

A DISPUTES COMMENTARY · JULY 2026

International arbitration in 2025

The recently released ICC International Court of Arbitration 2025 statistics describe a forum growing in *breadth, value, diversity and depth*.

01
Breadth

147 jurisdictions
70 seat countries
123 cities
25+ sectors

02
Value

US\$2.5k to US\$31bn
US\$299bn pending

03
Diversity

93 arbitrator
jurisdictions
30% women

04
Depth

43% construction,
engineering & energy

01 · BREADTH & MOMENTUM

A widening forum

In 2025 the ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC) registered **881 new arbitrations** involving **2,531 parties**, its second highest party count on record - drawn from **147 jurisdictions** , seated across 123 cities in 70 countries, and spanning more than 25 industry sectors.

881

NEW ICC ARBITRATIONS

2,531

PARTIES TO THOSE CASES

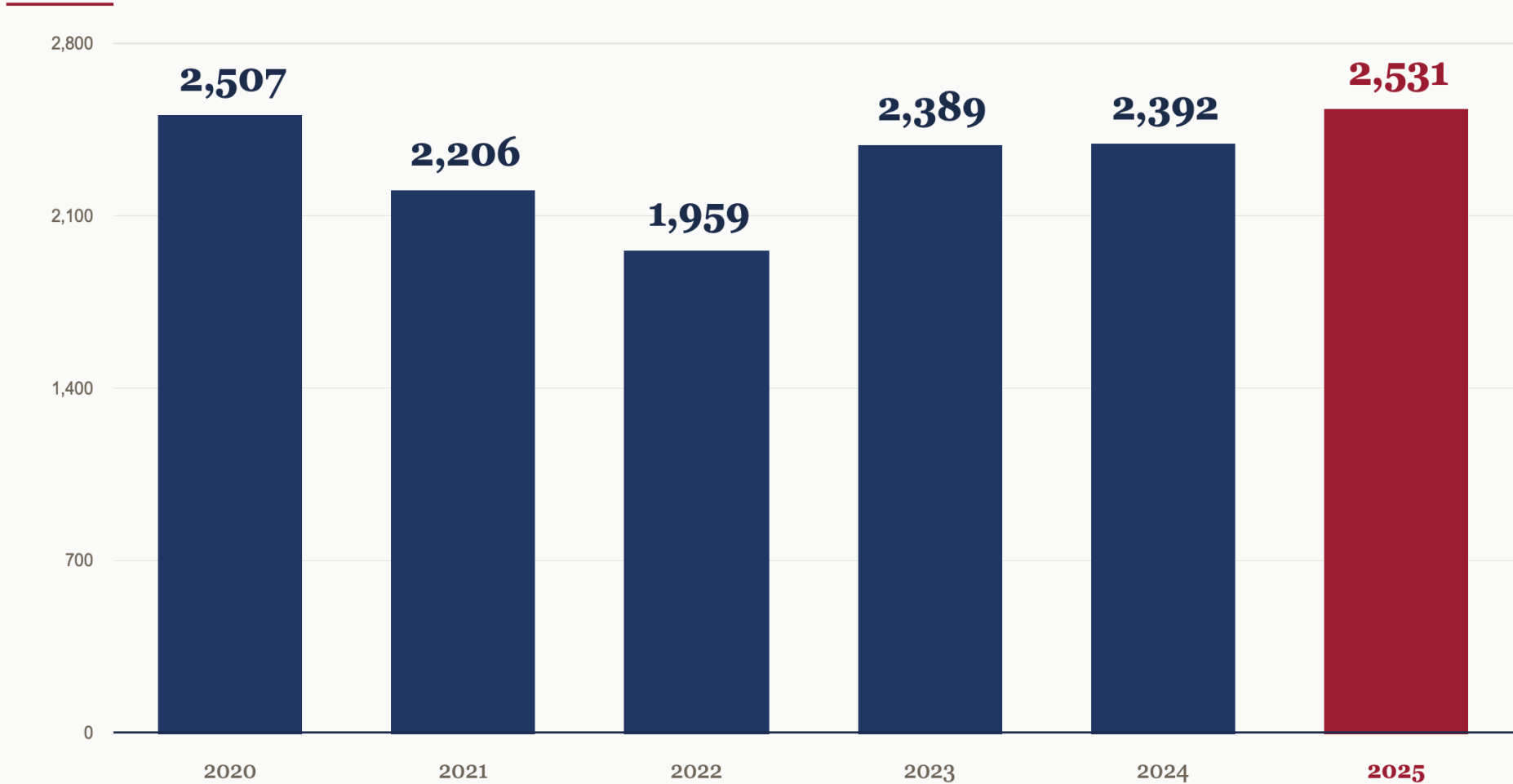
147

JURISDICTIONS
REPRESENTED

123 / 70

CITIES / COUNTRIES
HOSTING SEATS

