SIAC and International Arbitration: summary

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Singapore built its position as a seat of international arbitration through its accession to the New York Convention in 1986 and the International Arbitration Act 1994, which gave the UNCITRAL Model Law the force of law and has been amended regularly to keep pace with competing seats. The Singapore International Arbitration Centre, established on 1 July 1991, received 886 new cases in 2025 with a total sum in dispute of USD 14.53 billion, nearly nine in ten of them international and led by parties from China, Vietnam and India. Its Rules of 2025 offer a tiered system of procedures, from the three-month Streamlined Procedure for claims up to S$1 million to the six-month Expedited Procedure for claims up to S$10 million, together with emergency arbitrators, protective preliminary orders and disclosure of third-party funding. The Singapore courts follow a policy of minimal intervention, enforcing arbitration agreements and awards while setting awards aside only for serious defects such as the copied award in *DJP v DJO*. Trade disputes form the largest category of cases, while the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration and its place in standard shipping clauses tie dispute resolution to the commodity and maritime cluster that sustains the financial centre.

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