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Asia-Pacific Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration

18 – 26 April 2026
Hong Kong SAR



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Australia Branch

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East Asia Branch

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Singapore Branch

Key facts



The APAC Diploma offers a high standard, jurisdictionally tailored arbitration qualification



On successful completion of the Diploma assessments, you become eligible to apply for Ciarb Fellowship. CPD points awarded



Invaluable networking opportunities with peers, faculty, and the arbitral community in Hong Kong, including a gala dinner



The faculty comprises international arbitration experts from across the Asia-Pacific region and around the world



Learn the law, practice, and procedure of international commercial arbitration



Early Bird offer – book by 9 February 2026 to save USD1,000.



Limited to 30 candidates



Welcome letter

Dear Candidates,

Fast-track your arbitration career with the APAC Diploma. This nine-day intensive in-person training course takes place in Hong Kong from 18 to 26 April 2026.

Ciarb's prestigious APAC Diploma has been designed to meet the increasing demand for accredited arbitrators and arbitration practitioners to resolve cross-border disputes in the Asia-Pacific region.

The faculty comprises internationally recognised arbitration experts from the Asia-Pacific region. Highlights include:

- Practical group workshops to address a range of problems which may arise in the course of international arbitration
- A faculty of globally recognised experts
- Course sessions held at West Wing, Justice Place, Central, Hong Kong.

There will be considerable opportunities to learn from each other, network with your peers and experts in the industry, and develop relationships. This Diploma is an invaluable opportunity to learn from the experts.

Candidates who pass the Practice and Procedure examination and the Award Writing examination will be awarded an APAC Diploma of International Commercial Arbitration by Ciarb. Then, they can apply for the Fellow Peer Interview to become a Ciarb Fellow – the highest class of Ciarb membership recognised globally.

We encourage you to join us for this exciting learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Paul Barrett C.Arb FCIArb and Glenn Haley C. Arb FCIArb
Diploma Directors



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Introduction

The Ciarb East Asia Branch will host the Asia-Pacific Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration in Hong Kong in 2026.

The East Asia Branch is one of Ciarb's largest Branches, spanning Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and mainland China, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia and Laos. This course is ideally suited to candidates practicing in these areas and leads to the opportunity to become eligible for Ciarb Fellowship.

Delivered by highly experienced and distinguished tutors, the course involves a series of lectures, seminars and workshops, with time for candidates to network with peers.



Diploma Director

Paul Barrett C.Arb FCIArb

**Barrister, Chartered Arbitrator, HKMAAL Mediator,
HKIAC Accredited Adjudicator**



Paul Barrett is a barrister and is an international arbitrator with over 40 years' experience in dispute resolution. He is admitted in the UK and to the Hong Kong Bar as a member of Pacific Chambers. He is a Chartered Arbitrator, HKMAAL Accredited Mediator and HKIAC Accredited Adjudicator. He is a panel member of many of the major arbitral organisations.

Paul's practice is in civil litigation with an emphasis on construction law. Prior to joining the Hong Kong Bar, he spent many years as a consultant for solicitors handling litigation, mediation and arbitration.

Paul is currently a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer on the Ciarb Board of Trustees. He has served on the Ciarb East Asia Branch Committee for 25 years and is a past Chair of the Branch.

Paul has directed many of Ciarb's training courses. He is Co-Director for the adjudication training programme Ciarb East Asia Branch hosts for the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, which takes into account the latest Hong Kong Construction Security of Payment Ordinance.



Diploma Director

Glenn Haley C.Arb FCIArb

**Construction, Dispute Resolution and Arbitration
Lawyer, Chartered Arbitrator and Counsel**



Glenn Haley is a lawyer in private practice with CMS HK and is an international arbitrator. Glenn specialises in construction, major projects and commercial disputes. He has more than 40 years' experience advising clients and acting as party adviser and arbitrator in such complex international matters. He has lived and worked in Hong Kong for the past 35 years.

