

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL WILLEM C. VIS EAST  
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT

2025 - 2026  
HONG KONG



# THE RULES

ORAL ARGUMENTS  
15 - 22 MARCH 2026

ORGANIZED BY  
VIS EAST MOOT FOUNDATION LIMITED

# INTRODUCTION

## I. The Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot

1. The Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot ("**Vis East Moot**") is the sister competition to the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot ("**Vienna Vis Moot**") (collectively "**Vis Moots**"). The Vis Moots are annual competitions comprised of teams representing law schools throughout the world. Together, the Vis Moots are the largest law school competitions, gathering international arbitration and trade law academics and professionals worldwide. In the Twenty-Second Vis East Moot, 159 schools submitted written memoranda, and 153 schools representing 39 jurisdictions took part in the oral arguments in Hong Kong. More than 1,200 students and coaches and over 500 international arbitrators from around the world participated in both the written submissions and oral arguments stages of the competition. One week later, over 2,200 students and 1,200 academics and professionals participated in the Vienna Vis Moot. In addition, an ever-growing number of pre-moots took place in various jurisdictions around the world.
2. **Goals.** The Vis East Moot is intended to stimulate the study of international commercial law, and the legal texts prepared by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("**UNCITRAL**"), particularly the Convention on the International Sale of Goods ("**CISG**"). The Vis Moots focus on the use of international commercial arbitration to resolve international commercial disputes. The international nature of the Vis East Moot is intended to lead participants to interpret the texts of international commercial law in the light of different legal systems and to develop expertise in advocating a position before an arbitral panel composed of arbitrators from different legal systems. An active year-long social and professional programme organized by the Moot Alumni Association ("**MAA**") during both stages of the Vis Moots aims to promote friendships and professional connections that last long after the Vis East Moot itself is over.
3. The Vis East Moot is designed to be a multi-faceted **educational programme** in the form of a moot court competition. It is not intended to be a competition with incidental educational benefits. The rules and procedures in the Vis East Moot should be interpreted in light of this goal.

## II. Organization of the Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot

4. **Organizer, Co-sponsors, Supporters.** The Vis East Moot is organized by the Vis East Moot Foundation, Limited ("**VEMF**").
5. The organization and operations of the Vis East Moot are carried out by the Vis East Moot Administration.

### VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cismoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cismoot.org

The Vis East Moot Administration is comprised of the following team:

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
Ms. Maricel Somerville, COO  
Ms. Jiani Guo, Legal Assistant  
Ms. Elyedhia Quillopo, Social Media Consultant

6. The Vis East Moot consists of two stages: (i) written memoranda; and (ii) oral arguments. Specifically, all teams are expected to prepare and submit a Memorandum for Claimant, a Memorandum for Respondent, and participate in oral hearings during the week of oral arguments for both claimant and respondent.
7. **Venue for Oral Hearings.** The oral hearings will be held **in-person**, in Hong Kong. The general rounds and elimination rounds will take place at the West Wing of Justice Place in Central. The general rounds are scheduled from Monday through Thursday, 16 – 19 March 2026 (Hong Kong Time). The elimination rounds are scheduled from Friday to Saturday, 20 – 21 March 2026 (Hong Kong Time). The Final Round will take place at the Hopewell Hotel in Wan Chai on Sunday morning, 22 March 2026 (Hong Kong Time).
8. **Language.** The Vis East Moot is conducted in English.
9. **Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Vienna.** The Vis East Moot is the sister competition to the Vienna Vis Moot. Both competitions use the same problem. Each competition has its own set of rules, which are generally the same. The Vienna Vis Moot and the Vis East Moot are two separate competitions with two separate online systems. Each competition requires its own registration and registration fees. Each competition has its own winners. The Vis East Moot is not a regional elimination round for the Vienna Vis Moot. A school can register for the Vis East Moot, the Vienna Vis Moot, or both. While students can be on teams for both competitions, specific rules govern eligibility for students to participate in the oral arguments and for written memoranda. These rules are in Section V, paragraphs 38 to 47 below. For more information about the Vienna Vis Moot, please visit its website: [www.vismoot.org](http://www.vismoot.org).
10. **Pre-Moot Competitions.** Several Pre-Moot Competitions are organized by various entities around the world in order to help teams prepare for the Vienna Vis Moot and Vis East Moot oral arguments. These events are separate and independent from the Vis East Moot and Vienna Vis Moot and are not officially associated with either Vis Moot. While participation in Pre-Moot Competitions is encouraged, it is not a requirement for participating in the Vis Moots. When participating in Pre-Moot Competitions, teams must always remain fully aware of, and ensure compliance with, the Vis East Moot Rules. In particular, it is the responsibility of the teams to ensure compliance with paragraph 106 of these Vis East Moot Rules with respect to Scouting. No team, including its coaches, advisors, or family members and friends, shall practice with, plead against, or watch a team that it is scheduled to meet in the general rounds of the Vis East Moot.

## PRIVACY AND DATA REGULATION

11. The Vis East Moot and the VEMF comply fully with the data privacy laws in Hong Kong. These data privacy laws are governed by the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) and can be found [HERE](#).

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12. To operate the Vis East Moot appropriately and for statistical purposes, the Vis East Moot Administration collects personal data from students and arbitrators. By agreeing to participate in the Vis East Moot, including any of the associated events, you agree to the VEMF collecting necessary personal data for the operation of the Vis East Moot. This includes publication of photos for the Vis East Moot website, social media accounts, and promotional materials.
13. The VEMF will not disclose any personal data to third parties unless specific permission has been obtained. If you have concerns or queries about the way your data is being used, whether by the VEMF or other participants, please contact the Vis East Administration via email: [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org).

## RULES

14. These Rules govern the Twenty-Third Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot ("VEM23"). The Rules of the Vis East Moot are reviewed annually and are subject to change from year to year. Reliance on any past rules or practice is **not** an excuse for failure to comply with these Rules.

### III. Team Registration

15. Team Registration for the Vis East Moot opens at **12 pm noon (Hong Kong Time) on Friday, 26 September 2025.**
16. The number of teams allowed to participate in the Vis East Moot each year is limited. Team Registration in the Vis East Moot is a three-step process:
  - a. Submit a fully completed Team Application Form ("**Team Application**") on the Vis East Moot website ([www.cisgmoot.org](http://www.cisgmoot.org)) through the **Team Registration** within the deadline provided by the VEM23 Key Dates & Times, *i.e.* by **23:59 (HKT) Thursday, 13 November 2025.**
    - i. Team Applications will only be deemed complete if the Team Application form is fully completed and the submission of the Team Application is accompanied by full payment of the **HK\$1,500 deposit** (plus any related fees) or proof of such payment.
    - ii. The deposit is non-refundable once the Team Application is accepted as it guarantees the team's place, subject to completion of the remaining steps.
  - b. Following confirmation by the Vis East Administration of a successful Team Application on the Team Account, a notification of which will also be sent by email to the Authorized Team Email, submission of the Claimant's Memorandum within the deadline provided in the VEM23 Key Dates & Times, *i.e.* by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time) on Thursday, 11 December 2025,** in accordance with the procedures set out by the VEM23 Rules.
  - c. Payment of the **complete** registration fee (plus any related fees such as bank charges, administrative fees, and additional team member fees) is due by the deadline set out by the VEM23 Key Dates & Times, *i.e.* by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time) on Friday, 12 December 2025.**

17. **Team Applications.** Team Applications must be submitted on the Vis East Moot

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website through Team Registration. Each team creates a **Team Account** to submit their Team Application. Team Accounts are created using a single authorized email address ("**Authorized Team Email**"). Information submitted in Team Accounts from previous years do not carry over. While the system may recognize an email address, teams must submit a new Team Application for each year that the team participates. The Authorized Team Email used to create the Team Account will remain the same for the entire VEM23.

