

AALCO/ 57/TOKYO/2018/ORG3

For Official Use Only

ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

REPORT ON THE AALCO'S REGIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRES



**Prepared by:
The AALCO Secretariat
29-C, Rizal Marg,
Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi– 110021
(INDIA)**

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| I. | INTRODUCTION | 1 – 7 |
| | a. Background | |
| | b. Activities of the Centres | |
| II. | REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (AIAC) | 8 - 16 |
| III. | REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CAIRO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (CRCICA) | 17 - 36 |
| IV. | REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, LAGOS (RCICAL) | 37 - 46 |
| V. | REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TEHRAN REGIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (TRAC) | 47 - 52 |
| VI. | REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (NIAC) | 53 - 55 |
| VII. | DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA ITEM | 56 - 57 |

REPORT ON THE AALCO'S REGIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRES

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), during its Thirteenth Annual Session held in Lagos (Nigeria) in 1973, proposed that apart from follow-up of the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in the field of International Commercial Arbitration, the Organization should also conduct an independent study on some of the more important practical problems relating to the subject from the point of view of the Asian-African region. Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared an outline of the study, which received favorable response from the Member States. The Secretariat thereafter prepared a detailed and comprehensive study and the Trade Law Sub-Committee considered this study during the Fifteenth Annual Session held in Tokyo (Japan) in 1974.

2. At the Tokyo Session, AALCO endorsed the recommendations of its Trade Law Sub-Committee, that efforts should be made by Member States to develop institutional arbitration in the Asian and African regions. Thereafter, the Secretariat, following the mandate of the Tokyo Session, prepared a revised study on the same topic so as to enable the Trade Law Sub-Committee during the Kuala Lumpur Session, to formulate principles or model rules for consideration. At the Kuala Lumpur Session (Malaysia) held in 1976, the Trade Law Sub-Committee requested the Secretariat to undertake a feasibility study for establishing Regional Arbitration Centres in the Asian-African region, to be placed before the Eighteenth Annual Session of AALCO.¹

3. At the Eighteenth Annual Session, held in Baghdad (Iraq) in 1977, discussions were focused on the Secretariat study titled 'Integrated Scheme for Settlement of Disputes in the Economic and Commercial Matters', which envisaged *inter alia*, the establishment of a network of Regional Centres for Arbitration functioning under the auspices of the AALCO in different parts of Asia and Africa so that the flow of arbitration cases to arbitral institutions outside the Asian-African region could be minimized. The Integrated Scheme also represented an effort on the part of the developing countries for the first time to evolve a fair, inexpensive and speedy procedure for settlement of disputes.

4. At the Nineteenth Annual Session, held in Doha (Qatar) in 1978, AALCO endorsed the Trade Law Sub-Committee's recommendations on the establishment of two Arbitration Centres for the Asian and African regions in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt) respectively. It was envisaged that the two Arbitration Centres would function as international institutions under the auspices of AALCO with the following objectives:

¹ The Secretariat study elaborated the two basic objectives of the AALCO's integrated dispute settlement scheme. In the first place, to establish a system under which disputes and differences arising out of transactions in which both the parties belong to the Asian-African and Pacific regions could be settled under fair, inexpensive and adequate procedures. Secondly, to encourage parties to have their arbitrations within the region where the investment made or the place of performance under an international transaction was a country within this region. The conclusions made in the study were in favour of establishment of six sub-regions, namely East Asia, South-East Asia, West Asia, North Africa, East Africa and West Africa. It was, however pointed out that scheme could initially work with two Centres and other Centres could be established in the light of experience and volume of work.

- a. Promoting international commercial arbitration in the Asian and African regions;
- b. Coordinating and assisting the activities of existing arbitral institutions, particularly among those within the two regions;
- c. Rendering assistance in the conduct of Ad Hoc arbitrations, particularly those held under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules;
- d. Assisting the enforcement of arbitral awards; and
- e. Providing for arbitration under the auspices of the Centre where appropriate.

5. In pursuance to the above decision, an Agreement was concluded in April 1978, between the AALCO and the Government of Malaysia in respect of the establishment of a Regional Centre for Arbitration in Kuala Lumpur. A similar Agreement was concluded in January 1979 with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt with respect to the establishment of a Regional Centre for Arbitration in Cairo. The Agreements recognized the status of the Centres as intergovernmental organizations and conferred certain immunities and privileges for their independent functioning. The Host Governments also offered suitable premises, financial grants and necessary staff to run the Centres. The Centres adopted UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules with suitable modifications and offered their services to any party whether within or outside the region for the administered arbitration and facilities for arbitration whether *ad hoc* or under the auspices of any other institution.

6. The success of these two Regional Arbitration Centres prompted the Organization to establish two more Centres, one in Lagos (Nigeria), which was formally inaugurated in 1989. The other Centre established was in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), in furtherance of which an Agreement was concluded between AALCO and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran in 1997 and subsequently ratified by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and brought into force on 10 June 2003.

7. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AALCO and the Government of Republic of Kenya was signed on 3 April 2006 during the Forty-Fifth Annual Session of AALCO held in the Headquarters in New Delhi to establish a fifth Centre in Nairobi. The Agreement establishing the Nairobi Regional Centre for Arbitration was signed by the then Secretary-General of AALCO and the Attorney-General of the Republic of Kenya during the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of AALCO held at Cape Town, Republic of South Africa from 2 to 6 July 2007. On 25 January 2013, the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act came into force. The systems and structures of the Centre were established in 2014-2015 by the inaugural Board of Directors and the Centre's Arbitration and Mediation Rules were published in December 2015. On 5 December 2016, The Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration' (NCIA) was inaugurated. The NCIA is the fifth regional arbitration Centre functioning under the auspices of AALCO and third in Africa after Cairo and Lagos centres.

(i) Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Malaysia

8. AALCO's first Regional Centre for Arbitration was established in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 1978. This was considered as an important landmark in the movement for promoting Asian-African solidarity in international legal matters and economic relations. The Centre was established for an initial period of three years by a formal exchange of letters between the

Malaysian Government and the then AALCC. The Centre was formally inaugurated by the then Rt. Hon'ble Tun Hussein Onn, Prime Minister of Malaysia on 17 October 1978.

9. Subsequently, an agreement was signed between the Government of Malaysia and the then AALCC relating to the Regional Centre for Arbitration in Kuala Lumpur on 29 July 1981.² Thereafter, the Headquarters Agreement for Kuala Lumpur Centre for International Commercial Arbitration was signed on 10 August 1989.³

10. In order to formalize the continued functioning of the KLRCA, with effect from 1 January 1992, an Agreement between AALCO and the Government of Malaysia relating to the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration as it was then called was signed on 14 February 2004.⁴

11. The Centre offers facilities and assistance for the conduct of arbitral proceedings, including the enforcement of awards made in the proceedings held under the auspices of the Centre. The Rules for arbitration under the auspices of the Centre are the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules of 1976 with certain modifications and adaptations. Other main functions of the Centre are to promote international commercial arbitration in the Asia-Pacific region and to render advice and assistance to parties who may approach the Centre.

12. Apart from these services, the Centre also provides other options for the settlement of disputes such as mediation/conciliation under the Conciliation Rules of the Centre. The Centre, realizing the growing importance of intellectual property in the arena of Information and Communications Technology, also administers international and domestic “.my domain” name dispute resolution service, provided by the Malaysian Network Information Centre (MYNIC), which administers the “.my domain”. All domain name disputes are governed and administered in accordance with MYNIC's Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (MYDRP), Rules of the MYDRP and RCAKL Supplemental Rules.

13. Recently, in order to best reflect the status of the Centre in accordance with its enlarged scope, the Centre was rebranded as the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) formalized by a supplementary agreement entered into between AALCO and Malaysia on 7 February 2018.

(ii) Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), Arab Republic of Egypt

14. The first Regional Arbitration Centre in African region, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (“CRICA”) was established in January 1979. The Centre was established for an initial period of three years by a formal exchange of letters between the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and AALCO. In 1983, another agreement was

² This agreement was signed by the then Minister of Commerce and Industry H.E. Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen on behalf of Malaysia and for AALCC the then Secretary-General Mr. B. Sen.

³ It was signed by the then Attorney-General of Malaysia H.E. Tan Sri Abu Talib Bin Othman and Mr. F. X. Njenga, the then Secretary-General, AALCC.

