



## THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS

### President's Message AGM 2019

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Dear Members,

The main aims and priorities of the Council over the past 12 months were to (i) build upon the initiatives undertaken in 2017/2018 to raise and enhance the status and value of the MIArb membership (ii) strengthen the Institute's financial position, (iii) address the problem of delinquent members and (iv) review Rules of the Institute.

Insofar as the first goal is concerned, the Council has continued to provide members with a platform and the tools to become successful or even more successful ADR practitioners by offering-

- a recognised and affordable gateway into the ADR profession.
- greater career opportunities, through qualifications that are credible and recognisable.
- effective and inexpensive opportunities for learning and education.
- regular social and networking opportunities.

Further, the Council has worked hard to raise and enhance the standing and profile of the Institute within Malaysia and internationally. Within Malaysia, the Council has sought to achieve this goal through partnerships and regular collaborations with the Malaysian Judiciary, the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), industry bodies such as Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) and professional bodies such as the Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Persatuan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) and Royal Institute of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), as well as institutions of higher learning such as Universiti Malaya (UM) and Brickfields Asia College (BAC). Whereas internationally, the Council has sought to achieve this goal through regional groupings and collaborations such as the Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF), in which the Institute plays a key and leading role.

Insofar as the 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is concerned, I am pleased to report that the financial position of the Institute has strengthened considerably. The net profit of the Institute for 2018 has more than doubled by comparison to 2017 and more than quadrupled by comparison to 2016.

Insofar as the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal is concerned, the Council led by Mr. Verghese Aaron Mathews embarked on a comprehensive review of the Institute's Rules and this Council will submit its recommendations to the incoming Council for their consideration and further action.

Insofar as the fourth goal is concerned, the Council led by Ms. Nereen Kaur Veriah with the assistance of Puan Raja Junaidah from the Secretariat expended considerable time and effort to reach out to all delinquent members in an attempt to get them to regularize their accounts with the Institute. The efforts undertaken, and the follow-up action taken against the delinquent members is detailed in the Annual Report.

Overall, it has been an eventful year for the Institute with the main highlights set out in the Annual Report.

I am happy to report that interest in the Institute and its activities continue to be strong and vibrant both from within and outside of Malaysia. The institute admitted a total of 14 Fellows, 30 Members and 7 Associates over the past year.

I wish to acknowledge and thank my predecessors on the Council for their efforts in building a solid foundation for the stability and growth of the Institute which is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year.

I would also like to especially thank my fellow Council Members and Puan Raja Junaidah from the Secretariat for their hard work and commitment in making the 2018/2019 term a successful one for the Institute, and to all our members for their continued support.

I wish to conclude my report by stating that it has been a great privilege for me to serve the Institute, in different capacities, over a total of five (5) years. I wish the incoming Council every success in steering the Institute to even great heights.

With all good wishes,



**SUDHAR THILLAINATHAN**

President

(2017 – 2019)