- a. Any request to change the Authorized Team Email must be submitted to the Vis East Moot Administration via email: [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org), with an explanation of why the Authorized Team Email needs to be changed and the requested substitution email address. The decision to change a team's Authorized Team Email is at the sole discretion of the Vis East Moot Administration.
  - b. The decision whether a Team Application is accepted, put on the waitlist, or denied, is at the sole discretion of the Vis East Moot Administration, and will be communicated to the Team via email at the Authorized Email Address as well as on the HOME page of the Team Account.
  - c. Successful Team Applications will result in the full opening of the Team Account. A fully opened Team Account gives the Team full access to its Team Account and all of the available features (see paragraph 22 below).
18. The deadline for submitting a completed Team Application is set out in the VEM23 Key Dates & Times, i.e. as of **23:59 (Hong Kong Time) on Thursday, 13 November 2025**. Team Applications that are submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected unless the Vis East Moot Administration has provided prior emailed approval for the submission of a late Team Application.
19. Early submission of a completed Team Application is highly recommended as spaces are limited. Once all spaces have been allocated, no further Team Applications can be accepted. Once a team's application is accepted, the team will start to receive all relevant information and updates through its Team Account, Authorized Email Address, and any other registered emails in the Team List (see paragraph 25.b below).
20. Team Applications should be submitted once a school is certain it will participate in the Vis East Moot. Schools that withdraw from the Vis East Moot after their Team Application is accepted, but before the deadline for submission of Claimant's memorandum, will **forfeit** the non-refundable HK\$1,500 deposit and face being barred from competing in future Vis East Moots. Teams who withdraw after the deadline for teams to submit their Claimant's memorandum will **forfeit** their paid Registration Fee and face being barred from competing in future Vis East Moots.
21. **Registration Fee.** The Registration Fee for the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot is:
- a. **HK\$10,000** for **standard registration** (i.e. teams comprised of four (4) to eight (8) team members participating in person in Hong Kong); and
  - b. **HK\$9,500** for **small-team registration** (i.e. teams comprised of two (2) to three (3) team members participating in person in Hong Kong).
  - c. **Additional Team Member Fees.** For teams comprised of more than eight (8) team members who will participate in-person in Hong Kong, an additional fee of **HK\$1,500** for each additional team member is charged.

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**Team members** are defined as student participants, student coaches, and non-student coaches who are listed on the Team List.

- d. The Team Registration Fee and Additional Team Member Fees cover the Vis East Moot Competition and Vis East Moot sponsored events during Oral Arguments Week unless otherwise advised. In this regard, the **Standard Registration Fee** includes four (4) tickets to the Gala Awards Banquet, the **Small Team Registration Fee** includes two (2) to three (3) tickets to the Gala Awards Banquet, depending on the size of the team, and Additional Team Member Fees do not include a ticket to the Gala Awards Banquet.
  - e. **Additional Gala Awards Banquet Tickets.** Any additional Gala Awards Banquet Tickets that are needed must be purchased separately. Non-student coaches who also act as arbitrators in the 23rd Vis East Moot Oral Arguments are entitled to purchase arbitrator tickets to the Gala Awards Banquet so long as they sit as an arbitrator in at least two (2) rounds during oral arguments week. **PLEASE NOTE: Gala Awards Banquet Tickets, which are provided as part of the Registration Fee, are non-transferrable.**
22. Subject to paragraph 20 above, teams whose Team Applications were approved but withdraw on or before Thursday, 11 December 2025 (*i.e.* the deadline for submission of Claimant's Memorandum), will receive a refund of the balance of their paid registration fee minus the non-refundable deposit and any applicable charges. No refunds will be given for teams who withdraw after Thursday, 11 December 2025.
23. A team that submits its memorandum for claimant will be paired with another team for the exchange of memoranda (see paragraph 48 *et seq.* below) and will be scheduled to meet that team in the general rounds of oral arguments (see paragraph 79 *et seq.* below). A team withdrawal after submission of the memorandum for claimant negatively affects the team that has been paired with the withdrawing team. Every team that has submitted a Claimant's Memorandum is expected to participate in the entire Vis East Moot, including the oral arguments. The registration fee will **not** be refunded, nor will unpaid fees be waived for teams withdrawing after submission of the memorandum for claimant. Further, the withdrawal may result in that team's school being barred from competing in future competitions as set out in paragraph 20 above.
24. **Payment.** Payment is to be remitted directly through the Team Account, using the **Financials** section, which is available under MENU on the top right corner of the Team Account. Payment details and instructions on how to remit payment and the amount owed by a Team can also be found on the Team Account under the **Financials** section.
- a. Teams have the option of remitting payment via PayPal, Stripe (including credit card payments), and transferring funds directly into the Vis East Moot's bank account. PayPal, and Stripe (including credit card payments) can be made directly through the Team Account. For Teams who wish to remit payment via bank transfer, the Vis East Moot's banking details can be found on the Team Account. However, payment must be made separate from the Team Account, either directly through the Team's respective bank or through another provider, *e.g.* [www.wise.com](http://www.wise.com). In the event a Team chooses to remit payment by transferring funds directly into the Vis East Moot's bank account, in order to ensure that the Team's records are updated as soon as possible, the Team should send proof of payment to:

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sherlin@cismoot.org



[info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) with the subject "FINANCIALS".

- b. All charges associated with payment (i.e. bank charges, PayPal and Stripe handling fees, credit card fees, foreign exchange fees) are solely the responsibility of the teams. Fees vary depending on the method of payment chosen by the teams. The Teams are responsible for figuring out the costs of the fees and ensuring that the Vis East Administration receives full payment. Any shortfall will be collected, at the latest, at Registration during the Oral Hearings.
- c. Payments must expressly reference the name of the school associated with the payment. In order to ensure that the Team's financial record on the Team Account is updated as soon as possible, teams are encouraged to provide proof of payment to [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) with the subject "FINANCIALS" irrespective of the payment type.
- d. Any remaining credits from participation in previous Vis East Moots will be deducted from the outstanding balance of the respective Team's Registration Fee for the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot. Any outstanding balances owed by a team from previous Vis East Moots will be added to the amount owed by the team for Team Registration for the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot. Details of the credits available or balance owed can be found in the **Financials** section of the Team Account. For queries in relation to a team's finances for the Vis East Moot, please contact the Vis East Administration by email at [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) and with the subject line "TEAM FINANCIALS".

25. **Team Accounts.** Teams whose Team Applications have been approved must complete their Team Account on the Vis East Moot website. **Teams are solely responsible** for ensuring that all information, including names and contact information of the Team Members, is kept up to date in the Team Account. Once a team's Team Application has been accepted, the Team Account will open and display a number of features, including:
- a. **Financials**, which records the amounts owed and paid by the Team, allows teams to remit payment via PayPal and Stripe (inclusive of credit card payments) and sets out details of the Vis East Moot bank account, and allows teams to generate invoices for the amounts paid and due to the Vis East Moot;
  - b. **Team List**, which is for the Team to provide information of team members, including individual team members' emails. All team members recorded under the Team List section will receive communications regarding the Vis East Moot and the ability to create **individual Team Member accounts**, which allows each Team Member to have individual access to the **Vis East Moot APP**, at the email address recorded for each of the team members in the Team List. Teams are responsible for maintaining a current, updated list of Team Members. All certificates, letters, and communications will be prepared directly from the information provided in the Team List of a Team Account;
  - c. **Clarifications**, which is where teams are required to upload their clarifications within the deadline provided (i.e. 8 November 2025 at 6:59am (HKT));
  - d. **Written Submissions**, which is where teams are required to upload their respective written memoranda and receive the memorandum for claimant

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they are to provide a response to in their memorandum for respondent; and

- e. **Oral Arguments**, which is where teams will find their schedule of oral arguments. This section also allows teams to generate Visa Invitation Letters, subject to certain terms and conditions.
- 26. Teams are responsible for ensuring that access to, and communications from, the Team Account comply with all relevant laws and regulations, of both the team's own jurisdiction and Hong Kong. Teams are also responsible for ensuring that ALL team contacts are kept up to date, and that the information is promptly distributed to every team member and coach. As the Vis East Moot Administration may send information as late as 31 July 2026, teams are responsible for ensuring that their contact email address(es) are valid or updated until that date. Any problems with the Team Account must be promptly notified to: [info@cismoot.org](mailto:info@cismoot.org) with "TEAM ACCOUNT ISSUE" in the subject line.
- 27. **Refusal or Cancellation of Registration.** The Vis East Administration reserves the right to refuse or cancel the registration of any team, in the absolute discretion of the Vis East Moot Administration. Examples of factors that may be taken into consideration include the conduct of the teams, including individual members, coaches, or institutions, such as unjustified last-minute cancellations, unauthorized delay in payment of registration fees, violations (past or current) of the Rules, and unethical or unprofessional conduct.