PARTIES TO NEW ICC CASES, 2020–2025

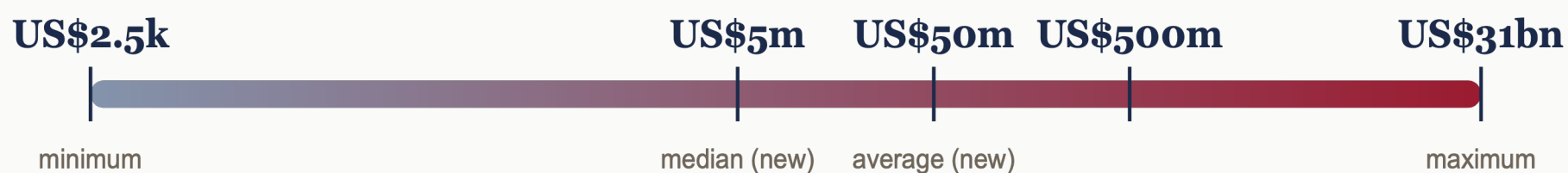


Source: ICC Dispute Resolution 2025 Statistics.

02 · DEPTH & CASE VALUE

The range of what is at stake

AMOUNT IN DISPUTE — 2025 ICC FILINGS (LOG SCALE)



Source: ICC Dispute Resolution 2025 Statistics.

AGGREGATE VALUE

US\$41bn

claimed across new cases filed in 2025 - with **US\$299bn** at stake across the pending caseload at year-end.

Roughly half of all cases fall between US\$1m and US\$30m; the average new case claim is just over US\$50m.

WHERE THE DEPTH LIES

43%

of new ICC cases arise in **construction & engineering (28%)** and **energy (15%)** - the disputes that lean hardest on expert evidence.

The remainder spreads across more than 25 further sectors, from pharma to telecoms.

Source: ICC Dispute Resolution 2025 Statistics.

A spread this wide is itself a measure of the forum's depth: the largest and most complex assets are now routinely resolved by arbitration.

