

**THIRD MEETING OF THE  
STANDING INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF COMMERCIAL COURTS**

**CLOSING ADDRESS**

11 and 12 March 2021

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon  
Supreme Court of Singapore

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Lord Thomas,  
Chief Justice, Justices, Judges, and friends from all over the world,

1. SIFoCC has rapidly established its value as a forum at which commercial judges can gather to share knowledge, exchange experiences and learn together.

2. This is especially important in the context of commercial courts for at least three reasons. First, with the rapid and dramatic growth of cross-border trade, there is an ever-growing need for a predictable and efficient framework that will deliver justice in a broadly consistent way. Second, commerce has its own needs including a particular commitment to efficiency, and a thoughtful awareness on the part of judges of the subject matter of these disputes. And third, to pick up a point we discussed yesterday, this is an area that is undergoing dramatic and rapid transformation with the infusion of technology into every aspect of our lives, including commerce.

3. All of these points were thrown into focus this past year as COVID-19 disrupted our lives in so many ways, including in the administration of justice.

4. In this light, my colleagues and I are immensely privileged to have had the opportunity to host this meeting. I first want to express my heartfelt thanks to Lord Thomas. I recall first discussing the concept of such a gathering with him in 2016, I think, and the emergence and growth of SIFoCC to what it is today would surely have exceeded any expectations we might have had at that time. John has continued to lead and inspire SIFoCC and I sincerely thank him and the Steering Group for guiding the Forum. I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to all the speakers, contributors, and participants for making this such a vibrant discussion; to Robin, Grace, and the Secretariat for being such excellent colleagues to work with in organising this conference, and lastly allow me the indulgence of thanking, by name, my colleagues, Phang Hsiao Chung, Una Khng, Colin Seow, Navin Anand, Khurshed Haron, Nurul Sultana Ali Ahamed, and Theresa Yeo, for all their help.

5. I look forward to seeing you all again before long, hopefully in person in Sydney! In the meantime, I hope we will stay in touch, not just by way of the regional gatherings of the Forum, but also informally building on the friendships we have made.

6. Till we meet again, I wish you all and your families good health!