#### IV. The Problem

- 28. **Subject Matter.** The Problem in the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot involves a controversy arising out of an international sale of goods subject to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods ("**CISG**").
- 29. **Dispute Settlement.** The controversy is to be decided by an arbitral tribunal pursuant to the arbitration rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("**SIAC Rules**"). The parties have agreed that the arbitration will be held in Vindobona, Danubia. Danubia has enacted the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (Model Law) with the 2006 amendments. Danubia, Equatoriana, Mediterraneo and Oceania, the four states that are, or may be, involved are all parties to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the "**New York Convention**").
- 30. **The Arbitration.** By the time the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot begins, the claimant has filed its request for arbitration, the respondent has filed its answer to the request for arbitration, and the arbitral tribunal has been appointed. The Problem will consist of the statements of claim and defense with their exhibits, any orders of the arbitral tribunal issued prior to the date on which the Problem is distributed, and the clarifications described below. The Vis East Moot involves writing memoranda and taking part in oral arguments in support of the positions of the claimant and respondent.
- 31. **Distribution.** The Problem will be published on **Friday, 10 October 2025 (Central European Time)** on the Vienna Vis Moot Website ([www.vismoot.org](http://www.vismoot.org)) and the Vis East Moot Website ([www.cismoot.org](http://www.cismoot.org)).

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32. **Facts.** The facts in the dispute that are being argued at the Vis East Moot are given in the Problem. Facts alleged in the statement of claim and statement of defence including the exhibits to those statements, as well as in the clarifications, are taken to be correct unless there is a contradiction between them. No additional facts may be introduced into the Vis East Moot unless they are a logical and necessary extension of the given facts or are publicly available true facts. By way of example:
- a. The subject matter of the dispute in the Fourth Vienna Vis Moot was men's suits. It was legitimate to assume that the suits were made of cloth. It was not legitimate to assume that they were, or should have been, made of pure wool. If a team intended to base an argument on the material out of which the suits were made, the team should have requested a clarification of the Problem. By way of an additional example, a team may wish to base an argument on the apparent intention or state of mind of a person who sent a communication of some sort. It would rarely be possible on the basis of that which is given in the Problem to state as a fact that the person had a particular intention or state of mind. However, it would be legitimate to suggest that on the basis of the facts given the Arbitral Tribunal could (or even should) conclude that the desired intention or state of mind was present.
  - b. The subject matter of the dispute in the Twelfth Vienna Vis Moot / Second Vis East Moot was cocoa beans. The real, and extreme, price movements of cocoa beans during the period in question were given and were relevant to the dispute. Since the price movements in the Moot Problem were real, the reasons for those price movements were also real and were publicly available. It was permissible to refer to those reasons in the memoranda, if they were considered to be relevant. It would also have been permissible to refer to any such facts in oral argument, but only if they had been referred to in the memorandum of either party to that argument or if they were so well known that they should have been known to the other party as a result of reasonable research.
33. Statements of fact alleged by a team that do not qualify under paragraph 32 are not true. Therefore, basing an argument on any such alleged facts will be considered to be a breach of these Rules and to be professionally unethical. Arbitrators will enforce this rule strictly in both the written memorandum phase and during oral arguments and will evaluate the team's efforts accordingly.
34. **Clarifications.** Requests for clarification of the Problem must be submitted via the Team Account under the Clarifications section by **6:59 am (Hong Kong Time) on Saturday, 8 November 2025**. Requests for clarifications should be limited to matters that would appear to have legal significance in the context of the Problem. A request for clarification must include a short explanation of the expected significance of the clarification.
35. As the case is written by the Vienna Vis Moot Directors, only they issue clarifications. To facilitate the process, any team participating in both the Vienna Vis Moot and the Vis East Moot competitions should submit **one set of clarifications** to the Vienna Vis Moot via their team account. For teams participating only in the Vis East Moot, submissions made on your Team Account within the deadline will be forwarded to the Vienna Vis Moot Directors for their attention.
36. Clarifications issued by the Vienna Vis Moot Directors will be in the form of a Procedural Order from the Arbitral Tribunal and will be made available on the Vienna Vis Moot and Vis East Moot websites within a week to ten days from the

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submission of Clarifications. All teams who compete in the Vis East Moot are responsible for making sure that they have reviewed the Clarifications, even if they were not yet registered as of the date of the release of the Clarifications. Clarifications issued in the name of the Arbitral Tribunal become part of the Problem.

37. **Copyright.** All problems and materials created as part of the Vis Moot competitions are copyrighted and any re-use requires permission of the Vienna Vis Moot Directors. Permission for educational use will not be unreasonably withheld. Authorship must always be attributed. Commercial use is prohibited.

## V. Teams

38. **Composition.** Teams may come either from a law school or from another higher educational institution that includes law as part of its program of study. Each participating law school or other institution may only enter one team. A team is composed of two or more students registered at the institution. Students may be registered either for a first degree or for an advanced degree (including PhDs) and need not be nationals of the country in which the institution is located.
39. There is no maximum limit on the number of students who may be members of the team, subject to the registration fee requirements set out in paragraph 21 above as well as paragraphs 44 and 45 below regarding formal issuance of certificates of participation and non-student coaches' letters of recognition. A maximum of eight (8) students from any school or institution may compete in the Vis East Moot oral arguments.
40. No student who has been licensed to practice law or has practical experience in law or arbitration is eligible to participate except with the express permission of the Vis East Moot Administration. Students at bar preparation institutions who are simultaneously working in a law office must request a determination as to their eligibility to participate in the Vis East Moot. In order to request a determination of eligibility, the student's full CV must be sent to [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org). Eligibility to participate in the Vis East Moot is determined as of **Thursday, 11 December 2025**.
41. Teams may include former Vis Moot participants, subject to the limitations set out in these Rules. An individual student who has participated as an oralist in an argument in any elimination round hearing in a previous in-person Vis Moot, whether in Vienna or Hong Kong, can be a member of the team but cannot be an oralist in the 23rd Vis East Moot. To clarify, elimination round hearings are the rounds of 32, 16, etc. for the Vis East Moot, and rounds of 64, 32, etc. for the Vienna Vis Moot. Participation in any round of a Virtual Vis East Moot or Virtual Vienna Vis Moot (17th, 18th, 19th Virtual Vis East Moots / 27th, 28th and 29th Virtual Vienna Vis Moots) does not exclude participation in any round of this Twenty- Third Vis East Moot, subject to the other limitations set out in these Rules.
42. If a team qualifies for an elimination round (i.e. Round of 32 or later) and does not participate, all members of the team will be disqualified from participation in any future Vis Moot Competition in Vienna or Hong Kong, subject to an express permission from the relevant Vis Moot administration. A student may be a member of both the team that participates in Hong Kong and the team that participates in Vienna. However, no student may take part in oral arguments in both Vis Moots in the same year. An exemption from this Rule may be granted to individuals by the Vis East Administration in exceptional circumstances, upon an advanced application to the Vis East Administration. The exemption does not permit a

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student to be eligible for an individual oral argument award for both Vis Moots, so the student or team must notify both Vis Moot administrations of its choice as a condition of the exemption.

