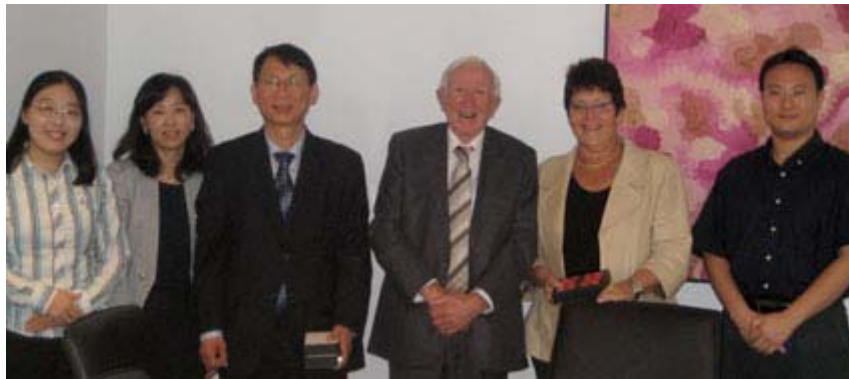


A Word from the CEO

There has been a lot of activity at AIDC in the last few months with much mediation and arbitrations (domestic and international) hosted in the rooms at the Centre. As mediation is growing not only in Australia but also in our region, we were delighted to host a number of international delegations to explore and discuss ADR.

In February, AIDC hosted Japanese Supreme Court Judge, Kazumi Ohama, and her colleague from the Tokyo District Court, Minoru Sonoda, currently a visiting scholar in Sydney, who was interested to learn about our AIDC mediation training and discuss the growth of ADR systems in Australia. More recently, in early April, AIDC Chairman, The Hon Trevor Morling, and I hosted a delegation from the Korean Fair Trade Mediation Agency (KOFAIR), including its President Shun Jhong Kim and Team Managers Hwa Jung Lee and Ji Eun Nam. KOFAIR is very active in mediation particularly in the fair trade, franchise and distribution sectors and with a marked increase in its case load the delegation was interested in learning from our experiences. In both Korea and Japan, a rise in litigation as well as the costs of litigation, have led to a heightened awareness of ADR and civil conciliation and mediation are huge growth areas. Both delegations were particularly interested in the independence of mediators in Australia, the level of our training and professional development for mediators and the support of our courts for ADR processes.



KOFAIR Team Managers Hwa Jung Lee and Ji Eun Nam and KOFAIR President, Shun Jhong, meet with AIDC Chairman, The Hon Trevor Morling QC, AIDC CEO, Michelle Sindler and AIDC Intern, Kyung-Han Park, in Sydney

Having seen many of our fabulous next generation mediators from around the world in action in Paris in February at the 7th ICC Mediation Competition where, as last year, I participated as a judge and mediator, I was again struck by how important good training is for counsel and mediators alike. In 2010, UNSW was a finalist at the competition. One of the members of that runner-up team, Joey Nicholls, has been interning with us and he shares some reflections on his experience.

Our next public mediation training will be from 21 to 25 May 2012 at AIDC in the Sydney CBD. We will also be holding our Advanced Mediation Training Course (18 - 20 April 2012) and a number of one day

courses – Complaint Handling training and Facilitating Difficult Discussions Extension. Do take the time to hone your conflict resolution skills or better equip your staff to manage their skills by participating in our courses. Our next professional development session will be on 31 May on the “Exploration of Matters” – regarded by many as one of the most challenging stages in the mediation process.

To keep up to date with everything that is happening, do check our website (www.disputescentre.com.au) for updates and new offerings. Just a reminder that all our public courses and PD sessions can be delivered in-house or customized to meet your specific organizational needs.

As we go to press, another nine day Diploma Course in International Commercial Arbitration is just finishing in Kuala Lumpur, organised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Australian Branch) and supported by AIDC. In a very vibrant program participants are taught the practice of international commercial arbitration, including all major forms of arbitration. More information is available on the CI Arb website (www.ciarb.net.au).

Also on the arbitration front, AIDC hosted a wonderful group of luminaries on 8 February for the launch by The Hon Murray Gleeson of a significant new book by Malcolm Holmes QC and Dr Chester Brown: *‘The International Arbitration Act 1974 – a Commentary’*. This work is a very valuable contribution to the understanding and development of international arbitration in Australia.

On 23 March representatives of the ACICA Judicial Liaison Committee gathered at AIDC for the Committee’s first face to face meeting. With its judicial and arbitral experience, the Committee is working to establish uniform rules for the application of the International Arbitration Act and will be an integral part of the Australia arbitration infrastructure.



ACICA Judicial Liaison Committee: Pictured from Left – Right Back Row: The Hon Justice Tim Anderson (Supreme Court of South Australia); Malcolm Holmes QC, The Hon Justice Richard Refshauge (Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory), The Hon Chief Justice Tom Bathurst representing the Hon Justice James Allsop (President of the NSW Court of Appeal); the Hon Justice James Douglas (Supreme Court of Queensland); the Hon Justice Clyde Croft (Supreme Court of Victoria); the Hon Justice Carmel McLure (President of the WA Court of Appeal) representing the Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin (Supreme Court of Western Australia) and the Hon Justice Judith Kelly (Supreme Court of the Northern Territory). Left – Right Front Row: Michelle Sindler, the Hon Justice John Middleton (Federal Court of Australia), Doug Jones AM (ACICA Representative) and the Hon Murray Gleeson AC (Chairman).

In this Bulletin's update section, one of AIDC's interns Rowan Platt , a young lawyer at Allens Arthur Robinson, looks at the new Commercial Arbitration List in the NSW Supreme Court. (Supreme Court NSW - Practice Note No. SC Eq 9)

We remind you, as in previous Bulletins, that a number of interesting ADR events have been scheduled in the coming months which AIDC will be supporting: From 3 to 5 May 2012, Sydney will host the 12th DRBF International Conference which will explore the benefits of Dispute Boards to major projects. The National Mediation Conference, a bi-ennial gathering of Australia's leading mediators and mediating organisations, will also be held in Sydney this year, from 10 to 13 September 2012.

As always, I encourage you to visit our website and register for our training and professional development sessions and events, or book our hearing rooms for your mediation or arbitration proceedings. We look forward to seeing you at AIDC soon.

Michelle Sindler, CEO
