



YEAR IN REVIEW

SINGAPORE CHAMBER OF MARITIME ARBITRATION
新加坡海事仲裁院

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2017 saw SCMA engaged in a host of events and activities at an unprecedented level. We started the year with our flagship event in March, the SCMA Conference 2017. Since its first edition in 2011, the SCMA Conference assembles captains of industry and thought leaders in maritime arbitration to deliberate pressing issues of the day. The conference drew in over 140 delegates. The keynote speaker, Sir Bernard Rix, addressed delegates on the imperativeness of modern maritime arbitration stepping up to a more public role in developing maritime jurisprudence alongside the judiciary.

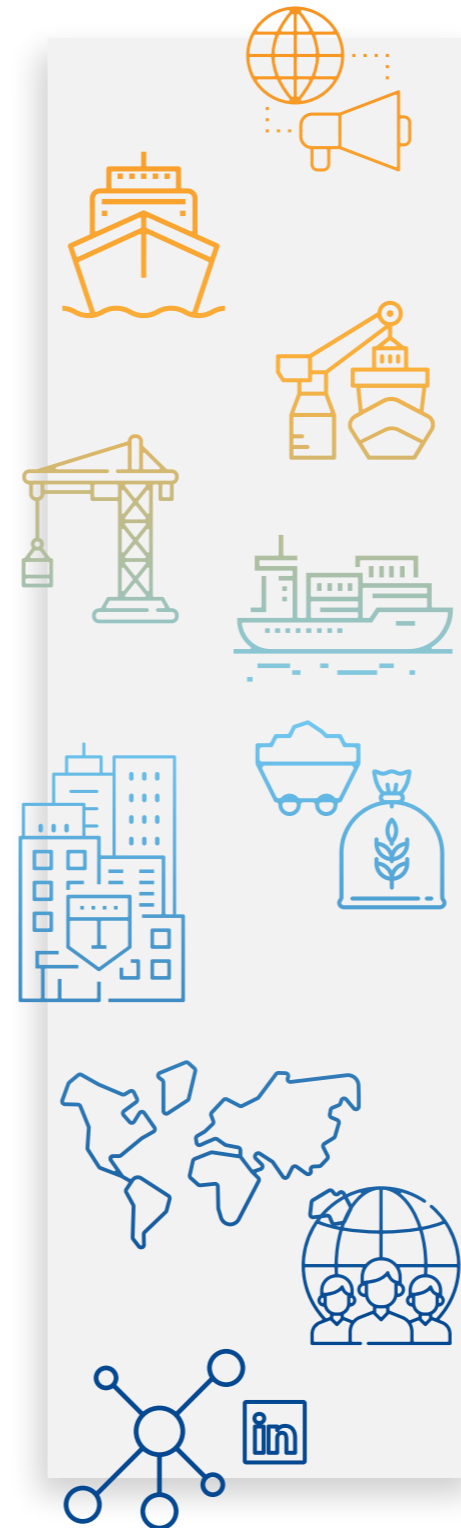


First unveiled at our Annual General Meeting in June 2017, SCMA's promotional efforts will now focus on 4 key geographical markets and 4 key maritime sectors. The key markets are China, Indonesia, India, and a "catch-all" market we term Emerging Markets. Within these markets, SCMA will engage industry players in the maritime sectors on (1) Charterparties, (2) Commercial Trading Contracts, (3) Ship Build, Sale and Purchase, and (4) Insurance and P&I. We call this our "4 x 4" strategy.

Designed to address the challenges faced by maritime arbitration bodies worldwide in sustaining the level of arbitral activity, our bold strategy was perfectly timed to mitigate the dip in maritime references observed across the proverbial board. More on our 2017 statistics below.

Refocusing our efforts, SCMA continues to push Singapore as the choice arbitral destination to both local and overseas users. I am pleased to report that SCMA undertook 12 overseas promotional trips in 2017 to all 4 key geographical markets, recording our highest number of overseas trips ever. SCMA gave presentations to local maritime trade bodies, shipowners' associations and maritime practitioners at events in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Bali and Ho Chi Minh City. SCMA also organised SCMA conferences and talks in Mumbai, Jakarta and Sydney. I thank our Singapore and overseas partners for their support in ensuring that our events were successful.