⁴ This agreement was signed by H. E. Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister at the Prime Minister's Department and Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil, the then Secretary-General of AALCO.

concluded between AALCO and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for granting a permanent status to the Cairo Centre.

15. The Cairo Centre offers specialized services to settle trade and investment disputes, through arbitration. It also includes Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques such as conciliation, mediation and technical expertise. Apart from this, the Centre also offers advice to parties to international commercial and investment contracts regarding drafting these contracts, promote arbitration and other ADR techniques in the Afro-Asian region through the organization of international conferences, seminars, and training programmes for international arbitrators and legal scholars from the Afro-Asian region by the Centre's Institute for Arbitration and Investment. The Cairo Centre follows the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules with certain modifications.

16. Apart from this, the Cairo Centre had also established the Institute of Arbitration and Investment in 1990; the Institute of Arab and African Arbitrators in the Arab Republic of Egypt in 1991; the Centre's Maritime Arbitration Branch in Alexandria, which deals exclusively with maritime disputes in 1992; the Cairo Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of London in 1999; Alexandria Centre for International Arbitration in 2001; and a Mediation and ADR Centre as a branch of the Cairo Centre to administer commercial arbitration and other peaceful non-binding means of avoiding and settling trade and investment disputes in 2001.

(iii) Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration-Lagos (RCICAL), Federal Republic of Nigeria.

17. In 1980, an Agreement was concluded with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the establishment of a third Centre in Lagos. The Centre was formally inaugurated in March 1989. On 26 April 1999, the then Attorney General and Minister of Justice, on behalf of Nigeria and the then Secretary-General of the AALCC, had signed an Agreement in this connection. Since then, the Centre has been put into operation on the basis of its human resource and capital.

18. The Centre is today a beehive of activities providing venues for both domestic and international arbitration in economic and commercial matters in Africa South of the Sahara, particularly, the West African Sub-Region. On 7 February 2006, the then Secretary-General of AALCO, inaugurated the Advisory Committee of the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos. Also present on the occasion were Hon'ble A.G. Karibi-Whyte, CFR (Rtd.), Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Mrs. Eunice Oddiri, Director of the Centre, Members of the Advisory Board and many other dignitaries.

19. RCICAL is not for profit and is established primarily for the purpose of providing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods to Litigation for the settlement of commercial disputes arising from International commercial transactions between parties engaged in trade, commerce and investments within and outside the African region. Such (ADR) methods include Arbitration, Mediation Conciliation etc. The RCICAL is an autonomous International arbitral institution which has its seat in Lagos. The Headquarters Agreement in relation to RCICAL is a treaty signed in 1999 between the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and the Federal Government of Nigeria, as a host country.

(iv) Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC), Islamic Republic of Iran

20. On 3 May 1997, an Agreement was concluded between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and AALCO for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Arbitration in Tehran. At the AALCO's Forty-Second Annual Session in Seoul (Republic of Korea), the Delegate of Islamic Republic of Iran informed that the Judicial Power has adopted the Agreement and that all the legal procedures applicable in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the ratification of the said Agreement were completed.

21. On 31 January 2005, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran endorsed the Agreement for implementation and the then Secretary-General of the AALCO subsequently approved the TRAC Rules of Arbitration.

(v) Nairobi Regional Arbitration Centre, Republic of Kenya

22. It may be recalled that during the Arusha (Tanzania, 1986) and Bangkok (Thailand, 1987) Annual Sessions of AALCO, the representative of Republic of Kenya had requested the AALCO to consider the feasibility of establishing a Regional Arbitration Centre in Nairobi to serve the countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat had also approached the AALCO Secretariat for relevant information about the establishment and working of the AALCO's Regional Centres with a view to considering the possibility of establishing such a Centre in Nairobi. At about the same time, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African Countries (PTA) had also sought technical assistance for establishing an Arbitration Centre to serve the countries in those parts of Africa. The PTA Centre for Arbitration was set up in Djibouti on 21 November 1987 to function under the auspices of the PTA Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

23. During the Thirty-Second Annual Session in Kampala (Uganda 1993), the Leader of the Delegation of Tanzania expressed the view that the PTA Centre in Djibouti had not negated the need for a Centre in Nairobi and suggested that the Secretariat should pursue the possibility and modalities for the establishment of a Centre in Nairobi. Consequently, the then AALCO Secretary-General, H. E. Mr. Frank X. Njenga had approached the Member Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with a view to ascertaining the extent of material assistance and back-up support that could be provided by them for the establishment of a Centre in Nairobi which appeared to be an apt location to cater to the needs of the States in the Eastern and Southern parts of the African continent. Accordingly, at the Thirty-Third Annual Session held in Tokyo (Japan, 1994), a proposal was put before the Leaders of Delegations of Member States for the establishment of additional Centres in Tehran and Nairobi.

24. It may be recalled that during the Forty-Fifth Annual Session of AALCO held at New Delhi (Headquarters) on 3 April 2006, the then Secretary-General of AALCO and the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Arbitration in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya.

25. In pursuance to the MoU, an Agreement Establishing the Nairobi Regional Arbitration Centre for Arbitration was signed between the then Secretary-General of AALCO and the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya during the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of AALCO held at Cape

Town, Republic of South Africa from 2-6 July 2007.

26. On 25 January 2013, the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act came into force. The systems and structures of the Centre were established in 2014-2015 by the inaugural Board of Directors and the Centre's Arbitration and Mediation Rules were published in December 2015.

27. The Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration was thereafter inaugurated on 5 December 2016. It is hoped that the AALCO's fifth Centre will effectively cater to the needs of East and Southern African region States of Africa.

B. Activities of the Centres

27. Although in the beginning, the promotional activities of AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres were primarily carried out by the AALCO, in view of experience accumulated over the years and the contacts established by these Centres with Governments, governmental agencies and international institutions, such promotional activities are now mainly carried out by the Centres themselves. Such promotional activities are highlighted in the Reports of the Directors of the respective Centres.

28. It is a matter of great satisfaction that, over the years, there has been considerable increase in the number of cases, both international and domestic, referred to AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres. The types of cases include oil contracts, insurance, intellectual property, construction contracts etc. and involve both public and private sectors. The resolution of commercial disputes by other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods such as Mediation and Conciliation under the Rules of AALCO Centres is another option being favoured by the Parties.

29. An important function of the Directors of AALCO's Arbitration Centres has been to act as an Appointing Authority in such arbitrations. The Centres have been organizing international conferences, seminars and training courses in their respective regions. In addition, the Directors of the Centres have actively pursued the conclusion of Cooperation Agreements with other arbitration institutions.

30. With a view to enhancing the role and activities of the AALCO Regional Arbitration Centres, the Secretary-General would like to urge the Member States to fully support the growing activities of these Centres and consider making financial contributions to help in the implementation of their plans and activities. Further, in this context, two concrete suggestions for consideration of Member States are as follows:

(i) The Member States may consider designating a body, for example, the national chamber of commerce or other industrial promotion organizations to be associated with the AALCO Regional Arbitration Centres as the Liaison Agency within the country, with a view to promoting the activities of AALCO Centres.

(ii) Whilst entering into contracts on behalf of the Government, Public Corporations and other Government Undertakings, consideration may be given to incorporate an arbitration clause for settlement of disputes under the arbitration rules of AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres.

31. Such encouragement from the Member States would further boost the work of AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres.

32. The following part of this Secretariat Report places for consideration the Report of the Directors of the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos (RCICAL), the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration (NCIA), and the Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC) highlighting the details of the activities of the Centres in the year 2017 and the foreseen plans for 2018.

II. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (AIAC)

ABOUT AIAC

The Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) [*formerly known as Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRC)*] was established in 1978 under the auspices of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).

AIAC was the first regional centre established by AALCO in Asia to provide institutional support in a neutral and independent venue for the conduct of domestic and international arbitration proceedings in Asia.

The Centre was established after the Government of Malaysia and AALCO signed a host country agreement, whereby the Malaysian Government agreed to support the establishment of a regional centre for commercial arbitration in Kuala Lumpur and to provide the facilities for the establishment and functioning of such a centre.

AIAC is a not for profit, non-governmental arbitral institution and is led by a Director under the supervision of the Secretary-General of AALCO. The Government of Malaysia has accorded AIAC independence and certain privileges and immunities for the purposes of executing its functions as an international institution.

Backed by 40 years of experience providing local solutions and cross-continental resolutions, the Centre has positioned itself to embark on a journey focused on shaping the global system of conflict resolution. Drawing from the Centre's international presence, the Centre has taken on a new face in 2018, rebranding itself to the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), pioneering and spearheading efforts to deliver the future.

