

ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER OF PRESIDENT



Prof. Dr. LE HONG HANH

President

Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC)

Dear All,

The world continued to face major challenges in 2024, from global economic instability, prolonged geopolitical conflicts, the slowdown of major economies, to climate change and international security issues. However, 2024 also marked robust recovery in many economies post-pandemic, accompanied by widespread digital transformation and the application of new technological advancements in promoting sustainable growth and enhancing efficiency. Despite encountering similar challenges, Vietnam has persevered and made great efforts to revive the economy, maintain sustainable development and achieve remarkable accomplishments that have been highly regarded by the international community.

In 2025, Vietnam embarks on an Era of National Rise – an Era of development, prosperity, and success. With the spirit and aspirations of the nation, VIAC is committed to supporting the business community, especially the private sector and driving national development by providing fast, efficient, fair, and transparent dispute resolution services, as well as enhancing awareness of legal risk management through structured, in-depth and practical forums and training courses. With over 30 years of experience, and with the collaborative efforts of domestic and international partners, Arbitrators and Mediators, VIAC will strive tirelessly to become a legal cornerstone for the business community and a trusted choice for fair, prompt, transparent, and effective dispute resolution.

Best regards.

Message from GENERAL SECRETARY



Mr. VU ANH DUONG

Permanent Vice President Cum General Secretary
Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC)

Dear All,

2024 continued to be a year of significant transformation for VIAC, preparing for further steps in its journey to build and promote the growth of VIAC as well as Arbitration and Mediation in Vietnam. Amid unpredictable fluctuations in both domestic and international economies, VIAC has continually enhanced its adaptability by closely monitoring market dynamics and socio-economic developments, while proactively and comprehensively reviewing its operations towards ongoing improvement and reinforcing its foundations for future stages of development.

In the past year, VIAC handled **478 cases**, marking another record-breaking year in terms of the number of cases accepted and resolved in VIAC's over 30 years of operation. Disputes mainly arose from the

sale of goods (25%), followed by construction (22%) and real estate business (14%).

Notably, disputes in the real estate sector continued to witness a significant increase, with 79 new cases accepted in 2024. This rise is partly attributed to the impact of the 2024 Land Law and the 2023 Housing Law, which expanded the application of arbitration in real estate-related disputes. This also reflects the fluctuations of the real estate market in the past few years. In addition, the number of disputes arising from financial transactions also showed an upward trend, with 54 cases accounting for 11% of the total cases received during the year. This shift reflects arbitration's growing and positive reception by the financial market.

In 2024, VIAC remained steadfast in pursuing its development orientation, focusing on two strategic goals.

First, improving its professional quality and reputation, gradually affirming its position as the leading Arbitration and Mediation institution in Vietnam, while becoming a reliable choice for international commercial disputes in the region. This objective continued to be realized through enhancing the expertise of its personnel – including Arbitrators and the Secretariat, standardizing dispute resolution procedures, and continuously adopting international arbitration best practices tailored to the specific conditions of Vietnam, specifically:

(i) After years of intensive research and development, VIAC has officially launched the [VIAC Online Case Management Platform – VIAC eCase](#). This platform is equipped with features designed to make the arbitration process more flexible and convenient, optimizing time and cost efficiency for disputing parties.

(ii) VIAC issued a [Guide on the Selection of Arbitrators and Related Procedures under the VIAC Rules of Arbitration](#). This guide provides information to help disputing parties better understand the process and their rights in selecting arbitrators in accordance with VIAC's Rules. It also offers guidance on evaluating the qualifications, experience, and suitability of arbitrators based on the nature of each dispute. In addition, VIAC has continuously reviewed its recommended model documents and others to support the efficient conduct of arbitration, with new documents scheduled for release in 2025.

Second, strengthening its role in the development of the Vietnam legal framework through active involvement in policy recommendations and expert commentary during the drafting and revision of laws related to Arbitration, Mediation, commerce, and investment. By actively collaborating with legislative and judicial bodies, VIAC not only helped promote dispute resolution but also made meaningful contributions to building the legal framework for alternative dispute resolution (ADRs), enhancing contract enforcement, and improving the stability and transparency of the business environment in Vietnam.

Over the past year, VIAC representatives have participated in the [Drafting Committee for the Review Report and the Draft Amendment of the Law on Commercial Arbitration](#), actively providing feedback and comments on limitations encountered in the law's implementation in commercial arbitration. At the same time, VIAC maintained frequent professional exchanges and dialogues with the Supreme People's Court, the Economic Court of the Hanoi People's Court, and the Economic Court of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court, aiming to enhance the courts' supporting and supervisory roles in arbitration.

