



ADR VIETNAM CHAMBERS LLC
— INDEPENDENT ARBITRATORS & MEDIATORS —

NEWSLETTER QUARTER I/2026

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INTRODUCTION



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ADR Vietnam Chambers is honored to publish the first quarter [ADR Vietnam Newsletter](#), aiming to bring readers the latest highlights of ADR Vietnam Chambers as well as notable upcoming activities related to arbitration and others alternative dispute resolution in Vietnam and globally from January to March 2026

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES

A Busy Start to 2026: Four Arbitral Awards Issued and New Appointments Received in Q1

The first quarter of 2026 marked a busy start to the year, with Mr. Nguyen Manh Dzung issuing 04 arbitral awards and receiving 3 new appointments.

During Q1 2026, acting as either Presiding Arbitrator or Co-Arbitrator, Mr. Nguyen Manh Dzung, together with the respective Arbitral Tribunals, issued 4 arbitral awards across the following sectors:

- *Two Maritime arbitral awards: In a shipping dispute, the Arbitral Tribunal had to address a request for interim emergency measures. In both disputes, the core issues revolved around determining the nature of the contractual relationship between the parties, specifically whether the agreements constituted logistics service arrangements or contracts for the carriage of goods by sea.*
- *International trade arbitral award: The Arbitral Tribunal addressed issues concerning the application of the CISG in conjunction with Vietnamese law in resolving the dispute.*
- *Financial arbitral award: The Arbitral Tribunal determined issues relating to the scope of jurisdiction of the Tribunal in a dispute involving multi-party financial transactions and multiple related contracts.*

At the same time, Mr. Dzung continued to receive the confidence of the arbitration community through 3 new appointments as Arbitrator and Presiding Arbitrator in disputes across the fields of construction, renewable energy, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

LAWYER, ARBITRATOR

NGUYEN MANH DZUNG

DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES

Mr Nguyen Manh Dzung joins the Panel of Arbitrators of the China Maritime Arbitration Commission (CMAC)

This is the third specialized maritime arbitration institution to which Mr. Dzung has been invited to join, following the Tasken International Arbitration Centre (TIAC) and the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA). It is also the sixth arbitration institution from China (including Hong Kong), alongside HKIAC, HIAC, SHAC, eBRAM, and SJZAC.

In the context where China is currently the third-largest investor in Vietnam and also the country with the second - highest number of disputing parties at VIAC, together with the recent amendments to China's Arbitration Law aimed at modernization, it is evident that the Chinese arbitration market is developing rapidly and playing an increasingly significant role in the regional and international dispute resolution landscape.

The invitation extended to Mr. Nguyen Manh Dzung to join CMAC carries substantial practical significance and reflects recognition of his professional reputation and international experience within the Chinese arbitration market.



Supporting the establishment of the International Arbitration Centre under the Vietnam International Financial Centre (VIFC)

Pursuant to the policy set out in Resolution No. 222/2015/QH15 of the National Assembly, the Vietnam International Financial Centre (VIFC) will establish a dispute resolution body comprising a specialized court modeled after the International Commercial Court (ICC) to be implemented for the first time in Vietnam, and an International Arbitration Centre under the IFC.

Following his participation and contributions to the drafting of the Law on Specialized Courts, Mr. Nguyen Manh Dzung continues, together with leading Vietnamese arbitrators, to support the Ministry of Justice in the establishment of the International Arbitration Centre, with the objective of creating an institution that meets outstanding international standards, including:

- A dispute resolution system developed in accordance with international standards, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and alignment with the needs of the global market.
- A strong focus on financial disputes, addressing the complex and diverse needs of both domestic and international businesses.
- A legal framework designed to attract foreign investment and remain user - friendly for disputing parties. In particular, the Arbitration Centre will take advantage of advanced legal mechanisms, under which disputing parties may agree to waive their right to seek annulment of arbitral awards, a provision of significant importance that enhances the finality, stability, and enforceability of arbitral awards, thereby increasing its attractiveness and international competitiveness.

