



2026

INTRODUCTION TO

VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

VIAC



Overview

Established since

28 April 1993

By a Decision of the Prime Minister of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Through the merger of

Maritime Arbitration Council
(1964)

&

Foreign Trade Arbitration
Council (1963)

The Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) was established in 1993 by a Decision of the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam through the merger of the Foreign Trade Arbitration Council (established in 1963) and the Maritime Arbitration Council (established in 1964). Pursuant to the Ordinance on Commercial Arbitration 2003, the Law on Commercial Arbitration 2010, and its current Charter, VIAC operates as an independent institution. Arbitral awards rendered by VIAC tribunals are final and binding, and are recognized and enforced in Vietnam as well as in over 170 countries and territories under the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention 1958).

As a leading arbitration and mediation institution in Vietnam with international recognition, in recent years VIAC has handled thousands of domestic and international disputes across a wide range of sectors, including sale of goods, transportation, insurance, construction, finance, banking, investment, and others. The disputing parties come from most provinces in Vietnam and from key economic and trade partners worldwide. Over nearly three decades of development, VIAC has continuously grown, becoming a trusted institution and a reliable pillar of justice for both domestic and international business communities.

Areas of Operation



1 Organize and Coordinate the resolution by arbitration, mediation, and other ADRs as provided by law for the following disputes:-

- Disputes between parties arising out of commercial activities (including sale and purchase of goods, provision of services, investment, commercial promotion and other activities for the profit purpose - according to Article 3.1 of the 2005 Commercial law);
- Disputes between parties and at least one of them has commercial activities;
- Other disputes that are required by laws to be resolved by arbitration and/or mediation and/or other ADRs.



2 Promote trade and investment by enhancing capacity of legal risk prevention and management, of employing effectively dispute resolution methods for domestic and international organizations, businesses and individuals.

Our missions

Promote the development of dispute resolution through arbitration, mediation, and other dispute resolution methods as provided by law in a fair, convenient, and expeditious manner, thereby contributing to enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and the business community, and fostering economic, trade, investment, scientific, and technological cooperation among domestic organizations and individuals, as well as between Vietnam and foreign countries.

Sharing several traits with commercial arbitration, commercial mediation is considered one of the alternative dispute resolution methods that has received increasing support in recent years. In Vietnam, the first foundations for commercial mediation were laid through the provisions on the recognition of out-of-court settlement agreements under Chapter XXXIII of the 2015 Civil Procedure Code and Decree No. 22/2017/ND-CP on Commercial Mediation. With these two highlights of the legal framework, dispute resolution through commercial mediation at the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC), initially established and developed in accordance with international standards since 2007, has now been provided with a solid legal foundation, supporting the development of commercial mediation at VIAC in particular and in Vietnam in general.

Accordingly, in order to provide commercial mediation services in compliance with the new regulations, VIAC officially established the Vietnam Mediation Centre (VMC) pursuant to Decision No. 279/QĐ-VIAC dated 27 April 2018. On 29 May 2018, VMC was officially launched and announced the 2018 Mediation Rules together with its panel of reputable experts possessing the qualifications and skills to serve as VMC Mediators. VMC is the first commercial mediation centre in Vietnam to be established and operated in accordance with Decree No. 22/2017/ND-CP on Commercial Mediation.

- **27 April 2018**
Vietnam Mediation Centre (VMC) was established as a division of Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) in accordance with Decision No. 279/QĐ- VIAC dated 27 April, 2018 of the President of VIAC
- **25 May 2018**
Release of the VMC Mediation Rules 2018
- **29 May 2018**
The Launching Ceremony of Vietnam Mediation Centre (VMC) and Official Release of VMC Mediation Rules 2018
- **01 July 2018**
The VMC Mediation Rules 2018 officially came into effect
- **04 March 2019**
VMC established its Ho Chi Minh City Branch
- **23 May 2019**
Issuance of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Mediators
- **30 March 2021**
Launch of the VMC Online Mediation Platform (MedUp) and Release of the VMC Online Mediation Rules.