43. **List of Team Members.** As briefly set out in paragraph 25.c above, the List of Team Members is where a Team sets out all of its Team Members, as defined in paragraph 21.c above. Only Team Members listed in the Team List can receive Certificates of Participation and/or Letters of Recognition, subject to the criteria set out in these Rules. The List of Team Members is key to the **Vis East Moot APP** and allows access to communications and information about the Vis East Moot to Individual Team Members. Only Team Members set out in the List of Team Members will be able to create an Individual Team Member Account using the email address recorded in the Team List, which then allows the Team Member to gain access to the Vis East Moot APP. The List of Team Members must be finalized on the Team Account at the time the memorandum for claimant is submitted, *i.e.* by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time) on Thursday, 11 December 2025**.

a. **Changes to the List of Team Members.**

- i. Teams can freely add or remove Team Members from the Team List up until the deadline for finalizing the Team List, *i.e.* by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time) on Thursday, 11 December 2025**.
- ii. **Change in Attendance Status After the Deadline.** A team can change a Team Member's "Going to HK" status from "Yes" to "No" directly through the Team Account. Changing a Team Member's "Going to HK" status from "Yes" to "No" after the deadline will not impact a team's registration fees or associated additional fees. Specifically, a team remains responsible for any additional team member fee set out in the team's Financial Section of its Team Account as of 12 December 2025 and **forfeits** payment that has been remitted. A team cannot change a Team Member's "Going to HK" status from "No" to "Yes" directly through the Team Account. In order to change a Team Member's "Going to HK" status from "No" to "Yes" after the deadline requires a written request to the Vis East Moot Administration at [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) to make such change on behalf of the Team. Changing a Team Member's "Going to HK" status from "No" to "Yes" will be subject to the Registration Fees as set out in paragraph 21 above. Specifically, if the change results in the Team having more than eight (8) Team Members who will participate in-person in Hong Kong, the Additional Team Member Fee of **HK\$1,500** will apply.
- iii. **Removal After the Deadline.** A team can remove Team Members from the Team List after the submission of the memorandum for claimant directly through the Team Account. Removal of team members taking part in-person in Hong Kong after submission of the memorandum for claimant will not impact a team's registration fees or associated additional fees. Specifically, a team remains responsible for any additional team member fee set out in the team's Financial Section of its Team Account as of 12 December 2025 and **forfeits** payment that has been remitted.
- iv. **Addition/Substitution After the Deadline.** A team cannot add or substitute Team Members to the Team List after the submission of the memorandum for claimant directly through the Team Account. Teams who wish to add additional or substitute Team Members to the

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Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
[sherlin@cisgmoot.org](mailto:sherlin@cisgmoot.org)

Team List after the deadline must obtain approval from the Vis East Moot Administration. The Vis East Administration, at its sole discretion, and only for extraordinary circumstances, will determine whether or not to allow the addition of late team members or substitution of team members. Should the Vis East Moot Administration allow for a late addition to the Team, any such addition will be subject to the Registration Fees as set out in paragraph 21 above. Specifically, if the addition results in the Team having more than eight (8) Team Members who will participate in-person in Hong Kong, the Additional Team Member Fee of **HK\$1,500** will apply. **NOTE:** There may be extenuating circumstances where the system allows for changes to be made to the Team List after the deadline. This is not permission for Teams to add or substitute Team Members to the Team List. Any changes made to the Team List after the deadline that has not been expressly approved by the Vis East Moot will be considered a violation of these Rules and unethical and unprofessional conduct and may result in the Team from being disqualified from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vis East Moot Competition and possibly from being barred from future Vis East Moot Competitions.

- v. **Final Cut-Off Time.** Any requests for changes to the Team List must be made no later than **23 February 2026** in order to ensure such changes will be reflected for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vis East Moot Oral Arguments Week. The Vis East Administration cannot ensure that a team's late changes will be accommodated if this deadline is missed and complications during Oral Arguments Week may arise.
  - b. **Visa Invitation Letters.** Team Members who require Visa Invitation Letters for Hong Kong can generate such letters directly from the Team Account. Currently, only the Authorized Team Email holder of the Team Account can generate Visa Invitation Letters for each Team Member. Instructions can be found on the Team Account under the Oral Arguments page. Visa Invitation Letters will show the names of the student Team Members exactly as they have been submitted on the Team Account. It is therefore the team's responsibility to ensure proper and accurate spelling and presentation of names in the Team List on the Team Account and to ensure that any error is immediately corrected. Teams are solely responsible for applying for their visas and meeting the various requirements. The Vis East Administration does not take any responsibility for visas.
  - c. **Individual Team Member Accounts** can be created through the Team List only by Team Members who are listed on the Team List. **NOTE:** Individual Team Member Accounts require unique email addresses, *i.e.* one email address cannot be used for multiple Team Members who wish to create their own Individual Team Member Accounts. Please follow the instructions set out on your Team Account under the Team Member page in order to create Individual Team Member Accounts for each of the Team Members.
  - d. **Vis East Moot APP.** The Vis East Moot APP went "live" for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Vis East Moot's Oral Argument Week and is available for teams and arbitrators to download from the Apple Store and Android Store (you can also click on the link on the homepage of the Vis East Moot website). Once an Individual Team Member Account has been created, the Team Member can access his/her Individual Team Member Account directly from the website or from the Vis East Moot APP using the login details of the Individual Team Member Account.
44. **Certificates of Participation.** Certificates of Participation for up to sixteen (16) participating student Team Members will be prepared from the Team List in the Team Account as of **23 February 2026**. Unless otherwise advised, the Vis East

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Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

Moot Administration will prepare Certificates of Participation for the first sixteen (16) student Team Members on the Team List for teams who have more than sixteen (16) student Team Members. Certificates of Participation will show the names of the student Team Members exactly as they have been submitted on the Team Account. It is therefore the team's responsibility to ensure proper and accurate spelling and presentation of names in the Team List on the Team Account and to ensure that any error is immediately corrected. In the interest of reducing our carbon footprint and supporting the environment, Certificates of Participations will only be issued electronically in PDF. Certificates of Participation will be made available on the Team Account within two (2) weeks from the end of the week of oral arguments.

- a. **Additional Certificates of Participation.** For Teams who wish to have Certificates of Participation for more than sixteen (16) student Team Members, an administrative fee of **HK\$ 250** per additional Certificate of Participation will be charged. Requests for additional Certificates of Participation must be made in writing to the Vis East Moot Administration at [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org).
  - b. **Re-issuance of Certificates of Participation.** Teams who require the re-issuance of new Certificates of Participation due to an error on the Team Account, which was not corrected by the team prior to the cut-off date of **23 February 2026**, will be charged an administrative fee of **HK\$ 150** for each re-issued Certificate of Participation.
  - c. **Deadline to Download.** Certificates of Participation must be downloaded from the Team Account by **15 July 2026 (EOD HKT)**.
45. **Letters of Recognition.** Letters of Recognition for up to four (4) non-student Team Members may be prepared from the names of the non-student Team Members set out in the Team List in the Team Account as of **23 February 2026**. Letters of Recognition will show the names of the non-student Team Members exactly as they have been submitted on the Team Account. It is therefore the team's responsibility to ensure proper and accurate spelling and presentation of names in the Team List on the Team Account and to ensure that any error is immediately corrected. Letters of Recognition will be issued solely upon request and, in the interest of reducing our carbon footprint and supporting the environment, Letters of Recognition will only be issued electronically in PDF.
- a. **Additional Letters of Recognition.** For the issuance of Letters of Recognition for non-student Team Members in excess of four (4), an administrative fee of **HK\$ 250** per additional Letter of Recognition will be charged.
  - b. **Re-issuance of Letters of Recognition.** Non-student Team Members who require the re-issuance of new Letters of Recognition due to an error on the Team Account that was not corrected by the team prior to the cut-off date of **23 February 2026** will be charged an administrative fee of **HK\$ 150** for each re-issued Letter of Recognition.
46. **Participation.** All student members of the team may participate in preparation of the memoranda for claimant and respondent.
47. In each session of the oral arguments, two (2) members of the team will present a party's argument (*i.e.* claimant or respondent). No other member of the team may aid the oral advocates during the oral argument in any way. Different members of the team may participate in the different hearings during the General Rounds.