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Workshop on the Law on Construction 2025 – Key Considerations in Construction Contracts and Legal Risk Management

On 17 January 2026, a specialized workshop on the Law on Construction 2025 was successfully held in Ho Chi Minh City, bringing together representatives from regulatory authorities, legal practitioners, arbitrators, and leading construction enterprises. The event served as a platform for in - depth discussions on the key changes introduced by the new law, particularly in the context of increasingly complex projects and the growing need for effective legal risk management. The discussions focused on two main themes: cost management and contract adjustments, as well as dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms in the construction sector.

One of the key highlights was the formal recognition of liquidated damages (LD), addressing longstanding challenges related to the burden of proving actual loss and inconsistencies between different legal frameworks. The codification of LD enhances transparency in risk allocation and enables parties to better anticipate financial liabilities, especially in contracts involving foreign elements. In addition, the Dispute Board mechanism was emphasized as an effective preventive tool, allowing potential issues to be addressed early during project implementation, thereby reducing the risk of major disputes and ensuring project continuity.

From a practical perspective, data and experiences shared at the workshop indicate that construction disputes continue to account for a significant proportion of commercial disputes and are becoming increasingly complex. The growing use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including arbitration and mediation, reflects a rising demand for flexible and efficient dispute resolution methods tailored to the industry.

Overall, the workshop provided a comprehensive overview of the key developments under the Law on Construction 2025, while offering practical insights to help businesses and investors enhance contract management and effectively mitigate legal risks in construction activities.



II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2. Cambridge Forum for Asian Arbitration Practitioners

Mr. Nguyen Manh Dzung was honoured to be the only Vietnamese arbitrator invited to the Cambridge Forum for Asian Arbitration Practitioners this year.

The Cambridge International Arbitration Forum in Asia brought together more than 40 leading lawyers and arbitrators from over 13 jurisdictions, creating a platform for in - depth discussions on key issues in contemporary arbitration practice. Despite its short duration, the forum was highly intensive, with sessions conducted in a fully interactive format without the use of electronic devices, thereby encouraging active participation and dynamic, multi-perspective exchanges among speakers and participants. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, including ethical standards and professionalism in arbitration, strategies for handling disputes involving financially distressed parties, cultural and procedural diversity, the growing role of artificial intelligence, the use of expert evidence, and the impact of geopolitical developments on the enforcement of arbitral awards.

The exchanges at the forum demonstrated strong practical relevance, reflecting diverse experiences across different legal systems. The event also highlighted a clear trend of increasing presence and confidence among practitioners from certain major markets in the region, while participation from emerging jurisdictions remains relatively limited. This underscores the importance of greater international exposure and integration in order to enhance competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of arbitration practice in the region.



3. Workshop on Proposed Amendments to the Law on Lawyers

On 5 February 2026, at a consultation workshop on the draft amendments to the Law on Lawyers organized by the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Nguyen Manh Dung delivered a presentation and contributed a number of valuable professional insights to the draft law. Notably, he also serves as a member of the drafting committee, directly participating in the research and development of this important piece of legislation. His involvement continues a longstanding collaboration with the Ministry of Justice across various major professional initiatives, ranging from policy development to training and capacity - building programs for lawyers.

With over 30 years of legal practice, experience at international law firms, and his role as the managing partner of a Vietnamese law firm ranked by reputable legal directories, Mr. Nguyen Manh Dung provided practical, internationally aligned recommendations. His proposals focused on developing the legal services market through greater professionalization, refining law firm organizational models, enhancing the quality of legal human resources, strengthening financial capacity, and promoting modern law firm management. These contributions play an important role in shaping a coherent legal framework aimed at building a transparent, efficient, and internationally integrated legal services market.



4. The 2026 Arbitrators and Mediators Gathering by VIAC

The 2026 Meeting of Arbitrators and Mediators, organized by the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, was not only an occasion to review its 2025 activities but also reflected the direct participation of arbitrators, including Arbitrator Nguyen Manh Dzong as a vice chairman of VIAC science council and deputy director of VIART. From his practical perspective at the event, the strong growth of the arbitration market is evident, with 533 new cases recorded, of which 48.5% involved foreign and FDI elements, further reaffirming VIAC's increasingly important role in the region.