As the industry steps into a new age of conflict resolution, the Centre remains steadfast in its ongoing commitment to the global ADR ecosystem and the stakeholders it serves. From its humble inception under the auspices of AALCO over four decades ago, the Centre has since evolved into a multi-purpose hub for the ADR community – pioneering initiatives such as the Standard Form Contracts for the construction industry, and spearheading transformation within the areas of sports and Islamic arbitration.

This rebranding is a milestone, which signifies a new era of expansion for the Centre in its continuous effort to provide the best possible services and innovation solutions, from Asia for the world. With a firm footing in the past, the AIAC is ready to expand and become a global hub for dispute resolution, standing out to be a catalyst of innovation, capacity building and holistic alternative dispute management for the industry.

SUMMARY 2017

The growth curve continuum of the AIAC since 2010 was further strengthened in 2017-18. Other than its core activity of handling and administering ADR cases (*Record high of 932 cases ending 2017*), AIAC played a big role in the advancement of the nation's arbitration act amendments to

meet global jurisdiction standards, significant ADR developmental projects across the region as well as build capacity across Asia and Africa. This included organising prestigious events to educate and create awareness amongst the public in the area of alternative dispute settlement.

A grand total of 57 events were held throughout the year. Prime amongst them was KLRCA's rebranding as AIAC reflecting its status as a premier ADR service provider in the region with a global footprint. This was followed with the launching of the Centre's 2018 Arbitration Rules.

Secondly, as part of celebrating its 40th Anniversary, the centre organized the inaugural AALCO Annual Arbitration Forum 2018 with the theme "*Connecting Asia and Africa, Connecting Investment and ADR: Opportunities and Challenges*". Apart from this, 21 talks were organized under the AIAC Talk Series held at the Centre. It is a forum that is meant to be informative to all those who are interested in arbitration and ADR without any participation fee.

To bolster the Centre's regional reach, AIAC hosted the inaugural edition of Asia ADR Week which was a three day conference aimed at popularizing the Asian Experience within the ADR system by tapping experts in ADR from all over Asia. The Conference was attended by close to 300 ADR practitioners. The year 2018 also saw the launch of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AiADR) as the first Asian centre for ADR development, dedicated to promoting the practice of ADR through affordable and accessible education and development of the profession across the continent and its neighbours.

Other events organized included the second Sports Arbitration Training Course held in September 2017. AIAC also organized a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) Workshop in Manila in July 2018. Many of these initiatives will roll over in the year 2018 as the AIAC continues its legacy to be a premier organization as a holistic dispute resolution management provider.

ACTIVITIES

1. KLRCA GETS A NEW BRAND IMAGE AS AIAC

7th February 2018, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) was officially renamed as the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC). The name change is part of a larger rebranding for the Centre, which further strengthens its regional footprint and presence globally.

2. AIAC-ICC PRE-MOOT WILLEM C. VIS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT

2nd and 4th March 2018, the AIAC hosted the 2nd AIAC-ICC Pre-Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The AIAC hosted over 70 teams, close to 300 participants, and 177 hearings with 160 arbitrators from 21 countries. This was the largest pre-moot in Asia of its kind by a stretch and the second largest worldwide.

3. NEW RULES LAUNCHED AT AIAC

On 9th March 2018, the AIAC launched the new AIAC Arbitration Rules 2018, AIAC i-Arbitration Rules 2018, AIAC Fast Track Arbitration Rules 2018, and the AIAC Mediation Rules 2018.

4. LAUNCH OF STANDARD FORM OF BUILDING CONTRACTS

AIAC launched the Standard Form of Building Contracts (AIAC's SFC) 2018 Edition and the newly revamped web portal "sfc.aiac.world". SFC) – a suite of standard form contracts that are customisable and freely available for print and download. The AIAC's SFC was inspired by the prevalent issues plaguing the Malaysian construction industry. It was aimed at filling the gaps of existing standard form building contracts in governing relationships, rights and duties of parties to a building construction project. It is user-friendly, incorporates Plain English Drafting, and includes clearer provisions to guide users in interpreting the contract.

5. ASIA ADR WEEK

On 5th and 7th May 2018, the AIAC hosted the inaugural edition of the Asia ADR Week 2018. The 3-day conference delivered an "Asian experience" with guest speakers of diverse cultures and specialisations from all across Asia who focussed on the demands and needs of Asian businesses as well as on the resolution of disputes. The event attracted over 200 participants and more than 90 speakers.

6. LAUNCH OF ASIAN INSTITUTE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ("AiADR")

On 6th May 2018, the AIAC launched the AiADR. The AiADR is the first not-for-profit member based Asian centre for ADR endorsed by AALCO. Its motto is "Providing excellence in ADR" and the AiADR will provide affordable education in the field of ADR – from Malaysia to the rest of Asia, Africa and other parts of the world.

One of the factors typically overlooked regarding global ADR development is the limited spending capacity of professionals from less developed countries, both young and experienced, on education. This hinders not only the wider participation in ADR development, but also precludes this particular demographic from gaining the qualifications and experience they deserve.

This has motivated the creation of the AiADR which will become the bridge that crosses jurisdictional boundaries, particularly across Belt Road regions. The AIAC will offer a series of affordable online courses in various fields of alternative dispute resolution and allow everyone interested in alternative dispute resolution to join as a member at a highly competitive rate – all while offering its programmes at global standards. The AiADR was launched by H.E. Professor Dr. Kennedy Gastorn, Secretary General of AALCO who is also an Honorary Fellow of the institution.

7. NEW STANDARD FORM OF DESIGN AND BUILDING CONTRACTS (DESIGN & BUILD SFC)

Design and Build SFC is more user friendly than its predecessors, drafted in plain English and contains a number of novel provisions, such as clearer consequences upon termination and corruption as one of the grounds to terminate.

8. DIGITAL CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

All newly registered cases have been managed electronically through the AIAC's Case Management System. This digitisation of all incoming and outgoing documents relating to

all adjudication proceedings registered at the AIAC and thus, ultimately, establish a “paperless” record system.

9. SPORTS ARBITRATION

AIAC held its second Sports Arbitration Training Course in September 2017. The AIAC was named as the dispute resolution body for sporting disputes at the 2017 South East Asian Games.

10. AIAC-YOUNG PRACTITIONERS’ GROUP (YPG)

The AIAC YPG has over 1,000 members both locally and internationally and it continues to grow. It an attempt to disseminate information pertaining to ADR and to ensure that the future practitioners are exposed to ADR from the time they are in law school.

11. AALCO ANNUAL ARBITRATION FORUM 2018

21st and 22nd July 2018, the AIAC hosted the “The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (the AALCO) Annual Arbitration Forum 2018”. This forum coincided with the 40th year anniversary of the AIAC. The AALCO Annual Arbitration Forum is the first event of its kind that brought together all five Arbitration Centres established under the auspices of AALCO. Gracing the occasion with their presence were AIAC Director Datuk Professor Sundra Rajoo; AALCO Secretary-General HE Dr. Prof. Kennedy Gastorn; the Honourable Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra; the Honourable Professor Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs of Tanzania; YB Datuk Liew Vui Keong, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Law) of Malaysia; Professor Dato’ Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Eminent Persons Group of AALCO; Court of Appeal Judge of Malaysia, YA Datuk Nallini Pathmanathan; and Chief Justice of Zambia, Irene Chirwa Mambilima.

The event garnered active participation from stakeholders in Asia and Africa. The Speakers of this event were mainly practitioners and academics based in Asia and Africa with expertise in ADR mechanisms and investment law. Close to 300 participants attended this event.

12. DOMAIN NAME DISPUTE RESOLUTION

AIAC currently represents the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre by acting as its Kuala Lumpur Office . Under that umbrella, and as the exclusive dispute resolution service provider for *.my* and *.by* disputes.

13. AIAC AS ALTERNATIVE TO COURT FOR ARBITRATION FOR SPORTS (CAS)

CAS officially recognised AIAC as its only official Alternative Hearing Centre in Asia. AIAC also continues to work closely with the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM). Currently, the AIAC is spearheading the development of a mechanism for the resolution of sporting disputes in Malaysia through arbitration.

14. INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION CASES

AIAC is a longstanding partner of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. States have agreed on ICSID as a forum for investor-State dispute settlement in most international investment treaties and in numerous investment laws and contracts. AIAC and ICSID entered into an Agreement in 2014 as per which AIAC can be used as an

alternative hearing venue for ICSID cases and participate in the administration of case if the parties so decide.

15. CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS

AIAC strongly believes in collaboration and cooperation as the way forward and has entered into co-operation agreements with 48 bodies around the globe.

16. COLLABORATION WITH THE COMPANIES COMMISSION, MALAYSIA

The AIAC is in talks with the Companies Commission of Malaysia to create a dispute resolution system for Intra-Companies Dispute. The AIAC is also in the process of creating and conducting a training program in association with the Companies Commission for Directors and other officials on the theme of “Corporate Dispute Resolution Policy for Companies.”

17. CIPAA 2012

With the naming of the AIAC as the adjudication authority by virtue of Part V of the Construction Industry Payment & Adjudication Act 2012 (“the CIPAA”), the centre has a key role to play in its capacity as the default appointing and administrative authority under the CIPAA. AIAC has empanelled 466 new adjudicators as at the end of the 2018 fiscal year. The AIAC also regularly conducts its Adjudication Certification Programme, which resulted in an approximate 25% increase in the number of Malaysian adjudicators empanelled. The AIAC in its continued effort to raise awareness on CIPAA as well as to train future adjudicators to be part of the AIAC Panel of Adjudicators, the AIAC Certificate in Adjudication Programme was conducted twice in 2017 and once in first half of 2018. In 2017 the first session was held on the from 5th May – 9th May 2017 and the second session was held from 18th November – 22nd November 2017. In 2018, the first course was held from 7th-11th April 2018. Besides, CIPAA Conference were organized in 2017 and 2018 with theme “Breaking Barriers” on 17th May 2017 and theme of “Sharing Solution” was organized on 7th May 2018.

18. CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

In its continuous effort in capacity building and disseminating information on ADR, the AIAC organises various courses and forums on arbitration, adjudication and mediation.

Diploma in Sports Arbitration

AIAC was named as dispute resolution body for sports disputes at 2017 South East Asian Games. Thus, Malaysia holds potential to become centre of sports arbitration as an alternative to Court of Arbitration for Sports, Lausanne, Switzerland. AIAC conducted Certificate Programme in Sports Arbitration from 25th-28th September 2017. The course was attended by more than 50 participants from Malaysia and across the globe.

AIAC Talk Series

The AIAC Talk Series is a sequence of monthly talks held at the Centre. It is a free forum that is meant to be informative to all those who are interested in arbitration and ADR. Attendees are made up of senior legal practitioners, government agencies, NGO's, academics, judicial officers, students and the general public. Each talk features an ADR specialist who focuses on a specific topic. AIAC held the following talks in 2017-18:

1. **Culture in International Arbitration: A Sino-European Comparison** (Ing Loong Yang, Sophie Lamb & Tan Sri Cecil Abraham), 11 July 2017
2. **Counterclaims in Investor-State Arbitration: Lessons Learned and a Look Ahead** (Olga Sola & Eleonora Szulc), 6 September 2017
3. **Maritime Law & Arbitration: A Young Lawyer's Perspective** (Trishelea Sandosam, Clive Selvapandian & Cahaya Narimas Faad), 19 September 2017
4. **Arbitration Seminar & Screening of the Quiet Triumph** (Tan Sri Dato' Cecil Abraham, Andrina Sukna & Tatiana Polevshchikova), 26 September 2017.
5. **Incorporation of Arbitration Clauses in Bills of Lading** (James David), 27 November 2017.
6. **Dispute Boards, Conflict Avoidance Panels and Hybrid Dispute Resolution Process: Upstarts or Mainstreams** (Michael Cover, John Wright & Datuk Professor Sundra Rajoo), 15 November 2017
7. **Managing Domain Name Disputes in a Transforming Cyberspace** (Alonso Castilla) 28 November 2017
8. **State of Play: Legal Frameworks Governing The Athlete** (Briang Song, Dato' M Rajasekaran, Dr Zaidi Hashim, Stanley Bernard), 24 January 2018
9. **How To Build on Success & Avoid Pitfalls in International Infrastructure Projects** (Adrian Hughes, Marion Smith, Ben Olbourne, Smrithi Ramesh), 26 January 2018
10. **Malaysia's Maritime Industry: Overview, Issues, Challenges & Outlook** (Nazery Khalid, Clive Navin Selvapandian & Trishelea Sandosam), 26 January 2018
11. **Workshop on UDRP Rules: Expert Approach to Initiate Domain Name Disputes** (Timothy Siaw, Deepak Pillai, Hemalatha Parasa Ramulu, Melanie Fernandez), 14 March 2018
12. **Combining Arbitration & Mediation: Procedural Safeguards** (Nancy A. Walsh, Shanti Abraham), 15 March 2018

13. **Masterclass on Use of Experts in International Arbitration** (Jane Davies Evans, Aniz Ahmad Amirudin), 19 March 2018
14. **What's Really Worth?: Understanding & Resolving Business Valuation Disputes** (Iain Potter & Harald Sippel), 28 March 2018
15. **Reflections on Hearing & Advocacy in Investment Treaty Arbitration** (Dr. Gavan Griffith QC, Lim Tse Wei), 29th March 2018
16. **Access to Justice: Out of Competition Independent Adjudication** (Hon Sir Bruce Robertson, Izham Ishmail, Michelle Sunita Kumar) 19 April 2018

AIAC Conference / Forum / Training Programmes

AIAC also organised impactful conferences, forums and training programmes to advocate and spread the use of ADR.

1. **Kuala Lumpur International ADR Week**, May 2017, Kuala Lumpur
2. **AIAC Standard Form of Building Contracts**, August 2017, Kuala Lumpur
3. **KLRCA Belt & Road Conference: Cross Border Investments & ADR**, September 2017, Kuala Lumpur
4. **AIAC Certificate Programme in Sports Arbitration**, September 2017, Kuala Lumpur
5. **Official Launch of AIAC New Rules 2018**, March 2018, Kuala Lumpur
6. **Asia ADR Week**, May 2018, Kuala Lumpur
7. **2nd AIAC-ICC Pre Moot for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot**, March 2018, Kuala Lumpur

Other events

AIAC also co-organised and participated in the following seminars and forums where the Centre delivered presentations and talks to further spread the awareness of ADR amongst the public and Malaysia as having a strong ADR platform for investors and industries to believe in.

1. **Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Islamic Finance**, September 2017, Kuala Lumpur
2. **Standard Form of Building Contracts**, September, 2017 Sarawak, Malaysia

3. **One Belt One Road: Legal Aspect of Doing Business in China, AIAC- China ASEAN Legal Cooperation Center, September 2017, Kuala Lumpur**
4. **2nd Maritime Law Conference - Currents of Change: Meeting Challenges, October 2017, joint initiative of AIAC and International Malaysian Society of Maritime Law, Kuala Lumpur**
5. **The Jonathan Yoon MIArb Debate Series, October 2017, AIAC-MIArb joint initiative, Kuala Lumpur**
6. **Workshops on Handling Delay & Prolongation Cost Claims, November 2017, AIAC-Society of Construction Law, Kuala Lumpur**
7. **IBA APAG International Arbitration Training Day: Introduction of IBA Soft Laws, November 2017, Hanoi, Vietnam**
8. **Financing Your Dispute: The Use of Third Party Funding, November 2017, AIAC-HKIAC, Kuala Lumpur**
9. **Seoul Academy for International Arbitration 2017, November 2017, Seoul**
10. **6th Annual International Conference - INBA's 68th Constitution Day, November 2017, New Delhi**
11. **LexTech Conference 2017 : The Future of Law - Experience Tomorrow's Legal Innovations Today, November 2017, CyberJaya**
12. **SIAC Academy - Time and Cost Savers at SIAC: Emergency Arbitration, Expedited Procedure and Early Dismissal, November 2017, Singapore**
13. **5th International Arbitration Conference, November 2017, Perth**
14. **CABE Malaysia Annual Conference 2018: Developing Professional Practice and Responsibility, January 2018, Kuala Lumpur**
15. **AIAC-MIArb Shaping The Future Of Arbitration In Malaysia Conference, February 2018, Kuala Lumpur**
16. **AMINZ-ICCA International Arbitration Day: Making Arbitration Work in a Changing World - A Pacific View, April 2018, New Zealand**
17. **CIETAC Lunch Seminar: A Tale of Three Seats, April 2018, Sydney**
18. **AIAC-Sports Law Association Malaysia (SLAM) Access to Justice: Out of Competition Independent Adjudication, April 2018, Kuala Lumpur**

