

2026 ICC Tokyo International Arbitration Forum: Overview Report

- Date and Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(including lunch and a cocktail reception)
- Venue: Tokyo Kaikan
- Theme: “Looking Ahead: International Arbitration in 10 Years”
- Moderator: Ms. Ennya Shu, Foreign Attorney (Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu)
- Attendees (Estimated): 223 (including 35 speakers and staff)

<Summary>

The “ICC Tokyo International Arbitration Forum,” held at the Tokyo Kaikan on April 22, 2026, featured multifaceted discussions on topics such as the space industry, geopolitical risks, expedited procedures, and contract drafting, under the theme “Looking Ahead: International Arbitration in 10 Years.”

In the opening remarks, growth was reported, including an increase in the use of arbitration by Japanese companies and the fact that the number of ICC cases reached a record high of 94 in a single month in March 2026.

The keynote speech introduced significant efficiency measures under the new rules effective June 1, 2026, including the abolition of the Statement of Claim, the introduction of electronic signatures, the expansion of expedited procedures, and the establishment of ultra-expedited arbitration.

■ In Session 1, participants shared insights on contractual practices specific to the space industry and the current state of risk management—including the fact that the average failure rate for first-flight rockets “reaches 33%”—and predicted an increase in disputes in the future.

■ In Session 2, discussions focused on the impact of geopolitical risks on EPC contracts and how to respond to rapid regulatory changes in the Middle East.

■ In Session 3, data was presented showing that Expedited Procedures (EPP) result in awards within “six months”—significantly faster than standard arbitration—and “guerrilla tactics” (harassment aimed at delaying proceedings) were identified as factors that undermine efficiency.

■ Session 4 summarized key practical points for contract drafting, including defining the scope of arbitration clauses, preventing clerical errors, and issues regarding consolidation in multi-party cases.

Finally, the forum concluded with an emphasis on its pioneering role in Asia.

End

We would like to take this opportunity to once again express our sincere gratitude to the following sponsors for their tremendous support and guidance, which made this forum a success.

<Sponsors>

ANDERSON MORI & TOMOTSUNE

NAGASHIMA OHNO

TMI ASSOCIATES

MORI HAMADA

K&L GATES STRAITS LAW LLC

MORRISON FOERSTER

NISHIMURA & ASAHI

WHITE & CASE

ORRICK RAMBAUD MARTEL

JUS MUNDI