As part of brand building, SCMA is exploring ways to reach out to new audiences. SCMA was featured in 4 articles in various maritime publications. Our increased media coverage included SCMA's participation in Channel NewsAsia's maritime documentary. This is expected to be aired in 2018. SCMA also launched our first dedicated marketing collaterals, and established an online presence through an official SCMA LinkedIn account. I encourage you to follow us on LinkedIn and keep yourselves updated with our regular programming through notifications on upcoming events, overseas conferences, as well as articles featuring SCMA.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2018-

SCMA will continue to build on our marketing and outreach efforts in 2017. Our first local event will be a tea talk co-organised with 20 Essex Street to be followed by a conference in Dubai in March 2018. Further details will be released in due course.

Our website is also undergoing a redesign. Information will be presented in a simple but informative way. Among other improvements, the revamped website will showcase the unique specialist expertise of SCMA Panel of Arbitrators, and allow precise rule searching. For the first time, SCMA redacted awards and accompanying commentaries will be published in the Lloyd's Maritime Law Newsletter, a sister publication of the ubiquitous Lloyd's Law Reports.

2018 is also a timely year to undertake a rules revision study. The SCMA Arbitration Rules were last revised in 2015 and since then we have been actively collecting feedback on improving the rules. We will be holding a series of consultation dialogues, and we invite your suggestions to make our rules more relevant, effective and user-friendly.

Finally, we encourage our aspiring young to prepare themselves for the responsibility of steering the future of Singapore maritime arbitration. Singapore maritime arbitration would not be what it is today without the contributions of the pioneers before us. SCMA will explore ways to develop and nurture our budding maritime arbitrators through various SCMA-led initiatives. Watch this space.

The hull of Singapore maritime arbitration will remain strong with your support. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your support over the years. Welcome to SCMA's second edition of Year in Review.

Goh Joon Seng

CASE MANAGEMENT

SCMA saw a reduction in the number of references registered in 2017. Compared to the 46 registered references in 2016, 38 references were registered with the Chamber in 2017.

While non-OW Bunker disputes were a minority of the references registered in 2016 at references, non-OW Bunker disputes in 2017 accounted for the vast majority and surpassed 2016 figures with 37 references.

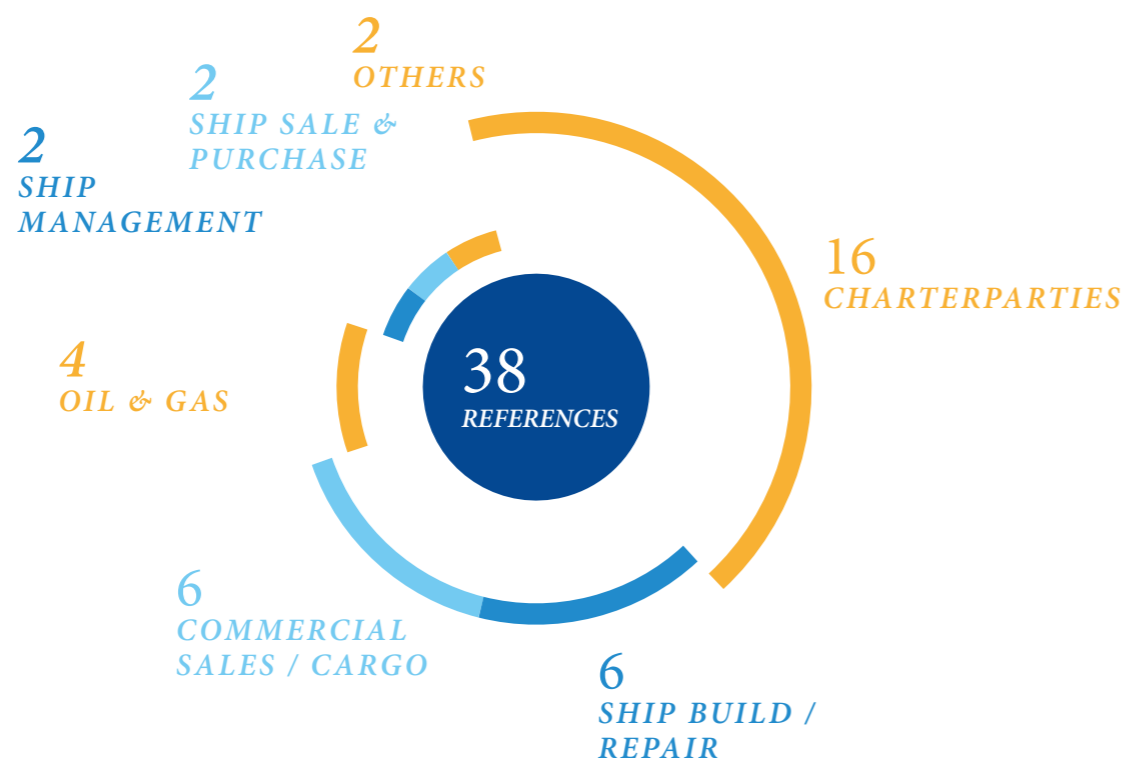
In addition, 2017 case references saw an increase in the average complexity of registered references.