Mission

- Organize dispute settlement through mediation as prescribed by law; providing administrative, facilities and other support during the process;
- Organizing workshops, seminars, professional training, research, promotional and other activities to support the business community, legal practitioners and other interested parties in gaining access to in-depth knowledge of commercial mediation; improving the professional expertise of mediators and secretaries assisting in dispute resolution proceedings; participating in projects and initiatives for the development of commercial mediation; and cooperating with competent authorities, trade promotion organizations and business representative organizations to promote the development of commercial mediation and other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods in Vietnam.



Vietnam Institute for Arbitration Research and Training

Vietnam Institute for Arbitration Research and Training (VIART) was officially established on 30 July 2021 under Decision No.79/QĐ-VIAC of the President of the Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC), in the context that alternative dispute resolutions (ADRs), especially commercial arbitration, are making great strides in its development while Vietnamese justice system are following the trend of integrating with the international justice system. As a division of Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) – the primary arbitration institution in the field of dispute resolution in Vietnam for almost 30 years, with the strength in practical experience in arbitration, the understanding in arbitration market, and a leading team of experts in multiple fields, VIART succeeds and follows up on a stable foundation, focuses its resources on promoting the development of ADRs in general and arbitration in particular in Vietnam.

Vision & Mission

Through research and training activities, VIART aims at popularizing arbitration knowledge with focus on developing human resources in order to build a community of professional arbitration users and practitioners; thus, orientating the development of arbitration and ADR market in Vietnam.

Functions & Duties

- 01 Conduct research on theoretical and practical issues in arbitration and other ADRs
- 02 Organize training courses
- 03 Organize domestic and international events
- 04 Contribute to the law-making process, especially in arbitration and other ADRs

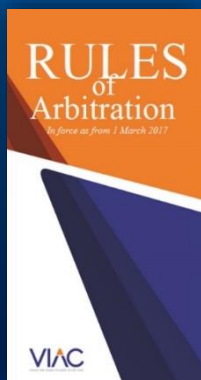


Dispute Resolution Activities at VIAC/VMC

Dispute Resolution Activities

VIAC

ARBITRAL PROCEEDINGS



vmc

MEDIATION PROCESS



Combined Mediation & Arbitration

Based on the initial mediation process and arbitral proceedings, VIAC and VMC offer integrated dispute resolution services combining the two methods, including the

Mediation – Arbitration (Med-Arb) Combo and
Arbitration – Mediation – Arbitration (Arb-Med-Arb) Protocol.

01

**Mediation – Arbitration
(Med-Arb) Combo**



02

**Arbitration – Mediation – Arbitration
(Arb-Med-Arb) Protocol**

Application of Technology in Dispute Resolution at VIAC

VIAC eCase aims to be the all-in-one platform for e-filing and online case management for better experience of arbitration users by streamlining processes and improving time and cost-effectiveness.

VIAC eCase is developed and operated by Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC), embodying VIAC's great efforts to adapt to the Vietnam's transition to digital economy by vitalizing the implementation of e-contract – one of the cores of a digital economy.

VIAC eCase is a VIAC's step toward reducing its carbon footprint and adopting practices of paperless arbitration.



Scan the QR code
or access the following link
www.viacecase.vn

Key features

E-filing & Secure Document Management

Upload and schedule your submissions; securely store, organize and download all arbitral documents with ease.

Case Monitoring

Monitor your arbitration cases in real-time by tracking key events (meetings, hearings or deadlines), being notified instantly of new procedural steps throughout the arbitration process, which are all integrated into your working calendar.

Notifications & Alerts

Receive notifications within the platform and via email to stay informed of important updates and developments in your arbitration cases. These include reminders for upcoming deadlines, meetings or hearings, and new document uploaded or changes to meeting/hearing dates.

Bilingual Support

Platform interface can be switched between English and Vietnamese to accommodate parties and arbitrators in both domestic and international arbitration proceedings.

Why choose VIAC eCase?

Accessibility



Easily access the Platform across different time zones with basic internet services and smart devices.

Transparency



Ensure transparency by maintaining clear and comprehensive records of all activities on the Platform.

Security & Data Protection



Securely log in to your account using two-factor authentication; provide standardized security for documents and information, adhering to domestic and international standards, including EU General Data Protection Regulation.

