

**Dr Harald Sippel, MBA FCI Arb** is one of the two co-founders of Putilin Sippel, a dispute resolution and public international law boutique headquartered in Hong Kong and active across Central Asia and East Asia. He also holds an appointment as the Academic Director at the Bali International Arbitration and Mediation Center.

Dr Sippel specialised in international dispute resolution from when he was still at university and his thesis for his first law degree dealt with comparative international commercial arbitration in East Asia. Since then, the main focus of his work has been dispute resolution and international arbitration, in particular.

Over the course of his career, Dr Sippel gained extensive and multifaceted experience in dispute resolution. In addition to being involved in over 2,000 adjudication, mediation and other ADR proceedings, he also acted in several hundred arbitration proceedings as an arbitrator, counsel and tribunal secretary, Head of Legal Services at an arbitral institution and in-house counsel. He also looks back on a very long and successful track record in the academic field / engaging in advisory work.

Dr Sippel's broad experience in addition to his legal and business background allow him to take into account the interests of all relevant stakeholders involved in a dispute and thus give him a unique advantage.

## **Experience as an arbitrator**

Dr Sippel is regularly appointed as an arbitrator in international commercial arbitrations. He has received appointments under the Rules of various arbitral institutions as well as under the UNCITRAL Rules and has acted as Chairperson, Sole Arbitrator and Co-Arbitrator. When he was appointed by the ICC Court as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute between a Danish and a Korean party in 2012, he was then the youngest person to ever be appointed by the ICC Court. In 2016, Dr Sippel was appointed as a Replacement Arbitrator by the Danish Institute of Arbitration to complete an arbitration in which the arbitrator had failed to write the award.

The main focus of Dr Sippel's work as an arbitrator is of general commercial nature, but mostly includes complex procedural questions, such as challenges to the jurisdiction of the arbitral tribunal, determining whether set-off defences are allowed and setting the seat of the arbitration and selecting the language of the proceedings. He currently acts in an ICC arbitration that involves intricate questions regarding the scope of the arbitration agreement.

## **Experience as a counsel and tribunal secretary**

Dr Sippel frequently acts as a counsel in domestic and international arbitration proceedings. He has participated in several dozen arbitrations under the ICC, AAA, LCIA, SIAC, HKIAC, SCC, SCAI, CAM, CIETAC, KCAB, NAI, VIAC (Vietnam), Danish Rules, Vienna Rules and UNCITRAL Rules as well as in purely *ad hoc* proceedings. As a counsel or tribunal secretary in arbitrations, besides general disputes in the commercial/trade field, the focus of his work was:

- energy (all three of oil, gas and electricity);
- intellectual property; and
- construction.

The arbitrations in which Dr Sippel has represented clients as counsel or assisted the arbitral tribunal as a tribunal secretary involved seats in various different countries and the substantive laws from numerous different nations spread across four different continents (Asia, Australia, Europe and North America). They were conducted in English, French, German and Italian and were often high-stake matters, with amounts in dispute as high as USD21.2 billion.

## **Institutional experience**

Immediately prior to co-founding Putilin Sippel, Dr Sippel acted as the Asian International Arbitration Centre's (AIAC) Head of Legal Services. At the AIAC, Dr Sippel led a team of 15 lawyers and oversaw the administration of well over 2,000 arbitrations, adjudications, mediations, domain name dispute proceedings and other ADR-proceedings.

While at the AIAC, Dr Sippel advised the Director regarding the appointment of arbitrators, both under the AIAC Arbitration Rules and the AIAC Fast Track Rules as well as when the Director was the appointing authority, either by contractual agreement between the parties or under the Malaysian Arbitration Act. He was also in charge of supervising and personally undertaking the review of arbitral awards and advising arbitrators as to necessary amendments in order to ensure the recognition and enforceability of awards and prepared important procedural decisions to be taken by the Director.

Dr Sippel was also involved in the revision of the AIAC's 2018 set of Rules (general Arbitration Rules, Fast Track Arbitration Rules, Islamic Arbitration Rules and Mediation Rules).

## **Experience as in-house counsel**

Holding a Master in Business Administration degree from Seoul National University and thus also being trained in business, Dr Sippel had a brief stint as in-house counsel when he worked for the subsidiary of a Korean company in the construction/machinery industry. As an in-house counsel, Dr Sippel was involved in two arbitration proceedings the parent company was involved in and led the subsidiary in a multi-million Euro dispute before national courts.

In his role as Academic Director at the Bali International Arbitration and Mediation Center, Dr Sippel is currently in the process of developing a new curriculum tailor-made for in-house counsel involved in arbitration proceedings. He also frequently speaks to teams of in-house counsel of companies in South-East Asia on matters pertaining to the resolution of international commercial disputes.

## Academic projects and advisory work

In addition to his MBA degree, Dr Sippel also holds a *Magister iuris* (joint LLB & LLM equivalent) and *Dr. iuris* degrees, as well as a postgraduate diploma in international arbitration. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and at the time of becoming a Fellow in 2012 was among the youngest Fellows to ever be admitted.

Dr Sippel has received numerous academic and other scholarships throughout his studies. He completed his postgraduate diploma in international arbitration with merits and topped his class as valedictorian for his doctoral degree, receiving honours for completing it with the highest GPA possible. He received a research grant to undertake research in China, Japan and Korea for his doctoral thesis and later received the *Ludwig Scharinger Prize*, the most prestigious prize at his university awarded to students. He previously also held an appointment as a Global Ambassador Scholar of the Seoul National University.

Building on his academic credentials, Dr Sippel has engaged in academic projects and advisory work throughout his professional career. He played an instrumental role in advising the Government of Malaysia with respect to questions on alternative dispute resolution and other matters. In particular, Dr Sippel assisted the Government of Malaysia by:

- leading a team that advised on mediation and proposed amendments to the Mediation Act 2012 as well as by advising on amendments to the Sports Development Act;
- delivering an opinion paper regarding the ratification of the Singapore Mediation Convention;
- being involved in the drafting of an advisory note regarding the amendments to the ICSID Arbitration Rules.

Currently, Dr Sippel is involved in advisory work for the federal government of a South-East Asian state regarding that state's representation at the UNCITRAL Working Group II. His advice among others includes preparing the state representatives for meetings and drafting position papers for the state to take at UNCITRAL.

Additionally, Dr Sippel plays a key role in a conflict resolution project with the federal government of a South-East Asian state. The program regards the training of various stakeholders of the executive branch of government to reduce frictions in interactions between representatives of the executive branch and regular citizens.

Dr Sippel has published over 20 papers dealing with matters of international dispute resolution and is the author of a book on moot court competitions (to be published in September 2019) and a book on Malaysian contract law (to be published in 2021). He is a frequent speaker at international conferences and in addition to his earlier appointment as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Vienna, regularly lectures at universities in East Asia.

## Positions and accolades

Dr Sippel is a specialist mediator with the Singapore International Mediation Centre and also acts as a member of the Editorial Board of the Asia Pacific Mediation Journal. He has been on the Global Steering Committee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Young Members Group since 2017 and during his time in Korea held an appointment with the International Council of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (now KCAB INTERNATIONAL). He was also on the Global Advisory Board of the ICDR Y&I between 2017 and 2018.

Dr Sippel's expertise as a leading arbitration practitioner has widely been recognised. He has been listed as a Future Leader (Arbitration) by *Who's Who Legal & the Global Arbitration Review* since the beginning of the publication:

- 2017: Korea, Non-Partner list (as one of only two);
- 2018: Korea, Non-Partner list; and
- 2019: Malaysia, Non-Partner list (sole person listed).

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