Compared to 2016's average case quantum of US\$0.86 million, the average case quantum in 2017 was US\$1.46million. The total amount in dispute in 2017 also rose to US\$53 million from 2016's US\$38 million.

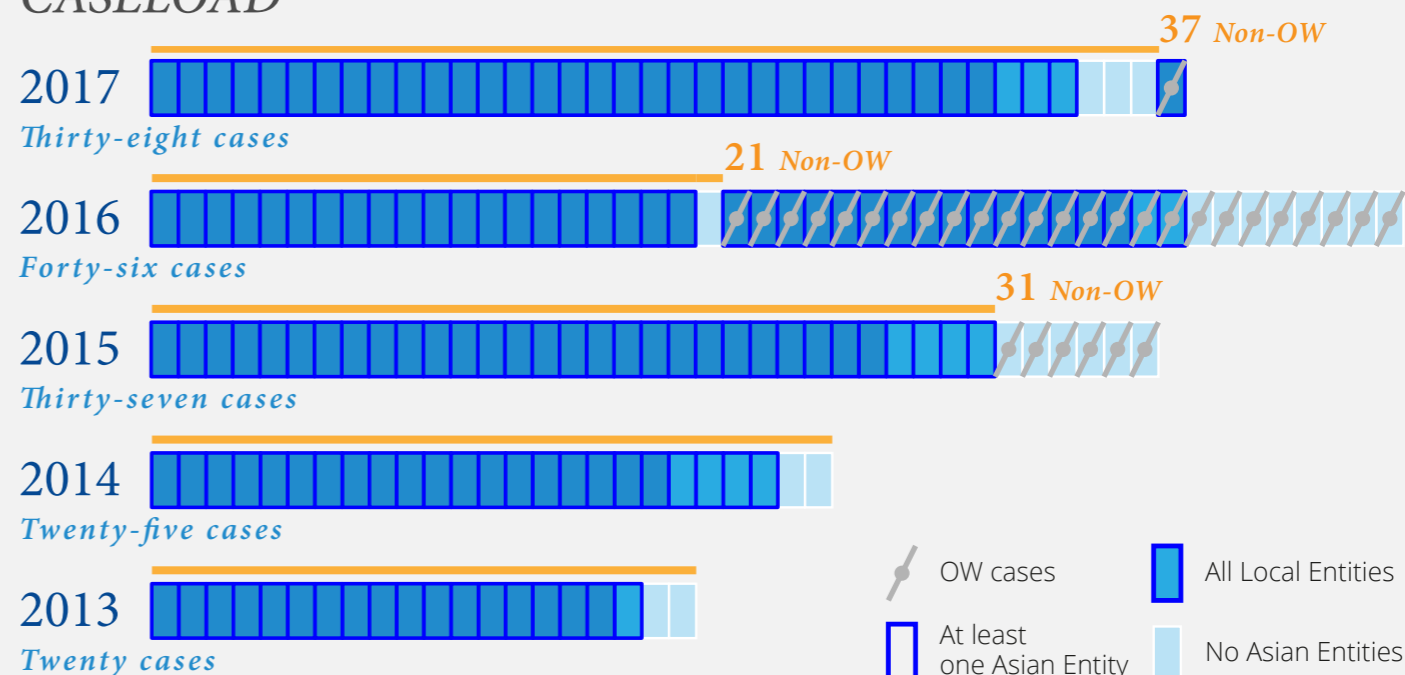
The highest sum in dispute in 2017 was approximately US\$14.4 million. The SCMA Chairman appointed arbitrators to 16 references.