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[louise@cisgmoot.org](mailto:louise@cisgmoot.org)

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However, only members of the team who participated in the General Rounds are eligible to plead in the elimination rounds. Therefore, between two (2) and eight (8) members may participate in the oral hearings. To be eligible for the Neil Kaplan Award for best individual oralist, an oral advocate must have argued at least once for the claimant and once for the respondent in the General Rounds. The average score per argument will be calculated and the award will be determined on that basis.

## WRITTEN MEMORANDA

### VI. Memoranda

48. All student members of the team may participate in the preparation of the written memoranda.
49. Each team must submit a memorandum in support of the claimant's position to the Vis East Moot Administration by uploading the document **through their Team Account** by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time)** on **Thursday, 11 December 2025**. During the document upload process, a time stamp will be added to your submission and your Team Account will reflect that the submission was successfully uploaded with the time stamp. A team may upload multiple versions to their Team Account. However, the last upload before the deadline will be deemed the team's final submission to be submitted for ranking.
50. Teams are responsible for ensuring that they have properly uploaded their submission to their Team Account within the deadline provided. Teams who experience problems with uploading the submission should email the Vis East Moot Administration at [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) immediately and before the deadline for the submission of the claimant's memoranda. Teams who fail to submit a claimant's memorandum within the deadline (whether by their Team Account or via email) will be deemed to have not completed registration for the Vis East Moot and will not be able to compete in the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot Competition.
51. There may be extenuating circumstances that require the system to re-open the submission of claimant's memorandum on the Team Account. This is **not** an extension to the submission deadline. Memoranda are timestamped upon submission, and submissions received after the deadline **will not be eligible** for participation in the claimant memoranda competition.
52. Each team will prepare a memorandum in support of the respondent's position to the claimant's memorandum that they receive from the Vis East Moot Administration **through the Team Account**. The claimant memorandum to which a team is scheduled to respond to will be made through the Team Account as soon as reasonably possible following the submission of the memoranda for claimant, and in any event, within two (2) weeks from the submission deadline for the memoranda for claimant.
53. The memorandum for respondent must be submitted by **23:59 (Hong Kong Time)** on **Thursday, 22 January 2026**. During the document upload process, a time stamp will be added to your submission and your Team Account will reflect that the submission was successfully uploaded with the time stamp. A team may upload multiple versions to their Team Account. However, the last upload before the deadline will be deemed the team's final submission to be submitted for ranking. Submissions made after the deadline will **not** be included in the memoranda competition.

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Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
[sherlin@cisgmoot.org](mailto:sherlin@cisgmoot.org)



54. Teams are responsible for ensuring that they have properly uploaded their submission to their Team Account within the deadline provided. Teams who experience problems with uploading the submission should email the Vis East Moot Administration at [info@cisgmoot.org](mailto:info@cisgmoot.org) immediately and before the deadline for the submission of the respondent's memoranda. Teams that fail to submit the memorandum for respondent by that time will be considered to have withdrawn from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vis East Moot Competition and may be barred from future Vis East Moots, as set out in paragraph 20 above.
55. It is essential that the memorandum for respondent be responsive to all the arguments made in the memorandum for claimant. The arbitrators judging the memoranda will be evaluating it based to a large degree on how well it refutes the arguments raised by claimant. However, where a claimant's memorandum has not made all the arguments for which the responding team is preparing then the respondent's memorandum should address the missing issues, indicating that the specific argument was not explicitly raised by the Claimant, *e.g.*, "*although not raised by Claimant, a claimant might have argued/contended/asserted...*" In doing so, the responding team should take care to present a coherent argument for the respondent and not a series of possibly disjointed responses to the claimant's argument.
56. Teams participating in **both** the Vis Moots are encouraged to submit separate memoranda to each of the competitions. However, should a team decide to submit the same memorandum for claimant to both Vis Moots, the memorandum can only be considered for an award in one of the competitions. Accordingly, teams who are participating in both Vis Moots and submitting only one memorandum for the claimant must indicate in their Team Accounts: (i) whether the team has submitted the same memorandum for claimant to both Vis Moots; and (ii) if yes, which competition does the team wish for the memorandum for claimant to be considered for an award. Since the memorandum for respondent must be responsive to the memorandum for claimant that was sent to the team, the memoranda for respondent in both Vis Moots should be prepared separately to respond to each claimant's memorandum that the team received.
57. Teams must also ensure that they review, complete, and attach the Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Statement, which is set out in **Appendix 3 ("AI Statement")** to their respective written submissions for both claimant and respondent, in accordance with paragraph 103 below. Teams who fail to attach their completed AI Statement to their written submissions face the risk of being disqualified from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vis East Moot Competition.

## VII. Formatting of Memoranda

58. The formatting provisions set out in paragraphs 59, 60, 61, 64, 65, and 66 are mandatory. Memoranda that do not comply with these provisions will be disqualified and not considered for an award or honourable mention.
59. Paragraphs must be numbered. References to statements in either one's own memorandum or, in the case of the memorandum for respondent, to statements in the opponent's memorandum for claimant must be to the paragraph number.
60. The memoranda are intended to be of practical use to the arbitrators in deciding the dispute. They are not intended to be scholarly dissertations on the relevant law. Therefore, citations in the memorandum should be limited to those that advance the argument being made. The List of Authorities must reference each paragraph in the memorandum in which the case or doctrinal authority is cited. The use of "passim" in place of specific paragraph numbers is not sufficient.

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Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

61. Citations must be in the text of the memorandum and not in footnotes or endnotes. Citations in the text should be in short form with the full citations in a List of Authorities.
62. The List of Authorities should be in a form that is understandable to all who will read the memorandum. This includes the members of other teams, the arbitrators in the oral hearings and arbitrators who review and assess the written memoranda. Most of the arbitrators reviewing memoranda will be from other jurisdictions different than the teams. The common styles for citation vary among different jurisdictions and legal systems. Thus, citations used in the memoranda should be in a form easily comprehensible to any audience.
63. Teams should take care when referring to legal doctrines and terminology (including Latin maxims) that are common in some legal systems but not found in the CISG, Model Law, New York Convention, or the relevant arbitration rules. These references may be unfamiliar to teams or arbitrators from other legal systems. Teams should be careful to write their memoranda with vocabulary and style appropriate for a court or arbitral tribunal.
64. The maximum length of each memorandum is thirty-five (35) pages, including any statement of facts, argument or discussion, and conclusion. Cover pages, tables of contents, indices, lists of authorities or other material that does not consist of facts, argument, discussion or conclusions are excluded from the page limit. A page refers to size 8 ½ x 11 inches or A4.
65. The font for memoranda must not be smaller than size 12. This includes quotations or other non-arguments in the body of the memoranda. The line spacing for written memoranda is 1½ spacing. All margins must be at least one inch or 2.5 cm on each side.
66. The cover page of each memorandum must clearly set out the name of the team and whether the memorandum is for the claimant or for the respondent.

## VIII. Submission of Memoranda

67. Written memorandum must be submitted in searchable PDF-form which can be printed fully (including cover page) in one single document. The document should not exceed 1 MB as it may be too large to upload to the Team Account. Errors with uploading memoranda due to size restrictions are **not** valid excuses for late submissions. As set out in paragraph 43 above, when the memorandum for claimant is sent, the names and contact information of each team member must be finalized in the Team Account. No further additions to a team can be made after the deadline for claimant's memorandum has passed without the Vis East Moot Administration's express approval.

68. **Place for submission of Memoranda.** The memoranda are to be submitted via the Team Account.

