals on points of law and *force majeure* to the conduct of shipping arbitration and cross-border dispute resolution.



01 APPEALS FROM ARBITRATION AWARDS ON POINTS OF LAW AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPING SHIPPING JURISPRUDENCE – COMPARING THE APPROACHES IN ENGLAND AND SINGAPORE (ESSEX COURT CHAMBERS)

SCMA held its first Perspectives Seminar of 2025 featuring a comparative discussion on appeals from arbitration awards on points of law and their role in developing shipping jurisprudence in England and Singapore.

The seminar brought together Mr Christopher Smith KC and Mr Wei Jian Chan of Essex Court Chambers, as well as Mr Ian Teo, Managing Director of Helmsman LLC, who examined the differing legal approaches between England and Singapore, and their implications for the maritime sector.

KEY MILESTONES AND INITIATIVES

22 JAN 2025



SCMA PERSPECTIVES SEMINARS

02 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ENGLISH AND SINGAPOREAN CASE LAW IN CARRIAGE AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (7KBW)

On 22 January 2025, SCMA ran its second Perspectives Seminar titled “Recent Developments in English and Singaporean Case Law in Carriage and Contractual Obligations”.

The session featured insights from Mr Noel Casey KC of 7KBW Barristers and Mr Kendall Tan, Partner at Rajah and Tann Asia. The seminar explored key topics including *force majeure*, sanctions, misdelivery of cargo, and the principle in *Mackay v Dick*, and offered valuable perspectives on the differences between English and Singaporean legal approaches.



09 OCT 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SCMA PERSPECTIVES SEMINARS

03 PROBLEMS & PITFALLS IN SHIPPING ARBITRATIONS (36 STONE)



SCMA hosted an SCMA Perspectives Seminar with 36 Stone on 9 October 2025, featuring Professor Charles Debattista and Mr Emile Yusupoff.

The speakers provided an in-depth walkthrough of the stages of a shipping arbitration, highlighting common pitfalls and offering practical solutions from appointment through to the issuance of an award. Their insights and practical guidance equipped participants with useful knowledge on commencing a shipping arbitration and avoiding challenges that may arise throughout the process.

15 OCT 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SCMA PERSPECTIVES SEMINARS

04 INTERIM RELIEF IN THE ENGLISH COURTS IN SUPPORT OF MARITIME / TRADING CASES (TWENTY ESSEX)



SCMA collaborated with Twenty Essex to deliver a Perspectives Seminar on 15 October 2025. The session provided fresh perspectives on cross-border dispute resolution, examined recent case law and trends of direct relevance to practitioners, and featured engaging discussions that bridged theory and practice.

The speakers from Twenty Essex included Ms Sara Masters KC, Mr Oliver Caplin KC and Mr Tom Corby. Additionally, Mr Adam Richardson from HFW and Ms Puja Varaprasad from Gard rounded off the panel.

11 MAR 2025



MOU SIGNINGS

01 TIANJIN ARBITRATION COMMISSION (TJAC) AND TIANJIN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (TLA)

SCMA signed a tripartite MOU on 11 March 2025 with TJAC and TLA. The signatories were Mr Lawrence Teh (Member, Board of Directors, SCMA), Ms Jin Hongxia (Vice-Chairperson, TJAC) and Mr Niu Tongxu (President, TLA).



Tianjin and Singapore are major port cities and key shipping hubs. This partnership marks a significant step toward enhancing international maritime arbitration by fostering greater cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and awareness of the law and practice of international maritime arbitration in Singapore and China. Through joint initiatives and information sharing and exchange, the MOU aims to promote the adoption of arbitration, such as the use of SCMA and its rules, as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for maritime disputes in Singapore and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

08 MAY 2025



MOU SIGNINGS

02 DALIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

SCMA signed an MOU with Dalian Maritime University, one of Asia's leading institutions in maritime education and research. The partnership will support knowledge exchange between academia and practitioners, joint seminars and programming, opportunities for student internships and professional training, and the sharing of best practices in maritime law and arbitration.



SCMA extends its appreciation to Dean Zhu Zuoxian and Vice Dean Jiang Yuechuan for their support in establishing this collaboration, which lays the foundation for mutual growth, shared expertise, and a long term partnership.



MOU SIGNINGS

03 MARITIME SILK ROAD CHAMBER FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION PROMOTION & XIAMEN FREE TRADE ZONE COMMITTEE

SCMA signed a Tripartite MOU in on 17th June 2025 in Xiamen, China, with the Administrative Committee of the Xiamen Area of the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone and the Maritime Silk Road Chamber of International Arbitration Promotion. The cooperation underscores a shared commitment to promoting international arbitration and strengthening dispute resolution capabilities across Singapore, China, and countries along the Maritime Silk Road.



The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration in areas such as the joint promotion of arbitration in international trade, maritime, and ESG related matters, knowledge exchange and institutional dialogue, and support for the development of arbitration rules and best practices.

This partnership builds on SCMA's continued efforts to support a connected, trusted, and efficient maritime arbitration ecosystem. SCMA looks forward to working closely with both partners to advance shared objectives in arbitration and dispute resolution.

17 NOV 2025



MOU SIGNINGS

04 XIAMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

SCMA signed an MOU with the Xiamen Lawyers Association on 17 November 2025, marking a significant step in strengthening cooperation between Singapore and Xiamen in maritime law and dispute resolution. The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration in areas including the co-organisation and participation of events and initiatives, as well as professional exchanges and the sharing of expertise in maritime arbitration.



This partnership supports SCMA's efforts to deepen engagement with legal communities in the region and to contribute to the development of high quality maritime dispute resolution across Asia-Pacific.

SCMA PLEDGE SIGNATORIES 2025

By signing the pledge, the pledgee agrees to:

- Where appropriate, use SCMA Arbitration Rules (as amended or revised from time to time);
- Participate in SCMA's activities and platforms;
- Support the Maritime Singapore Community.



ERAMUS SHIPINVEST



G2 OCEAN
SINGAPORE PTE. LTD.



IMC SHIPPING CO.
PTE. LTD.



MERMAID MARITIME
PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED



OLDENDORFF CARRIERS
(SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.



PRECIOUS SHIPPING
PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED



PRIMA MARINE
PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED



SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
LTD



SMIT SALVAGE



SOUTH32 MARKETING
PTE. LTD.



U MING MARINE
TRANSPORT (S) PTE LTD



VLK TRADERS



21 FEB 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHENNAI & MUMBAI, INDIA

SCMA conducted a series of seminars in Chennai and Mumbai as part of its engagement with India's maritime and legal communities. The seminars focused on dispute resolution developments, maritime legal issues, and the strengthening of collaboration between India and Singapore.

In Chennai, the seminar opened with remarks by Malini Shankar, Vice Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University, who provided perspectives on the future of maritime education and policy. The sessions covered topics including multi contract arbitration, the interpretation of arbitration clauses, sanctions and charterparty clauses, and the growing role of mediation in maritime disputes. Speakers from SCMA, JTJB LLP, Rajah & Tann Asia, Kennedys Law LLP, and the Singapore International Mediation Centre contributed to the discussions.