Cost & Time efficiency



Optimize administrative process and overheads through e-filing and online case management; and minimize expenses for travel, accommodation, other expenses associated with in-person meetings and hearings.



Statistics on Dispute Resolution Activities at VIAC

Number of cases handled by VIAC in 2025

In 2025, domestic disputes accounted for **274 cases**, representing 51.5% of the total number of cases handled by VIAC.

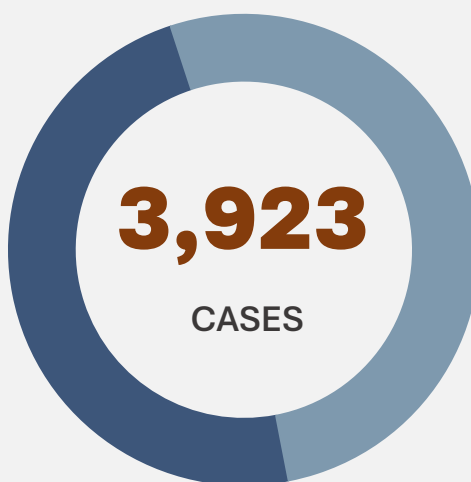
The number of disputes involving foreign investment (FDI) and/or disputes with foreign element were 258 cases, accounting for 48.5% of the total number of cases in 2025.

• **51.5%**

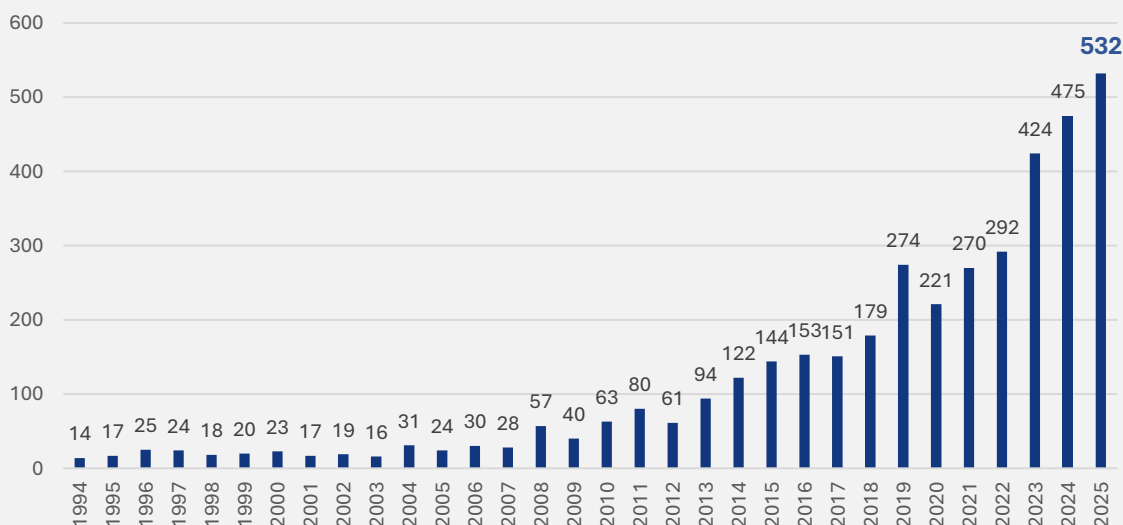
Domestic Disputes
(without FDI-element)

• **48.5%**

FDI-element & Foreign-
element Disputes



Number of cases handled by VIAC (1993 – 2025)

