



TRAINING

Global South and ISDS Certificate Course (2026)

24-25 April 2026

Read more



**A practice-oriented introduction to
investor-State dispute settlement from
Global South perspectives**

PARTNERS





Overview

 **Online | Indian Standard Time (IST)**

On 24–25 April, the Global South and ISDS Certificate Course, organised by Arbitration Lab, brings together leading practitioners, academics and arbitration specialists to examine the key legal and practical challenges arising in investor–State dispute settlement involving Global South jurisdictions.

About the course

This intensive course examines the legal and strategic challenges of ISDS from Global South perspectives, combining doctrinal foundations with practical perspectives from the Global South.

It explores both substantive and procedural dimensions of ISDS, with particular attention to how States engage with international investment agreements, manage disputes, and respond to shifting geopolitical, economic and regulatory pressures.

Why it matters

As Global South States play an increasingly central role in investment disputes, understanding how they engage with international investment agreements and respond to shifting geopolitical, economic, and regulatory pressures has become essential. The course situates ISDS within these broader dynamics, offering a nuanced and contemporary perspective on the evolving landscape of international investment law.

Key benefits of the course

Participants will develop both conceptual clarity and practical skills, including insights into advocacy across cultures and exposure to diverse legal traditions in international arbitration. A dedicated career panel provides guidance on entering and advancing in the field, while interactive discussions and networking opportunities enable meaningful engagement with leading experts and peers.





Course Highlights

Learning Outcomes

- Understand **key global trends** in foreign direct investment and assess their implications for Global South jurisdictions
- Analyse **substantive protections under international investment agreements** and identify recent developments in treaty practice
- Navigate **procedural aspects of investor–State dispute settlement**, including consent to arbitration and applicable rules
- Apply **effective advocacy techniques in international arbitration**, including adapting to cross-cultural and different legal traditions
- Identify **career pathways in international arbitration** and develop practical strategies for securing roles in the field

Course Requirements

- Full attendance in all course sessions is essential for the award of a certificate
- Reflective Journal - Participants are required to submit a reflective journal within seven days of the programme's conclusion
- The reflective journal will consist of short responses to a set of guiding questions- designed to capture participants' understanding, and reflections
- Certificate of completion will be awarded upon timely and complete submission of the journal



24 April 2026

ALL TIMES IN INDIAN STANDARD TIME (IST)

16:20 **Joining the course via Zoom**

16:30 - 17:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Professor Yarik Kryvoi, BIICL & Arbitration Lab

Malhar Satav, Arbitration Lab

- **Opening remarks**
- **Overview of the workshop**
- **Participant introductions**

17:30 - 18:45 **Opening Keynote**

Baiju Vasani, Twenty Essex, London

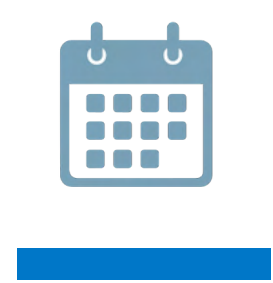
18:45 - 19:00 **Networking Break**

19:00 - 20:00 **Session 2: Procedural International Investment Law: Current Issues**

Prof. Arif Hyder Ali, AHALI Dispute Resolution

- ISDS clauses and the Global South
- Forms of consent to arbitration
- Procedural trends in international investment agreements
- Applicable arbitration rules
- UNCITRAL Working Group III and ISDS reform

20:00 - 20:15 **Q&A**



25 April 2026

11:00 - 12:15

Session 1: Substantive International Investment Law: Current Issues and Global South Perspectives

Professor Yarik Kryvoi, BIICL & Arbitration Lab

- Global FDI trends and the Global South
- International Investment Agreements: current state and emerging trends
- Standards of protection and Home State-Host State dynamics

12:15 - 13:00

Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:15

Session 3: Panel Discussion: ISDS and the Global South

Chair: Prof. Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, Jindal Global Law School

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Bankole Sodipo, Senior Advocate

Jyoti Singh, Delhi University

- What makes ISDS involving the Global South distinct?
- India's international investment agreements: current state and trends
- India's experience in investor-State disputes (including case studies)
- ISDS and African States: current developments and trends

14:15 - 14:30

Networking Break

14:30 - 15:30

Session 4: Oral and Written Advocacy Across Cultures

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Kabir Duggal, Akin Gump

Mr. Shreyas Jayasimha, Aarna Law

- Written advocacy techniques & Oral advocacy strategies
- Advocacy in domestic litigation vs international arbitration
- Common law vs civil law approaches
- Cultural sensitivity in advocacy

15:30 - 15:45

Networking Break

15:45 - 17:15

Session 5: Career Panel and Q&A

Speakers: George Pothan Poothicoote Advocate, Supreme Court of India;

Ramya Raman, P&A Law Offices

Pranay Lekhi, Associate, A&O Shearman

- Essential skills for success in international arbitration
- Strategies for securing arbitration roles
- Differences across jurisdictions
- Practical guidance on CVs, cover letters, and interviews



Speakers



Prof. Arif Hyder Ali

FOUNDER, AHALI DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Prof. Arif Hyder Ali is the founder of AHALI, a boutique dispute resolution-focused law firm based in Washington, D.C. and London. He is a veteran arbitrator and counsel with over three decades of experience. He has handled investor–State, commercial, and construction arbitrations across more than 50 jurisdictions and legal systems. Formerly Global Co-Chair of Dechert’s International Arbitration practice, he combines extensive practice with a significant body of academic writing and teaching in arbitration.



