



2023

COLOMBO ARBITRATION WEEK

www.colomboarbitrationweek.com

WELCOME TO COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Colombo Arbitration Week 2023 is the second edition of Sri Lanka's most anticipated annual event that brings together local and international stakeholders involved in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The event provides a platform for attendees to explore the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in ADR, aimed at shaping the future of ADR in Sri Lanka.

The week-long event is set to feature distinguished experts in arbitration who will deliberate on contemporary topics such as evolving concepts of public policy, technology and innovation in ADR, transparency, accountability, and ethics in ADR proceedings, and the role of exclusive jurisdiction clauses in contracts. In addition, Colombo Arbitration Week 2023 will host a dedicated session for practitioners, creating a platform for policy discussion on the island's arbitration framework.

Colombo Arbitration Week 2023 as always is a collaborative effort, hosted in partnership with key stakeholders, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Ministry of Justice. The event will be supported by several leading law firms, corporates, and institutions.

Colombo Arbitration Week 2023 aims to inspire and catalyze a transformational shift in Sri Lanka's ADR landscape, positioning the country as a hub for ADR in the Asian region. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and engage with a vibrant community of ADR practitioners, experts, and enthusiasts.

Key Partners and Sponsors



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6TH TO 13TH OF AUGUST 2023

PROGRAMME

6th August, Sunday

Opening Ceremony
04.00 PM – 04.15 PM

Keynote Address
04.15 PM – 04.40 PM | What is going to take for Sri Lanka to get itself on the map?

Panel Discussion
04.40 PM – 07.00 PM | In favor of not reinventing the wheel or chartering our own path?

8th August, Tuesday

Panel Discussion
03.30 PM – 05.30 PM | Challenging an Arbitration award under V(II)(b) of the New York Convention, what is “public policy”?

9th August, Wednesday

Panel Discussion
03.30 PM – 05.30 PM | The Exclusive Jurisdiction Clause Vs. The Arbitration Agreement: Winner takes all?

10th August, Thursday

Workshop
09.00 AM – 04.30 PM | The Art of Award Writing: Chat GPT wrote your Award?

11th August, Friday

Fireside Chat
03.30 PM – 05.30 PM | Legal Tech; ChatGPT & Workflow Automation – are we late?

12th August, Saturday

Young Practitioners Assembly Day 1
08.30 AM – 05.30 PM | Evaluating Sri Lanka’s Legislative Framework for Arbitration

13th August, Sunday

Young Practitioners Assembly Day 2
08.00 AM – 05.00 PM | Evaluating Sri Lanka’s Legislative Framework for Arbitration

Closing Reception & Cocktails
05.30 PM – 06.30 PM

AUGUST 2023

S	S	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DAY ONE

06 AUGUST 2023

*In-person participants by Invitation only

OPENING CEREMONY | 04.00 PM to 04.15 PM

Welcome Remarks

Keynote Speech | 04.15 PM to 04.40 PM

“What is going to take for Sri Lanka to get itself on the Asian map?”

Panel Discussion | 04.40 PM to 07.00 PM

“In favor of not reinventing the wheel or do we charter our own path?”

The best perspectives from the Judiciary, Legislation, Centre’s, and Practice.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



*Dr. Romesh Weeramantry, Senior
Consultant, Clifford Chance.*

PANELISTS



*Hon. Justice Anselmo Reyes,
Former Judge of the High Court of
Hong Kong.*



Name of the speaker, Credentials.



*Eric Ng, Deputy Secretary
General, HKIAC.*

DAY TWO

08 AUGUST 2023

PANEL DISCUSSION | 03.30 PM to 05.30 PM

“Challenging an Arbitration award under V(II)(b) of the New York Convention, what is “public policy”?”

The meaning and scope of the public policy exception under the Convention have been the subject of much debate and interpretation within courtrooms and beyond. The panel discussion will explore the key aspects of public policy under the New York Convention, and comparative legislature, including its relationship with other grounds for refusal, its application in practice, and its implications for international arbitration.