19. MEDIA REPORTING AND RECOGNITION

The accomplishments and efforts in promoting AIAC have been recognised in both the domestic and international arena. Listed below are the publications that featured AIAC in regards to its contribution and development in the arbitral fraternity, as well as in construction adjudication:

- Asian Legal Business, 5 April 2017 – KLRCA see Surge in ADR cases
- The Sun Daily, 15 May 2017 – Malaysia Plans to Play Major Role as Arbitration Centre under Belt-Road Initiative
- The Star Online, 15 August 2017 – KLRCA is World’s First Arbitral Centre to Launch Own Standard Form Building Contracts.
- The Edge Markets, 16 August 2017 – KLRCA Launches Standard Form of Building Contracts

20. CONCLUSION

AIAC continues its pursuit to become the preferred arbitration and multi-service global hub for Alternative Dispute Resolution and is grateful for the full support of AALCO, the Malaysian Government and other stakeholders, such as the Judiciary and the Malaysian Bar as well as the local and international arbitral community. Despite the change in identity, AIAC takes pride in its legacy of 40 years as the first arbitral institution under AALCO. This new identity is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to become leader and innovator in ADR services and holistic dispute management.

III. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CAIRO REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (CRCICA)

Message from the Director

2017 was another year of achievements for CRCICA. 65 new Cases were filed before the Centre making a total of 1226 by the end of the year. In 2018 and until the issuance of this report, the total number reached 1273.

CRCICA Events were a tremendous highlight of the year; just as Cairo stands at the gateway to Africa and the Middle East, so does CRCICA stands at the gateway to the African-Middle Eastern arbitration community. In 2017, CRCICA organized and hosted regional and international events jointly with UNCITRAL, ICCA, University of London, AILA, IBA, ABA, BIAC and AIAC (formerly KLRCA).

CRCICA-organized Trainings over the year were also remarkable annual achievements; our institutional establishment in the field since the 80's brought about a unique tripartite educational Parallelism. CRCICA Training Platform, the CIArb Cairo Educational Path and the CRCICA/ABA Distinguished Lawyers Program all work in parallel under the administration of CRCICA, exposing both the British and the American methodology as flavored by local and regional peculiarities.

This status quo of CRCICA's venue, turns it, both materially and conceptually into a regional training hub with users from all around the world. Last year, CRCICA welcomed visiting stakeholders representing 40 different nationalities.

In support of CRCICA's diversification plan, CRCICA devoted a considerable part of its annual activities to boost relations with Africa and to support and promote the growth and promotion of arbitration in Sub-Saharan Africa all over the year. Our first African Arbitration Week was a striking launch of CRCICA's orientation towards the land of the Sahara over the year. It is worth noting that consistent inter-African collaboration in 2017, with CRCICA as a main contributor, had led to the formation of the African Arbitration Association (AFAA) as Africa's first umbrella organization in the field. I am honored to have been elected as a founding member of the AFAA Board in sole representation of North Africa.

It was not all about Africa; the spirit of our Afro-Asian cooperation was quite echoed in CRCICA's 2017 record. Particularly, the signing of the historic Belt and Road Arbitration Initiative Agreement with the BIAC and AIAC (formerly KLRCA) came to mark a unique institutional coalition across the Afro-Asian Region.

Along regional inter-institutional cooperation, collaboration with one of the world's longest established arbitration institutions, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, was among the top scores of the year. Quoting Mr. Hugo Siblesz, PCA Secretary-General, *"the signing of this cooperation agreement only marks the formalization of our relationship that has existed for a long time"*.

A remarkably salient feature of CRCICA's 2017 media profile is the unprecedented featuring of its news and successes over the year in international and regional publications; the Global

Arbitration Review (GAR), the world's leading source of arbitration news, published stories about almost all our annual achievements. Also, arbitration briefings of international law firms as well as international scholastic studies highlighted CRCICA's leading role in the MENA Region and across the Afro-Asian Lands.

Before going further into detailed reporting, CRCICA would like to pay tribute to the Former Director, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf for his tremendous achievements.

Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf: Recognition and Appreciation

CRCICA is internationally known to have “had a string of highly respected directors” and for being “well managed” to quote credible international sources. Dr. Abdel Raouf has ended an unrivaled four-year-term on 31 December 2016 but decided not to renew for a second one. Under Dr. Abdel Raouf Directorship, CRCICA witnessed important developments, which originated in many projects that Dr. Abdel Raouf successfully planned and implemented. During the period from 2012 to 2016, CRCICA Arbitration Rules as amended in 2011 were tested and proved to be a successful mechanism.

To clarify the application of the Rules, the Centre issued in June 2014 its Practice Notes, based on the decisions taken by the Centre's Advisory Committee (AC). They included eight Practice Notes determining the discretion and role of the Centre as well as its policies regarding decisions to be made under its Rules. Furthermore, CRCICA published the main trends deduced from the decisions of the tripartite ad hoc committees formed from among the members of CRCICA's Advisory Committee in matters of challenge and removal of arbitrators, outlining the grounds of the requests for challenge and removal as well as the decisions issued by the tripartite ad hoc committees, which led to important conclusions about the salient grounds for the upholding or rejection of the requests. Since 2012, CRCICA has been the seat of the first in Africa Alternative Hearing Centre (AHC) of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

In 2013, the Centre issued its Mediation Rules. This came alongside many efforts and projects implemented in cooperation with the IFC to spread mediation culture and help the parties reaching amicable settlements for their disputes. Dr. Abdel Raouf undertook important renovations in the Centre's premises. A new hearing center was officially inaugurated on 26 December 2013, which includes hearing rooms containing high-tech equipment and facilities to enable the Centre to manage large and complex cases. In 2016, the Conference Center was renovated to host important events and conferences organized by the Centre.

Another important achievement of Dr. Abdel Raouf was to focus on the training of Egyptian and Middle Eastern practitioners. Hence, the Centre was approved as a Recognized Course Provider of the training courses qualifying for the membership of the prestigious Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb). By virtue of this unique stance in the whole Arab region, CRCICA is entitled to hold two CI Arb modules for both lawyers and non-lawyers, entitling the successful candidates to apply for the CI Arb membership.

In September 2016, the Centre renewed its cooperation with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) to develop and administer a unique continuing legal education program (CLE) program. To encourage future practitioners, Dr. Abdel Raouf encouraged hosting

arbitration moots for students. At least four arbitration moots organized by universities and law firms were hosted by the Centre during the last two years.

The Centre continued to issue its most important publications, namely, the collection of its awards in both Arabic and English, and the Arab Journal of Arbitration.

On the institutional level, the Centre's Advisory committee held regularly quarterly meetings and was consulted on various technical and legal issues. The Centre's Board of Trustees (BOT) held regularly its annual meetings and examined the Centre's caseload, activities and financial statements. A new website was designed and operated, allowing the users to view the Centre's Rules, register to its activities and calculate the arbitration costs of their potential claims.

During his term as Director, CRCICA won the prestigious GAR Award for the regional institution of 2013. "in recognition of its great strides in the past year". In 2014, CRCICA has been recognized by the Assessment Report mandated by the African Development Bank, released in April 2014 as one of "the best arbitration centres across the African Continent and can readily be recommended for use by parties from both the African continent and elsewhere". CRCICA holds in high regards Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf's achievements and unique contributions and wish him all success in his new phase of professional life.

CRCICA is on the White List of the GAR Guide to Regional Arbitration in 2017 Middle East and Africa

The GAR Guide to Regional Arbitration 2017 topped CRCICA on the White List for Middle East and Africa together with the Dubai International Financial Centre - London Court of International Arbitration (DIFC-LCIA). The Report represents GAR's pick of the best institutions across the Middle East and Africa including a total of ten centres in the Middle East and Africa and solely enrolls two among them on its White List. It is notable that CRCICA has been prestigiously listed since 2013 onwards in the GAR Regional Guide and the 2017 version comes to symbolize a prideful peak by enrolling CRCICA on the White List.

According to the Report, CRCICA is the "granddaddy" of arbitration in the region. It has been operating for more than 35 years, during which time it has administered more than 1,000 cases, many with an international element. Other local organizations look to it for inspiration. It has been operating for long enough to have encountered most situations at least once.