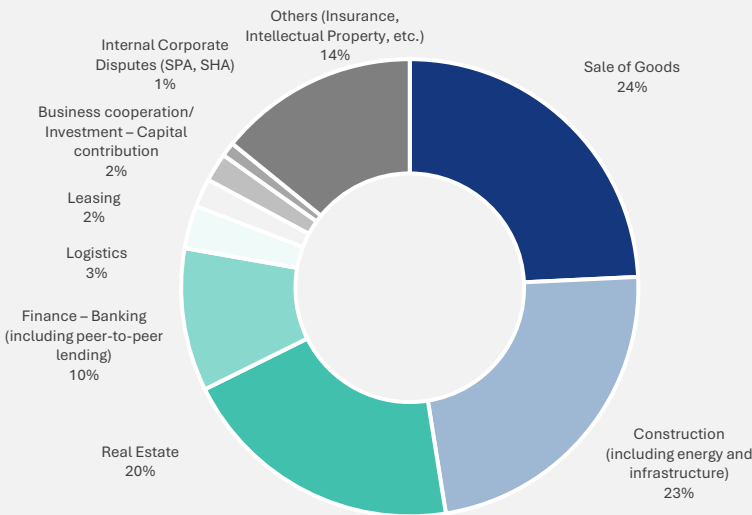




Statistics on Dispute Resolution Activities at VIAC

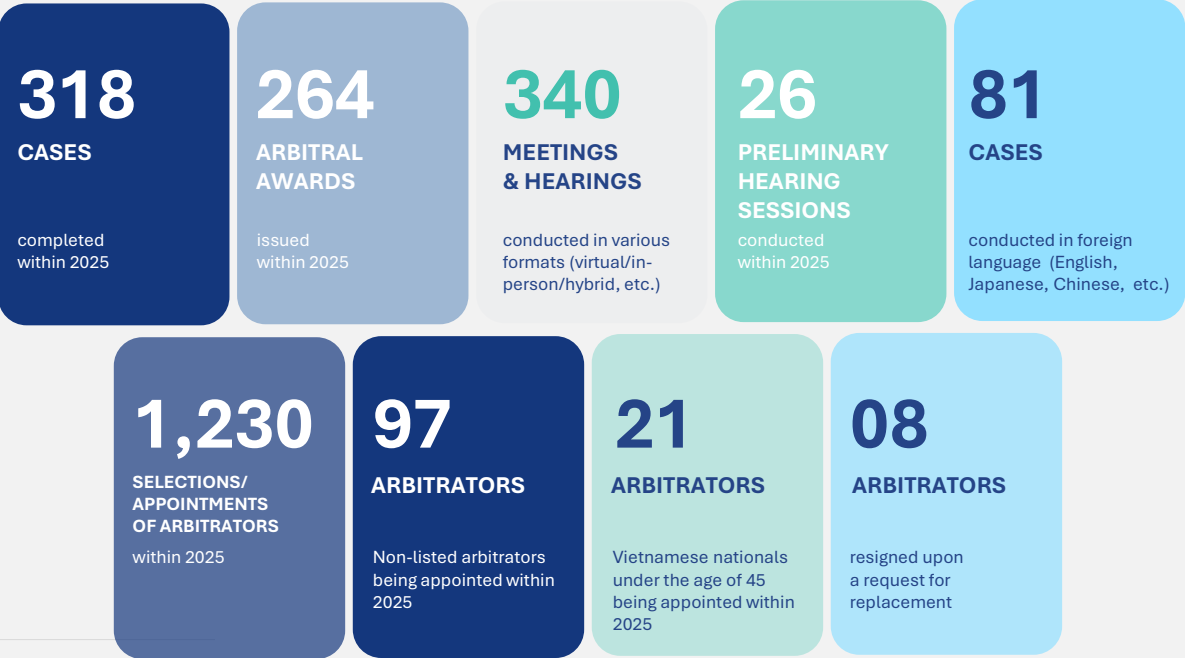
Types of Dipsutes

In 2025, VIAC handled disputes across a wide range of sectors. Statistics indicate that disputes in the **sale of goods accounted for the largest proportion, at 24%** of the total number of cases. The second and third most prevalent sectors were construction (23%) and real estate business (20%), respectively. Additionally, VIAC continued to record disputes in various other fields, including finance - banking, logistics, leasing, business cooperation, internal corporate disputes (SPA, SHA), insurance, IP etc.



