

PRESS RELEASE

SINGAPORE AND BAHRAIN SIGN BILATERAL TREATY ON APPEALS FROM THE BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL COURT

This milestone event follows the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Memorandum of Guidance as to the Enforcement of Money Judgments by the Singapore and Bahrain judiciaries in May 2023

The Government of Singapore and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed a bilateral Treaty today to establish a new Bahrain International Commercial Court (“**BICC**”) in Bahrain and a designated body in Singapore to hear appeals from the BICC.

2. The Treaty was signed by Singapore’s Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam SC and Bahrain’s Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf H.E. Mr Nawaf bin Mohamed AlMouada in a virtual ceremony today.

Innovative Nature of the Collaboration

3. The features of the collaboration include:

- a. Cooperation between the Singapore International Commercial Court (“**SICC**”) and the Supreme Judicial Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain to establish the BICC; and
- b. The hearing of appeals by the SICC from the BICC, which will provide parties with a transnational commercial dispute resolution option.

(Refer to [Annex A](#) - “About Bahrain International Commercial Court and Singapore International Commercial Court” for more information on the BICC and the SICC.)

4. The collaboration will also provide opportunities for the development of commercial jurisprudence.

Major Milestone in Bilateral Ties

5. The signing of the Treaty marks another milestone since the Singapore and Bahrain judiciaries signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Memorandum of Guidance as to the Enforcement of Money Judgments when The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon (“**Chief Justice Menon**”) led a delegation to visit Bahrain in May 2023.

6. Minister Shanmugam said, “We welcome this collaboration with Bahrain to set up an appeal mechanism from the new Bahrain International Commercial Court, to the Singapore International Commercial Court. This collaboration can advance our shared interests.”

7. Chief Justice Menon said: “Today’s signing of the bilateral Treaty between Singapore and Bahrain to establish the BICC marks a significant milestone in our ties with the Bahrain judiciary. This collaboration would not have been possible without the excellent partnership between the Working Groups set up by the respective Singapore and Bahrain teams. I am deeply grateful for their tremendous work on this project, and look forward to the launch of the BICC.”

8. Photos of the signing ceremony can be found in [Annex B](#).

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About Ministry of Law (Singapore)

The mission of the Singapore Ministry of Law (MinLaw) is to advance access to justice, the rule of law, the economy and society through policy, law and services.

MinLaw drives legal reforms, oversees the policy for development, promotion and regulation of Singapore's legal sector, and advances Singapore's national interests through international legal policy and cooperation.

In addition, MinLaw regulates moneylending and pawnbroking, licenses law practices, registers foreign-qualified legal practitioners, supervises precious stones and precious metals dealers, and provides community legal services such as legal aid, criminal defence aid, community mediation, insolvency administration, and public trustee services.

MinLaw also oversees land policy and administration, and the development of Singapore's intellectual property sector supported by its statutory boards.

For more information, please visit MinLaw's website [here](#).

About Singapore Courts

The Singapore Courts – comprising the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts – is one of the three constitutional pillars of government in Singapore. Known collectively as SG Courts, we are integrated and coordinated to serve as one judiciary. As an organ of state, the judiciary's function is to independently administer justice. Headed by the Chief Justice, we are a forward-looking, innovative and trusted judiciary. Built on judicial professionalism and transparency, we maintain the highest standards of integrity in safeguarding our community. We pledge to ensure equal and continuous access to justice, and we are committed to deliver justice that is fair and impartial.

For more information, please visit www.judiciary.gov.sg.

Annex A – About Bahrain International Commercial Court and Singapore International Commercial Court

The establishment of the **Bahrain International Commercial Court (“BICC”)** is a component of Bahrain’s ambition to build an international commercial dispute resolution hub with state-of-the-art infrastructure that can capitalise on the region’s strong economic growth. The BICC builds on the effective dispute resolution mechanisms already present in Bahrain, particularly, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution and the latest amendments to adjudicate commercial disputes in English.

The **Singapore International Commercial Court (“SICC”)** has established a reputation as a leading and trusted neutral forum for efficient and effective international commercial dispute resolution.

The SICC bench comprises a diverse panel of eminent international and local Judges from civil law and common law traditions, experienced in adjudicating specialist commercial disputes. Described as “arbitration in litigation”, the SICC combines the best practices of international arbitration with the substantive principles of international commercial law, to offer procedures compatible with, and responsive to, the fast-changing needs and realities of international commerce.

Annex B – Photos of Signing Ceremony

For the high-resolution photos, please download from the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10GTLHmknmgm71aSvYpnHELMCBBeEVxC6R?usp=sharing>

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