These factors ranked CRCICA as "*the current class of the field*" in the Middle East. As reported in the Guide, this stance is the accumulative outcome of the efforts of a string of highly respected directors. That's why the Report finds CRCICA to be well managed.

The Guide estimates the scope of functionality of the Centre as well as the nationalities of parties and arbitrators to CRCICA-administered disputes and rates CRCICA to be "a true regional player". It is also seen to be increasingly attracting more international arbitrators.

CRCICA Board of Trustees Meeting, 10 December 2017

On 10 December 2017, the CRCICA Board of Trustees (BOT) held its annual meeting at CRCICA Premises. The meeting was presided by Dr. Nabil ELARABY (Chairman/Egypt), supported by two Vice-Chairs; Coun. Amin EL MAHDY (Vice-Chair / Egypt) and Prince Dr. Bandar Ben Salman Al SAUD (Vice-Chair/ Saudi Arabia). During the meeting, in support of CRCICA's strategic vision of diversity and global integration, the Board appointed seven new members with the ratio of 5:2 (non-Egyptians: Egyptians), taking the overall number of BOT members to 25 representing 13 countries; Bahrain, Cameroon, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain and Sweden. The new BOT members are: Prof. Dr. Mohamed ABDEL RAOUF (Egypt), Sheikha Haya Rashed AL KHALIFA (Bahrain), Mr. Ulf FRANKE (Sweden), Prof. Emmanuel GAILLARD (France), Dr. Gaston KENFACK (Cameroon), Prof. Dr. Fathi WALY (Egypt), and Prof. Nassib ZIADÉ (Chile - Lebanon). The new appointments are effective as of 1 January 2018.

During the meeting, CRCICA Director provided a presentation to the Board on the Centre's activities and caseload in 2016-2017, the administrative and managerial developments in 2017 as well as its audited financial statement of operations for the year ending on 31 December 2016. The BOT unanimously recognised the achievements of the CRCICA over the past year and expressed its acknowledgment of the efforts and devotion of Dr. Hamza Haddad (Jordan) the former Vice-President of the BOT who resigned as of 1 January 2018.

Advisory Committee Meetings

CRCICA Advisory Committee held three meetings during 2017; on 8 April, 8 June and 21 October 2017. Two new members attended the first AC Meeting; Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Raouf (Egypt) and Dr. Emilia Onyema (Nigeria) while Counsellor Amin El Mahdi (Egypt) was unanimously elected to be the Chairman of the AC for the coming four years substituting Dr. Ahmed Sadek El Kosheri (Egypt). Among the topics discussed by AC members over the year: CRCICA's orientation for the coming four years, the issuance of the French version of CRCICA Arbitration Rules, repeated appointment of arbitrators raised by CRCICA cases' incidents, the amendment of the Centre's Practice Note related to the application of Article 10.3 of the Centre's Arbitration Rules and the approval of the Note in its final version, and possible interpretations of a decision of the Egyptian Court of Cassation on the Challenge of Arbitrators.

CRCICA new appointments and promotions

On the 1st of September 2017, CRCICA's Director issued many decisions including a new appointment and some promotions of a number of CRCICA staff to various positions, all scaled at the international-officer rank according to Article 8 of the Headquarter Agreement concluded between AALCO and the Egyptian Government in 1987.

Dr. Dalia Hussein was appointed as Deputy Director of the Centre; Mr. Said Hassanein was promoted to Associate Director and Head of Administrative and Financial Affairs Department; Mr. Khaled Osman was promoted to Associate Director and Head of Dispute Management Department; Mrs. Wissam Elmolla was promoted to Associate Director and Head of

Conferences, Training and External Relations Department; both Mr. Remon Ramzy and Ms. Heba Salem were promoted to Counsels.

Later in the year, the following employees joined CRCICA: Mr. Georges Ghali, Case Manager and Legal Researcher; Mrs. Noha Wahsh, Marketing & Communication Officer; Mr. Sherief Ahmed, Information Technology Supervisor; Mrs. Shireen Fathy, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. Tamer El-Kharadly, Financial Controller.

New Logo: Introducing CRCICA New Brand Identity

In September 2017, CRCICA launched a new logo as part of the ongoing evolution of CRCICA's brand. The logo was altered to reflect the present and to symbolize the future. Basically, the new logo crystalizes the acronym "CRCICA" as the Centre's most popular identification label. Symbolically, the framing circle becomes borderless to denote whirling dynamism. Out of pride of its history and heritage, CRCICA retained the logo's core elements, the scale and the map. The image of the scale stands for justice and the Afro-Asian map reflects the Centre's regional scope of expertise and roots deriving from the Asian African Legal Consultation Organisation ("AALCO"). The Global Arbitration Review (GAR) reported the new logo to be *"highlighting Cairo's central position between the two continents and potential to balance the interests of both continents in the administration of justice"*.

CRCICA Director appointed IFCAI Secretary Treasurer, 16 October 2017

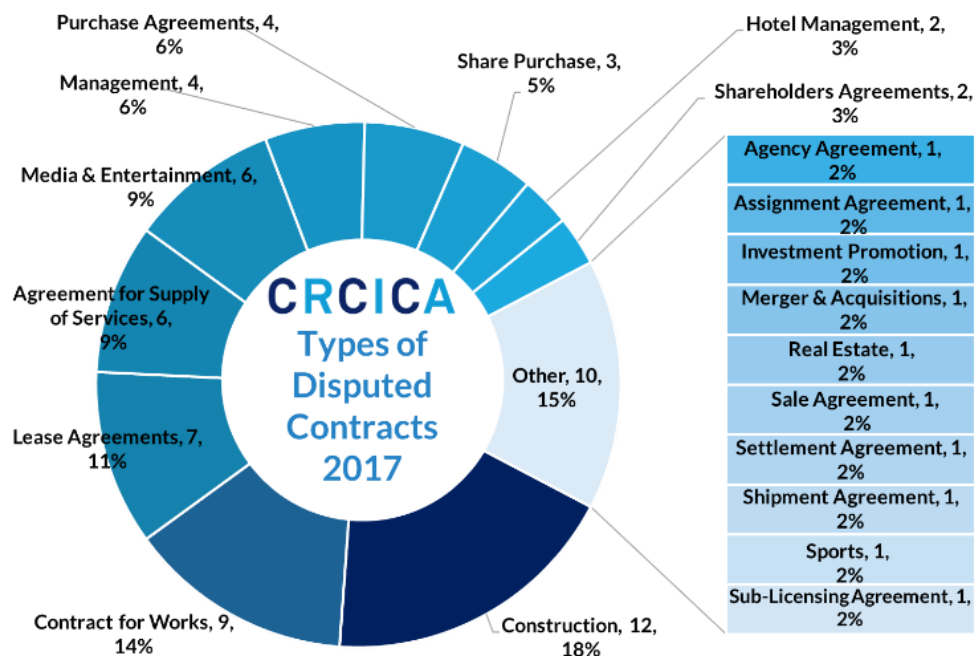
On 16 October 2017, Dr. Ismail Selim, CRCICA Director was appointed as the Secretary Treasurer of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), by virtue of a decision of the IFCAI's General Assembly held during the Hong Kong Arbitration Week. The General Assembly was attended by representatives of 12 international arbitral institutions. Collaboration between CRCICA and IFCAI started as early as 1986. The late Dr. Mohamed Aboul-Enein, CRCICA Former Director and the father of its renaissance over nearly 30 years, was elected as Vice-President of the Federation for many terms and in 2001, he was elected as Chairman of the IFCAI Institutional Section. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, CRCICA Former Director was also elected as the Vice President of the Federation in the past.

CRCICA Caseload of the year 2017

The CRCICA Caseload for the entire year 2017 has been published at the Global Arbitration Review ("GAR"). 65 new cases were filed during 2017 compared to 91 new cases in 2016. Accordingly, the total number of arbitration cases filed before CRCICA until 31 December 2017 reached 1226 cases.