Prof. Dr. Kabir Duggal C.Arb, LL.M. (NYU)

PARTNER, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AT AKIN GUMP AND LECTURER IN-LAW AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

Prof. Kabir Duggal is a Partner at Akin Gump and Lecturer-in-Law at Columbia Law School, focusing on high-value investor–State and commercial arbitrations. He has acted as counsel and arbitrator in over 70 disputes involving States, SOEs, and multinational corporations. His work spans sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and TMT. He is also active in arbitration policy, institutional reform, global capacity-building initiatives.





Shreyas Jayasimha

CO-FOUNDER, AARNA LAW (INDIA) AND SIMHA LAW PTE. LTD. (MAXWELL CHAMBERS, SINGAPORE)

Shreyas Jayasimha is the Co-founder of Aarna Law (India) and Simha Law (Singapore), with over two decades of experience in dispute resolution. He has acted as counsel and arbitrator in domestic, international commercial, and investment treaty arbitrations. His experience includes representing the Republic of India in treaty disputes and handling complex cross-border matters across multiple jurisdictions. He is also a member of the Investment Treaty Forum at BIICL, London.



Prof. Dr. Yarik Kryvoi, LL.M. (Harvard)

CO-DIRECTOR, ARBITRATION LAB; SENIOR FELLOW & DIRECTOR OF THE ITF AT THE BIICL, LONDON; OF COUNSEL AT KEIDAN HARRISSON IN LONDON.

Prof. Yarik Kryvoi is Co-Director of Arbitration Lab and Director of the Investment Treaty Forum at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. He previously practised at Freshfields, Morgan Lewis, and Baker McKenzie. His work focuses on ISDS reform, including participation in UNCITRAL WG III and UN projects on corruption in arbitration. He is also empanelled as an arbitrator on several major institutions and leads global training initiatives. Prof. Kryvoi has also designed courses related to ISDS, Public International Law and International Arbitration.





Pranay Lekhi, LL.M. (Cambridge)

ASSOCIATE, A&O SHEARMAN, LONDON

Pranay Lekhi is an Associate in the international arbitration team at A&O Shearman in London, specialising in public international law and investment arbitration. He has advised States in UNCITRAL Working Group III proceedings, including the Republic of Maldives. He also contributed to the Law Commission of India's work on the Model BIT, with a focus on treaty drafting and dispute strategy.



George Pothan Pothicoote, LL.M. (King's College, London)

ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

George Pothan Pothicoote is an Advocate before the Supreme Court of India specialising in international law and arbitration. He is a member of the UNCITRAL-CLOUT Steering Committee and coordinates India's UNCITRAL National Coordination Committee. His work spans investment treaty disputes, treaty negotiations, and ISDS reform, and he has represented India in UNCITRAL deliberations on dispute settlement reform.



Prof. Dr. Prabash Ranjan, LL.M (SOAS)

PROFESSOR OF LAW AT JINDAL GLOBAL LAW SCHOOL, SONIPAT

Prof. Prabash Ranjan is Professor of Law at Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat and a leading scholar of international investment law and policy. His research focuses on treaty design, investment law reform, and Global South perspectives. A Chevening Scholar, he holds advanced degrees from SOAS and King’s College London and has held fellowships at institutions including the Max Planck Institute and Cambridge.



Ramya Raman, LL.M. (Queen Mary University of London)

PARTNER, P&A LAW OFFICES FOCUSING ON INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTES

Ramya Raman is a Partner at P&A Law Offices focusing on investor–State arbitration and public international law. She previously served in the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, where she worked on BIT negotiations, ISDS disputes, and investment policy. She has been part of India’s official delegations in treaty negotiations and dispute matters and she regularly advises Government of India on treaty strategy and defence.



Jyoti Singh, LL.M. (Delhi)

PHD CANDIDATE AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI AND AN INDIA-QUALIFIED LAWYER

Jyoti Singh is a PhD candidate at the University of Delhi and a practitioner in international investment and public international law. As Legal Consultant to the Government of India, she has worked on BIT negotiations, ISDS reform under UNCITRAL WG III, and FTA investment chapters. Her experience includes treaty drafting, interpretation, and participation in multilateral negotiations across forums such as G20, BRICS, and WTO.



Prof. Dr. Bankole Sondipo, LL.M. (Lagos)

SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA, SENIOR PARTNER AT G.O SONDIPO AND CO.

Prof. Bankole Sodipo, SAN, is Senior Partner at G.O. Sodipo & Co. and a leading authority on foreign investment law and regulation in Nigeria. For over 30 years, he has advised on foreign direct investment across key sectors, with particular insight into regulatory and policy frameworks in African jurisdictions. He holds a PhD from Queen Mary University of London and is a Professor, at the School of Law and Security Studies, Babcock University.





Baiju Vasani, BCL (Oxford)

TWENTY ESSEX

Baiju Vasani is a barrister at 20 Essex specialising in investor–State dispute settlement and public international law. Over a 20-year career, including 12 years as partner at leading international firms, he has acted in treaty disputes worth tens of billions of dollars. His practice spans ICSID and UNCITRAL arbitrations, with experience on both State and investor sides. He has notably led the Russian Federation’s defence in multiple high-profile investment treaty cases.

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