In Mumbai, the seminar featured remarks by Cheong Ming Foong, Consul General of Singapore in Mumbai, on strengthening cooperation between India and Singapore. Presentations addressed Singapore's maritime ecosystem, arbitration and dispute resolution practices, cost and procedural considerations in maritime arbitration sanctions in shipping, and the increasing popularity of mediation as a dispute resolution method.



Speakers represented SCMA, JTJB LLP, Rajah & Tann Asia, Kennedys Law LLP, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, LVM Law Chambers, and the Singapore International Mediation Centre.

In addition to the seminars, SCMA held exchanges with Indian maritime companies and law firms. In Chennai, SCMA discussed industry developments in the maritime sector and current regulatory environment.

In Mumbai, SCMA discussed with the industry changing trade flow patterns, legal developments, and challenges affecting the maritime industry.

These engagements reinforced the importance of efficient, cost-effective dispute resolution mechanisms within India's rapidly developing maritime landscape and contributed to deeper legal and industry linkages between India and Singapore.

OVERSEAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT

07 MAY 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI

SCMA participated in Rajah & Tann Asia's Borneo Conversations in Brunei, joining the firm's partners Kendall Tan, Aleksandar Georgiev, Joshua Seet, and Khairil Suhairree for discussions on dispute management in the context of shifting trade patterns and evolving tariff regimes.

During the seminar, SCMA's Executive Director Bernice Yeoh outlined SCMA's arbitration framework, highlighting its cost effectiveness, flexibility, and specialised panel of maritime arbitrators. She also discussed the advantages of arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to court proceedings.



The session also drew attention to SCMA's model clauses, which provide parties with clear and readily adoptable dispute resolution language for incorporation into commercial contracts.

In addition to participating in the seminar, SCMA met with Bruneian organisations, including the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre Berhad as part of its ongoing engagement with regional dispute resolution institutions. Discussions centred on potential areas of cooperation and shared priorities in supporting maritime and commercial arbitration within the region.

16 JUN 2025



XIAMEN, CHINA

On 16 June 2025, SCMA met with the Xiamen Lawyers Association at its offices. The visit included a tour of the Association's premises, which were established in 1991 and now host a community of more than 5,000 lawyers.

During the meeting, SCMA and representatives of the Association exchanged views on the future of international legal collaboration and maritime dispute resolution. Discussions also addressed recent developments, including the Tripartite MOU signed between SCMA, the Administrative Committee of the Xiamen Free Trade Zone, and the Maritime Silk Road Chamber of International Arbitration Promotion.



The engagement formed part of SCMA's broader efforts to strengthen ties with the legal community in Xiamen and deepen cooperation in maritime and commercial dispute resolution across the region.

30 MAY 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



JAKARTA, INDONESIA

SCMA was represented by John Sze, Member of the SCMA Members' Consultative Council and Managing Partner of JTJB LLP, at Indonesia Maritime Week 2025. He spoke on a panel which examined trade risks and regulatory compliance and how shifting trade flows and changing supply chain dynamics, driven by ongoing global trade tensions, influence the maritime sector.

His remarks highlighted the increasing need for businesses to reassess contractual terms, particularly dispute resolution mechanisms, cost structures, and risk allocation, to ensure commercial arrangements remain resilient and fit for purpose amid evolving industry conditions.



OVERSEAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT

16 JUL 2025



JAKARTA, INDONESIA

SCMA held the SCMA Jakarta Conference 2025 on 16 July, bringing together legal professionals and maritime industry representatives for a half day programme focused on developments in the maritime sector. The conference opened with remarks by Pak Darmansyah Tanamas, Secretary-General of the Indonesian National Shipowners' Association.

Presentations that followed examined major casualty management, trends in ship finance, evolving approaches to maritime dispute resolution including integrated dispute mechanisms, the use of anti-suit injunctions in support of arbitration, and key features of SCMA arbitration.



The event formed part of SCMA's ongoing engagement with the Indonesian maritime and legal communities and contributed to knowledge sharing on current issues affecting the regional maritime industry.

31 JUL -
01 AUG 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



BANGKOK, THAILAND

SCMA undertook a promotional trip to Bangkok to reach out to the Thai maritime and legal community from July to August 2025.

On 31 July 2025, SCMA collaborated with JTJB LLP (Singapore) and JTJB International Lawyers Co., Ltd. (Thailand) to conduct a seminar examining current maritime trends, emerging risks, and dispute resolution practices in a changing global environment.

The programme comprised three panel discussions covering market developments, marine insurance responses to evolving risks, and the importance of well-drafted dispute resolution clauses.

The seminar brought together representatives from the Thai shipping sector, marine insurers, and legal practitioners, and included opening remarks by Khun Suraphon Meesathien, Chairman of the Thai Shipowners' Association.



On 1 August 2025, SCMA participated in a separate seminar hosted by Tilleke & Gibbins on maritime claims and ship arrest procedures in Singapore and Thailand. The session provided a comparative overview of ship arrest frameworks in both jurisdictions, alongside practical insights into P&I Club claims handling and the role of arbitration in maritime dispute management. Together, these engagements strengthened SCMA's connections with industry stakeholders in Thailand and contributed to ongoing dialogue on regional maritime law and arbitration practices.

OVERSEAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT

23 SEP 2025



HO CHI MINH, VIETNAM

SCMA, together with Dzungsr & Associates and Rajah & Tann Asia, held the SCMA Vietnam Conference 2025 on 23 September in Ho Chi Minh City. The programme began with remarks by Pham Quoc Long, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Ship Agents, Brokers and Maritime Service Providers Association. The conference featured a series of sessions examining dispute resolution mechanisms for the maritime sector, general average, risks faced by shipowners, agents and brokers, and issues arising from misdelivery claims.

Speakers presented legal and practical perspectives relevant to the Vietnamese and wider regional maritime community. The conference formed part of SCMA's broader regional engagement efforts aimed at supporting awareness of maritime arbitration frameworks and developments in shipping-related dispute resolution.



30 OCT 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

SCMA and Bae, Kim & Lee LLC co-organised the BKL-SCMA Seminar as part of the Seoul ADR Festival 2025 on 30 October in Seoul, Korea. The seminar covered a broad range of topics, including recent developments in international arbitration, maritime claims and ship arrest procedures in Singapore, litigation practices in China's maritime courts, and an overview of Maritime Singapore and the SCMA framework.



Speakers Yoon Jeong Park (Bae, Kim & Lee LLC), Zhida Chen (Helmsman LLC), Shining Guo (King & Wood Mallesons), and Weiting Ng (Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore) contributed perspectives reflecting the importance of effective dispute resolution mechanisms in supporting the global maritime sector. The event formed part of SCMA's continued engagement with regional partners and its efforts to promote understanding of maritime arbitration practices across key jurisdictions.



10 NOV 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SHANGHAI, CHINA

SCMA strengthened its engagement in Shanghai through a series of exchange activities and participation in major arbitration and maritime events. As part of its visit, SCMA participated in the 7th Shanghai International Arbitration Forum 2025, held under the auspices of the China International Import Expo and in conjunction with Shanghai Arbitration Week.