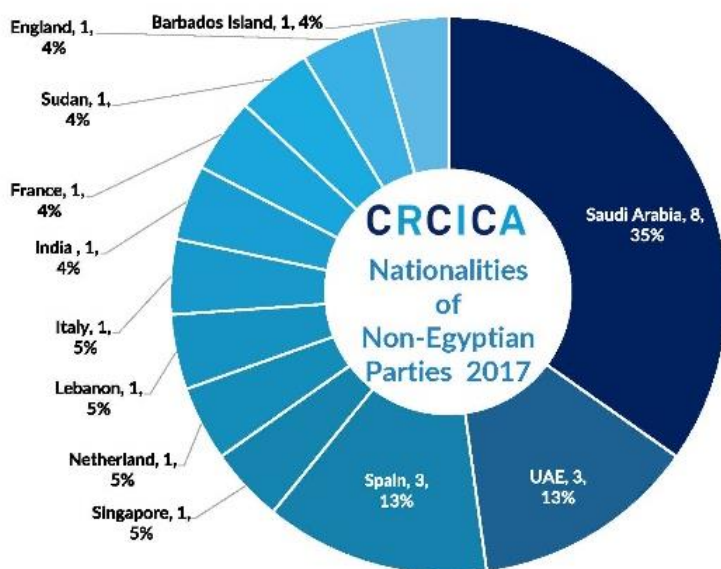
In 2017, disputes arising from construction and other contracts for works (such as contracts for implementation of electro-mechanical works, etc.) ranked on top, with 32 % of the total number of cases, followed by lease agreements, media and entertainment and other contracts for supply of services.

The types of disputes are shown in the figure below:



The Parties to the disputes included 23 Non-Egyptian Parties. Parties from Saudi Arabia ranked on top of Non-Egyptian parties referring their disputes to the Centre followed by parties from Spain and the U.A.E. At the third rank came parties from Singapore, Netherland, Italy, India, France, the United Kingdom and Barbados Island.

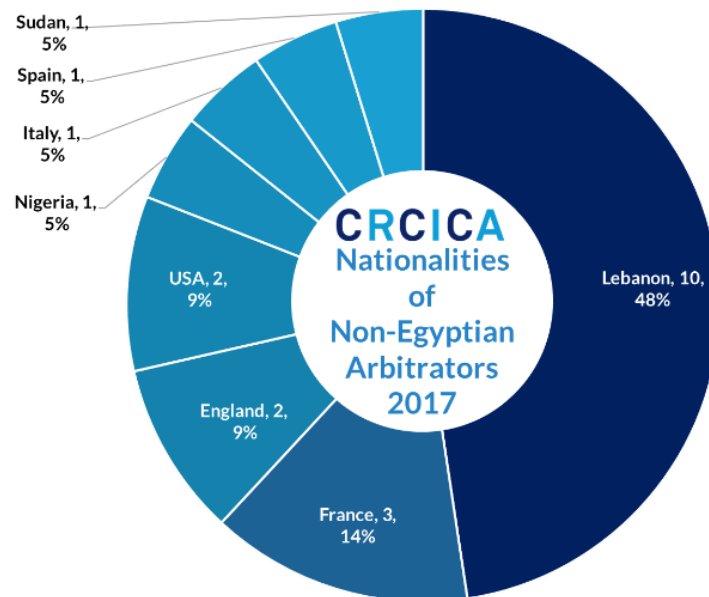
The Parties to the disputes included 23 Non-Egyptian Parties, shown in the figure below:



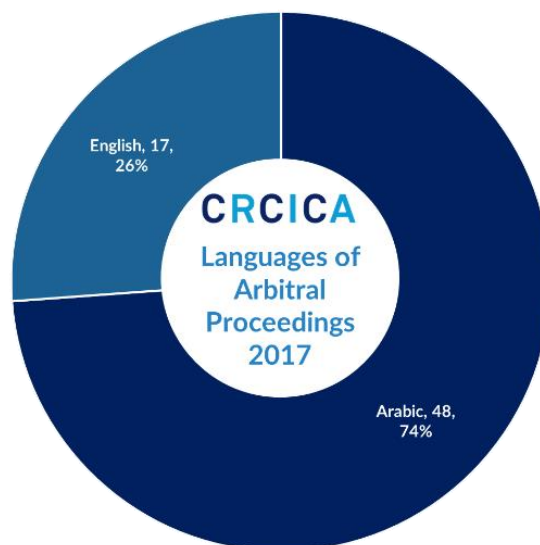
It is worth noting that the above statistics are very conservative as they do not include Egyptian joint stock companies owned or ultimately controlled by non-Egyptian shareholders. 2017 also

witnessed the appointment of arbitrators coming from Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon, Nigeria, Spain, Sudan, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

Nationalities of Non-Egyptian arbitrators are shown in the figure below:



In 2017, Arabic was the language of arbitration in 48 cases while English was the Language of arbitration in 17 cases. Having launched the French version of its Arbitration Rules in 2017 and having increased its French speaking personnel, the CRCICA is ready to administer cases in French in the coming years. The percentage of cases in English vs Arabic as the language of arbitration in 2017 is illustrated in the figure below.



CRCICA as an Appointing Authority: A Tribute to Neutrality and Diversity

The year 2017 has witnessed the signature by the CRCICA of the Pledge for Equal Representation in Arbitration 2017, by virtue of which the CRCICA, taking into consideration the interest of the parties, the nature of the case and the interest of arbitral justice, implements a regional, gender and age diversity policy when it acts as appointing authority.

Accordingly, diversity is taken into consideration when the Centre is invited to appoint directly arbitrators instead of a defaulting party and when the Centre proceeds to appointments through communication to the parties of identical lists including the names of at least three arbitrators, according to Article 8.3 and 9.3 of its Arbitration Rules. The said lists usually include the name of a competent female arbitrator or a competent arbitrator under the age of forty or from a region where competent arbitrators merit a closer look and were traditionally less appointed compared to arbitrators from other regions. The “identical list” procedure, in accordance with articles 8(3) and 9(3) of the rules is viewed by the CRCICA as mean of involving the parties themselves in the process of appointing the sole or presiding arbitrator.

In implementation of this diversity policy, the CRCICA has appointed in 2017 notable Nigerian and Sudanese arbitrators and one female arbitrator in cases where it was acting as appointing authority. A number of 5 arbitrators under the age of forty were also appointed by the CRCICA for their first time in various cases during 2017.

GAR Arbitration Costs Compared: CRCICA the Most Cost-Effective

In September 2017, GAR published, “Arbitration costs compared”, a survey comparing the costs of 18 major arbitral institutions prepared by a team led by Louis Flannery, Head of International arbitration at Stephenson Harwood.

In this survey, CRCICA is the only representative of Africa and one of only two arbitration centres representing the MENA Region out of 18 major arbitration institutions from all over the world.

According to the Study, CRCICA costs are the cheapest in case of one arbitrator and among the three most affordable in case of three arbitrators until the dispute amount of US\$ 1 million. This important finding renders CRCICA among the most suitable arbitration institutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As of the amount of US\$ 5 million and beyond, CRCICA’s arbitration costs slightly fluctuate within the middle level.

CRCICA Releases the French Version of its Rules

On 31 March 2017, CRCICA released the French Version of its Arbitration Rules. The translation was prepared by Native French Legal Professionals under the supervision of Dr. Ismail Selim, the director of the CRCICA, and was gratefully reviewed by Me. Phillipe Deboulanger, Cabinet Leboulanger & Associés (France) who rated it as “an extremely good work”. The linguistic effect of the French version was tested and well received by top international arbitrators. Prof. Emmanuel

Gaillard, Partner and Head of International Arbitration, Shearman & Sterling LLP, “think(s) the text is excellent and faithfully reflects the English version, with which most users are familiar”. The issuance of the French Version of CRCICA Rules comes responsive to users’ needs as well as global criterial reviews, specifically after the issuance of a Report by the African Development Bank ranking CRCICA as one of the Best Arbitration Centres across the African Continent and Elsewhere and recommending that CRCICA should consider issuing a French version of the Rules to facilitate administering cases in French. The release of the new version, coupled with good number of CRCICA’s staff members mastering the French language, provide the technical and logistical groundwork necessary to encourage the administration of cases in French.

Releasing the French version catches chords with the Centre’s strategic vision to exceed its level of cooperation within Africa. As Africa’s oldest arbitration institution, CRCICA has been largely acknowledged as the Continent’s leading Arbitration Institution (Africa Legal Briefings, HERBERT SMITH, February 2017), a research-oriented posture strongly supported by CRCICA’s prestigious enrollment on GAR’s White List of the Guide to Regional Arbitration in 2017 Middle East and Africa. Tooling the Centre with the technical and logistical mechanisms that are necessary to operate within the Francophone Africa, is such an indispensable requirement to preserve this stance.