69. **Memoranda Due Dates:**

The due dates for memoranda submissions are as follows:

<b>Memorandum for Claimant:</b>	Thursday, 11 December 2025 (23:59 HKT)
<b>Memorandum for Respondent:</b>	Thursday, 22 January 2026 (23:59 HKT)

70. **Memorandum Revision.** As set out in paragraphs 49 and 53 above, written memoranda may be uploaded to the Team Account many times prior to the

### **VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cismoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cismoot.org

submission deadline. The last version submitted by the submission deadline will be deemed the final version submitted by the team and used for ranking. The final memorandum may not be revised, including for missing pages, typographical or grammatical errors, or for problems caused by faulty computer software after the deadline has elapsed. Teams should allow for sufficient time prior to the submission deadline to verify the text to be submitted.

71. Teams will have access through their Team Account to the memorandum for claimant to which their respondent's memorandum is responding. The memorandum for claimant to which a team is responding will be available as soon as reasonably possible, and in any event, no later than two (2) weeks following the deadline for submission of the claimant's memorandum. Teams will be notified when the memorandum of their opposing team is available.
72. The memoranda of all the other teams against which a team will compete in the general rounds of the oral arguments will be available on the Team Accounts as soon as reasonably possible after the deadline to submit the memorandum for respondent.
73. Teams that enter the elimination rounds will NOT receive the memoranda of the teams against which they are to argue in those rounds. Opposing teams may choose to exchange their memoranda but this is not obligatory.
74. **Copyright.** Memoranda once submitted (in physical and digital form) shall be the property of the VEMF. By submitting written memoranda in the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot, teams grant the VEMF a non-exclusive license of the copyright in the memoranda. The memoranda authors acknowledge and consent to the VEMF using the memoranda for, amongst other purposes, research and teaching purposes. In this situation, the memoranda will be used in an anonymized fashion unless express prior approval is obtained from the authors. The winning memoranda and runners-up may be published, including the names of the school and winning team members, on the Vis East Moot website, after the Final Argument has taken place.
75. **Exchange of memoranda.** Teams may exchange memoranda only after the memorandum for respondent has been submitted.

## **IX. Scoring of Memoranda**

76. Memoranda will be scored based on the quality of the analysis, persuasiveness of argument, thoroughness of research, clarity of the writing, and adherence to these Rules. Factors that will be taken into account include whether arguments are based on facts not found in the Problem or clarifications and that are not logical and necessary extensions of the given facts. For respondent's memorandum, factors to be considered also include whether they are responsive to the arguments raised by the claimant.
77. The written memoranda will be judged in two rounds. In the first round, each

### **VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

arbitrator will receive at least four memoranda. The memoranda will be ranked in order of merit. In recent years, each memorandum has been submitted to approximately four readers. While arbitrators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the teams, they are not required to do so. Following the first round of ranking, approximately the top ten percent of the memoranda will be selected for submission to a new group of arbitrators to determine the winners of the awards for best memorandum in each category.

78. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is a serious breach of these Rules and of international standards of ethics. Any memorandum that includes exact or paraphrased text from any source, whether from hard copy or on the web, must set out that text in quotation marks and give the citation to the source. Failure to give a proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Any memorandum that violates this rule will be automatically disqualified. A team found to have plagiarized may also be disqualified from the Vis East Moot and barred from future Vis East Moot competitions.

## ORAL HEARINGS

79. **Venue.** As set out in paragraph 7 above, the oral hearings for the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot will be held, **solely in-person**, in Hong Kong S.A.R. The general rounds and elimination rounds will take place at the West Wing of Justice Place in Central. The Final Round will take place at the Hopewell Hotel in Wanchai.
80. **General Rounds.** Each team will plead four times in the general rounds, twice as claimant and twice as respondent. The general rounds are scheduled to take place from Monday through Thursday, 16 – 19 March 2026 (Hong Kong Time). The general rounds will be scheduled so that, in principle, each team will argue once per day, Monday through Thursday. In some circumstances this may be impossible, and one or more teams will have to argue twice on the same day, with no argument on one of the three other days of the general rounds. The published times of oral hearings will be as of Hong Kong Time.
81. **Duration of Oral Presentation.** The oral presentation of each team is, in principle, thirty (30) minutes. The team should allocate equitably the time available to the two oralists. However, the arbitral tribunal may extend the time limits stated, as long as no team is allowed more than forty-five (45) minutes in total to present their argument, including the time necessary to answer the questions of the tribunal. It is the tribunal's responsibility to ensure the teams are treated fairly.
82. **Arguments.** During oral arguments, teams are not strictly limited to pleading the arguments in their written memoranda. Claimant and Respondent in their first hearing should expect to rely on the arguments given in their written memoranda or to be prepared to justify why the position in their written memoranda has been abandoned. In subsequent hearings, arbitrators may be less demanding on this issue as it is expected that teams will improve their arguments during the Vis East Moot. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that arbitrators will receive the written memoranda of teams during the general rounds and the arguments raised in the written memoranda are fair game for arbitrators (and opposing counsel) to address.
83. **Questions by Arbitrators.** During oral arguments, the arbitrators are expected

### VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

to act as they would act in a real arbitration, taking into account that the Vis East Moot is an educational exercise. There are significant differences in styles of arbitrators, depending on individual personalities and perceptions of the role of an arbitrator (or judge) in an oral argument. Some arbitrators, or arbitral tribunals, may interrupt an oral argument with persistent or even aggressive questioning. Other arbitrators, or arbitral tribunals, may listen to an entire argument without asking any questions. Therefore, teams should be prepared for all scenarios.

84. **Order of presentation.** There is no set format for pleading the issues. Some arbitral tribunals may ask one team to present its argument on all of the issues before the other team is permitted to present its argument. Other arbitral tribunals may ask both teams to argue one issue first before they both argue in respect of a second issue. Normally the party who has raised the issue will argue first. Therefore, normally the claimant would argue first, if it is to present its arguments on all of the issues before the respondent is permitted to argue. However, if the respondent has raised an objection to the jurisdiction of the arbitral tribunal or other such defense, the panel would normally ask the objecting party to present its arguments on that issue before the other party responds to it.
85. The arbitrators will decide whether rebuttal arguments will be permitted. Whether or not rebuttal will be allowed can be expected to change from one argument to the next.
86. **Devices.** Teams are permitted to have electronic and digital devices with them during the oral hearings for the sole purpose of looking up and accessing materials. If a team intends to use a device that is capable of sending or receiving communication, the team **must**, at the beginning of the oral hearing, confirm and assure the Tribunal that the device will not be used for communication during the hearing and that paragraph 104 is understood. Team members may use devices to look up and access material during the hearing, whether that material is stored on the device or obtained via an internet connection. Team members are explicitly prohibited from employing the device for any other purpose during the oral hearing – that includes the usage of an AI-enhanced tool or chat bot for, *inter alia*, translation, consultation or coaching. Teams are expressly prohibited from using a device to record any part of the Vis East Moot except in accordance with paragraph 107. All devices must be set to silent at the commencement of the hearing.
87. **Exhibits.** No exhibits may be used during the oral arguments that do not come directly from the Problem. Exhibits that are designed to clarify time sequences or other such matters may be used, but only if the arbitrators and the opposing team are in agreement. Where a team believes the opposing team is using an exhibit in violation of the Rules, it must raise an objection with the arbitral tribunal during the hearing. The arbitral tribunal has the power to determine whether the exhibit complies with the requirements of the Rules. For technical reasons, exhibits may not consist of overhead PowerPoint projections or require the use of a stand.
88. **Scoring.** Each arbitrator will score each of the oral advocates on a scale of 50 to 100. The scores of the two oral advocates will be added together to constitute the team score for that particular oral argument. Each team can score a maximum of 200 points per arbitrator per oral hearing (i.e. a total of 600 points per oral hearing). A perfect team score for the four arguments of the general rounds would be 2,400 points. Arbitrators will score the oral arguments without knowledge of the results of earlier arguments. Some arbitrators will have participated in evaluating the memoranda of teams whose oral arguments they later hear. Although they will be aware of their own evaluation of the memoranda, they will not be aware of the

**VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

evaluations given by other arbitrators.