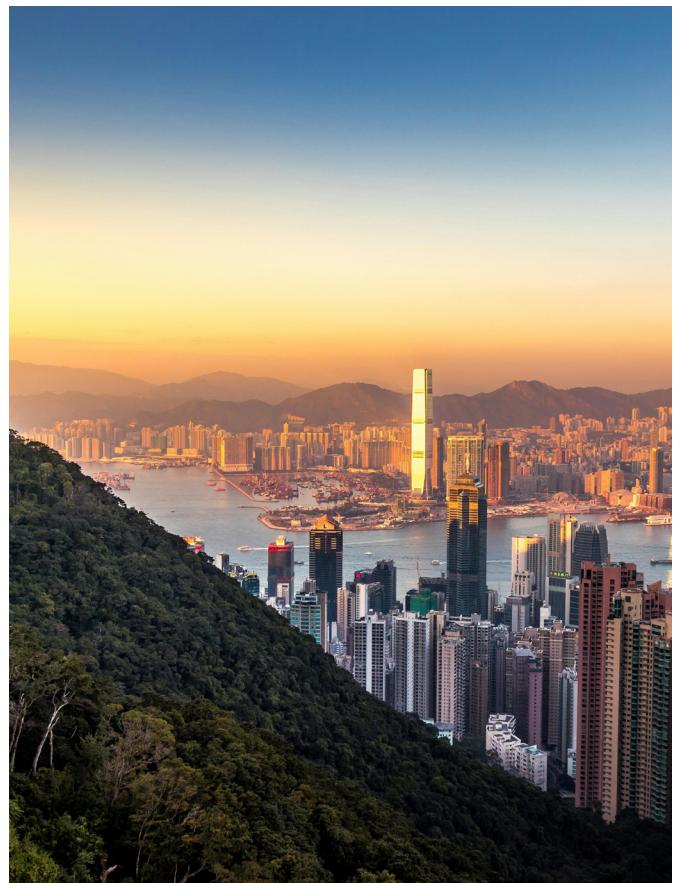
Glenn is admitted as a legal practitioner in Hong Kong, England and Wales, and various Australian states and territories. He is a former Chair of the Ciarb East Asia Branch and currently has portfolio control of the Regional function for the Branch.

Glenn is a panel member for many major arbitral jurisdictions including the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, the Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre, the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration, the Law Society of Hong Kong Panel of Arbitrators, the eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre, the Maldives International Arbitration Centre, the Asia Pacific International Arbitration Chamber,

and the Borneo International Centre for Arbitration.

He has been Course Director on many Ciarb courses and he also regularly teaches, writes and lectures on all aspects of arbitration, dispute resolution, construction and engineering.

Glenn is recognised in the international guides as a leading practitioner in his field.



Special Diploma Advisor

Dr Caroline Kenny KC C.Arb FCIArb
Barrister, Mediator, Chartered Arbitrator



Dr Caroline Kenny KC is an international arbitrator specialising in commercial disputes. She has more than 35 years' experience acting in complex international matters, including over 15 years as King's Counsel.

She is admitted as a legal practitioner in Australia, the UK and New York. Caroline is a former Chair of the Ciarb Australia Branch and is currently Ciarb Trustee for Australasia and the only female Chartered Arbitrator in Australia.

She is highly respected in the international arbitration community for her commitment to the promotion of arbitration as the preferred means for resolving international disputes and for her diligent, responsive, and practical approach as an arbitrator.

Caroline regularly sits as an arbitrator, having served as presiding arbitrator, sole arbitrator and wing arbitrator in a range of complex disputes, principally in the finance, energy, insurance, Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A), The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and sports sectors.

Caroline is on the panel of all major arbitral jurisdictions, including the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, and the International Centre for Dispute Resolution.

She was Course Director for the APAC Ciarb Diploma Course (as it was then) in Singapore and Australia for two years. She has also been a tutor on Ciarb's Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (In-person).



Hear what previous candidates have to say



"It is a truly world class course"

"...a spectacular 9 days in and out of the classroom"

"...well organised"

"I expected a lot but it far exceeded those expectations"

Diploma structure

The Asia-Pacific Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration is split into three parts.

