



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION CENTER AND SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION
CENTER LAUNCH JOINT MEDIATION PROTOCOL TO HELP CROSS-BORDER BUSINESSES
RESOLVE DISPUTES SWIFTLY AND INEXPENSIVELY**

The JIMC-SIMC Joint Covid-19 Protocol provides cross-border businesses with better access to online mediation and its benefits; settlement agreements are enforceable in Singapore under the Singapore Convention on Mediation, which entered into force on 12 September 2020.

JAPAN & SINGAPORE — The Japan Association of Arbitrators (JAA) which is operating Japan International Mediation Center (JIMC) and Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) on 12 September 2020 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to operate a joint protocol that provides cross-border businesses, including companies along the Japan-Singapore corridor, with an economical, expedited and effective route for resolving commercial disputes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The JIMC-SIMC Joint Protocol is thought to be the first joint online mediation protocol between two international dispute resolution centres committed to providing expedited mediation during the pandemic. It is SIMC's first such collaboration with an overseas mediation centre, following the SIMC Covid-19 Protocol which was launched in May.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the performance of contractual obligations, supply chains and other aspects of commerce, resulting in differences and disputes between



businesses around the world. Mediation helps parties to resolve their disputes in an expeditious, economical and effective manner without being engaged in protracted legal proceedings. Mediation also preserves relationships as the disputes are resolved amicably, with parties free to adopt commercially driven solutions that are flexible and creative. Users that consider mediation as their first port-of-call are therefore in a better position to recover from the wide-ranging impact of the pandemic.

The coming into force of the Singapore Convention on Mediation on 12 September also allows parties to enforce settlement agreements in the jurisdictions that have ratified the Convention, including Singapore. The United Nations trade treaty underscores the role of mediation as an important tool that companies can deploy to resolve their cross-border disputes.

Given the international impact of the pandemic, SIMC is also working with partners around the world on similar protocols that are customised to the needs of specific jurisdictions. The JIMC-SIMC Joint Protocol supports the commitment to further strengthen economic resilience amid the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Joint Protocol is expected to be formally launched later this year at an event marking JIMC's 2nd year anniversary on 20 November.

Some key aspects of the Joint Protocol include:

- a. Mediations may be easily filed at either JIMC or SIMC online by paying a low JPY 20,000 or SGD 250 filing fee. JIMC and SIMC will jointly manage mediations.



- b. Cases will be resolved by two experienced mediators (one nominated by each Centre) to facilitate cross-border settlement.
- c. Parties will enjoy fixed and reduced fees adapted for the Japanese market. For example, for disputes of less than S\$1.3M, each party pays S\$6,500 (see Annex I).
- d. Mediation can be conducted online to overcome the current limitations on travel.
- e. Settlement agreements may be enforced under the Singapore Convention on Mediation in countries that have ratified or approved the Convention, including Singapore.

These unique aspects will ensure that users are set up for a successful mediation. For example, in a mediation between a Japanese and non-Japanese party, the co-mediation aspect allows for the appointment of mediators who are familiar with different legal and cultural contexts; mediators may be a Japanese-speaking and international mediator selected from both centres' established panels of mediators with skillsets to address any given dispute.

-ENDS-

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Annex I: Fee Schedule

The Fee Schedule is subject to the conditions set out in the JIMC-SIMC Protocol. Parties making the mediation request through JIMC may refer to Table 1, while Parties making the mediation request through SIMC may refer to the equivalent rates in Table 2.

Table 1:

紛争価値	1 当事者当たりの費用 (日本円)
1 億円以下	5 0 万円
1 億円-5 億円	紛争価格の 0.5% (但し上限 1 0 0 万円)
5 億円以上	紛争価格の 0.2% (但し上限 1 2 5 万円)

Table 2:

Dispute Value (SGD)	Total fee payable per party (SGD)
Below SGD 1.3 M	SGD 6,500
SGD 1.3M~6.5M	0.5% of Dispute Value, subject to a cap of SGD 13,000
Above SGD 6.5M	0.2% of Dispute Value, subject to a cap of SGD 16,000