In 2017 and for the first time, we are pleased to report that Singapore-based arbitrators form the largest percentage of arbitrators on the SCMA Panel of Arbitrators.

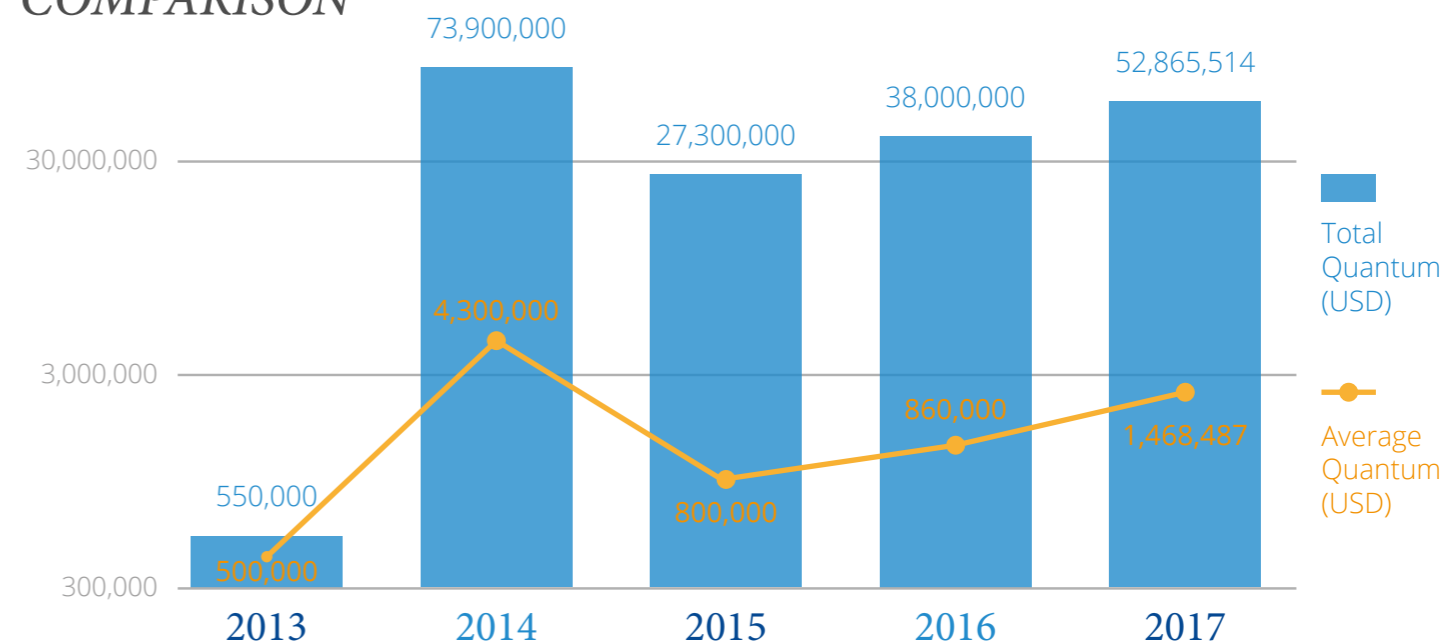
2017 NATURE OF REFERENCES



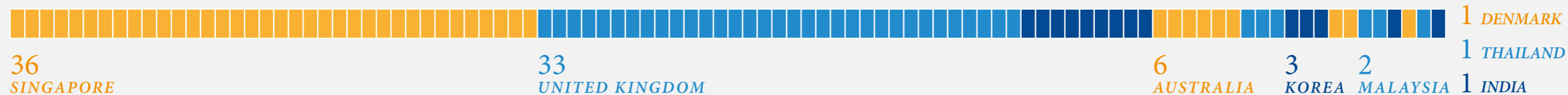
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QUANTUM COMPARISON