89. Each individual arbitrator retains the discretion to decide the individual scores given to an oral advocate. There is no requirement that the arbitral tribunal agree on the scores. However, the arbitral tribunals are encouraged to discuss their scoring privately among themselves at the end of a hearing, prior to submitting the scores to the Vis East Administration. **Appendix 2** to these Rules sets out key elements of the arbitrator guidelines that will be provided to arbitrators for the oral arguments.
90. Where the Vis East Moot Administration notices a considerable discrepancy in scoring, it will attempt to discuss the reasons with the tribunal member or members concerned and either confirm or moderate a score. An arbitrator whose score varies considerably from the other two will be invited to confirm or amend the score given. A considerable discrepancy is defined as a variance of 15 points between the outlier and the nearest other score.
91. In the event that an arbitrator fails to submit a score, or where an oral hearing has proceeded with only two arbitrators, the missing score will be the average of the scores provided by the two arbitrators who have submitted scores.
92. **First Elimination Round ("Round of 32").** After the general rounds, the scores of each team for its oral presentation in the four rounds of oral arguments in the general rounds will be totaled. The thirty-two teams that have obtained the highest total scores will meet in the First Elimination Round. If there is a tie for 32nd place, the decision as to who will enter the elimination round will be determined by the toss of a coin. The teams will be paired so that the team with the top score will be paired with the team with the thirty-second highest score, the team with the second highest score with the team with the thirty-first highest score, and so on. Team rankings and scores from the General Rounds will not be released to the Teams until after the close of the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot and then only to the team concerned.
  - a. The first half of the Round of 32 will take place at **9:00am (Hong Kong Time)** on **Friday, 20 March 2026** at the West Wing of Justice Place.
  - b. The second half of the Round of 32 will take place at **11:00am (Hong Kong Time)** on **Friday, 20 March 2026** at the West Wing of Justice Place.
93. If the number of teams participating in the Twenty-Third Vis East Moot is less than 100, there will be no Round of 32 and the first elimination round will be the Round of 16, with timing adjusted accordingly
94. **Second Elimination Round ("Round of 16").** The sixteen winners of the Round of 32 will meet in the Round of 16 at **3:00pm (Hong Kong Time)** on **Friday, 20 March 2026** at the West Wing in Justice Place.
95. **Quarter-Finals ("Round of 8").** The eight winners of the Round of 16 will meet in the Quarter-Finals at **9:00am (Hong Kong Time)** on **Saturday, 21 March 2026** at the West Wing in Justice Place.
96. **Semi-Finals.** The four winners of the Quarter-Finals will meet in the Semi-Finals at **1:00pm (Hong Kong Time)** on **Saturday, 21 March 2026** at the West Wing in Justice Place.

**VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org



97. **Final Round.** The two winners of the Semi-Finals will meet in the Final Round at **9:00am (Hong Kong Time) on Sunday, 22 March 2026.** The Final Round will take place at the Hopewell Hotel in Wanchai.
98. **Determination as to which team is claimant and which is respondent.** In the First Elimination Round, the Vis East Moot Administration will assign the roles of Claimant and Respondent to the 32 teams. In the following rounds, if one of the two teams in the preceding round was claimant and the other was respondent, they will each argue for the opposite position to the one they represented in the preceding round. If both teams argued for the claimant or both argued for the respondent in the preceding round, the roles will be determined by the toss of a coin. If the two teams in the final round have argued against one another in the general rounds, they will each argue for the opposite position in the final round. If they did not argue against one another in the general rounds, each will take the position of the party it did not represent in the semi-final round. If both finalist teams have argued for the same position in the semi-final arguments, the toss of a coin will determine their roles.
99. **Winning Team.** The team that prevails in the final round will be the recipient of the Eric E. Bergsten Award.

## ASSISTANCE

100. **Written Memoranda.** Although the students should do all the research and writing of the memoranda themselves - without assistance from anyone who is not a student member of the team - faculty advisors, coaches and others may help identify the issues, comment on the persuasiveness of the arguments the students have made in the drafts and, when necessary, suggest other arguments the students might consider employing. However, the final product must be that of the students - not their advisors. The Teams must confirm when they upload their memoranda to their Team Account that no person other than a student team member has participated in the writing of the memorandum.
101. **Allowed use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).** Acknowledging the widespread prevalence and practical significance of AI, the Vis East Moot adopts a principles-based approach to its regulation. AI can be used in Vis Moot activities to support, but not substitute, a student's own reasoning, ensuring that critical thinking remains the primary basis for demonstrating knowledge, judgment, advocacy and creativity. Contexts and purposes for which AI can be used in the Moot, include, *inter alia*, the following:
- a) Using AI-enhanced tools for team-internal administrative tasks,
  - b) Using AI-enhanced research tools to find relevant sources (for example search engines, library catalogues),
  - c) Using AI-enhanced translation tools, to translate and understand legal sources,
  - d) Using AI-enhanced translation tools to aid an English translation of text within the submitted memorandum (it should be noted that whilst not prohibited, the use of English translation tools is strongly discouraged for education purposes),
  - e) Using AI-enhanced tools as a tutor,
  - f) Using AI to generate high-level briefings on relevant factual and legal topics which are not submitted as part of the memorandum but solely used for the team's own understanding,
  - g) Using AI-enhanced proof-reading tools.

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Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

102. **Prohibited use of AI.** Applying the Vis East Moot's principles-based approach, there are contexts and purposes of using AI that substitute a student's own critical thinking. It follows that the following are **expressly prohibited** and would be acts in contravention of these rules:
- a) Use of AI-enhanced tools to synthesize or summarize sources,
  - b) Use of AI tools to reformulate or rewrite text that is submitted in a memorandum,
  - c) Submitting text in the memorandum that has been generated by an AI-tool other than as contemplated in paragraph 101(d) above – even if the AI-generated text has been altered, corrected and amended by the team members.
  - d) Submitting a document issued by the Vis Moots to an AI-tool or employing an AI-tool that has been intentionally trained on the Vis Moot Problem in order to write and submit a memorandum.
103. **AI Disclosure.** As set out in paragraph 57 above, all teams must submit a completed AI Statement, attached to these Rules as **Appendix 3**. All questions outlined in the AI Statement must be completed during the memoranda (claimant and respondent) upload process in the Team Account. All statements on the use of AI must be made truthfully. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification of the team.
104. **Oral Hearings.** There is no restriction on the amount of coaching that a team may receive in preparation for the oral hearings. It is expected and encouraged that teams will have practice arguments, whether against other members of the team or against other teams that will participate in the Vis Moots. Many pre-moot events are scheduled throughout the world. Teams are encouraged to participate in one or more of the pre-moots, if they find it feasible to do so. However, no team is permitted to have a practice argument or argue in a pre-moot competition against a team that it is scheduled to meet in the General Rounds of either of the Vis Moots. It is each team's responsibility to ensure that its Team Members do not argue against or watch teams it will argue against at the Vis or Vis East Moot (See paragraph 106 on Scouting below).
105. In each oral hearing, two Team Members will present the argument. No communication with other Team Members who are not pleading may take place during the oral arguments.
106. **Scouting.** One purpose of the Vis East Moot is to develop the art of advocacy in international commercial arbitration proceedings. Observance of the performance of other participants is one way to develop that art. Therefore, attendance of team members at the arguments of other teams is permitted, except that **no Team Members, or friend or relative of Team Members, is permitted to attend arguments of other teams against which the team is scheduled to argue at a later time in the general rounds.** Violation of this rule will be considered unethical and unprofessional conduct and will result in the Team from being disqualified from participation in the elimination rounds and may result in the team being barred from future competitions. This rule will be applied even if attendance at an argument was inadvertent. See also paragraph 75 on exchange of memoranda. The sole exception to this Rule may occur when a team participating in the Vis East Moot practices or observes a team participating in the Vienna Vis Moot, prior to both teams receiving notice of their schedules for the General Rounds. In this case, the conflict is caused by the scheduling of the two Vis Moots.
- a. This rule extends to the viewing of arguments in practice arguments, including pre-moot competitions, once the oral arguments schedule is

**VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
louise@cismoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cismoot.org

published on the Team Account. For the avoidance of doubt, teams who end up facing one another in elimination and/or final rounds of Pre-Moots are **not** exempted from this rule.

