



APIEX – SCMA DEBATE 2025:

This House Believes That A Maritime Expert Who Previously Conducted Investigations Should Only Be A Witness Of Fact, Not An Expert Witness

21 January 2025, 4.15pm – 7.00pm (Singapore time, GMT+8)

The Big Picture, Capital Tower, Level 9, 168 Robinson Road, Singapore 068912

About this Debate

Join the Asia Pacific Institute of Experts and the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration for our first ever joint debate!

Our esteemed panel of debaters probably have over a century of arbitration experience between them. Ably moderated by Andrew Moran KC, they will engage in what promises to be an entertaining and fun debate, but at the same time nuanced and thought provoking. The debate aims to raise interesting questions about the roles and limitations of maritime experts in dispute resolution proceedings, as such Chatham House Rules will apply.

The intention is to start the year off with meaningful discussions. Offering some post New Year food for thought on the broad issues relating to the intersection where experts meet the lawyers and their legal proceedings.

Programme

4.15 – 4.30pm	Registrations & Refreshments
4.30 – 4.35pm	Opening Remarks by Moderator Mr. Andrew Moran KC - Independent Arbitrator
4.35 – 5.45pm	Motion: This House Believes That A Maritime Expert Who Previously Conducted Investigations Should Only Be A Witness Of Fact, Not An Expert Witness <u>Proposition:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Wole Olufunwa – Partner, Wikborg Rein Ms. Shanna Ghose – Partner, Hill Dickinson LLP <u>Opposition:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. John Gibson - Consultant Marine Engineer, Brookes Bell Mr. Paul Aston – Certified Foreign Lawyer, Consultant, AsiaLegal LLC
5.45 – 6.00pm	Post Debate Discussions / Q & A
6.00 – 7.00pm	Networking Buffet Dinner

About the Debaters

Mr. Paul Aston – Certified Foreign Lawyer, Consultant, AsiaLegal LLC



Paul has substantial experience of acting for parties in court litigation, international arbitration, and mediation in several jurisdictions. Where appropriate, he acts as an advocate in arbitration.

Paul has acted for builders, buyers, repair yards on a number of ship building, ship repair and conversion projects and disputes, advising on contracts for the construction of various offshore structures, (rigs/FPSO/Flotels) as well as their utilisation offshore. He advises on commercial transactions and projects in the maritime, offshore and commodity sectors (windfarms, oil and gas, coal, iron ore, agricultural products, grains, oil and seeds) upstream petroleum and mineral resource development, shipping projects, transport,

insurance (both marine and non-marine) offshore. Paul enjoys working with experts of many and various disciplines

Paul is an admitted solicitor of the High Court of England and Wales, an FCI Arb accredited arbitrator, a CEDR accredited mediator and has obtained English Court Higher Rights of Audience (HRA-Civil), an advocacy qualification. He is also a panel member of some arbitration institutes. He sits as an arbitrator and also as a mediator.

Paul has more than 30 years' experience working in Asia with (mainly at HFW, Singapore, Shanghai and HK Offices) 24 years of which have been in Singapore) including founding the HFW Singapore office in 1991. Paul has practiced in London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai.

Mr. John Gibson - Consultant Marine Engineer, Brookes Bell



John has been in the Marine Industry for 50 year and was at sea for twenty years as an engineer before joining Brookes Bell in 1996. He is a Chartered Engineer, with a Master's degree, and in 2001 John became a partner at Brookes Bell. An expert in his field, John uses his extensive consultancy and investigative experience to provide comprehensive assessments of marine and offshore casualties and disputes. The type of investigations John conducts are as diverse as they are thorough. John has provided technical evidence for court proceedings and arbitration around the world on diverse marine engineering topics including advice to owners and shipyards on new build and shipyard disputes. He was both witness of fact and the marine engineer expert in a high profile fraud case on behalf of the insurers of BRILLIANTE VIRTUOSO. From 2012 he was based in

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SILE Attendance Policy

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.silecpdcentre.sg> for more information.



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Singapore, having set up the Brookes Bell office there, and oversaw their three Asia offices until recently. John was seconded to Houston to oversee the start of Brookes Bell's expansion into the US region before returning to Singapore. John continues to be involved in marine and offshore casualty investigations and acting as an expert witness. John is also a supporting member of the LMAA, a member of SCMA and a Fellow and founding member of APIEX here in Singapore.