PANELISTS



*Hon. Justice Pradeep Hettiarachchi,
Judge of the Commercial High Court,
Sri Lanka.*



*Dr. Asanga Gunawansa,
Lead Counsel, Colombo Law
Alliance.*



*Olga Boltenko,
Partner, Fangda Partners.*



*Chatura Randeniya,
Partner, Afridi & Angell.*

09 AUGUST 2023

DAY THREE

PANEL DISCUSSION | 03.30 PM to 05.30 PM

“The Exclusive Jurisdiction Clause Vs. The Arbitration Agreement: Winner takes all?”

In today's fast-paced business environment, resolving disputes efficiently and effectively is critical to maintaining commercial relationships and minimizing costs. While arbitration and litigation are both preferred methods for resolving commercial disputes, there are times when practitioners find themselves in the quagmire of having them both in the same agreement.

Should the touchstone under law as to the interpretation of contracts containing both arbitration and jurisdiction clauses be the parties' intentions? Should contractual expression of the parties' intentions – for example, through the carving out of a specific subject matter for arbitration rather than litigation – be given primacy? Are the arbitration and jurisdiction clauses not truly in conflict and can both apply within the limits which the parties have assigned to them?

PANELISTS



Mohamed Talib,
Partner, Pinsent Masons.



Shaheeda Barrie,
Counsel, Heritage Partners.



Dilumi de Alwis,
Attorney-at-Law.



Manthi Wickramasooriya,
Of Counsel, Quim Emanuel.

DAY FOUR

10 AUGUST 2023

WORKSHOP | 09.00 AM to 04.30 PM

“The Art of Award Writing”

The workshop aims to provide a practical, step-by-step approach to the award writing process. Participants will learn how to establish a strong legal foundation and develop a persuasive argument. Key topics covered will include identifying key issues in a case, structuring the award, and presenting clear reasoning and analysis to support the decision.

In addition to these core skills, the workshop will also provide guidance on practical aspects such as managing the arbitration process, communicating effectively with parties and co-arbitrators, and dealing with complex legal issues. Attendees will have the opportunity to review sample arbitration awards to gain a deeper understanding of the award writing process.



Olga Boltenko,
Partner, Fangda Partners.

11 AUGUST 2023

DAY FIVE

FIRESIDE CHAT | 03.30 PM to 05.30 PM

“Legal Tech; ChatGPT & Workflow Automation – are we late?”

The fireside chat aims to explore the impact of technology on the legal industry and its potential for transforming the way legal professionals work. The discussion centers around whether the legal industry is behind in adopting these technologies, and what benefits they could bring to law firms, in-house legal teams, and other legal service providers. The topic also examines the potential risks and challenges associated with integrating technology into legal workflows, such as the need to ensure data privacy and security, as well as the potential for automation to replace human expertise and judgment.

SPEAKER



*Nayana Somaratne,
Chief Scientist and Co-Founder,
Advanced Machine Works.*

12 AUGUST 2023

DAY SIX

PRACTITIONERS' ASSEMBLY DAY 1 | 08.30 AM to 05.30 PM

“Evaluating Sri Lanka’s Arbitration Framework”

The Young Practitioners Assembly is an insightful and engaging first-of-its-kind forum specifically designed for young legal practitioners under 40. This event aims to provide a unique platform for professionals to gather and discuss Sri Lanka's legislative framework for arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). During this forum, participants will have the opportunity to delve into the intricacies of Sri Lanka's legal landscape, exploring the key provisions, recent developments, and challenges within the realm of arbitration. This event will be modeled after the United Nations General Assembly, allowing practitioners to engage in thought-provoking discussions, share practical insights, and collectively draft a resolution of observations, guidelines, and recommendations. The assembly's resolution will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice of Sri Lanka, UNCITRAL, and other key stakeholders. The assembly is planned to be an annual event of Colombo Arbitration Week and aims to assume the role of the young practitioner's annual review of arbitration in Sri Lanka.

CO-CHAIRS



Shanaka Cooray, Attorney-at-Law.



Shehan Perera, Attorney-at-Law.

DAY SEVEN

13 AUGUST 2023

PRACTITIONERS' ASSEMBLY DAY 2 | 09.00 AM to 05.00 PM

"Evaluating Sri Lanka's Legislative Framework for Arbitration"

CLOSING CEREMONY | 05.30 PM to 06.30 PM

Closing Remarks, Awards, and Fellowship