Part 1

Law, Practice and Procedure of International Commercial Arbitration

Part 1 is delivered over nine intensive days by expert tutors, and through a combination of lectures and tutorials with discussion workshops focused on international arbitration law, practice and procedure. Candidates are required to sit for one written examination via Ciarb's online learning platform.

Part 2

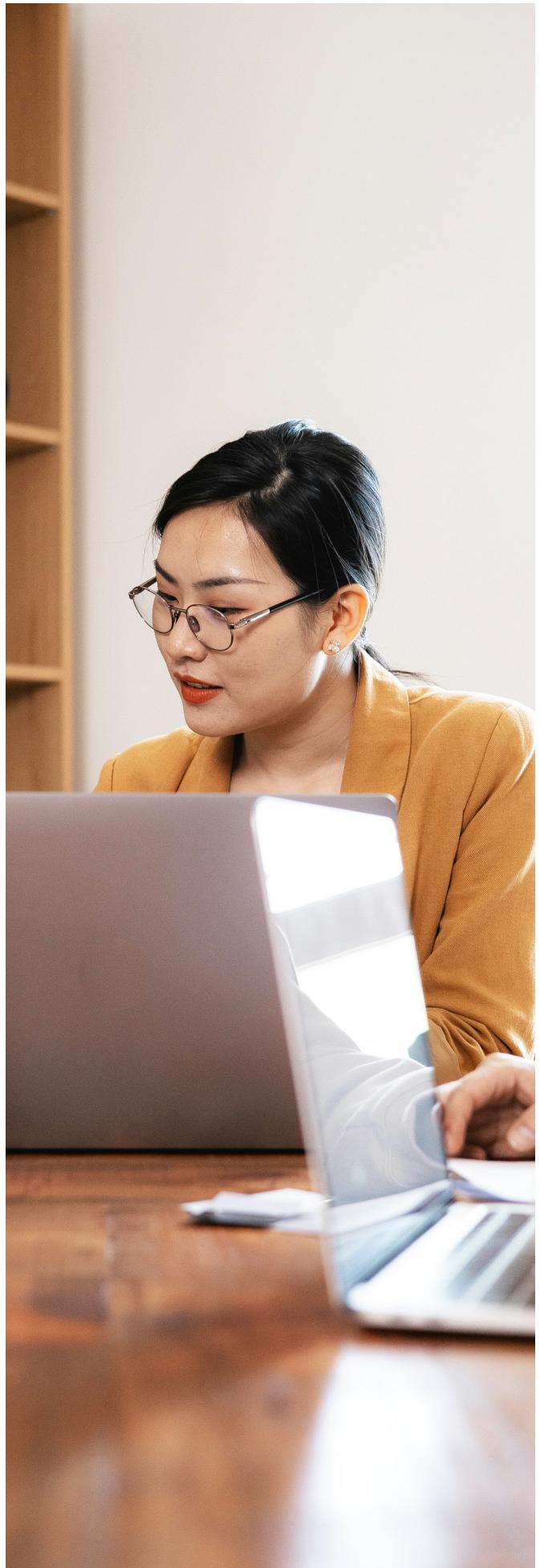
Law of Obligations

Candidates who are non-practising lawyers or not qualified as lawyers must successfully complete the Module 2 Law of Obligations Exemption Test or the Module 2 Law of Obligations course and assessment at their own cost. Both of these courses can be accessed via Ciarb's website www.ciarb.org/qualifications-development/.

Part 3

Evidence and Award Writing of International Arbitration

After attending the Diploma, candidates must pass an award writing assessment, which they complete at home and submit via Ciarb's online platform.



Diploma fee

Book early to save USD 1,000!

Full price: **USD 9,500.**

Early Bird – book by 9 February 2026:
USD 8,500.

At least 50% of the diploma fee must be paid upon registration. The 50% deposit is non-refundable. The fee must be paid in full no later than **28 February 2026**.

What does the diploma fee include?