The disputes were primarily concentrated in high-value and complex sectors such as sale of goods, construction, and real estate, reflecting the growing specialization of arbitration practice. At the same time, while acknowledging these achievements, Nguyen Manh Dzong expressed his expectation that VIAC will continue to align with international standards in its governance and administration, while maintaining strong confidence in the integrity, fairness, and professional ethics of its leadership.

Notably, with the participation of Prof. Dr. Phạm Duy Nghĩa as Vice President, the event also signaled positive prospects for future development. Overall, the program not only highlights the growth in both scale and quality of Vietnam's arbitration market, but also underscores the contributions and professional insights of arbitrators actively engaged in dispute resolution practice.

5. International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators

The 23rd International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA XXIII) was held from 22 to 27 March 2026 at the Shangri - La Hotel in Singapore, gathering more than 300 arbitrators, lawyers, maritime insurers, and arbitration institutions from over 37 jurisdictions.

ICMA is one of the most prestigious global forums in the field of maritime arbitration, established in 1972, and has played a significant role in shaping international standards for resolving maritime disputes. After nearly two decades since its 2007 edition, ICMA's return to Singapore highlights the growing importance of Asia within the global arbitration ecosystem.

At this Congress, Arbitrator Nguyen Manh Dzung, Director of ADR Vietnam Chambers, participated actively in the professional activities as a member of the Steering Committee. Notably, ADR Vietnam Chambers was also a sponsor of ICMA XXIII, demonstrating its strong commitment to international integration and the development of arbitration in Vietnam.



II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5. International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (cont.)

The discussions at ICMA XXIII comprehensively reflected key developments in maritime arbitration within the current global context. At a macro level, the plenary sessions emphasized the increasing impact of geopolitical tensions, economic sanctions, and supply chain disruptions on the nature and structure of maritime disputes, while also highlighting differences in practice across major legal systems such as the United States and China. At the same time, transparency and ethical standards in arbitration, particularly arbitrators' disclosure obligations and conflicts of interest, remained central concerns. Emerging debates on the use of artificial intelligence in legal research and decision-making support also raised important questions regarding objectivity and fairness in dispute resolution.

At a practical level, the thematic sessions demonstrated the growing complexity of maritime disputes, covering both traditional issues, such as enforcement of arbitral awards and jurisdictional challenges, and newer topics, including electronic bills of lading, misdelivery claims, and indemnity obligations in cargo transport. Importantly, discussions comparing ad hoc and institutional arbitration reaffirmed the need to select dispute resolution mechanisms tailored to specific types of disputes. In addition, emerging factors such as "green" regulatory standards in maritime transport, technological advancements (including blockchain and AI), and particularly the impact of international sanctions are significantly reshaping how disputes arise and are resolved, while also creating substantial legal challenges in the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards across jurisdictions.



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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

1. Introduction to the eBook “Dispute Resolution and the Legal Profession in Vietnam in the Context of International Integration”

In an increasingly complex legal landscape, the book not only provides essential knowledge but also offers in - depth analyses of current legal regulations in the field of arbitration, in comparison with international practices, based on research conducted over a three-year period from 2023 to 2025.

With engaging topics such as rules on consolidation of disputes, mechanisms for joinder of third parties, and studies on early dismissal procedures, the book serves as a valuable resource for lawyers, legal practitioners, law students, as well as those working in arbitration and mediation in Vietnam.

The contributions in this volume go beyond theoretical discussions by reflecting arbitration practice in Vietnam, offering sharp insights into pressing practical issues. In particular, analyses of due process and aspects relating to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards provide readers with a more comprehensive and well-rounded understanding of the field.





2. Research on Specialized Courts

The National Assembly's adoption of the Law on Specialized Courts marks a significant milestone in Vietnam's judicial reform, as it establishes, for the first time, a model of an international commercial court with its own procedural framework, aligned with international standards and common law practices. The article by the ADR Vietnam Chambers team highlights the fundamental changes introduced in the procedural mechanisms of these specialized courts.