03 · DIVERSITY & THE ASIA-PACIFIC PULL

Diverse on every axis

93

JURISDICTIONS OF APPOINTED
ARBITRATORS

29.6%

WOMEN — UP FROM 10.4% IN 2015

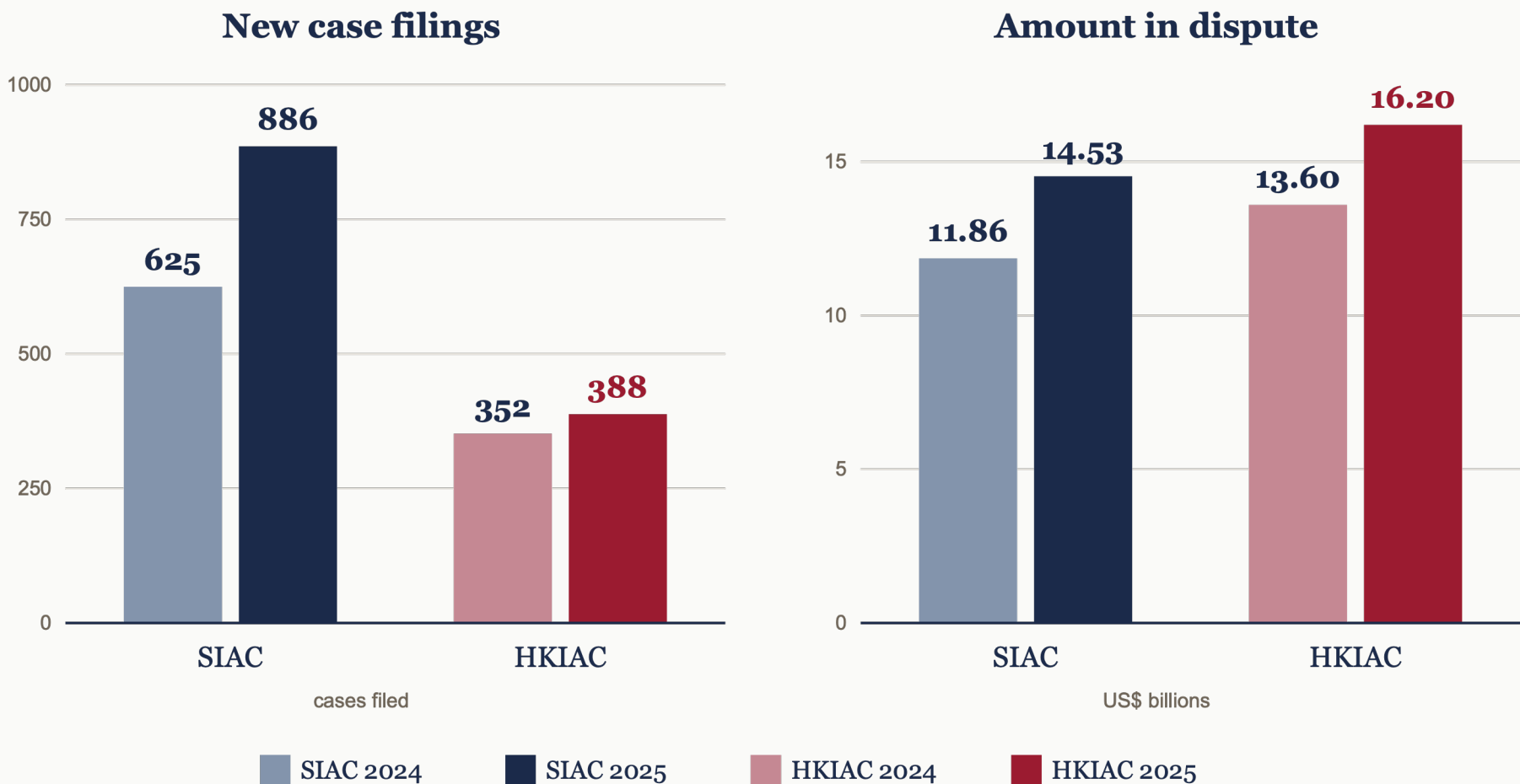
34%

ARBITRATORS UNDER THE AGE OF 50

Diversity of tribunal, geography and generation is widening in the east. Asia-Pacific supplied **620 ICC parties** (a quarter of the total). (Source: *ICC Dispute Resolution 2025 Statistics.*)

Singapore and Hong Kong now **tie at 31%**, behind only London, as the world's most preferred arbitration seats. (Source: QMUL & White & Case 2025 International Arbitration Survey)

ARBITRAL CASELOAD — ASIA-PACIFIC'S TWO PRINCIPAL SEATS, 2024–2025



SIAC filings rose ~42% year on year; HKIAC reached a record HKD 126.2bn in dispute.
Source: SIAC Statistics (2025, 2026); HKIAC Statistics (2025, 2026).

04 · KEY TAKEAWAYS

What the numbers tell us

A market defined by depth, breadth, diversity and value - and still expanding.

- **Breadth.** Arbitration now spans 147 jurisdictions, 70 seat countries (across 123 cities) and 25+ sectors - a genuinely global forum.
- **Value range.** Single-year claims run from under US\$2,500 to US\$31 billion; US\$299 billion sits in the pending ICC caseload alone.
- **Diversity.** The pool keeps broadening - women are now ~30% of ICC appointments, up from 10% a decade ago, across 93 jurisdictions.
- **Depth.** Construction, engineering and energy make up 43% of new ICC cases - the disputes that heavily depend on expert evidence.
- **Momentum.** SIAC filings rose ~42% from 2024 to 2025, with HKIAC and the ICC at or near record levels - the forum is expanding.

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