- b. Scouting is also prohibited during the Elimination Rounds. No team (student participants, student coaches, or other coaches/advisors), or friend or relative of a team member, is permitted to attend arguments of other teams against which that team may argue in the Elimination Rounds.

- 107. **Filming or recording of arguments.** Filming or recording of arguments is permitted only with the prior agreement of the other team and the arbitrators. Videographers must conduct themselves so as not to disturb the argument, and the Tribunal may at any time require that filming cease. Unauthorized filming or recording of any part of an oral hearing is a violation of the Rules, will be considered unethical and unprofessional conduct, and will result in the team from being disqualified from participation in the elimination rounds and may result in the team being barred from future competitions.

## AWARDS

- 108. The awards given in the Vis East Moot are:

- **Eric Bergsten Award** for the Team Prevailing in the final round of Oral Arguments.
- **David Hunter Award** for the Best Written Memorandum for Claimant.
- **Fali Nariman Award** for the Best Written Memorandum for Respondent.
- **Neil Kaplan Award** for the Best Individual Oral Advocate in the general rounds, being the individual with the highest average score in the general rounds who has argued at least once for the claimant and once for the respondent.
- **Colin J. Wall Spirit of the Moot Award** for the team which has had to overcome the most serious obstacles in order to participate in the Vis East Moot.

- 109. **Achievement Certificates.** Hard copies of Achievement Certificates will be prepared and made available at the Gala Awards Banquet. Team awards and honourable mentions will be issued to the Team, whereas individual awards and honourable mentions will be issued to the specific individuals. Achievement Certificates will show the names of the Team Members exactly as they have been submitted in the Team Account. It is therefore the team's responsibility to ensure proper and accurate spelling and presentation of names in the Team List and to ensure that any error is immediately corrected. Achievement Certificates will be made available on the Team Account for download within two (2) weeks after the end of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vis East Moot Competition. Teams who require the re-issuance of new Achievement Certificates due to an error on the Team Account, which was not fixed by the team prior to the cut-off date of 23 February 2026, or to replace a lost Achievement Certificate, will be charged an administrative fee of **HK\$ 150** for each re-issued Achievement Certificate.

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louise@cisgmoot.org

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org

## INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

110. **Requests.** For interpretation of these Rules, requests should be addressed to the Vis East Moot Administration. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents, or other decisions are at the sole discretion of the Vis East Moot Administration.

## CONTACT DETAILS

111. All communications with regard to the Vis East Moot should be sent by email to the Vis East Administration [info@cismoot.org](mailto:info@cismoot.org). Please ensure that all communications to the Vis East Moot Administration are copied to the above-referenced email as this will ensure that **all members** of the Vis East Administration will receive a copy of the email.
112. For good order, the addresses to be used in any such communications are:

Ms. Louise Barrington	<a href="mailto:louise@cismoot.org">louise@cismoot.org</a>
Ms. Sherlin Tung	<a href="mailto:sherlin@cismoot.org">sherlin@cismoot.org</a>
Ms. Maricel Somerville	<a href="mailto:maricel@cismoot.org">maricel@cismoot.org</a>
Ms. Jiani Guo	<a href="mailto:jiani@cismoot.org">jiani@cismoot.org</a>
Ms. Elyedhia Quillopo	<a href="mailto:eli@cismoot.org">eli@cismoot.org</a>

### VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
[louise@cismoot.org](mailto:louise@cismoot.org)

Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
[sherlin@cismoot.org](mailto:sherlin@cismoot.org)

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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **Addendum to the Twenty-Third Willem C Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot Rules**

Vis East Moot participants are required to familiarize themselves with all the Rules as they have now been published rather than from past Vis Moots.

Attention is drawn in particular to the following paragraphs in the Rules:

- 86 (Devices)
- 101, 102, and 103 (Rules on AI);
- Appendix 2 (scoring bands); and
- Appendix 3 (the AI Statement).

#### **VIS EAST MOOT DIRECTORS:**

Ms. Louise Barrington, Chair  
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sherlin@cismoot.org

## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **Arriving at a Score in the Oral Arguments**

Each arbitrator is expected to make an individual decision as to the score to be awarded to each oral advocate. Nevertheless, a widely divergent score, whether higher or lower than the others, raises questions as to the criteria used by the arbitrator in question. Arbitrators therefore are encouraged to confer with one another with a view to having scores that are within the same range or are otherwise within 15 points.

#### **The range of points is as follows:**

- 50 - 59 = Needs Improvement;
- 60 - 74 = Good;
- 75 - 90 = Very Good;
- 91 - 100 = Excellent.

#### **Criteria for arbitrators to take into consideration:**

##### **1) Organization and Preparation**

- ✓ Does counsel introduce themselves and their co-counsel, state whom they are representing, introduce the issues and relevant facts clearly, have a strong opening, present the arguments in an effective sequence, and present a persuasive and generalized conclusion?
- ✓ Is counsel clearly prepared and familiar with the authorities relied upon? If rebuttal is used, is it effective?

##### **2) Knowledge of the facts and the law**

- ✓ Does counsel know the facts and the relevant law thoroughly?
- ✓ Is counsel able to relate the facts to the law so as to make a strong case for his/her client?
- ✓ Does counsel present arguments which are legally tenable?

##### **3) Handling Questions**

- ✓ Does counsel answer questions directly and without delay?
- ✓ Does counsel use questions as an opportunity to support the client's position?

##### **4) Presentation**

- ✓ Is counsel's presentation appropriately paced, free of mannerisms and clearly audible?
- ✓ Does counsel use inflection to avoid monotone delivery, make eye contact with the arbitrators and balance due deference with a forceful and professional argument? Is counsel poised and tactful under pressure? Is counsel's presentation convincing and persuasive, regardless of the merits of the case?

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Ms. Sherlin Tung, CEO  
sherlin@cisgmoot.org



## APPENDIX 3:

### Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Statement

**SCHOOL NAME:**

**JURISDICTION:**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	YES	UNSURE	NO
We confirm that this memorandum does not include text from any source, whether the source was in hard copy or online available, which has not been properly distinguished by quotation marks or citation.			

USE OF AI			
We have used AI-enhanced tools for <b>team-internal administrative tasks</b> .			
We have used A-I enhanced <b>search engines</b> or library catalogues for researching sources and (factual or legal) information on the Moot Problem.			
We have used AI enhanced <b>translation tools</b> to translate sources relevant for our work on the Moot Problem.			
We have used AI enhanced <b>translation tools</b> to translate parts of the text submitted in this Memorandum into English from any other language.			
We have used AI to <b>generate high-level briefings on relevant factual and legal topics</b> which are not submitted as part of the memorandum but have been solely used to advance our own understanding.			
<b>We have used AI-enhanced tools as a tutor</b> to guide and support our preparation and learning.			
We have used AI-enhanced <b>proof-reading</b> tools.			
We have used AI-enhanced tools to <b>synthesize or summarize sources</b> .			
We have used <b>AI-enhanced tools to reformulate or rewrite text that is submitted</b> .			
We have used AI tools to <b>generate statements that are now included in the memo</b> . Please tick yes even if you have altered or amended the text generated by AI before submission.			
We have <b>submitted documents issued by the Vis Moot Association to an AI-tool</b> .			

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We have <b>used an AI tool that has been trained on Vis Moot documents</b> to generate text that is part of our Memorandum			
Other (please specify):			

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sherlin@cismoot.org