

**China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission  
and Bar Council Course, Beijing and the International Bar Association's first  
Asia International Arbitration Day (Shanghai)**

Every year the Bar Council organises a scheme for Chinese lawyers. This involves Chinese lawyers coming to London for a series of events and training programmes the most important of which is a five week period spent in Chambers. The scheme has been running for over 25 years in various guises.

The scheme always attracts many more applications from Chinese lawyers than there are places on the scheme. This means that applicants have previously been required to participate in a telephone interview. This was not a wholly satisfactory method of choosing applicants, and also meant that those whose applications were not successful had little to show for the time and effort spent in the application process

Therefore, for the first time this year, the Bar Council organised, in association with CIETAC (China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission), a three day course in International Arbitration at Renmin Universtiy in Beijing. Anyone who applied for the main scheme was able to attend and interviews for the main scheme were held in parallel.

With the assistance of an international practice development grant from COMBAR and the Bar Council, I was able to travel to Beijing in March 2016 with a number of other barristers to teach on the course and help conduct the interviews.

Once I got over my reservations as to what wisdom I could actually impart as a teacher on the course, it was a hugely informative and engaging few days. There was a real mixture of Chinese lawyers who attended the event, from the large increasingly international firms headquartered in Shanghai and Beijing to the smaller regional firms. The event was also attended by senior partners and junior associates alike. I learnt a great deal from the Chinese lawyers and I hope that they learnt something from me.

Beijing is a long way to go for three days, so it was extremely fortunate that the International Bar Association's first Asia International Arbitration Day was also being held in Shanghai in

the same week. The educational sessions were of varying quality, but the networking opportunities were excellent, and it was a great way to round off the trip.

I am extremely grateful to COMBAR and the Bar Council for the opportunity.

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