First, the evidentiary regime is designed to be more transparent and adversarial, requiring parties to simultaneously disclose documents to one another, thereby limiting the concealment of evidence and enabling judges to focus on the core issues of the dispute. In addition, the law formally recognizes the role of expert evidence, allowing parties to rely on expert opinions in areas such as legal, financial, or technical matters, particularly in disputes involving foreign elements.

Notably, cross - examination procedures have been introduced, permitting counsel to directly question opposing witnesses and experts at hearings, thereby enhancing the reliability and substantive value of evidence. Case management conferences are also implemented at an early stage, enabling parties to agree on procedural timelines and streamline dispute resolution. Furthermore, mechanisms such as summary judgment and default judgment facilitate the efficient resolution of clear - cut cases and help prevent bad-faith delays in proceedings.

Finally, the ability to apply and develop case law represents a significant shift in judicial practice, bringing Vietnam's legal system closer to international norms. With these reforms, the specialized courts within the International Financial Centre framework stand as a testament to Vietnam's ongoing judicial modernization, while opening new opportunities for legal practitioners, investors, and international dispute resolution in the country.





3. Research on Ad Hoc Arbitration in the Context of International Commercial Dispute Resolution

Ad hoc arbitration is a dispute resolution mechanism in which the parties do not rely on any arbitral institution but instead agree to organize and conduct the entire arbitral process themselves. Its core feature lies in its “self - administered” nature, reflecting a high degree of party autonomy in determining the applicable rules (commonly the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules), the seat, the language, and the composition of the arbitral tribunal. From an international perspective, this model represents the clearest expression of the principle of party autonomy in arbitration. Over time, the UNCITRAL Rules have been progressively refined to enhance transparency, improve cost control, and introduce expedited procedures to better meet practical needs.

In practice, ad hoc arbitration continues to play a significant role globally, particularly in sectors requiring high levels of flexibility and technical expertise, such as maritime, commodities trade, and intellectual property. Recent international surveys indicate a growing preference for arbitration as a standalone dispute resolution mechanism, with ad hoc arbitration remaining prevalent in industries with long - standing traditions. In addition, various international bodies, while not administering proceedings, provide important support services, such as acting as appointing authorities or offering administrative assistance, including institutions like the PCA, ICC, SIAC, and HKIAC.

In Vietnam, the Law on Commercial Arbitration 2010 formally recognizes ad hoc arbitration, allowing parties broad discretion in designing procedural frameworks. However, unlike international practice, the role of appointing authority is primarily assigned to national courts. In the field of investment disputes, as Vietnam is not a member of the ICSID Convention, ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules has effectively become the primary mechanism for resolving investor - State disputes, with enforcement of awards relying on the 1958 New York Convention.

From a practical standpoint, ad hoc arbitration offers key advantages such as flexibility and greater control over procedures and costs. However, it also presents notable challenges, including the risk of procedural delays, heavy reliance on party cooperation, the absence of professional administrative support, and potential legal risks arising from poorly drafted arbitration clauses.



Ad Hoc Arbitration

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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

4. ICC EXPEDITED PROCEDURES TOOLKIT

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has recently released a comprehensive set of materials on Expedited Procedures (EP), including an eight - year report on their application, a practical Toolkit for arbitrators, and a factsheet on performance metrics from 2017 to 2024. These publications serve as valuable resources, providing direct support for the conduct of arbitration under expedited frameworks.

The Toolkit focuses on enhancing case management efficiency within shortened timelines, offering guidance on handling key procedural issues while maintaining a balance between speed, cost, and due process. Notably, the ICC materials emphasize that expedited procedures do not equate to a simplification or omission of essential procedural steps. On the contrary, they still incorporate core stages such as case management conferences (CMC), Procedural Order No. 1 (PO1), and safeguards ensuring the parties' right to present their case - elements that are fundamental to preserving fairness and due process in arbitration.

From an international perspective, the 2025 International Arbitration Survey by Queen Mary University of London and White & Case identifies expedited arbitration as the most effective mechanism for improving efficiency in arbitration proceedings. This highlights a growing demand for dispute resolution processes that are both swift and flexible while maintaining procedural integrity. In this context, developing and refining expedited procedure frameworks in Vietnam would be a timely and necessary step to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism in the modern business environment.