The Forum brought together leading maritime law and international arbitration practitioners from China, Hong Kong, EU and Singapore, as well as representatives of major international arbitral institutions.

SCMA was represented by Board Member and Chair of the MCC, Kendall Tan, who delivered a presentation on the emergence and use of generative AI in arbitral proceedings, reflecting the Forum's emphasis on technology and modernisation in commercial arbitration.



OVERSEAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT



20-24 OCT 2025



SHANGHAI, CHINA

SCMA also participated in the North Bund International Shipping Forum – Judicial and Arbitration Forum and the 7th Maritime Judicial and Arbitration Summit, jointly organised by the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration and the China Maritime Arbitration Commission. SCMA's Panel Arbitrator, Dan Butler KC, presented at the forum, outlining SCMA's framework, distinguishing features, and professional experience in international maritime arbitration.

SCMA and the China Shipowners Mutual Assurance Association co-hosted a professional exchange session with industry players on arbitration services and developments in the sector. SCMA also held meetings with the Shanghai International Arbitration Center and Shanghai Arbitration Commission to discuss arbitration practices and opportunities for collaboration. In addition, SCMA co-organised a seminar with King & Wood Mallesons.



Throughout the visit, SCMA engaged with major shipping companies, including COSCO Shipping Lines, COSCO Shipping Energy, Fujian Guohang Ocean Shipping Group, and New Changjiang Group, as well as law firms such as Dentons Shanghai and Tiantai Law Firm, to exchange views on arbitration services and trends in the regional maritime industry. These engagements enable SCMA to strengthen its ties with Shanghai's maritime, legal, and shipping communities, reinforcing its commitment to advancing maritime arbitration cooperation between Singapore and Shanghai and supporting the development of high-quality arbitration services across the Asia-Pacific region.

28 AUG 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



SINGAPORE CONVENTION WEEK 2025: TRADE AND GEOPOLITICS: NAVIGATING THE WAVES OF UNCERTAINTY

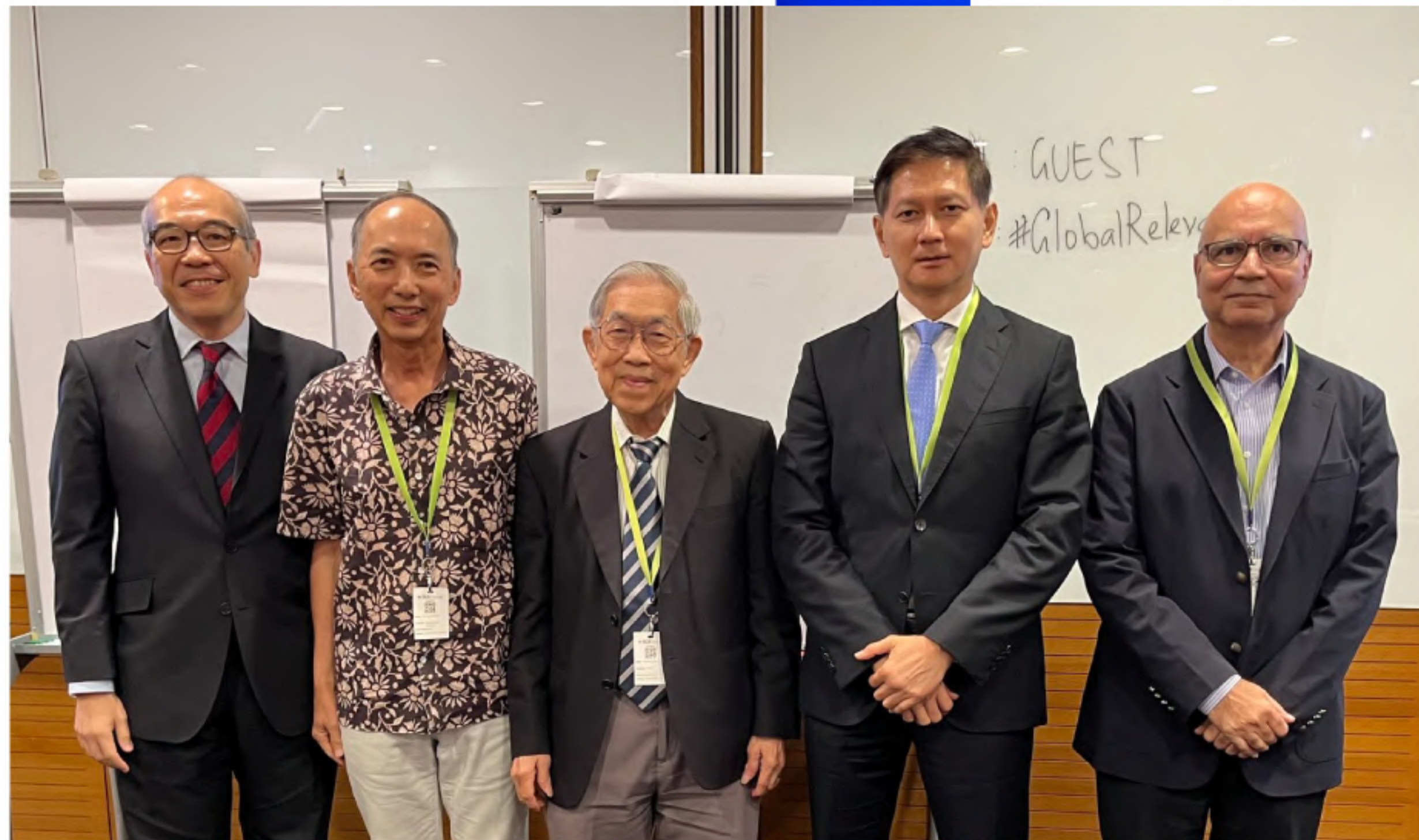
SCMA and the SIMC co-organised a seminar titled “Trade and Geopolitics: Navigating the Waves of Uncertainty” on 28 August 2025 as part of the Singapore Convention Week. Held at Stephenson Harwood LLP (Singapore) Alliance’s office, the session examined how shifting geopolitical forces are reshaping global trade and resulting in further implications for dispute resolution.

The programme featured a presentation by André de Silva of Accenture and a panel discussion moderated by Su Yin Anand of IBM, with contributions from representatives of Rajah & Tann Singapore, Pacific International Lines, Stephenson Harwood / Virtus Law and Gard. Discussions covered current trade dynamics, enforcement challenges surrounding *force majeure* clauses, and the role of arbitration and mediation in supporting business continuity in an increasingly complex and volatile environment.



The seminar formed part of SCMA’s broader engagement during Singapore Convention Week and contributed to ongoing dialogue on dispute resolution in the context of global trade and geopolitical uncertainty.

