

## YMG CONFERENCE

**THEME:** Pursuing Excellence in Dispute Resolution: A young practitioners toolkit.

“The ideal young Arbitrator: Navigating the International Arbitration Space”

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Thoughts to reflect on:

The ideal young Arbitrator:  
must be able to navigate  
the international Arbitration space

They must pursue excellence  
And they must be equipped  
to survive  
and thrive

They must have a toolkit

I wish to share with you  
some ideas and experiences  
Ideas concretised over time  
And lessons from experiences that I have  
gone through  
In the course of my ADR  
Journey

The International Arbitration Space  
is more of an ocean  
than empty space  
The water is salty  
The ocean is sometimes  
Rough  
and stormy

There are all manner of  
plants and animals  
that live there  
Sharks, stinging rays, venomous jellyfish  
and water snakes

The young arbitrator  
must learn to swim  
with the sharks  
And survive the venom  
of the stinging rays  
venomous jelly fish  
and the water snakes

The young arbitrator must  
have determination  
and the strength to keep going

The young arbitrator must  
never, ever give up

The young arbitrator  
must rise up every morning  
and pursue  
Big dreams  
Dreams so big  
that they scare the world

The young arbitrator must be  
hungry for success

Success is the achievement  
of predetermined  
worthwhile goals  
It is a journey  
where the path is as  
important as  
the destination

The path will be  
thorny and rocky  
But if the young arbitrator  
is persistent  
Ready to endure the  
pain and suffering  
the thirst, the fatigue  
and the cold  
They will ultimately succeed

And the young arbitrator  
needs  
Luck  
All the luck there is  
Fortunately  
Luck can be made -  
It is possible to make  
our own luck  
by working hard, researching,

equipping ourselves with  
knowledge

You must know  
all there is to know  
about  
Arbitration  
ADR  
and International Arbitration

No one will hire you  
if you do not understand  
the subject  
You must be the best  
Not second best

You must go out of your  
way to do more  
to learn more  
and to strive to be the best

And do not let the fear  
of failure get to you  
More importantly  
Do not let the fear of  
Success  
paralyse you

You may need to drop  
those friends you  
hang out with  
Those who tell you that  
you cannot succeed

And you  
will have to change  
how you think

You are the sum total of  
your thoughts

All the holy books have  
one idea

that they emphasize in  
common

“As a person thinketh  
so are they”

So what you tell yourself  
matters

If you think you are  
a success

You are

If you think you are  
a failure

The world readily agrees  
with you

Guard your thoughts  
Your mind is like a garden  
It has weeds  
and flowers

What you take care of  
is what grows.

So if you think you  
cannot be  
an International  
Arbitrator

You cannot be

If you think you can be  
the best arbitrator  
there ever was

You will be that  
best International Arbitrator.

Make good use of time  
Time is the only resource  
that we all receive  
equally.

What can you achieve  
within 24 hours?

It is really up to you.

Good use of time  
Can determine  
who you will be tomorrow

What you are tomorrow  
depends on what you do  
today.

The toolkit for a young arbitrator  
must have  
all the necessary courses  
needed to grow competence

But it must also contain  
Courage  
The courage to go where  
others dare not go

The courage to stand up  
and speak your mind  
The Courage  
To explore new ideas

The courage to get  
out of your comfort  
zone

The courage to change  
your mindset  
Including the idea  
that you are a  
young person  
Be as old as you  
need to be  
to achieve your dreams

Join Organizations that  
nurture young arbitrators  
(LCIA, ICC, ICCA, CIArb) as ADR  
practitioners

Learn from the sages  
and mentors

Their experiences  
can teach you  
what not to do  
and the path to follow:

You live in a golden  
age  
of technology  
Use it.

You can be an expert in  
any area within 30 days  
or less.

You have information on you  
phone  
and numerous libraries

Use them to acquire  
the knowledge you need

To Pursue

excellence

in Dispute Resolution

And to navigate

the International Arbitration  
Space

My experience in the ADR space:

I have been around for  
a while.

I was once young  
And undecided

But one day

I made a decision

to get to the top  
of ADR

and International Commercial Arbitration

That was a conscious  
decision.

And it changed my life.

I challenge you to make

Or remake

that decision today.

Walk in the direction  
of your dreams

Aim high and keep walking  
On your own lane  
At your own pace  
Believing it is possible

One day  
Your dreams will become  
your reality.