Ms. Shanna Ghose – Partner, Hill Dickinson LLP



Shanna has been practising as a solicitor in the maritime and shipping law field since qualification in 2007. The early years of her practice saw her acting as counsel before the Singapore Court. In the last ten years, her disputes practice has been almost entirely arbitration focused, covering all aspects of admiralty, shipping and commodities. Shanna has spent time on secondment in a P&I club as well as in a leading trading house, with specific focus on metals trading and shipping. Shanna has been accepting appointments as arbitrator since 2018 and has been recognised as an Accredited Specialist in Maritime and Shipping Law by the Singapore Academy of Law since 2019.

Mr. Wole Olufunwa – Partner, Wikborg Rein



Wole is an England & Wales qualified international arbitration lawyer. He predominantly specialises in the Maritime and Offshore, International Trade and Energy sectors. Wole has solid experience of handling institutionally administered arbitrations and ad hoc arbitrations. He has acted as arbitrator in several disputes administered by institutional arbitral bodies and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Wole has been based in Singapore since 2010 and acts for a range of clients including Ship-Owners, Charterers, Commodity Traders, Shipyards, EPC Contractors, Miners, and Insurers. His clients are located across a broad geography including Singapore, Indonesia, HK, Japan, India, China, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, and Europe. As for career highlights, Wole has enjoyed secondment spells with Shell, London (2006),

Shipowners' P&I, Singapore (2011) and Rio Tinto, Singapore (2018) and had conduct of mining contract and pricing review arbitrations worth over USD350m. Wole also had conduct of the well-known and reported House of Lords (as it then was) shipping case, The Achilleas [2008] UKHL 48 and is specifically highlighted for his shipping expertise in Chambers Asia-Pacific as a "Notable practitioner and key contact for clients."

About the Moderator

Mr. Andrew Moran KC - Independent Arbitrator



Andrew is a senior King's Counsel and a former Deputy High Court Judge (England and Wales). He is now a full-time arbitrator based in Singapore, having ceased practice as counsel in 2017 to concentrate on his role as an international arbitrator. He is also a former Deputy High Court Judge in England and Wales. Andrew sits at first instance as an occasional Judge of Appeal in the Isle of Man, and has tried a range of heavy commercial, maritime and banking cases. He has also presided as the Chairman of specialist market tribunals of the International Petroleum Exchange, the International Commodities Exchange, and as legal adviser to the Tribunal at the London International Financial Futures Exchange in the City of London. In 2016, Andrew relocated to Singapore to focus his practice as arbitrator. He has held a Singapore Foreign

Law Practising Licence and has been appointed as arbitrator in a wide range of maritime, commercial, banking, energy and offshore construction arbitrations seated both in Singapore and abroad. His Royal and Merchant Navy background and training coupled with experience of all types of commercial disputes enables him to act across a range of proceedings in all divisions of the High Court of England and Wales and in international arbitration. Andrew has over 40 years in practice (24 years in silk), acquiring extensive experience in civil, maritime and commercial litigation and arbitration. Andrew is also a Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, a member of the Baltic Exchange, a member of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators and a Freeman of the City of London.

About the Organisers

The [Asia Pacific Institute of Experts](#) ("APIEX") is a Singapore-based Asia Pacific-focused professional body which aims to spearhead the development of professional expertise in the field of Expert evidence both locally and in the Asia Pacific region.

A core mission of the Society is to develop and provide a framework for the accreditation of Experts to meet international standards. This mission will be achieved through education, training and collaboration in local and regional conferences and workshops in the Asia Pacific region. APIEX will provide an avenue for practicing Experts and those who aspire to become accredited practicing Experts, to develop their expertise and to connect with other Experts and consumers of expert evidence. APIEX accept members who are practising or aspiring experts, as well as users of expert services such as lawyers and counsel.



Practice Area: Alternative
Dispute Resolution
Training Level: Update
Public CPD Points: 1.5

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The [Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration \(“SCMA”\)](#) is an independent not-for-profit arbitration institution committed to promoting arbitration as an alternative means of dispute resolution for the maritime and international trade sectors regionally and globally.

SCMA has its own arbitration rules, which are in the 4th Edition. As SCMA adopts a non-administered model of arbitration, parties and the tribunal drive the arbitration process from commencement to conclusion. SCMA offers optional services such as Chairman appointments and award authentication to aid parties and the tribunal in the arbitration process.