Types of Disputes		
1	Sale of Goods	24%
2	Construction (including energy and infrastructure)	23%
3	Real Estate	20%
4	Finance – Banking (including peer-to-peer lending)	10%
5	Logistics	3%
6	Leasing	2%
7	Business cooperation/ Investment – Capital contribution	2%
8	Internal Corporate Disputes (SPA, SHA)	1%
9	Others (Insurance, Intellectual Property, etc.)	14%

Other Statistics





Statistics on Dispute Resolution Activities at VIAC

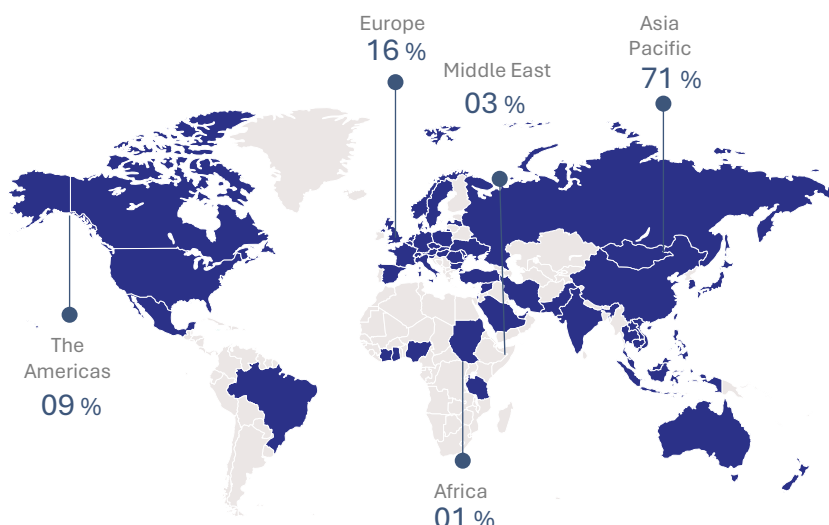
Nationalities of Disputing Parties (1993 – 2025)

Statistics on the nationalities of disputing parties by the end of 2025 record that businesses from 68 countries and territories have participated in dispute resolution at VIAC. Of these, the majority of parties come from Asia (71%), followed by Europe (16%) and the Americas (9%).

68

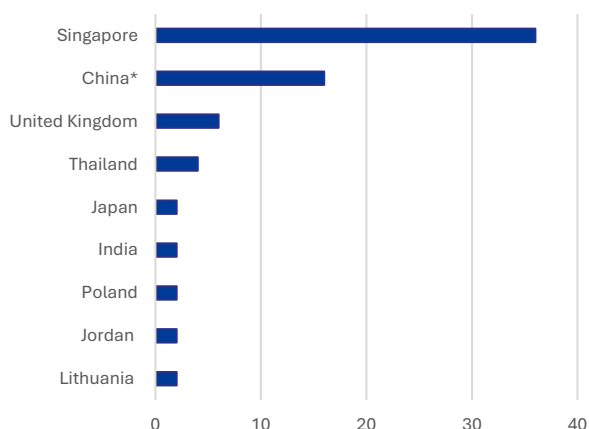
Nations and regions with parties participating in dispute resolution at VIAC

- Nations and territories WITHOUT parties arbitrating at VIAC
- Nations and territories WITH parties arbitrating at VIAC



Top 10 FOREIGN Nationalities of Disputing Parties in 2025

In 2025, disputing parties from **Singapore, China*** (including Hong Kong, Macau & Taiwan), **the United Kingdom** constituted the leading group in cases involving foreign parties at VIAC.



Top 05 Provinces/Cities with parties involved in disputes at VIAC in 2025

For Vietnamese disputing parties, in 2025, statistics show that the two provinces/cities with the highest number of parties participating in dispute resolution at VIAC were Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. The top five provinces/cities with the highest number of disputing parties also included Dong Nai, Bac Ninh, and Lam Dong.