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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

5. New Law on Specialized Court 2025 At the Vietnam International Financial Centre Opening the Door to International Commercial Litigation Standards?

The enactment of the 2025 Law on Specialized Courts marks a significant milestone in Vietnam's judicial modernization, as it introduces, for the first time, a commercially oriented court model with an international outlook within the framework of the Vietnam International Financial Centre. Beyond procedural reform, this development reflects a broader shift in mindset: from a traditional adjudicatory system to a dispute resolution platform designed to compete on a global scale and align with leading international legal standards.

Notably, the new framework enables the application of modern procedural principles characterized by greater transparency and adversarial features, while expanding access to international practices and gradually incorporating elements commonly associated with common law systems. In parallel, the broad jurisdiction over cross - border commercial and investment disputes, as well as the authority to support and supervise arbitration, contributes to redefining the role of Vietnamese courts within the broader dispute resolution ecosystem.

Against the backdrop of intensifying competition among regional dispute resolution hubs such as Singapore and Hong Kong, the introduction of specialized courts not only provides parties with an additional alternative alongside arbitration, but also signals Vietnam's ambition to position itself as an emerging venue for international dispute resolution. However, the practical effectiveness of this model will ultimately depend on its implementation, particularly in ensuring judicial independence, maintaining high adjudicatory quality, and achieving meaningful integration with international best practices.

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LEGAL ENA

NEW LAW ON SPECIALIZED COURT 2025 AT THE VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE OPENING THE DOOR TO INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION STANDARDS?

Nguyen Manh Dzung
Director
ADR Vietnam Chambers LLC

Pham Duong Hoang Phuc
Arbitral Assistant
ADR Vietnam Chambers LLC

IV. NOTABLE EVENTS

1. Paris Arbitration Week

Paris Arbitration Week (PAW) is one of the most prominent and influential international arbitration events, held annually in Paris. The event brings together thousands of lawyers, arbitrators, academics, and business representatives from around the world, creating a dynamic platform for in-depth discussions on emerging trends, challenges, and innovations in international arbitration.

The agenda of Paris Arbitration Week covers a wide range of timely topics, including procedural reforms, investment arbitration practices, and the impact of technology and artificial intelligence on arbitration. A distinctive feature of the event is its open-format structure, with dozens of conferences, panel discussions, and side events organized by leading law firms, arbitral institutions, and academic institutions, offering diverse perspectives closely aligned with practical developments.

Beyond knowledge sharing, Paris Arbitration Week plays a key role in fostering connections within the global arbitration community. It provides valuable opportunities for professionals to expand their networks, exchange experiences, and promote cross-border collaboration. In an increasingly competitive and integrated arbitration landscape, participation in forums such as PAW is considered essential for enhancing professional expertise and strengthening one's position in the global market.



IV.

NOTABLE EVENTS

2. Inauguration of Hearing Facilities in Ha Noi and Official Launch of Vietnamese Translation of PCA Arbitration Rules

On 25 March 2026, at the invitation of PCA Ha Noi, the representative of ADR Vietnam Chambers attended the Inauguration of the PCA Ha Noi hearing facilities and the introduction of the Vietnamese translation of the PCA Arbitration Rules and Optional Protocols. The ceremony was successfully held with the participation of representatives from various authorities, organisations, and professionals in the field of arbitration.

The ceremony concluded with a guided tour of the fully equipped and modern hearing facilities, designed to best support the organization of dispute resolution hearings. In addition, PCA introduced the Vietnamese translation of the PCA Arbitration Rules and Optional Protocols. It is hoped that this milestone will mark a significant step forward in PCA's continued development in the field of international dispute resolution in Viet Nam, while also providing arbitration users with additional options when seeking a reputable international arbitration institution.

Notably, in 2026, ADR Vietnam Chambers will officially introduce Ad hoc Arbitration Services, offering more flexible and efficient solutions for clients, while expanding options to better meet the diverse needs of businesses and disputing parties.

