# International Singapore: Law, Disputes and Diplomacy (1952–2026)

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- **September 1952**: The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau is created, independent of the police.[1]
- **17 June 1960**: The Prevention of Corruption Act replaces the colonial ordinance.[2]
- **3 August 1966**: Singapore becomes the 104th member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.[3]
- **8 August 1967**: The foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand sign the ASEAN Declaration in Bangkok.[4]
- **1976**: The ASEAN states sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.[5]
- **21 August 1986**: Singapore accedes to the New York Convention on foreign arbitral awards.[6]

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- **July 1990**: Singapore, a founding economy of APEC, hosts its second ministerial meeting. The APEC Secretariat begins work in Singapore in 1993.[7]
- **3 October 1990**: Singapore establishes diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, after Indonesia has resumed its own relations on 8 August.[8]
- **1 July 1991**: The Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) is established.[9]
- **28 January 1992**: The framework agreement on the ASEAN Free Trade Area is signed in Singapore. The same year Singapore founds the Forum of Small States and joins the FATF.[10]
- **27 January 1995**: The International Arbitration Act 1994 comes into force and adopts the UNCITRAL Model Law.[11]
- **6 May 2003**: Singapore and the United States sign their free trade agreement, in force since 1 January 2004.[12]
- **18 July 2005**: Chile, New Zealand and Singapore sign the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership.[13]
- **20 November 2007**: The ASEAN Charter is signed in Singapore.[14]
- **23 May 2008**: The International Court of Justice awards Pedra Branca to Singapore.[15]
- **5 November 2014**: The Singapore International Mediation Centre is founded.[16]
- **5 January 2015**: The Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) is launched as a division of the High Court.[17]
- **31 December 2015**: The ASEAN Economic Community is established.[18]
- **1 October 2016**: The Hague Choice of Court Convention enters into force for Singapore.[19]
- **2017**: Third-party funding of international arbitration is permitted.[20]

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- **31 August 2018**: The Supreme Court of Singapore and the Supreme People's Court of China sign a memorandum of guidance on the enforcement of money judgments.[21]
- **30 December 2018**: The CPTPP enters into force for its first six ratifying states, Singapore among them.[22]
- 7 **August 2019**: The Singapore Convention on Mediation opens for signature in Singapore. It enters into force on 12 September 2020.[23]
- **2019**: The BIS Innovation Hub opens its Singapore centre. The EU–Singapore free trade agreement enters into force on 21 November.[24]
- **12 June 2020**: Chile, New Zealand and Singapore sign the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement.[25]
- **15 November 2020**: Fifteen states sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. It enters into force on 1 January 2022.[26]
- **2 March 2022**: Singapore co-sponsors the General Assembly resolution deploring Russia's invasion of Ukraine and adopts its own sanctions.[27]
- 7 **October 2024**: Former minister S. Iswaran begins his prison sentence, the first minister tried in court since Wee Toon Boon.[28]
- **1 January 2025**: The SIAC Rules 2025 take effect. SIAC records 886 new cases in 2025.[29]
- **3 May 2025**: The People's Action Party wins 87 of the 97 elected seats in the general election.[30]
- **5 November 2025**: The Bahrain International Commercial Court, whose appeals go to an international committee in Singapore, is launched in Manama.[31]
- **26 August 2026**: The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes opens its first staffed office outside Washington in Singapore.[32]

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# Notes

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