Statistics on Dispute Resolution Activities at VIAC

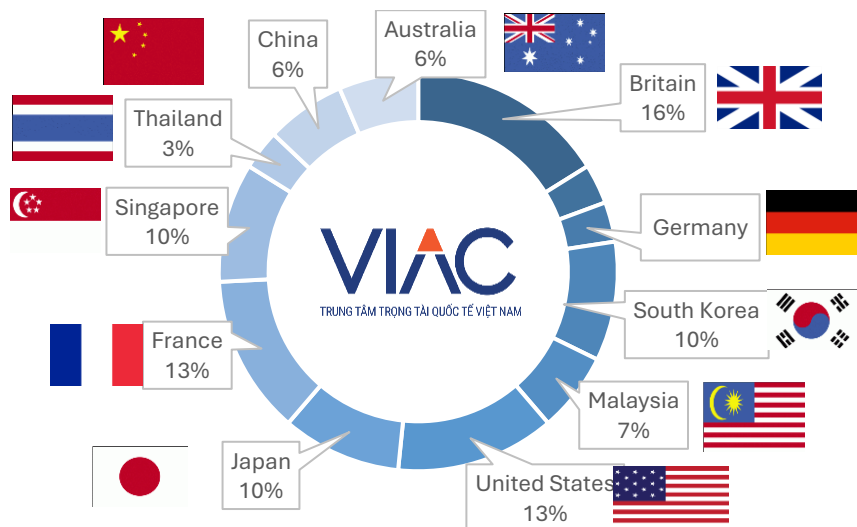
List of Arbitrators at VIAC

176

Vietnamese Arbitrators

40

Foreign Arbitrators



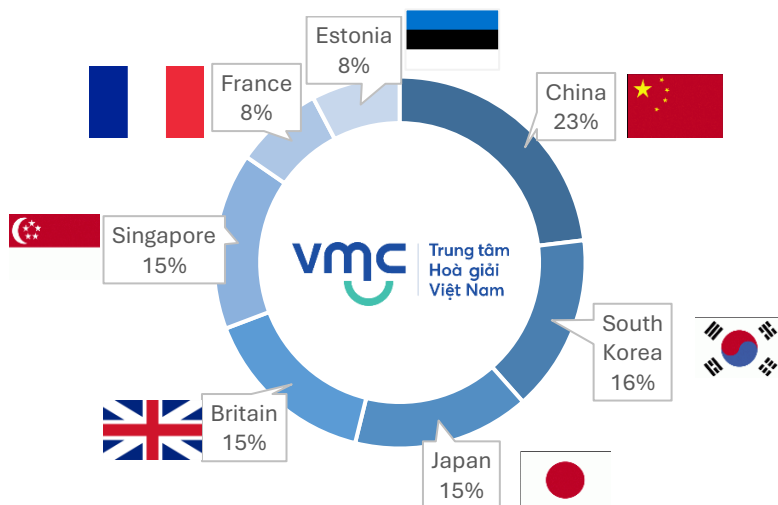
List of Mediators at VMC

54

Vietnamese Mediators

18

Foreign Mediators





Statistics on Dispute Resolution Activities at VMC

In 2018 - 2025, VMC received a total of 42 cases. For disputes that were successfully settled through mediation, 100% of the parties voluntarily complied with the settlement agreement. Several other ongoing cases have also shown positive indications regarding their outcomes.

Statistics on dispute resolution through mediation at VMC from 2018 - 2025 record disputes that are both complex and diverse in terms of sectors. Disputes arising from the sale of goods account for the largest share, representing 33.33% of the total number of cases, followed by construction at 30.95%. In addition, VMC has also recorded disputes in other areas, including services, real estate, and business cooperation activities.



42

Cases handled
by VMC

Types of dispute



Construction



Sale of
Goods



Business
Cooperation

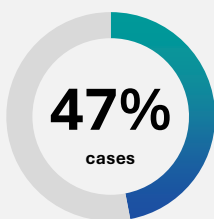


Real Estate

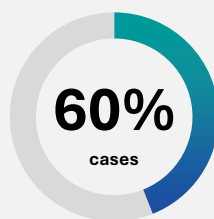


Services

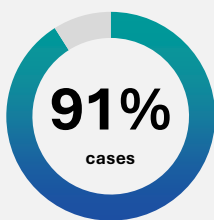
DISPUTE RESOLUTION



Mediator appointed
by the parties (with
VMC's assistance)



Rate of
participation of
lawyers



Successful mediation
with voluntary
compliance by all
parties



Rate of voluntary
implementation
mediated settlement
agreement



Activities For Business and ADR Communities

Highlight events



The Vietnam ADR Week (VAW), first launched in 2020, has grown into a large-scale annual event that brings together the domestic and international community of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). As a prominent forum, VAW gathers leading experts, lawyers, researchers, businesses, and legal practitioners from Vietnam and the region to exchange insights and experiences on arbitration, mediation, and broader legal risk management in international trade and investment.