In addition, in 2024, VIAC was delighted to meet with Minister of Justice Nguyen Hai Ninh to report on its operations and discuss key issues related to the development of the arbitration and mediation framework in Vietnam. With the Minister's guidance, evaluations and strategic directions, VIAC gained valuable insights to refine its future operational orientation. [VIAC is committed to positioning itself as a pioneering institution actively contributing to the advancement of Arbitration and Mediation institutions that are Friendly, Transparent, Fair, and Effective.](#)

Looking forward to 2025 and the journey ahead, we believe that **a sustainably developed market needs to be accompanied by effective dispute resolution mechanisms that uphold the freedom of contract and respect parties' autonomy**. VIAC aspires to continuous improvement by enhancing its operational competence, professional expertise, and international integration to deliver the best experience for the community. In doing so, VIAC aims to build trust, promote trade and investment, and contribute to the sustainable development of Vietnam's economy in the context of global integration.

Best regards.

Highlights of 2024

April 13th & 14th 2024

VIAC, with technical support from USAID Vietnam, organized the [Exchange Forum on Commercial Arbitration](#) between VIAC and judges as well as officials involved in arbitration activities from the Supreme People's Court, the Economic Court of the Hanoi People's Court, the Economic Court of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court, and provincial-level People's Courts in several localities.



June 26th /2024

Vietnam Mediation Centre (VMC) organized the [Training Course on Mediator Skills](#) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Advanced Course).



June 26th /2024

VIAC officially launched the [E-Filing and Online Case Management Platform – VIAC eCase](#).



March & April 2024

VIAC, the Ho Chi Minh City University of Law (ULAW), the Faculty of Law at the College of Economics, Law and Government (), and the University of Economics and Law CELG-UEH of Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (UEL), co-organized the [2024 Arbitration - Mediation Symposium \(AMS 2024\)](#), including a series of specialized seminars and a scientific forum.



June 18th / 2024

VIAC issued [Decision No. 112/QĐ-VIAC on Guidelines for the Selection of Arbitrators and Related Procedures](#) under the Arbitration Rules of the Vietnam International Arbitration Center.



June 26th & 27th /2024

VIAC organized the [VIAC SYMPOSIUM 2024 – Cross-Border Trade and Investment in times of economic uncertainty: Disputes and Arbitration](#), with technical support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Highlights of 2024

August/2024

VIAC, in collaboration with ADR Vietnam Chambers, organized the VAS Crossover 2024 Webinar Series on Arbitration – Elevating International Arbitration in Vietnam: From Basic Principles to Professional Skills.



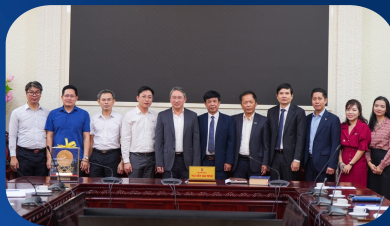
August/2024

Prof. Dr. Le Hong Hanh was elected as President of the Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia was elected as a Member of the VIAC Council and Chairman of the VIAC Scientific Council.



November 14th /2024

Minister of Justice Nguyen Hai Ninh had a working session with the leadership and staff of VIAC to discuss the improvement of the arbitration legal framework and the development of arbitration institutions in the new era.



June - October/2024

VIAC, in collaboration with its partner organizations, organized the 2024 Legal Management Series (LMS 2024) on Legal Compliance for Adapting to the Modern and Green Economy



December 31st /2024

In 2024, VIAC recorded 478 new cases, marking the highest number of new disputes received in a single year since its establishment.



December 20th /2024

VIAC, in collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law – Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNCITRAL-RCAP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh City University of Law (ULAW), organized the 2024 UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day in Vietnam.



Prof. Dr. Le Hong Hanh elected as President of the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre

On August 20th, 2024, VIAC Council and the Executive Committee unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Le Hong Hanh as President of the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC).

Before being elected as the President of the Vietnam International Arbitration Centre (VIAC), Prof. Dr. Le Hong Hanh served as the head of many legal research and educational institutions. His notable roles include serving as Vice Principal of Hanoi Law University from 1988 to 1993 and from 1995 to 2006, Director of the Institute for Legal Strategy and Science – Ministry of Justice from 2006 to 2013), and Director of the Institute of Law and Economics of ASEAN from 2013 to 2023). Prof. Le Hong Hanh holds a J.D. from Moscow State University and was appointed Professor by the State Council of Professorship in 2006. He has also served as the Project Director of numerous projects for UNDP, the World Bank, ADB, and SIDA in various legal fields.