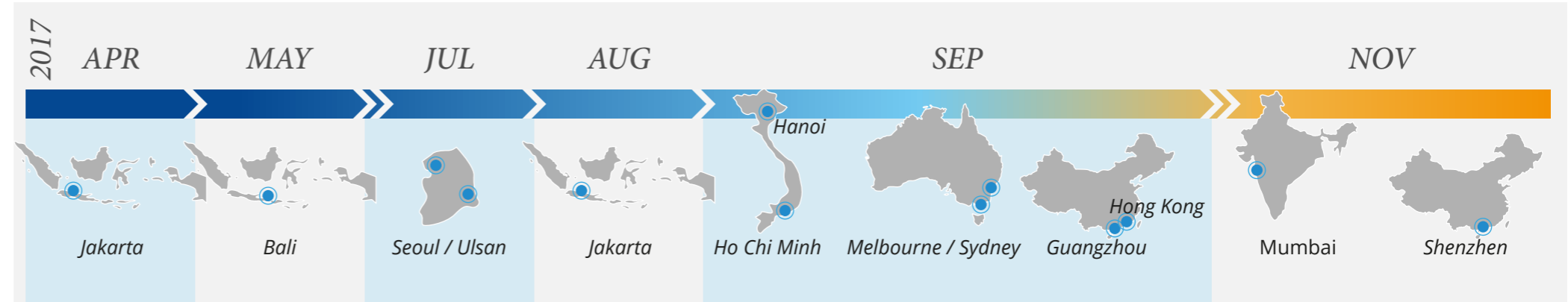


RESIDENCY OF SCMA ARBITRATORS



PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Having identified the key markets and sectors, the SCMA team had a busy schedule working with our members and the media to promote Singapore arbitration in the region and at home.



CHINA

China is a key market for SCMA. In 2017, SCMA made 4 promotional trips to China, visiting the cities of Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenzhen. SCMA was invited to speak in 2 of the city visits. SCMA also made a trip to Hong Kong in September 2017 to conduct marketing calls and meet with SCMA members. Hong Kong is one of the top 3 residencies of SCMA's Panel of Arbitrators and is also an important market for SCMA.

SCMA was invited to speak under the topic of "The Role of Arbitration under the Belt and Road Initiative" at the 7th Greater China Arbitration Forum in Guangzhou on 19 September 2017.

SCMA gave a presentation on the opportunities and risks of disputes under the Belt and Road initiative for the maritime industry and promoted Singapore as a venue for arbitration as well as SCMA.



One of the sessions of The Maritime Law Seminar & International Maritime Policy Forum Under "The Belt and Road", 2017, held in Shenzhen from 25 to 26 November 2017, was the Singapore Maritime Arbitration Moot Court. With our members' support, the Moot Problem was based around the SCMA Arbitration Rules.

SCMA gave a presentation on the features of the SCMA Arbitration Rules, and how they were well-suited for maritime disputes.

SCMA also presented a paper to the Forum on the Singapore judiciary's pragmatic approach to resolving pathological arbitration clauses.

INDIA

SCMA conducted its first SCMA India Conference in Mumbai and Delhi in September 2016. The turnout for both conferences were good and thus SCMA embarked on our second SCMA India Conference in Mumbai in 2017.

The 2nd SCMA India Arbitration Conference was held in Mumbai on 10 November 2017. The Conference gathered international legal practitioners from key Indian trading partners such as China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to discuss their experiences in enforcing awards in their respective jurisdictions.

About 70 guests attended the conference and there were several requests for SCMA to host similar events in other parts of India. SCMA will be visiting India again in 2018 to strengthen the bridges built in 2016 and 2017.



INDONESIA

SCMA participated at the 3rd Annual Symposium for Arbitrators and Mediators on 26 April 2017 in Jakarta. SCMA delivered a presentation on SCMA at the session on “The Rising Presence of Dispute Resolution Professionals in Indonesia and Asia Pacific Region”.



SCMA participated in the annual Coaltrans Asia conference in Bali from 14 to 16 May 2017. Participation at that symposium broadened SCMA's network and reach in Indonesia, and prepared SCMA for its first Indonesia conference in Aug 2017.



Returning to Indonesia on 15 Aug 2017, SCMA held its inaugural Indonesia conference in Jakarta on “Coal Mining and Trading: Trends and Risks in Cross-Border Transactions”. The conference addressed the pitfalls and concerns in mining and trading activities, means to resolve coal disputes, and discussed practical approaches to mitigating cross-border risks. SCMA also presented a case study on the most common types of coal disputes registered with the SCMA. The conference was well-attended by about 80 attendees hailing from industry and legal sectors.