PCA currently provides Ad hoc arbitration support services, including Case Administration, Appointing Authority services, Hearing facilities, and more. With the continued support of PCA, it is expected that Ad hoc arbitration services in Viet Nam will continue to develop and gradually align with international practices.



1. ICCA Congress 2026



The ICCA Congress is one of the world's most prominent international commercial arbitration events, held biennially and bringing together scholars, practitioners, arbitrators from judicial bodies and international organizations to discuss emerging trends, legal reforms and global dispute - resolution practices. Renowned for driving the development of international arbitration, the Congress serves both newcomers and experts in the field. The 27th ICCA Congress will take place in Madrid from 12 to 15 April 2026.

The theme for the 2026 Congress is "International Arbitration: Local, Global or Both?" This edition will explore how the international arbitration system balances harmonization with localization to maintain global standards while adapting to diverse legal and cultural contexts. The Congress highlights how such diversity enhances flexibility, adaptability and the wider acceptance of arbitration worldwide.

2. London International Dispute Week

London is a unique location as a centre for handling disputes, whether through the courts or by arbitration, mediation, expert determination or negotiation. Parties and their lawyers, speaking many different languages, have historically come to London from all over the world seeking to draw on the depth and breadth of expertise and experience that London offers, supported by the full strength of English law.

London International Disputes Week celebrates the unique heritage of English law, dating back to the Magna Carta. We want to draw on that long experience in looking, together with our clients and legal practitioners from all round the world, to the future of dispute resolution, where and how disputes will arise and how London should prepare itself and adapt so it can handle them.

We are delighted to welcome colleagues from around the world so we can not only celebrate what London has to offer, but also work together to create an environment for discussions about the future of dispute resolution globally.



A shift toward a “dispute resolution ecosystem” rather than standalone mechanisms

The period of Q4/2025 and early 2026 marks a notable transition in Vietnam’s approach to dispute resolution, from isolated mechanisms to a more integrated ecosystem combining prevention, management, and resolution. Developments under the Law on Construction 2025, particularly the codification of liquidated damages and the recognition of Dispute Boards, highlight a growing emphasis on embedding risk management tools directly into contract performance. This reflects a broader shift in mindset: dispute resolution is no longer merely reactive, but an integral part of project and investment governance strategies.

Ad Hoc Arbitration and a Necessary Step Forward for Vietnam’s ADR Market

A notable point is that ad hoc arbitration is not a new trend, but has long been widely used in international practice, particularly in established centers such as London and in specialized sectors like maritime. This model reflects a consistent demand from users for a dispute resolution mechanism that is flexible and highly customizable.

In this context, the key issue for Vietnam is to develop supporting services for ad hoc arbitration in order to align with international practice. The introduction of hearing facilities in Hanoi by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), together with the release of the Vietnamese translation of the PCA Arbitration Rules, represents a positive step forward, contributing to the development of supporting infrastructure and improving accessibility to this model for users.

Institutional reform and global integration as dual drivers

Alongside procedural innovation, notable progress has also been made in institutional reform and international integration. The development of specialized courts with features approaching the common law tradition, such as cross-examination, expert evidence, and case management, reflects Vietnam’s efforts to align its judicial system more closely with international standards. At the institutional level, the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre is expected to introduce new Arbitration Rules aimed at improving the fairness and efficiency of arbitral proceedings, amid continued reforms by arbitral institutions and jurisdictions such as SIAC, China, and England. Meanwhile, active participation in international forums such as the Cambridge Forum and Paris Arbitration Week signals Vietnam’s growing engagement with the global arbitration community. Nonetheless, the participation gap between developed and developing markets remains a challenge, underscoring the need for deeper integration and stronger competitiveness.

VI.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEWSLETTER



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ADR VIETNAM CHAMBERS LLC
— INDEPENDENT ARBITRATORS & MEDIATORS —

CONTACT US



dzung.nguyen@adr.com.vn



<https://adr.com.vn/en/>

Editor: Nguyen Manh Dzung

Designer: Dao Linh Chi

Thanks Note

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