YSIAC Advocacy Workshop, Shanghai

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The YSIAC Advocacy Workshop in Shanghai was held on 26 October 2016 at the Dentons Shanghai Office. Ms Lim Seok Hui, CEO, SIAC and SIMC, delivered the welcome address and extended her gratitude to the attendees for showing up on such a rainy day. Mr Hu Ke, Partner at Jingtian & Gongcheng; Member, SIAC Users Counsel China; Member, YSIAC Committee, gave an introduction to the case scenario and explained the concept of the workshop.

The panel consisted of Mr Yang Ing Loong, Partner, Latham & Watkins and Member, SIAC Users Council Hong Kong SAR; Mr Chan Hock Keng, Partner, Wong Partnership LLP and Member, SIAC Users Council Singapore; Mr Chen Luming, Partner, JunHe LLP and Member, SIAC Users Council China National Committee; and Ms Kathryn Sanger, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills and Member, SIAC Users Council Hong Kong SAR.

During the first session, each party’s counsel made oral submissions as to the three jurisdictional objections. Claimant’s counsels were played by Mr Ma Han, Associate, Hui Zhong Law Firm; Mr Zhang Liangmin (Joe), Associate, Jingtian & Gongcheng; and Mr Zhang Cunyuan, Associate, Zhong Lun Law Firm. Respondents’ counsels were played by Mr Gong Suni, Associate, Broad & Bright Law Firm; Ms Wang Jie (Christina), Legal Consultant, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; and Mr Chen Yuwei, Associate, JunHe LLP. All counsels perfectly played their respective roles during the oral advocacy process. The panel members also raised pertinent questions regarding each counsel’s oral submissions.

For the second session, each party’s counsel made oral submissions as to the application for emergency relief. Claimant’s counsels were played by Mr Li Xinli (David), Senior Associate, Dentons Shanghai Office, and Mr Mu Di (Vincent), Counsel, Fangda Partners. Respondents’ counsels were played by Mr Yang Yi (Blake), Associate, Martin Hu & Partners and Ms Ye Weina, Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills. The panel members also provided interesting insights into the oral advocacy process.

The panel discussion which followed the sessions was moderated by Mr Kevin Nash, Deputy
Registrar & Centre Director of SIAC. During the discussion, the panel members shared their views and experience on how to conduct oral arguments and discussed the differences in arbitration and cross-examination practices under civil law and common law. They provided feedback for each counsel’s performance and gave useful and informative tips for advocacy. Finally, Ms Ariel Ye, Partner, King & Wood Mallesons, Member, SIAC Court of Arbitration and Chair, SIAC Users Council Hong Kong SAR Committee, shared her first arbitration experience and encouraged the attending legal practitioners to enhance their arbitration skills on a continuing basis.

The workshop was both practical and entertaining and ended with great success.