SCMA arbitration is flexible, party-driven, and cost-effective (No payment to SCMA for the use of its rules/clauses). It has a panel of more than 140 arbitrators who are diverse in terms of nationalities, place of residence and cultures but all of whom are specialists in shipping and international trade. The types of disputes commonly referred to SCMA arbitration include charterparty disputes, bunker, commercial sales/cargo, coal contracts, ship sale, shipbuilding, ship repair, ship management, collisions, oil & gas, etc. The [SCMA mini site](#) features the past and upcoming events organised by the SCMA.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

MEMBERSHIP (Please circle as appropriate.)	FEES
APIEx & SCMA Member	S\$50.00
Member of: 1. Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Singapore Chapter 2. Institute of Valuers and Appraisers, Singapore (IVAS) 3. Society of Construction Law (Singapore) (SCL(S)) 4. Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb)	S\$80.00
Expert on IPOS’ List of Experts	S\$80.00
Participant from Corporate Member or Sponsor of International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) Asia	S\$80.00
Other	S\$100.00

MODES OF PAYMENT

Online Credit Card: [click HERE to pay using any debit or credit card or via PayPal](#)

PayNow Corporate:

Step 1: Log in to your bank’s existing internet banking or mobile banking app.

Step 2: At the PayNow transfer screen, enter Asia Pacific Institute of Experts’s UEN No. T19SS0091J and the amount to be transferred.

Step 3: Verify that the recipient’s name (i.e. Asia Pacific Institute of Experts) is correct before confirming the transfer.

Internet Banking/Telegraphic Transfer Details:

Account Name: Asia Pacific Institute of Experts Account Number: 048-907690-9

SWIFT Code: DBSSSGSG

Bank Details: DBS Raffles Place Branch, 22 Malacca Street, #01-00 RB Capital Building Singapore 048980.

Please email us at secretariat@apiex.org after the T/T has been done for our follow-up with the bank. The registration fee must be received nett of all bank charges.

Cheque Payment Details:

Cheques to be made payable to “Asia Pacific Institute of Experts” & arrive at our office at **12 Eu Tong Sen Street, #08-169, SOHO 2, Clarke Quay Central, Singapore 059819** by the closing date, **14 January 2025**.

REGISTRATION, REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICY

By completing the online registration form, Event registrants confirm their acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions:

1. Places at the Event are limited and will be allocated by the Organiser at its discretion based on various criteria and in order of priority upon receipt of registration and all payments due.
2. The Organiser reserves the right to update or amend the details of the programme and/or the speakers without prior notice.
3. The Organiser reserves the right to refuse to register or admit any participant, and to cancel or postpone the Event.
4. No refunds will be made for cancellations or no-shows by registrants. However, a confirmed registrant who has paid the registration fees but does not turn up for the Event will be entitled to a set of the materials provided, if any.
5. If any registrant is unable to attend the Event, an equivalent substitute may attend instead at no extra charge, provided that at least 3 days prior written notice is given to the Organiser. All such requests will be considered at the Organiser’s discretion and subject to any applicable top-up in fees.
6. Holding of any in-person Event may be subject to the approval of any relevant government authorities for public health or other reasons.
7. In-person attendees at the Event must abide by any relevant public health or other measures imposed by the Government, the Event venue and the Organiser.
8. The Organiser encourages any registrant displaying any COVID-19 symptoms to perform self-testing. Any registrant who tests positive is encouraged not to attend the Event and inform to the Organiser accordingly.
9. As of 10 October 2022, the Vaccinated Differentiation Safe Management Measures (VDS) have been fully lifted in Singapore and the Organiser will no longer be requesting the verification of COVID-19 vaccination status for entry to the Event. However, in the lead-up to the Event, the Organiser will monitor the situation closely and be in touch again should there be further changes to the prevailing national guidelines.
10. Mask wearing is optional at all times during the Event. Please practice good personal hygiene, including frequent washing of hands and use of hand sanitisers.
11. Event registrants confirm that all details submitted in the Event registration form are true and accurate.
12. By completing this form, Event registrants fully consent to the collection, use and disclosure of their personal data as appears in any form, document or electronic template, by the Organiser. [CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ OUR PRIVACY POLICY]

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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