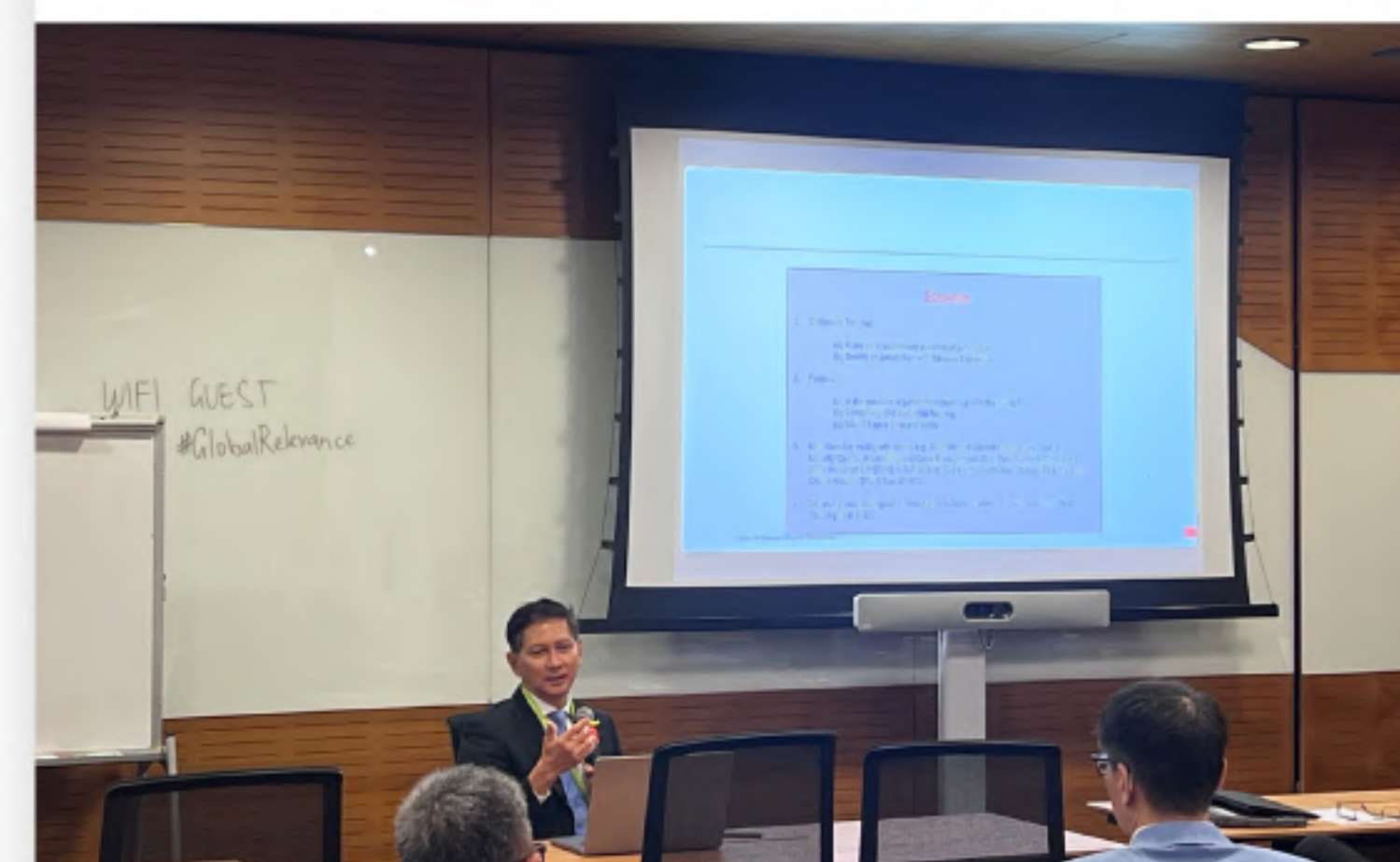
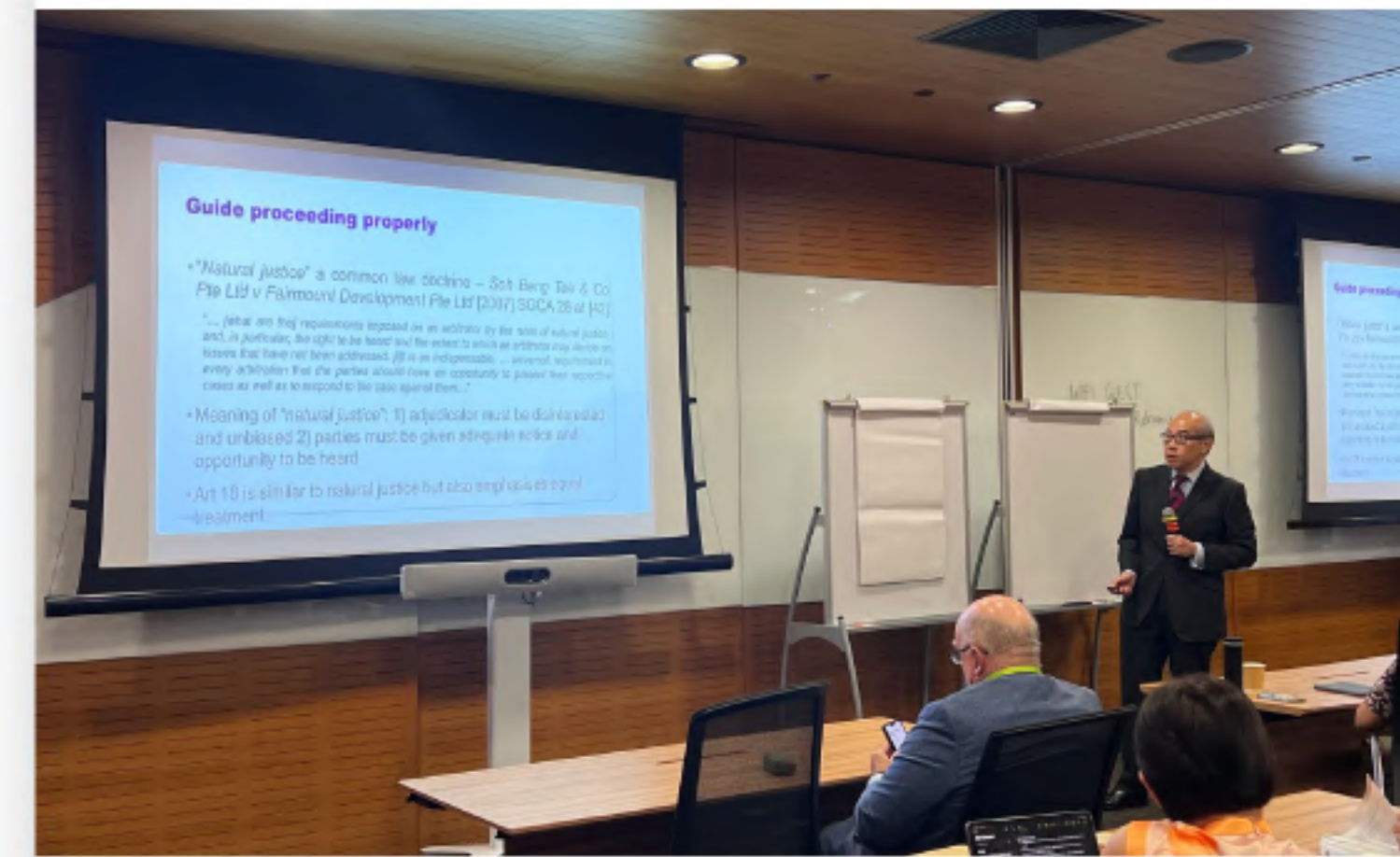
SCMA'S FLAGSHIP EVENTS



WORKSHOP FOR PANEL ARBITRATORS: AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS IN THE MAKING OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

On 2 October 2025, SCMA held its Workshop for Panel Arbitrators titled “Avoiding Common Pitfalls in the Making of Arbitral Awards”. The session highlighted common procedural and substantive issues encountered in the conduct of arbitral proceedings and best practices to adopt. Speakers presented practical insights and case examples aimed at strengthening best practices in arbitral decision-making.