The course fee includes:

- Registration for the Diploma
- Full tuition and access to study materials
- A first attempt at the Part 1 Examination
- Lunch and refreshments refreshments in the classroom throughout the nine-day course
- Welcome Dinner for faculty and candidates
- Mid-week networking reception
- Gala dinner

The diploma fee does not include the Module 2 Law of Obligations course and assessment or Exemption Test. These may be booked separately by candidates via Ciarb's website www.ciarb.org/qualifications-development/.

The diploma fee does not include the Ciarb Fellowship application fee.

The stated diploma fee is applicable to Ciarb members only. Non-members will receive pricing information upon application.

What are the entry requirements?

To be considered for the Diploma you must meet the following minimum entry requirements:

- You must have a minimum of five years' professional workplace experience as, for example, a lawyer, surveyor, accountant, insurer, shipbroker or similar. This experience must involve communicating with others, problem-solving, managing workloads effectively, decision-making and the exercise of judgment, and
- You must be actively involved in and have experience of arbitration (domestic or international).
- If you are a non-practising lawyer or are not a qualified lawyer, in addition to all other requirements you will need

to (i) provide evidence that you have successfully completed the Module 2 Law of Obligations course and assessment, or (ii) provide evidence that you have successfully completed the Module 2 Exemption Test, or (iii) satisfy the Diploma Directors that your previous education and experience otherwise exempt you from the Module 2 requirements

How do I apply?

To apply for this programme, send your up-to-date CV and Practising Certificate (if relevant) to the Ciarb East Asia Branch Secretariat at ciarb@hkiac.org (Tel: +852 2525 2381.)

Candidates who are non-practising lawyers or who are non-qualified lawyers should also include proof of successful completion of the Module 2 course and assessment or the Module 2 Exemption Test, or satisfy the Diploma Directors that your previous education and experience otherwise exempt you from the Module 2 requirements.

Please note that it can take up to 4 weeks to review CVs. We will contact you to inform you of the outcome. If you are successful in your application, we will provide further details on registration and payment.

Next steps

Once successful registration is confirmed by email, candidates will gain access to the virtual learning environment and electronic copies of material to assist with the Diploma, along with a suggested reading list.

It is recommended that candidates are familiar with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law and Arbitration Rules and the substantive law in their respective jurisdiction together with the relevant Act(s) and Scheme(s) and important case decisions (where applicable).

Candidates should also refer to the recognised standard textbooks to supplement their study in their respective jurisdiction where these are available.

After completing the Diploma

On successful completion of the programme and all corresponding assessments, candidates will be awarded the APAC Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration. Additionally, candidates will become eligible to apply for Ciarb Fellowship subject to passing a Peer Interview. Candidates are eligible to apply for Fellowship for up to two years after successfully completing the Diploma and assessments.

Important dates

Date	Event
5 February 2026	Deadline for candidates to submit their CV and current Practising Certificate.
9 February 2026	<p>Ciarb will confirm by this date if a candidate has been successful in applying for this Diploma.</p> <p>Early bird offer ends. This is the last day for candidates to pay the non-refundable 50% deposit of the Early Bird course fee.</p> <p>After 9 February 2026, the diploma course is still open for application and the candidates are required to pay the full Standard Price in a single payment.</p>
28 February 2026	Deadline for payment of the full fee (both Early Bird and Standard Price).
18 April 2026	Diploma course starts in Hong Kong.
26 April 2026	Diploma course ends in Hong Kong.
21 May 2026	<p>The online exam portal opens for the <u>Module 1</u> exam (Law Practice and Procedure of International Arbitration). Candidates may access the exam during a 5-day period, but each candidate has 48 hours after opening the online portal to complete the exam.</p> <p>The online exam portal opens for the <u>Module 2</u> exam (Law of Obligations). Candidates may access the exam during a 5-day period, but each candidate has 48 hours after opening the online portal to complete the exam.</p>
12 June 2026	The online exam portal opens for the Module 3 exam (International Arbitration Award Writing). Candidates may access the exam during a 5-day period, but each candidate has 48 hours after opening the online portal to complete the exam. Stage one papers will be released to candidates approximately seven days before access to the exam is enabled.

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