Currently, Prof. Dr. Le Hong Hanh serves as the Chief Editor of the Law and Development Journal under the Institute of Law and

Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Vietnam Lawyers Association), Director of the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) of the ASEAN Law Association.

Prof. Le Hong Hanh has made significant contributions to the development of Vietnam's judiciary and is recognized as one of the country's leading ADR experts. Throughout his career, Prof. Le Hong Hanh has led numerous state-level and ministry-level scientific research projects, all of which have been highly regarded. He is the author of numerous research articles published in both domestic and international journals, as well as monographs and textbooks that support legal research and education. He has also served as a member of the Council of Law Professors for many consecutive terms. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Council of Law Professors for many consecutive terms. Prof. Le Hong Hanh has been honored as an "Outstanding Intellectual" and is currently a member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia was elected as a Member of the VIAC Council and Chairman of the VIAC Scientific Council

To further enhance operational efficiency, in 2024, the VIAC Committee of Core Officials elected Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia as a Member of the VIAC Council.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia is a leading scholar in law and state governance in Vietnam. He has been teaching Law and Governance, Public Policy and Public Policy Research Methodology at Fulbright University Vietnam.

He is the author of multiple textbooks and scientific publications on legal and administrative issues. His recent researches focus on effective administration, including proposals to increase citizen's participation in policy-making process, how to enhance efficiency, transparency and government accountability.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia has also been actively involved in legal support and reform projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Government of Vietnam, corporate governance assessment programs led by the World Bank (WB), as well as other collaborations on national governance.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Duy Nghia is widely known by the public through his regular analysis and commentaries on leading Vietnamese newspapers and media outlets on topics such as citizens' fundamental rights, voice and accountability in state governance, institutional quality, the rule of law and the right to justice.

Mr. Pham Duy Nghia received a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in Law from the University of Leipzig (Germany). He is also a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School and a Researcher at Stanford University.

Before being elected as a Member of the VIAC Council, he has had many years of practice as an Arbitrator at Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC), resolved multiple business & commercial disputes including complicated, high-value and foreign cases. He is also the Director of the Vietnam Institute for International Arbitration Research & Training (VIART) and the Chairman of the VIAC Scientific Council.





E-Filing and Online Case Management Platform – VIAC eCase

Recently, online dispute resolution, which incorporates technology into part or of the dispute resolution process, has been increasingly adopted in many countries globally. In Vietnam, the strategy of *“Applying advancements in science and technology and innovation, especially achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to implement national digital transformation”* is strongly endorsed by the State. In the judicial sector, the court system is currently at the forefront of implementing this policy and has initially established important foundations in the process of building a digital court system.

As an organization providing alternative dispute resolution methods as prescribed by law, including arbitration, mediation, and others, VIAC always prioritizes and dedicates resources to researching and improving its dispute resolution process. Since 2018, VIAC has conducted research, gained and applied experience from the digital transformation of the Court system and international practices. This led to the initiative of establishing an online platform that enables the Tribunal, the Secretariat, disputing parties and other participants in an arbitration to systematically and effectively manage disputes.

Accordingly, with tireless efforts and technical support from the United States Agency for

International Development (USAID), VIAC has developed the [Online Case Management Platform \(VIAC eCase\)](#) – with improvements aiming at making the arbitration proceeding more convenient and flexible, saving time and costs for the parties while enhancing the efficiency of arbitration, supporting cross-border trade and investment. The VIAC Online Case Management Platform (VIAC OCM Platform) aims to be the [all-in-one platform for e-filing and online case management for better experience of arbitration users by streamlining processes and improving time & cost-effectiveness](#). This also embodies VIAC’s great efforts to adapt to the Vietnam’s transition to digital economy by vitalizing the implementation of e-contract – the core of digital economy.

The VIAC Online Case Management Platform is a step toward reducing its carbon footprint and adopting practices of Paperless Arbitration. By providing an online arbitration procedure alongside traditional methods, VIAC commits to green and sustainable development campaigns, reducing its carbon footprint on the environment through minimizing paper usage during dispute resolution; thereby contributing to forest protection, reducing paper waste, and limiting the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

