



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **Arbitration experts in Singapore for landmark Conference and the launch of Maxwell Chambers**

**Singapore, 21 January 2010** – Singapore is poised to strengthen its position as a leading arbitration venue in the region with the launch of the inaugural Singapore International Arbitration Forum (SIAF) and the official opening of Maxwell Chambers, a custom-designed international dispute resolution complex.

2 Co-organised by Maxwell Chambers and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the SIAF 2010 will be held from 21 to 22 January at the Raffles City Convention Centre. The forum, themed “The Future for International Arbitration”, is attended by close to 300 experts and practitioners from the international legal and arbitration community.

3 The SIAF is a global platform for arbitrators, legal practitioners and other stakeholders from around the world to share insights and provide thought leadership through open discourse on major issues and new developments in the international arbitration scene. This year, it aims to gather the expertise of the international arbitration community to debate the way forward and map the future of the industry, reflecting the current evolution of the global economy.

4 Speaking at the opening of the SIAF, Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, said: “Singapore is well-placed to be Asia’s regional hub for international arbitration. The launch of the inaugural SIAF, establishment of Maxwell Chambers, and the continued success of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre are all very positive developments. We will continue to focus on being a leading international arbitration centre.”

5 Held in conjunction with the SIAF, the official opening of Maxwell Chambers is a key milestone in the development of Singapore's infrastructure for international dispute resolution. Maxwell Chambers is the world's first integrated dispute resolution complex that besides providing best-of-class hearing facilities is also home to top international arbitral institutions. Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Professor S. Jayakumar, who will officially open Maxwell Chambers this evening, said: "We have taken significant steps forward to position Singapore as the leading destination in Asia for alternative dispute resolution. The SIAF has catalysed our 'software' by bringing together the world's top arbitrators and enhancing Singapore's position as a thought leader in this field. In this regard, the establishment of the Maxwell Chambers would be a significant boost to our 'hardware'."

6 Mr Chelva Rajah SC, Chairman of Maxwell Chambers said: "What Singapore missed in the past was a first class venue for holding international arbitration hearings. This missing piece has now been put in place with the advent of Maxwell Chambers. Besides having best-of-class hearing facilities, many top international dispute resolution institutions and professionals have also chosen to co-locate with us, making Maxwell Chambers a truly unique service offering."

7 To further enhance Maxwell Chambers' position as a compelling venue for international dispute resolution, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding to cement their partnership with Maxwell Chambers during the Official Opening.

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### **About Maxwell Chambers**

Leveraging on heritage and technology, Maxwell Chambers is the world's first integrated dispute resolution complex housing both best-of-class hearing facilities as well as top international arbitral institutions.

Centrally located at 32 Maxwell Road in the heart of Singapore's business district, it is a refurbished four storey conservation building of architectural and historical significance with a stately neo-classical façade. Opened since August 2009, Maxwell Chambers has 14 fully equipped hearing rooms and 12 preparation rooms and a full suite of supporting services e.g. recording, translation, transcription, catering, concierge, secretarial etc. The facilities can also be used for meetings, seminars and conferences.

### **About Singapore International Arbitration Centre**

The Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) is an independent, non-profit organisation established in 1991 to meet the demands of the international business community for a neutral, efficient and reliable dispute resolution institution in Asia.