The workshop formed part of SCMA’s ongoing efforts to support professional development within its panel and to promote consistency, clarity, and robustness in arbitral reasoning and award writing across the maritime arbitration community.



WORKING GROUPS

SCMA formed three working groups in 2024, looking to provide thought leadership in support of developing Singapore as an international maritime centre in the areas of:

- (a) methanol and ammonia as marine fuels of the future; and
- (b) cybersecurity.

METHANOL

Between 2024 and 2025, the methanol working group completed the Singapore Methanol Bunkering Contract and Annex.

AMMONIA

The ammonia working group is currently developing a set of contract terms for ammonia bunkering.

CYBERSECURITY

The cybersecurity working group will propose a methodology to measure the economic losses arising from cyber incidents in the maritime sector.

METHANOL WORKING GROUP

- Review and evaluate methanol value chains
- Identify relevant gaps and opportunities for the creation of new standard methanol form contracts or clauses

The Methanol Working Group has completed the Singapore Methanol Bunkering Contract and Annex, which is based on Singapore Standards SS 600, SS 648 and TR 129 on Methanol Bunkering.

The Singapore Methanol Bunkering Contract and Annex have been adopted by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and is now available for use in methanol bunkering activities.



AMMONIA WORKING GROUP

- Consulting industry players and regulators on the current gaps and opportunities in the ammonia green fuels market, and how the publication of a publicly available draft ammonia sale form contributes to the ammonia bunkering value chain.
- Drafting and publishing an ammonia sale form to be adopted by the maritime industry for ammonia sale and purchases to be used as green fuel by vessels.

The Ammonia Working Group is finalising a draft contractual form for ammonia bunkering. The objective is to produce a Singapore Sale/Order Form and a set of General Terms and Conditions, including a Confirmation Note.

Members have deliberated a range of substantive issues, including commercial apportionment of liability. The group also examined title and risk issues, particularly coming to a commercial consensus on the complexity of debunkering gaseous ammonia where cargo may be commingled or altered in composition. Further discussions covered dispute resolution, severability, assignment, confidentiality, third-party rights, claims, termination, sanctions, compliance, anti-corruption, force majeure, and drug and alcohol policies, in the context of ammonia bunkering.

Work is ongoing to complete the full draft for deliberation by the Working Group in early 2026.



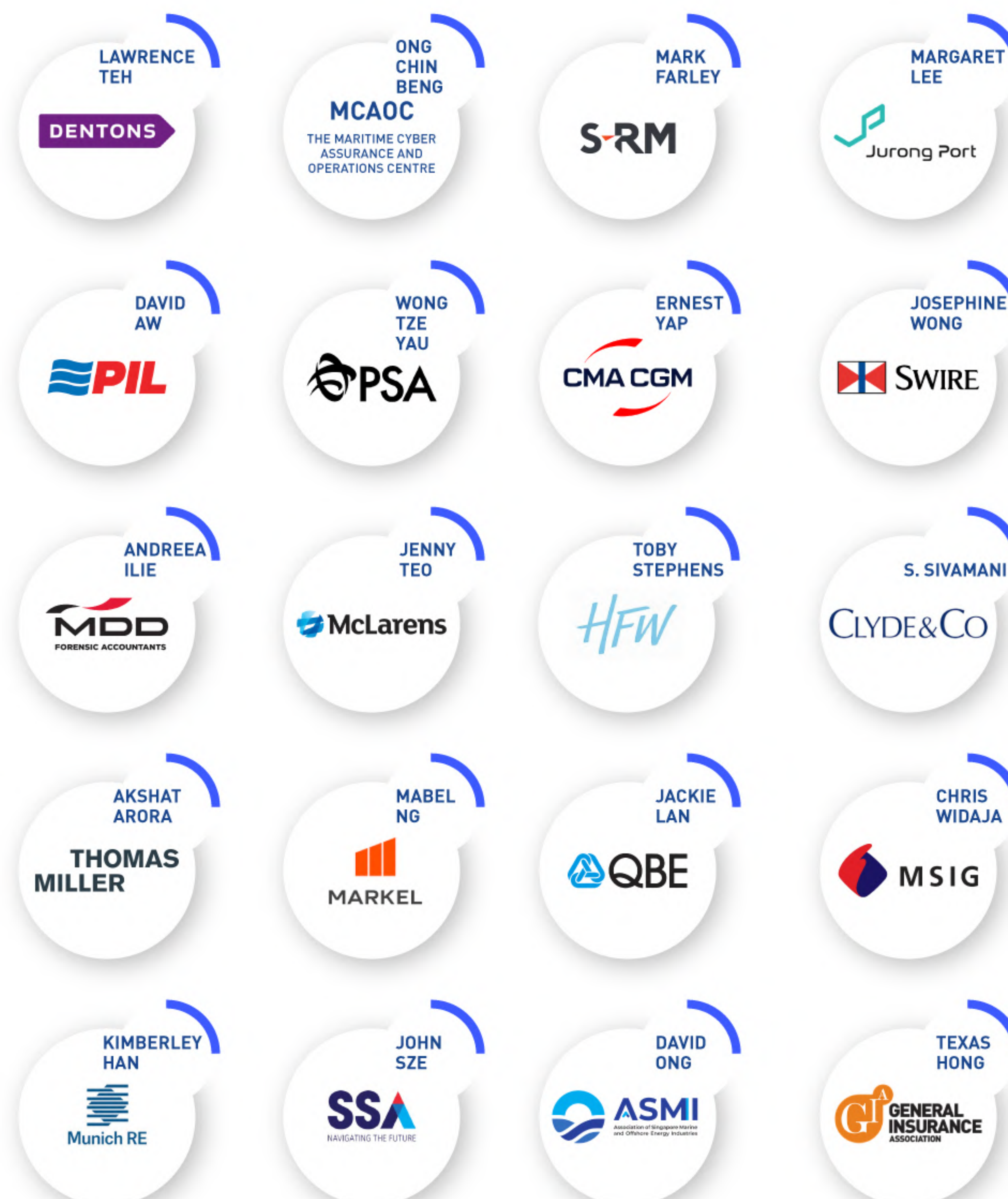
CYBERSECURITY WORKING GROUP

- Develop a methodology to measure the economic losses arising from cyber incidents

The Cybersecurity Working Group expanded to include new participants from PSA International, Swire, and Jurong Port. Meetings held over the year addressed high-frequency cybersecurity risks affecting the maritime sector, supported by expert presentations from S-RM and the Maritime Cyber Assurance and Operations Centre (MCAOC).

