



MAXWELL CHAMBERS EXPANDS TO BOOST SINGAPORE'S STATUS AS DISPUTE RESOLUTION HUB



1) The original expansion plan of Maxwell Chambers was slated to be an additional 120,000 sq ft in the Red Dot Traffic Building, but MinLaw recently announced it will add 3,500 sq ft of space on top of that. What is driving this increased need for office space?

Demand for dispute resolution in Asia has risen over the years, and Singapore is becoming an increasingly popular destination for international corporate arbitration in the region.

With our stellar reputation as a one-stop establishment that provides world-class facilities and houses top global ADR institutes under one roof, Maxwell Chambers has seen steady growth in the number of arbitration cases held on its premises in recent years.

Furthermore, we have received a significant increase in the number of enquiries on tenancy opportunities at Maxwell Chambers. As such, we are pleased to announce that a new second annexe block will be constructed at Maxwell Chambers Suites to meet this strong demand for hearing rooms and office space.

2) As of the end of June, it was announced that 65 per cent of the new office space had already been taken up even before



Philip Jeyaretnam
Chairman

refurbishment works begin. What kind of tenants are taking up the new space, and how does it contrast to existing tenants?

We received an overwhelming number of enquiries once it was announced that office space is available at the new Maxwell Chambers Suites.

Some of our existing tenants, for instance, The Arbitration Chambers and One Essex Court, will be doubling their office space to cater to the rising demand for dispute resolution services.

Our new tenants include local and international institutions, dispute resolution practitioners, chambers and related legal support services who are keen to establish

a presence in Maxwell Chambers and in Singapore. Opus 2, an international firm which specialises in transcription and hearing room services, will also be the first ancillary services firm to occupy an office space at Maxwell Chambers.

With the wider range of legal services provided under one roof, we are confident that it will definitely strengthen Maxwell Chambers' position as the one-stop Asia Legal Hub.

3) As Singapore's dispute resolution scene has evolved over the past few years, how do you feel Maxwell Chambers has evolved with it? What have been some of the highlights of the venue in the past year or two?

The dispute resolution scene in Singapore has indeed evolved in recent years. Here at Maxwell Chambers, we are constantly striving to achieve service excellence as the market leader in the industry.

Besides our diligence in keeping up with the latest technology and corporate knowledge, the efficiency and efficacy of work processes are continually reviewed to optimise our productivity. In addition, the IT infrastructure at Maxwell Chambers is upgraded regularly to provide state-of-the-art facilities and services to our clients.

Also, in line with our strong belief in bringing added value to clients, one of the key developments at Maxwell Chambers is the provision of complimentary authentication and certification of arbitration awards seated on our premises.

Our vision for Maxwell Chambers is to be an international hub, and our expansion plan is an integral part of that goal. The strong demand for office space with Maxwell Chambers Suites in the past year is undoubtedly an affirmation of our hard work all these years.

4) Can you share some figures about your growth in cases in the past few years? Which countries and/or types of disputes have been leading this growth?

In the Hearing Centres Survey 2015, Maxwell Chambers is currently ranked second in the world as a leading arbitration centre by Global Arbitration Review.

The number of arbitration cases held at Maxwell Chambers has increased steadily over the years. 212 arbitration cases were heard on the premises in 2016, which was an 18% increase from 179 cases back in 2015.

In particular, Maxwell Chambers has registered a rise in the number of

investor-state cases conducted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Compared with 4 cases in 2015, at least 7 cases will be held at Maxwell Chambers in 2017. ICSID is also choosing to settle more investment disputes here in recent years.

5) It was recently announced that the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) will set up an office in Singapore, taking up space in Maxwell Chambers. What do you feel this means for both the venue, as well as Singapore's arbitration scene going forward?

The PCA's decision to set up office here is a giant leap towards Singapore becoming an international dispute resolution hub.

Arbitrations administered by the PCA involve investor-state and investment treaties, and these are usually high-profile and complicated cases.

We have arbitrators and practitioners based in Singapore actively acting in PCA cases, and I believe such opportunities provide invaluable exposure and experience for our legal community.

Furthermore, this means creating more awareness for Maxwell Chambers as a dispute resolution centre, and increasing

our global standing and branding in the industry.

6) What do the next year or two hold for Maxwell Chambers?

With both the PCA and the International Chamber of Commerce's International Court of Arbitration (ICC Court) setting up offices here, we are anticipating more cases to come to Singapore for dispute resolution in the next 1 to 2 years.

At Maxwell Chambers, we are fully equipped to meet the challenge, and will continually strive to provide world-class facilities and services.

We are also really excited about Maxwell Chambers Suites commencing operations in 2019. We are positive that Maxwell Chambers and Maxwell Chambers Suites will complement each other to firmly establish ourselves as the international arbitration destination.

Maxwell Chambers

32 Maxwell Road, #03-01,
Singapore 069115
T: (65) 6595 9010
F: (65) 6339 3931
E: info@maxwell-chambers.com
W: www.maxwell-chambers.com