- VAW is expected to feature a series of events of varying scales, fostering open dialogue on legal risks and practical approaches to dispute resolution. It also serves as a platform to build stronger connections in dispute resolution activities at the national, regional, and global levels – contributing to the enhancement of Vietnam's arbitration profile and positioning the country as a preferred seat of arbitration.



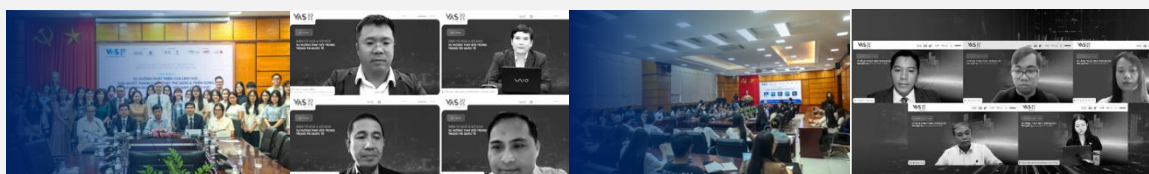
VIAC SYMPOSIUM is a forum to facilitate the exchange of valuable insights, focusing on addressing the concerns of Vietnamese investors and businesses in the process of international integration. It aims to promote the use of arbitration and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADRs) methods as a mean to facilitate cross-border trade and investment.

The first **VIAC SYMPOSIUM** was held in **2024**, with a focus on **“Cross-border trade and investment in times of economic uncertainty: Dispute and Arbitration”**. The discussions focused on analyzing current economic fluctuations and exploring appropriate measures to overcome existing challenges. The forum brings together a wide range of experts, lawyers, scholars, legal practitioners, as well as domestic and international investors and businesses who are interested in or actively engaged in international investment activities.



The VIAC Arbitration Series (VAS) was first launched in 2019 and has since become an annual initiative of VIAC, aimed at providing knowledge and practical insights on arbitration, while promoting a professional arbitration community aligned with international standards.

Moreover, VAS also seeks to support the younger generation by equipping them with essential knowledge before embarking on careers in arbitration or other roles related to dispute resolution through arbitration.



Highlight events



The **Legal Management Series (LMS)** is an annual initiative launched by the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC), designed to: (i) Provide updates on legal regulations concerning prominent market issues; (ii) Guide businesses in mitigating risks in investment and commercial activities; and (iii) Recommend effective dispute resolution methods.

Over the past two years, LMS has continued to be implemented with the support of various domestic and international partners. The events will take place in Ho Chi Minh City through in-person conferences and online panel discussions, followed by the expansion of similar conferences in neighboring provinces in the Southern region.



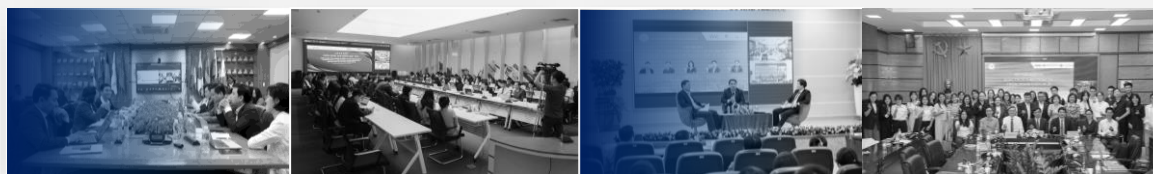
Acknowledging the importance of legal issues in investment activities, as well as the demand from businesses for a dedicated platform to exchange in-depth information on this matter, since 2023, the Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC) and the Ho Chi Minh City Investment and Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) have jointly launched the annual **Investment Legal Support Forum (“ILS Forum”)** in Ho Chi Minh City.