The cybersecurity working group held discussions on the distinction between cyber events and incidents, common attack types, threat actors, escalation pathways and the application of war clause exclusions. These sessions also explored financial liabilities associated with cyber incidents, with forensic accountants from MDD and McLarens providing an overview of the computational methods used in quantifying losses from business interruptions.

Work will continue in 2026 on modelling the economic impact of cyber incidents on port and vessel operations.



SCMA COMMITTEES

ARBITRATORS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (ARC)

The ARC aims to issue advisories to guide parties and arbitrators in an SCMA arbitration, oversee the revision of the SCMA Arbitration Rules and serve as the representative voice of SCMA arbitrators in Singapore and globally.

Two meetings were held in 2025, in which the ARC contributed towards SCMA's report of the Ministry of Law's Public Consultation on amendments to the International Arbitration Act 1994. The ARC is also currently looking into revising the SCMA Arbitration Rules.



SCMA COMMITTEES

MEMBERS' CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (MCC)

The MCC aims to promote SCMA and enhance the value of SCMA membership for our corporate and individual members.

Two meetings were held to seek feedback on how to enhance the value of SCMA membership and intensify the promotion of the use of SCMA's Arbitration Rules.



SCMA COMMITTEES

IN-HOUSE LAWYERS GROUP (ILG)

The ILG aims to support and advance the interest of senior lawyers who oversee and manage legal matters within their companies, and provide a platform for members to network and share knowledge.

Two meetings were held in 2025, in which the ILG invited speakers to share on enforcement proceedings in India and the UAE.





INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ARBITRATION MOOT (IMLAM)

SCMA was pleased to serve as Principal Sponsor and Secretariat of the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot (IMLAM) 2025, which was held from 6 to 11 July at the University of Sydney.

Hosted by the Sydney Law School, IMLAM 2025 brought together student teams from around the world to compete in a rigorous moot on international maritime law and arbitration.

The competition provided participants with an opportunity to develop and showcase their legal knowledge and advocacy skills in a realistic arbitration setting. We congratulate all participating teams for their dedication, resilience and exceptional performance. In particular, we congratulate the winning team, the National Law School of India University (Bengaluru) and the runner-up, the National University of Singapore.



SCMA is proud to support this initiative and contribute to the development of future legal professionals in the maritime and arbitration fields.

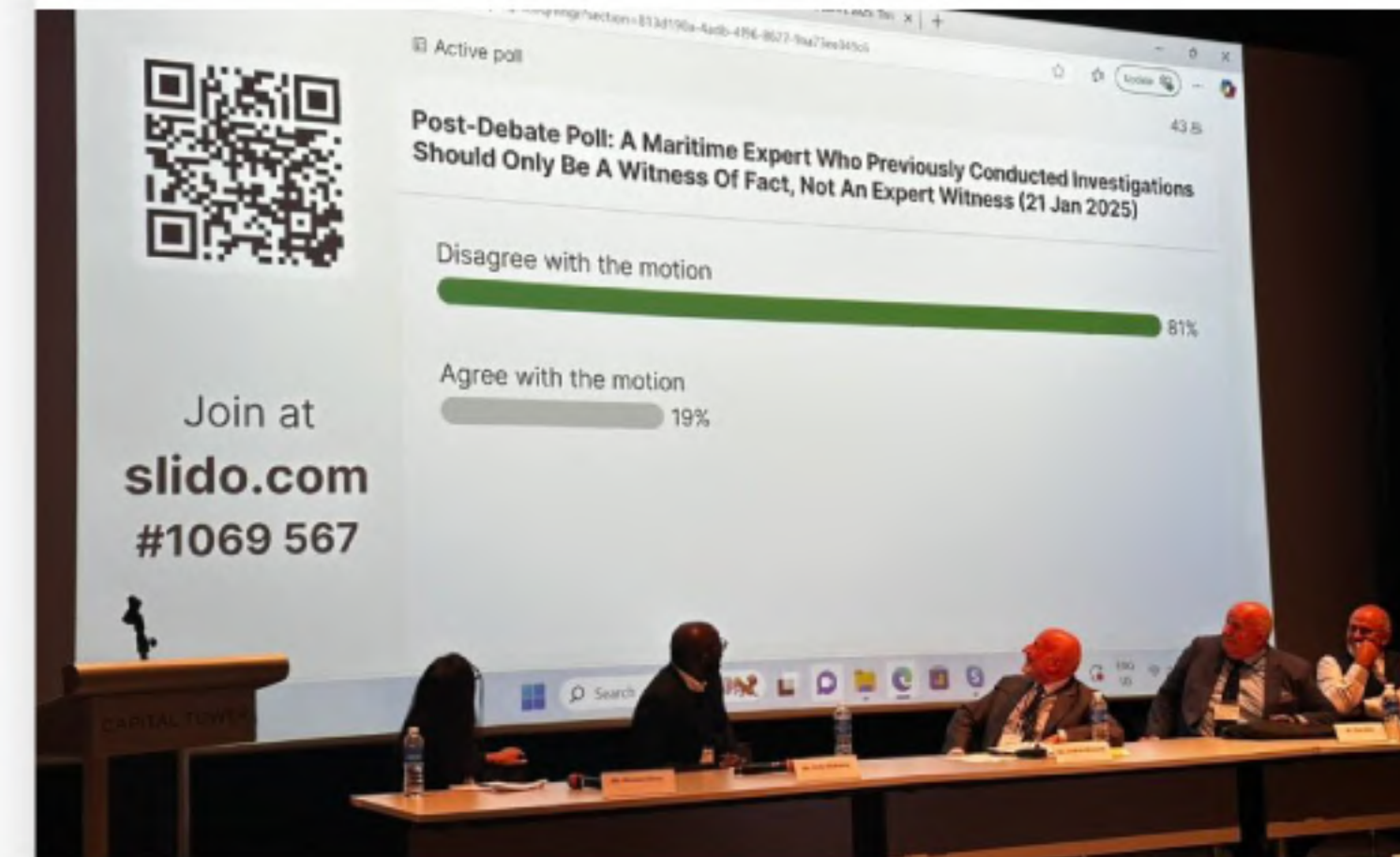
23 JAN 2025



SCMA – APIEX DEBATE

SCMA collaborated with the Asia Pacific Institute of Experts to organise the APIEx–SCMA Debate 2025, which examined the motion: “This House Believes That a Maritime Expert Who Previously Conducted Investigations Should Only Be a Witness of Fact, Not an Expert Witness”.

The session featured structured arguments from both sides of the motion and explored how investigative roles may influence expert evidence in maritime dispute resolution. The debate was moderated by Andrew Moran KC and involved contributions from practitioners representing both proposition and opposition teams. The event concluded with networking discussions under Chatham House Rules and formed part of SCMA’s wider efforts to promote informed dialogue on evolving professional standards within maritime arbitration proceedings.



02 APR 2025

ASIAN SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION SHIPPING DIALOGUE 2025

SCMA participated in the Asian Shipowners' Association Shipping Dialogue 2025 held during Singapore Maritime Week. SCMA Board Member Kendall Tan joined a panel discussion on Asia's resilience in maritime disputes, together with Kah Wah Leong, Chairman of the Singapore Shipping Association's Legal and Insurance Committee, and moderated by Andrew Bicknell of Clyde and Co.

