

**SPEECH BY MR K SHANMUGAM, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
LAW, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2012 DIGEST OF CASE LAW ON THE
UNCITRAL MODEL LAW ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION
ON 9 JUNE 2012 (SATURDAY), 7.20 PM, AT MAXWELL CHAMBERS**

Mr Salim Moollan, Chair of the 44th Session of the UNCITRAL,
Mr Renaud Sorieul, Secretary of the UNCITRAL,
Professor Frederic Bachand,
Dr Stefan Kröll,
Professor Lawrence Boo,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

1. Welcome:
 - To Singapore
 - To Maxwell Chambers
2. Great pleasure to join you
 - Launch of the very first Digest of Case Law on the UNCITRAL¹ Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration.
3. Model Law
 - Adopted by UNCITRAL in 1985
 - Aim: to promote a uniform, pro-arbitration legislative framework across different jurisdictions.
4. Today:
 - More than 90 jurisdictions around the world have enacted legislation based on the Model Law.
 - Singapore is one of them.
 - “Model Law jurisdiction” has become synonymous with “pro-arbitration jurisdiction”.
 - I think we can all agree that

¹ United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

[Embargoed until after delivery at 7.30 pm on 9 June 2012 (Saturday)]
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- The Model Law is the single most important legislative instrument in international arbitration; and
 - Its contribution to the success of international arbitration is no less significant than the New York Convention itself.
5. The widespread adoption of the Model Law has led to the need for uniform interpretation of its provisions.
6. To this end, UNCITRAL has put together the Digest of Case Law on the Model Law.
- Helpfully organised according to the Chapters and Articles in the Model Law, including 2006 amendments
 - The text of each Article is accompanied by
 - References to the *travaux préparatoires*
 - A commentary on the Article; and
 - A summary of the relevant case law.
7. Confident that Digest:
- Will be an invaluable resource for all who work with the Model Law, and
 - Contribute to a better understanding and the continued success of the Model Law
8. Pleased to see:
- Professor Lawrence Boo
 - One of the leading authorities in Singapore on international arbitration
 - Credited as one of the main contributor
 - Alongside Professor Frederic Bachand and Dr Stefan Kröll
 - A number of Singapore cases discussed in the Digest
 - Our courts have, over the years, developed a pro-arbitration jurisprudence
 - Built on the basis of the Model Law and the IAA
9. Honoured:
- That UNCITRAL has chosen to launch the Digest in Singapore
 - Hope that this marks the beginning of a deeper relationship between UNCITRAL and Singapore
10. Allow me:
- Congratulate
 - UNCITRAL
 - All who have contributed to the Digest
