

arbitration (normally before ICSID) to try to avoid, or at least minimize misinterpretation by Tribunals of the scope and other key provisions in such BITs.

Since many of the BRI projects will involve multiple parties and contracts in cross-border long-term transactions of high-value, selecting the most effective

and efficient dispute resolution is paramount, with international arbitration being the most widely used and thus most relevant to these projects. This serves to promote efficiency in conducting investment activities and satisfy commercial interests of foreign investors, but also sufficiently to address the public

interest concerns of states across the belt and road, as everywhere.

Submitted by Daniel Pakpahan, Primary Pleader, University of Indonesia Vis Team, Coach FDI and ALSA Moots, 2019. Edited by Karen Mills, ArbitralWomen Board member.

AIJA Annual Arbitration Conference: Towards Greater Efficiency in International Arbitration, on 27-29 July 2019 in Zurich, Switzerland



L to R: Nadia Smahi, Ewelina Wetrys, Alina Leoveanu & Christopher Campbell

From Thursday, 27 July 2019 to Saturday, 29 July 2019, AIJA (International Association of Young Lawyers), with the support of ArbitralWomen, ASA/ASA Below 40 and SCAI, organised a 2-day Conference in Zurich (kicked off by welcome drinks and dinner on Thursday evening) on the topic: "Towards Greater Efficiency in International Arbitration." The event took place at the prestigious Belvoir Park conferences facilities, with dinner at Hotel Atlantis by Giardino and a night out in Zurich city centre. The event was very well attended, gathering more than a hundred attendees, almost half of them female arbitration practitioners.

After a Welcome Address by **Paola Fudakowska**, AIJA's First Vice-President, a keynote speech was given by **Urs Weber-Stecher**, President of the Swiss Commission of Arbitration (National Committee) of ICC Switzerland and member of

the SCAI Arbitration Court, who highlighted various features of arbitration whose efficiency could be improved. He particularly emphasised the importance of arbitrators taking a strong lead during the proceedings to enhance efficiency in International Arbitration. He also predicted an increase in mediation procedures, in particular in form of Arb-Med-Arb proceedings, in the future.

During the remainder of the conference, various panels and workshops addressed subtopics related to efficiency in International Arbitration. No less than seven ArbitralWomen members were part of the event's faculty, whether as speakers or moderators: the first panel, addressing the topic "Has Arbitration Become Too Expensive?," was led by **Nadia Smahi** (Bär & Karrer AG, Geneva, co-organisator of the event), the third panel "Brave New World – Or How Technology Can Be Used To Improve Efficiency" featured **Francesca Salerno** (Legance Avvocati Associati, Rome) as a speaker, the workshop on "Efficiency –

The Client's Perspective" was led by **Chloé Terrapon** (Walder Wyss, Zurich, co-organisator of the event), the workshop on "Efficiency – The Counsel's Perspective" featured **Melissa Magliana** (Lalive, Zurich) as speaker and the workshop on "Efficiency – The Institution's and the Arbitrator's Perspective", led by **Simone Hofbauer** (Barandun AG, Zurich, co-organisator of the event), featured **Heidi Merikalla-Teir** (Merilampi Attorneys, Helsinki) and **Pascale Gola** (Ruoss Voegele, Zurich, co-organisator of the event) as speakers. All panels and workshops provided insightful, creative and well thought of ideas on how to spot arbitration's weaknesses and improve them. A very active crowd of attendees provided interesting insights and war stories on the various topics addressed.

Overall, the event was a great success in terms of gender diversity, both in light of female attendees and speakers. It also followed a Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners event organised in the framework of the Conference on Thursday, 27 July 2019 on the topic "Managing Parenthood in the context of International Practice."

Despite the heat wave that hit Zurich during those days, the event showed that efficiency in International Arbitration remains a very cool topic.

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