The discussion examined the role of arbitration in supporting efficient and fair resolution of maritime disputes and considered how Asia can continue strengthening its position as a global centre for maritime arbitration through enhanced legal frameworks, increased industry awareness, and adoption of best practices.



26 JUN 2025

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHARTERING BROKER WORKSHOP

On 26 June 2025, SCMA held a Chartering Broker Workshop titled "SCMA Rules and Updates on 'Subjects'", at the office of Kennedys Singapore. The session was tailored for chartering brokers and examined the practical value of adopting SCMA Arbitration Rules in charterparties where Singapore is the chosen seat of arbitration. It also addressed key legal considerations surrounding the use of "subjects" in charterparty negotiations.

Lawyers from Watson Farley and Williams and Kennedys Singapore presented recent case developments and provided a comparative analysis of how "subjects" are interpreted under Singapore and English law. The workshop offered brokers structured guidance on relevant principles, negotiation risks, and common pitfalls, contributing to a clearer understanding of how arbitration frameworks intersect with commercial chartering practices.



PARTNER & NETWORKING EVENTS

ENGAGING THE MARITIME ECOSYSTEM

07 JUL 2025



SCMA-WISTA-SMIT LEARNING JOURNEY ON MARITIME EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SCMA, together with WISTA Singapore and SMIT Salvage, organised a learning journey workshop that provided more than fifty participants with a behind-the-scenes look at maritime emergency response operations.

The programme began with a briefing by SMIT on its emergency response capabilities, followed by a guided tour of its warehouse and port facilities. In the afternoon, SCMA delivered a presentation on the role of maritime arbitration in disputes arising from emergency and salvage operations. The event concluded with a networking lunch and informal discussions on operational practices, legal considerations, and industry trends.





SEMINAR WITH INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS (SINGAPORE BRANCH) AND THE BALTIC EXCHANGE ASIA

SCMA, together with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Singapore Branch and the Baltic Exchange Asia, co organised a seminar on managing risks in ship sale and purchase (S&P) transactions. The session brought together brokers, legal advisers, technical experts, and shipowners to examine legal, commercial, and operational risks in S&P deals. Discussions addressed issues such as price volatility, delivery risks, financing challenges, sanctions compliance, and ESG considerations.

The panel reviewed case studies and outlined practical strategies for managing risk throughout the S&P process, from due diligence to post delivery disputes. The seminar contributed to broader industry dialogue on effective risk management in an increasingly dynamic maritime environment.

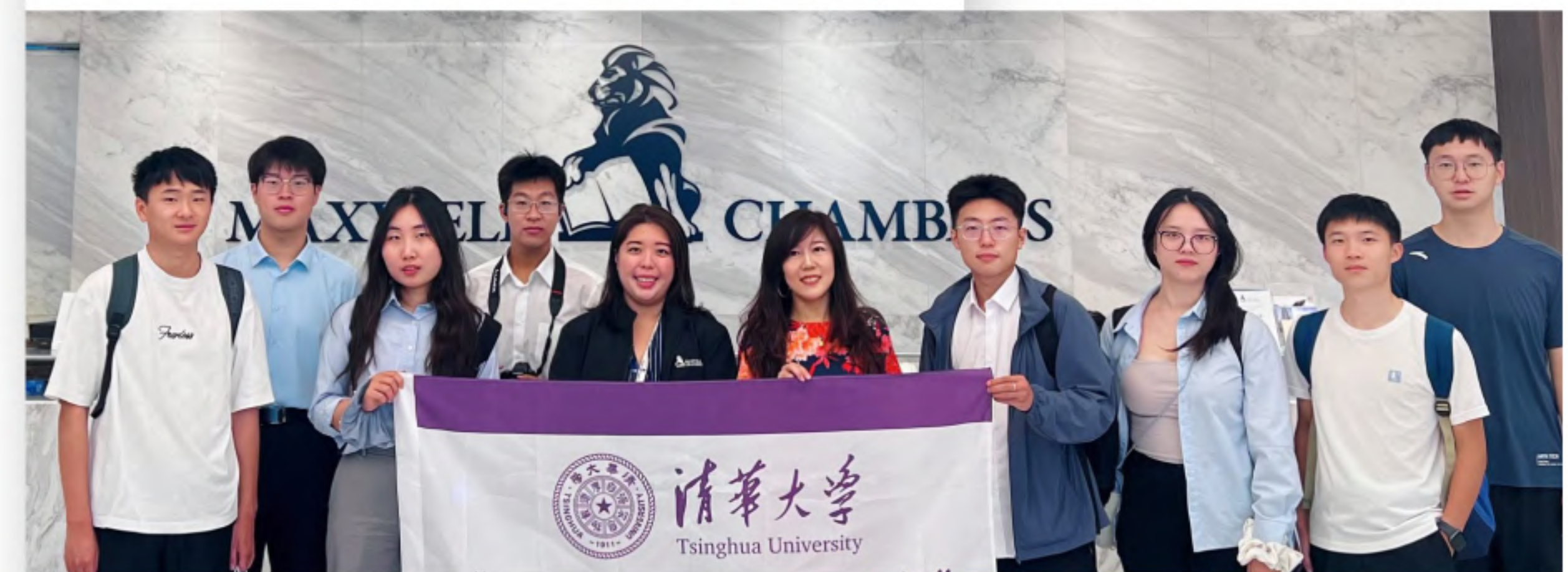


04 AUG 2025



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION INSTRUMENT AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

SCMA hosted a group of postgraduate students from the Department of Precision Instrument at Tsinghua University on 4 August 2025 as part of their overseas research programme in Singapore.



The visit to Maxwell Chambers included a guided tour of its hearing facilities and an introduction to Singapore's wider dispute resolution ecosystem. SCMA also provided the students with an overview of its arbitration framework and its role in supporting maritime and international trade dispute resolution. The engagement formed part of SCMA's ongoing efforts to contribute to educational outreach and to raise awareness of maritime arbitration among future industry and technology professionals.

05 NOV 2025

ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA MARITIME ARBITRATION COMMISSION (CMAC)

SCMA hosted Li Hu, Vice Chairman of the CMAC, during his visit to Singapore. SCMA and CMAC discussed developments in maritime arbitration, including Singapore's hosting of ICMA XXIII.

SCMA and CMAC share a longstanding working relationship grounded in cooperation and regular engagement, reflecting the close connections between the maritime arbitration communities of China and Singapore. Both institutions reaffirmed their intention to continue strengthening dialogue and collaborative efforts.



13 NOV 2025



MEMBERS' APPRECIATION NIGHT 2025

SCMA held its annual Members' Appreciation Night 2025 on 13 November at the Tsao Pao Chee and IMC Shipping office, bringing together members, partners, and industry representatives for an evening of reflection, updates, and networking.