Through the Forum, VIAC and ITPC aims to accompany investors throughout their operations, connecting the business community and competent state authorities to effectively support investment in Ho Chi Minh City in particular and to promote the overall economic development of the country.



The **Arbitration - Mediation Symposium (AMS)** is an annual academic event organized by VIAC in collaboration with law training institutions in Ho Chi Minh City, first held in 2023. AMS serves as a recurring forum for the discussion of prominent issues in arbitration proceedings, effectively contributing to the resolution of disputes and the improvement of the legal framework for ADRs in Vietnam.

The **AMS** is structured around a series of thematic workshops, culminating in a flagship event - the Arbitration and Mediation Scientific Forum which synthesizes and builds upon prior discussions while offering new perspectives from both the practice of arbitration in Vietnam and international experiences.





Training Activities

IN-DEPTH TRAINING COURSES ON COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

With the aim of guiding the development of Vietnam's arbitration market, as well as promoting the growth of individual professional careers in arbitration and of the arbitration community, the **Vietnam Institute for International Arbitration Research and Training (VIART)** under VIAC organizes training courses on "Skills in Dispute Resolution through Arbitration". These courses are designed to help businesses and legal professionals gain comprehensive knowledge of commercial arbitration.

The training courses target lawyers, business representatives, lecturers and students, and is delivered by highly respected instructors with extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and arbitration proceedings. In 2025, VIART successfully delivered its Training Course on Arbitration Skills for Dispute Resolution, attracting more than 80 participants in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.



IN-DEPTH TRAINING COURSES ON COMMERCIAL MEDIATION

In the context of increasing interest and trust of the business community in mediation as an effective dispute resolution method, the **Vietnam Mediation Center (VMC)** under VIAC has organized training programs for lawyers and in-house counsels. These courses aim to provide foundational knowledge and practical insights into commercial mediation (Basic courses), as well as to deliver in-depth training on mediator skills (Advanced courses).



TRAINING COURSES FOR ATTORNEYS & IN-HOUSE COUNSELS

VIAC, in collaboration with the Vietnam Bar Federation, provincial Bar Associations and business associations organizes a wide range of training courses aimed at enhancing legal capacity, risk management, and effective dispute prevention and resolution for both domestic and international organizations, businesses, and individuals.





Activities for Businesses and ADR Communities

ACTIVITIES WITH OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES

VIAC always maintains connections, exchanges, and coordination efforts across various areas of activity with official authorities at both central and local levels. VIAC representatives have actively participated in professional and academic forums, as well as in legal review activities organized by the Ministry of Justice and relevant specialized agencies.

In 2025, VIAC worked closely with central government agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, actively contributing to professional forums and events to promote commercial arbitration practices and raise awareness of arbitration as an effective dispute resolution mechanism. VIAC also organized dialogue and outreach activities to provide information and support to the business and investment community.

In parallel, VIAC strengthened its engagement with provincial and municipal authorities, laying the groundwork for cooperation with local government agencies and fostering greater access to and effective use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in investment and commercial activities.



ACTIVITIES WITH BUSINESS PROMOTION AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

In recent years, VIAC has continuously strengthened its engagement and collaboration with business promotion organizations, as well as industry and local business associations. Cooperation activities primarily include seminars, training courses, workshops, publications, and a wide range of other activities. These efforts aim to enhance legal capacity, improve risk management, and promote effective dispute prevention and resolution for organizations, enterprises, and individuals both domestically and internationally.



ACTIVITIES WITH LAWYERS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS

VIAC further strengthened its engagement with the legal profession through a more proactive and targeted approach. In 2025, VIAC worked closely with the Vietnam Bar Federation and three major local Bar Associations to develop cooperation plans. These partnerships focused on delivering professional training programmes for lawyers and enhancing the dissemination of VIAC's activities and initiatives to legal practitioners.

During the same year, VIAC also engaged with the Vietnam Lawyers Association and the Vietnam Business Lawyers Club (VBLC) to explore cooperation opportunities, with a particular focus on promoting arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and raising awareness among lawyers and legal professionals of the role of out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms.





International Cooperation

Collaborative events between VIAC and other international organizations in 2025



International Partners that have signed MOUs with VIAC





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