Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide

International arbitration in Singapore has grown by leaps and bounds. SIAC has an active case load of 619. This book is a testimony to Singapore's importance in the global arbitration arena.
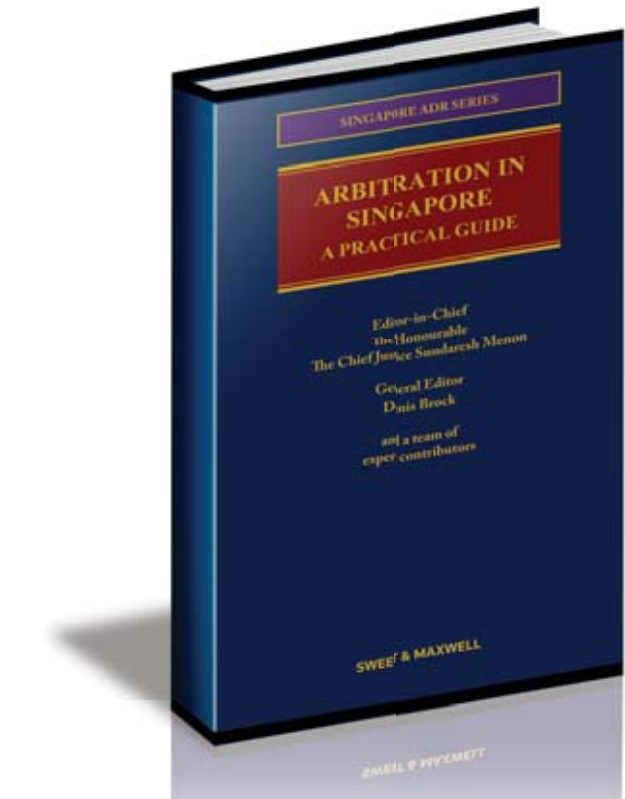
This is a must-have book for anyone who wants to know and operate in the Singapore arbitral system. The panel of authors are the "who's who" of the arbitral fraternity. This book is a practical guide which covers the procedural aspects of arbitration and also, focuses on arbitration in specific industries.

This book consists of 20 chapters. It begins with a historical overview of arbitration. The author covers the practice of arbitration from the Roman Empire, medieval England, France and Italy, and modern America. The significant international documents; the Geneva Protocol and Convention, the New York Convention and the Model Law are also discussed.

The next three chapters describe the role of the Court, the main features of arbitration and the legislative regime. Arbitration has been successful in Singapore because it has received strong support from the judiciary and Parliament. The Singapore Court of Appeal has announced that its role is to "support, and not to displace, the arbitral process". In conjunction to that, on 9 January 2014, the judiciary identified specialist arbitration Judges, among who are Justices Judith Prakash, Belinda Ang and Vinodh Coomaraswamy. The legislative framework in Singapore for arbitration is primarily found in two statutes; the Arbitration Act, and the International Arbitration Act for the international forum. Chapter 5 analyses the conflict of laws and the arbitral issues that arise from it.

Chapters 6 to 14 deal with the arbitral process proper. Starting with the arbitration agreement, it chronologically describes each step in the proceedings. For example, how the appointment of the arbitrator is done, the requirements of the notice of arbitration, including amending and responding to the notice, and the recognition, enforcement and challenge of the arbitration award. The steps outline the practical considerations with existing literature for easy reference. For example, the case of *PT First Media v Astro Nusantara International BV and others* [2013] is analysed at length, providing a complete picture of the grounds on which a Court can refuse enforcement of a domestic international arbitration. The ends of Chapter 6 and Chapter 12 have samples of model arbitration clauses and award templates.

The content of this book showcases step by step the workings of the arbitration process. It also offers a broad range of practical tips. For example, arbitrators should be aware that the principle of competence-competence has limited practicability in Singapore, and where such a ruling is made, it may be subject to review by

the Singapore Court. It also highlights a suggestion made in other literature that the Singapore Courts have the power to order third party document production for arbitrations that have foreign seats.

The final five chapters explain the practice of arbitration in specific industries: construction, intellectual property, domain name dispute resolution, shipping and international trade, oil and gas, and end with investment protection and international dispute resolution in Singapore.

The Asia Pacific is growing in its reputation as the preferred arbitration venue. In that collective effort, Singapore has established itself as one of the preferred arbitral institutions for domestic and international arbitration. The index and the sequence of the topics make for easy reference for users of this guide. The contributors have simultaneously compiled a practical handbook and a research treatise. Consultation of this book to simplify difficult procedural or evidential decisions is well advised.

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For more information about *Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide* or Sweet & Maxwell, visit http://www.sweetandmaxwellasia.com.sg/.