VIETNAM

SCMA participated in a shipping conference organised by the Vietnam Shipowners' Association in September 2017 through the invitation of a corporate member. The conference was held in the charming cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh. SCMA presented on the advantages and features of a arbitration in international trade disputes applying the SCMA Arbitration Rules



The presentation drew keen interest from participants and SCMA was invited back to Vietnam by the Vietnam Shipowners' Association to co-organise an Arbitration Workshop in April 2018.

KOREA

SCMA visited Seoul and Ulsan, South Korea on a promotional trip in July 2017. SCMA's visit was well-received and many indicated their interest in attending a SCMA Korea Conference in 2018.

Plans are underway for SCMA to return to Korea in April this year to host SCMA's Korea Conference 2018.

AUSTRALIA

2017 also marked SCMA's first foray into Australia. Australia is a trade and resource-rich country and represents immense potential for the growth of maritime arbitration. SCMA shared with Australian end-users the benefits of conducting an ad-hoc arbitration under the auspices of an arbitration institution. SCMA also promoted the SCMA Arbitration Rules to the commodity and mining communities.

SCMA visited Melbourne and Sydney, and conducted tea talks with representatives of the Victorian Bar and New Chambers in Sydney in September 2017. SCMA plans to return to Australian market and conduct further in-depth visits in 2018.

SCMA LOCAL EVENTS

SCMA CONFERENCE 2017

SCMA held its fifth annual conference on 15 March 2017. A marquee event for the chamber, the conference was very well-received with record participants. The theme for SCMA Conference 2017 was “Making Maritime Arbitration Work for you”. The Guest of Honour and keynote speaker was Sir Bernard Rix and he gave an insightful speech on “Modern Maritime Law, Modern Maritime Arbitration”. There were also a broad variety of panels staffed by industry leaders and legal luminaries discussing the challenges and solutions faced in arbitration by practitioners, the suitability and advantages of SCMA arbitration for the offshore oil & gas industry, arbitration and insolvency, integration of mediation in the arbitration process and a focus on international commodities.



20 ESSEX STREET & SCMA TEA TALK



20 Essex Street and SCMA co-organised a Tea Talk on “State of Play – Trends and Challenges for the Shipbuilding Market in Asia” on 10 October 2017. Speakers assessed the current state of the shipbuilding industry, adaptations of Asian yards to market conditions, trends in claims behaviour and advice on managing problems with claims. The tea talk was well-received with many attendees impressed with the quality of the presentations.

BUILDING SCMA'S SINGAPORE BRAND

NEW MARKETING COLLATERALS

SCMA launched a brand new set of marketing collaterals, "Shaping the Future of Maritime Arbitration" in April 2017 that included an easy to carry arbitration rules booklet.

The new marketing collaterals provide more information on the benefits of arbitrating in Singapore under the SCMA Arbitration Rules and highlight some of SCMA's distinctive features and unique offerings, including the Small Claims Procedure, SCMA Expedited Arbitral Determination of Collision Claims (SEADOCC) terms and Singapore Bunker Claims Procedure (SBC Terms).



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

SCMA engaged the media more actively and received increased and wider coverage by several international maritime publications and local media in 2017. SCMA was featured in 4 articles and it helped to raise the visibility of SCMA. SCMA also collaborated with Channel NewsAsia for a feature piece in a documentary on Singapore. The documentary will feature commentaries and interviews of our Chairman and Board Members, and is slated for broadcast in 2018.

SCMA RULES IN ARBITRATION MOOTS

SCMA is also promoting its Arbitration Rules to current and future maritime lawyers through other initiatives. The SCMA Arbitration Rules used in the Singapore Maritime Arbitration Moot Court held at The Maritime Law Seminar & International Maritime Policy Forum Under "The Belt and Road", 2017, in China. SCMA Arbitration Rules were also written into the 18th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot organised by Murdoch University and hosted in Singapore by Singapore Management University. SCMA is also proud to be a general and prize sponsor of the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot 2018 organised by Murdoch University and hosted in Australia by the University of Queensland.