



中国海事仲裁委员会
CHINA MARITIME ARBITRATION COMMISSION



中国海事仲裁委员会2020年工作报告

CMAC 2020 IN REVIEW

An aerial photograph of a port area. On the left, a large white container crane stands on a pier. In the center, a large container ship is docked, its deck covered with stacks of colorful shipping containers. To the right of the ship, a tugboat is moving through the water, leaving a white wake. The water is a deep blue-green color. The image is used as a background for a text overlay.


CMAC kicked off the year 2020 with great efforts to contain the impact of COVID-19. In a context utterly different from the past, we prided ourselves in navigating our business through all the difficulties by connecting with our strategic partners from the industry and quickly adapting the service according to the changing needs of our users.

1. The number of cases increased steadily.

In 2020, a record-breaking caseload of 111 cases was achieved, with a year-on-year increase of 20 cases. Among them, there were 29 foreign-related cases and 82 domestic cases. The types of cases mainly included B/L disputes, freight forwarding disputes, shipbuilding disputes, etc. The parties were from 21 different countries and regions around the world, such as the United States, Norway, Hong Kong, etc.



Through comparative analysis, the cases in 2020 shows following characteristics:

-  1.1 The caseload continued to grow, exceeding 100 for the first time since the CMAC reform from 2017;
-  1.2 The proportion of foreign-related cases was high, accounting for 35% of all cases, which reflected our strong presence as a reliable arbitration service provider among our users engaged in foreign trade.
-  1.3. The number of maritime cases received by CMAC was still ranked in the front on a global scale, with cases such as ship trial and fuel filling disputes emerging as "a new normal" .
-  1.4 The number of cases where laws in other jurisdictions were applied was increasing, which indicated our increasing credibility gradually built upon our persistent efforts to "go global" .
-  1.5 The number of mediation cases was growing and we started to receive online arbitration case this year, which shown a high recognition of our ADR service.



2. The quality and efficiency of arbitration service was improved with newly implemented IT system.

In 2020, in order to comply with the social distancing policies, CMAC issued guidelines on online case filing, online arbitration and video trial. The rules of online arbitration gone through intensive consultation and had been subject to strict examination to ensure the parties' procedural rights. CMAC also signed an agreement with eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) to strengthen cooperation.

3. ADR service was recognized by the judicial system.

In 2020, CMAC was designated as a specially invited mediation organization by Wuhan Maritime Court. We also signed a MOU with Hainan Provincial Higher People's court and a framework agreement with the People's Court of Xicheng District in Beijing.

4. Service Network was further improved.

In September, CMAC Hainan Arbitration Center was officially established so as to reach out to Hainan free trade port. In October, CMAC arbitration center of Zhejiang Free Trade Zone signed MOU with relevant departments in Ningbo, extending the dispute resolution service to the new area of the free trade zone. In November, CMAC Shanghai sub-commission was renamed CMAC Shanghai headquarter. It was an innovative attempt to re-construct a two-headquarter service network with Shanghai headquarter focusing on maritime industry while Beijing on other sectors.



5. CMAC provided a platform to discuss legal issues of common concern during the COVID-19 pandemic

After the outbreak of coronavirus, CMAC and its industry connections immediately launched a campaign to call for more useful legal advice on the foreign trade in grave peril. A number of articles contributed by CMAC arbitrators were published on our wechat page and websites and widely distributed among our users. We held a special online forum to discuss the possible means from the legal perspective to help those luxury cruises wandering on the ocean. Nine webinars were also offered to share legal insights relevant to the virus-impacted business scene.



6. CMAC continued to be active in the international arbitration community .

In 2020, CMAC hosted, supported or participated in a number of international and domestic webinars, including the 21st International Conference of Maritime Arbitrators (Brazil), International ADR Conference (Thailand), Dispute Prevention and Resolution on the Belt & Road (Malaysia), Seminar on the Development of China's Foreign Mediation after the Entry into Force of Singapore Mediation Convention, the Belt & Road International Commercial Arbitration High Level Dialogue, 2020 China International Arbitration high-end forum, 2020 International Mediation Summit Forum and other dozens of domestic or foreign conferences to expand CMAC influence.





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7. CMAC advised on the revision of maritime law and Arbitration Law.

CMAC and China Maritime Law Association jointly set up an expert group to discuss key issues related to maritime law (Revised Draft) and put forward suggestions. CMAC supported China Maritime Law Association to hold online seminars to focus on maritime law amendment, protection of ship crew rights, maritime cargo passenger transport, cruise legal system, as well as marine environmental protection & fishery legal system. CMAC participated in the revision of arbitration law and offered opinions and suggestions. CMAC also actively advanced the legislation of the Recognition of Foreign Judicial Sales of Ships which was drafted by CMAC arbitrators.

In 2021, with a persistent effort to initiate innovation within the arbitration industry and ensure our strong presence in a new business landscape, we will continue to lay out our service according to the needs of the users and work for the prosperity of international shipping industry and investment.

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