The event opened with remarks by SCMA Chairman Chao Hick Tin SC, who outlined key developments over the past year, including growth in membership, broader international outreach across Asia and other regions, and the strengthening of institutional partnerships through newly concluded MOUs. He also highlighted SCMA's work in industry development, such as its role as Secretariat for the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot, the Perspectives Seminar Series, and ongoing workgroups focused on methanol, ammonia and cybersecurity working groups



13 NOV 2025



As part of SCMA's digitalisation efforts, the Chairman introduced the SCMA Vault, an online repository developed with Epiq to support secure and efficient case file management for arbitrators. Tom Bennett-Mitrovski and Benedict Chia from Epiq gave a presentation on the platform's function and capabilities.

The Members' Appreciation Night 2025 also featured a food introduction by Jeremy Nguee, Culinary Director at OCTAVE Culinary, before transitioning into an evening of networking and industry engagement among attendees.



14 NOV 2025

GUANGDONG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT

On 14 November 2025, SCMA hosted a delegation from the Guangdong Lawyers Association. The session included an overview of SCMA's role, services, and ongoing initiatives within the maritime arbitration landscape, together with a discussion on broader institutional cooperation.

SCMA's Chairman Chao Hick Tin SC addressed the delegation, highlighting the importance of strengthening regional and international collaboration among legal institutions. The visit contributed to ongoing dialogue between Singapore and Guangdong's legal communities and supported efforts to deepen cooperation in maritime dispute resolution.



18 NOV 2025

MOROCCAN DELEGATION ENGAGEMENT

SCMA hosted a delegation from Morocco as part of a visit organised through the partnership between the Moroccan Ministry of Justice, the National Committee on Business Climate, and GIZ.

Discussions focused on the value of specialised frameworks for maritime arbitration, including how tailored mechanisms can better serve the needs of the maritime sector. The meeting also examined the broader national arbitration frameworks in Singapore and Morocco and explored areas of potential cooperation. The engagement contributed to strengthening dialogue between the two jurisdictions and supporting continued collaboration in maritime dispute resolution.



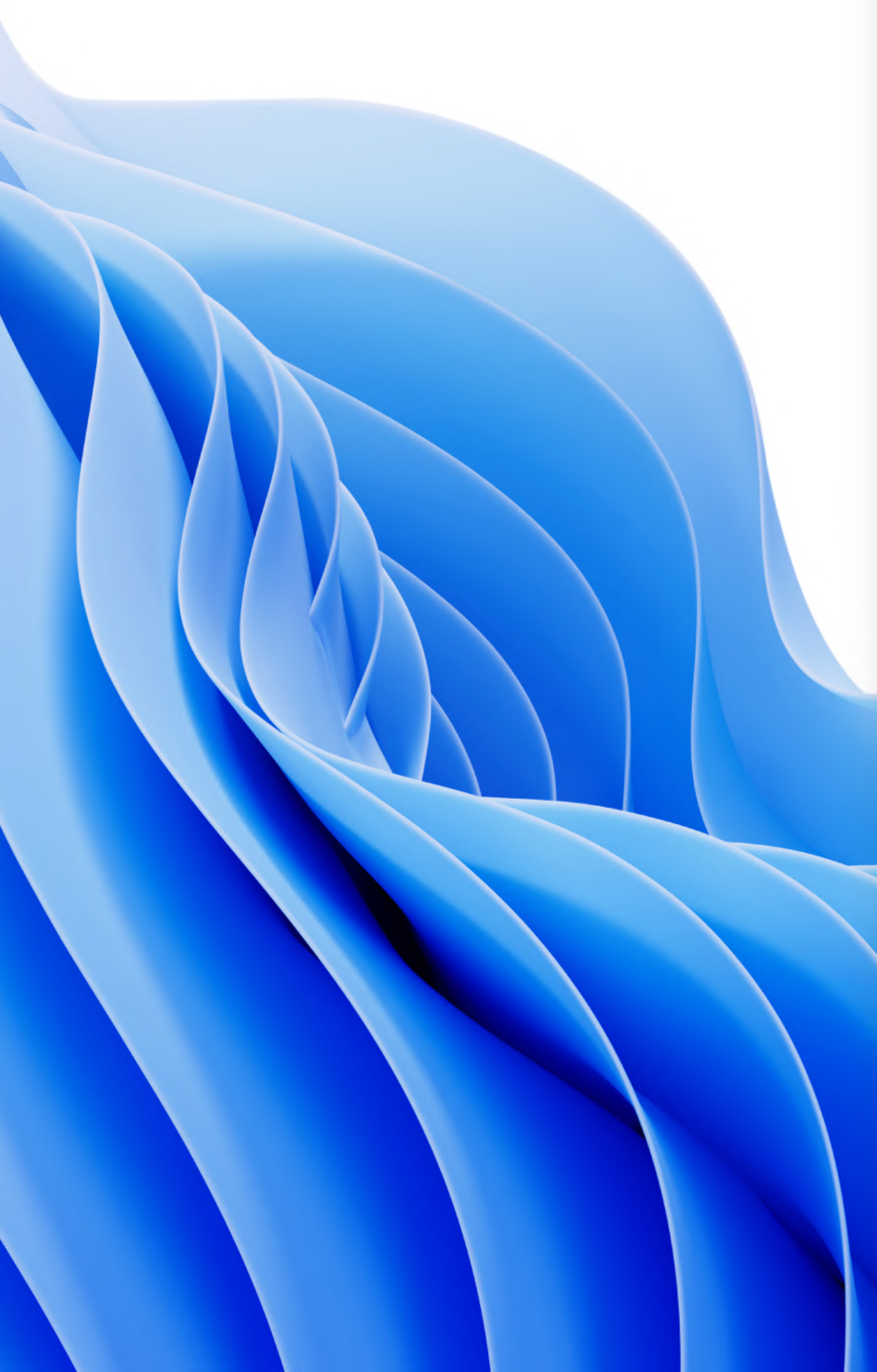
LOOKING AHEAD ²⁰/₂₆

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MARITIME ARBITRATORS XXIII (ICMA) 22-27 MAR ²⁰/₂₆

ICMA is a prestigious event that assembles maritime arbitrators, maritime and shipping counsel, lawyers, and other maritime professionals to engage in discourse and exchange views on the latest developments in maritime dispute resolution and arbitration and other pertinent issues. During ICMA XXIII, we expect to welcome practicing lawyers, in-house counsel, maritime industry professionals, arbitrators, and judges from all over the world in Singapore. Singapore last hosted ICMA in 2007.

SCMA CONFERENCE 2027 Date to be announced

Our flagship SCMA Conference will return in 2027. It aims to bring together industry professionals, business leaders and legal practitioners to deliberate on current maritime issues and discuss on how maritime dispute resolution services should continue to evolve to meet the ambulatory needs of the global maritime community.

An abstract graphic of blue, flowing, wave-like shapes that sweep across the bottom and left sides of the page, creating a sense of movement and depth. The waves are rendered in various shades of blue, from light to deep, with soft gradients and highlights that give them a three-dimensional appearance.

20 25

SCMA YEAR IN REVIEW

*SINGAPORE CHAMBER OF
MARITIME ARBITRATION*

28 Maxwell Road #03-09
Maxwell Chambers Suites
Singapore 069120
T: +65 6324 0552
E: mail@scma.org.sg
www.scma.org.sg