Leading International Arbitration Practitioners support the issuance of the French Rules as an important business development initiative. Prof. Emmanuel Gaillard, believes that “the French version will be most useful in promoting CRCICA as a natural choice for disputes involving Africa, especially Western and Central Africa”. Dr. Gaston Kenfack, the Ex-President of the UNCITRAL, considers that “(the) Rules are modern, flexible and adaptable because they are inspired by the UNCITRAL Rules”. He further states: “this French version will indisputably allow the CRCICA to open to the African French speaking countries”. Home-grown international practitioners strongly support the initiative; Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Abdel Raouf Law Firm, opines that “the recent adoption of the excellent French version of CRCICA’s Arbitration Rules is a major development that was highly recommended by the African Development Bank Group in order for CRCICA to attract parties from the whole of the African continent”.

The initiative, also, triggers echoes in purely French businesses. A number of in-house counsels in French companies agrees that the issuance of the French Arbitration Rules rings a bell that “a set of regionally based arbitration tools and mechanisms is out there and is worth considering.”

To build on this key developmental initiative, CRCICA has firm plans to translate into French its other Rules and regulatory texts such as the Practice Notes and the Mediation Rules. Contributing to the French-language arbitration literature is another important target. To this end, it is being considered to add a French Section to the Arab Arbitration Journal which currently features an English section. CRCICA will continue to explore the needs and expectations of French-oriented businesses having trade and investment interests in Africa and the Middle East.

CRCICA Events 2017:

A Regional Gateway for International Institutions

As Cairo stands at the gateway to Africa and the Middle East, so does CRCICA stands at the gateway to the African-Middle Eastern arbitration community. The 2017 CRCICA events are quite a clear token of this vantage point.

On 2 April 2017, the Centre hosted the African International Legal Awareness's (AILA) Conference: **"A Paradigm Shift in International Investment Law"**. The conference was co-organized by the Faculty of Law, University of Geneva and attended by international and African experts from 12 countries.

On 3 April 2017, CRCICA hosted **the ICCA's Second Consultative Workshop on African Arbitration Practice**. 22 Participants were in attendance from all across the Continent and discussed cooperation in education and training, creation of online resources on African arbitral practice, provision of technical assistance, and the creation of an umbrella organization dedicated to the promotion and development of international arbitration and arbitrators in Africa, later launched in June 2018 as the African Arbitration Association (AFAA).

On 3-5 April 2017, SOAS University of London jointly with CRCICA organized ***"The Role of African States and Governments in Supporting the Development of Arbitration in Africa"*** Conference. The agenda discussed institutional arbitration in Africa, the attitude of African governments towards the legal environment for investment arbitration, and views from outside Africa and responses from government ministers. There was also a roundtable examining arbitration-related UNCITRAL texts and their adoption by African states. Speakers represented 20 countries, and was attended by 123 participants from 26 countries.

December was exceptionally busy at CRCICA where five different arbitration events were held consecutively, bringing the works and regional inclinations of six international institutions, UNCITRAL, ICCA, IBA, ABA, BIAC and KLRCA (now Asian International Arbitration Centre" AIAC"), under CRCICA limelight.

On 2 December 2017, CRCICA organized and hosted in cooperation with ICCA and the National Centre for Judicial Studies "the Second Cairo ICCA New York Convention (NYC) Roadshow". The program included three sessions; an overview of the New York Convention, its objectives, means of interpretation and salient comparative judicial application, the role of the Arbitration Department within the Ministry of Justice in the enforcement of the arbitration awards guided by the New York Convention, and the role of the national judge in the international arbitration process from the perspectives of both practitioners and judges. The event was attended by Egyptian judges and discussions were led by arbitration and post-arbitral proceedings practitioners.

On 9-10 December 2017, CRCICA organized jointly with the UNCITRAL the regionally exclusive celebratory Conference of UNCITRAL's 50th Anniversary: **"Global Inclusion and Dispute Resolution Harmonizing Trends in International Arbitration"** at CRCICA Auditorium. Similar celebratory conferences were held in Austria, Cameroon and India. The Cairo version was the exclusive one in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region. The conference addressed the UNCITRAL contributions in the field of dispute settlement over 50 years with particular focus on the New York Convention and its applications, the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law and

Arbitration Rules. Conference's speakers were from 14 countries, participants, totaling 125, came from 20 countries. During the Conference, the historic signing ceremony of the CRCICA/ Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) cooperation agreement took place. **Among other modes of cooperation, the agreement enables PCA hearings to take place at CRCICA premises and vice versa.**

On 11 December 2017, CRCICA hosted a **Young ICCA Workshop entitled: International Arbitration: Procedural Tactics and Strategies** which was followed by **the IBA Arb40 Toolkit for Award Writing Training Program** having focused on practical guidance and tips for writing a reasoned and enforceable award.

On 12 December 2017, CRCICA organized a significant conference on: The Belt and Road Initiative: Economic Legal Landscape and Dispute Settlement in collaboration with the Beijing International Arbitration Center (BIAC) and the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (now the Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC")).

The conference's program focused on the legal environment in Egypt with regard to the B & R, the new prospects for international trade and industry out of both domestic and international perspectives, the financial and contractual framework of infrastructure development projects, and the impact of the B & R initiative on the future of dispute settlement with specific focus on the BIAC/CRCICA/KLRCA (now AIAC) Arbitration Initiative. Attendees came from 14 different countries with very remarkable presence of Chinese and Malaysian businesses and diplomats in Egypt.

CIArb Cairo Wednesday One Seminars:

The CRCICA-hosted CIArb Cairo Wednesday One Seminars during 2017 featured the following topics: New Trends in Arbitration in Morocco held on 28 of February 2017, Anti-suit Injunctions: A tool to enforce the Arbitration Agreement held on 26 April 2017, The New Egyptian Investment Law held on 3 May 2017, Arbitration in the UAE: Theory and Application held on 12 July 2017, The Stock Market in Egypt held on 29 November 2017, and International Dispute Settlement: Lessons Learned held on 19 December 2017.

CRCICA Trainings 2017: Distinction and Diversity

Proudly, CRCICA training and public awareness activities work in three parallel lines, CRCICA Events, the trainings of CIArb Cairo (seated at and administered by CRCICA) and more recently the ABA/CRCICA Distinguished Lawyers Program which CRCICA develops and administers in close collaboration with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (MENA Region). While the ABA ROLI has various funded projects in countries of the MENA Region, the Distinguished Lawyers Program stands as an unprecedented initiative solely administered by and relying on the know-how of a local/regional institution while keeping the ABA Brand.

This status quo of CRCICA's venue, turns it, both materially and conceptually into a regional training hub with users from all across the region.

With that being said, 2017 witnessed a variety of training programs along three parallel paths; CRCICA Training Platform, the CIArb Cairo Educational Path and the CRCICA/ABA Distinguished Lawyers Program.

In its' capacity as a CIArb Recognized Course Provider, on 10-15 July and 17-23 September 2017, CRCICA successively held **Module 1: Law of Obligations and Civil Evidence** under the customized thematic approach “**The Contract and the Rules of Responsibility and Evidence**” and **Module 2: Law of Arbitration** under the customized theme “**Comparative Commercial Arbitration, Theory and Practice**”, both qualifying for the membership of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The Program, with its two modules, stroke a unique balance between local and regional practices and jurisdictions on one side and international law and practices on the other. CCATP was launched in 2011 as the first comparative arbitration program in the Arab World with a simultaneous bilateral tutorial methodology that combines Civil Law and Common Law systems.

The most significant aspect of CRCICA's educational activities in 2017 was the launch of **the CRCICA/ABA Distinguished Lawyers CLE Program**. While the ABA ROLI has various funded projects in countries of the MENA Region, the Distinguished Lawyers Program stands as an unprecedented initiative administered by and relying on the know-how of a local/regional institution while keeping the ABA Brand.

The Program is a continuation of the ABA ROLI's CLE scheme in Egypt which, ran under the US AID funds, from 2009 until September 2016. As of October 2016, ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) and CRCICA started a new partnership to deliver self-funded CLE trainings for young lawyers in Egypt under the co-administration of both institutions.

One of the most important component of this Program is the **Arabic-Language Basic Legal Skills Course**, conducted in two rounds over 2017; on 2-27 July and 15 October – 8 November. The course provides basic, though comprehensive, training on the seven advocacy legal skills being client interviewing, legal analysis, legal writing, negotiation, contract drafting, oral advocacy, and arbitration. It lasts for 13 sessions ending by an arbitration moot and totaling 40 training hours.

All trainers should have passed the ABA's Training of Trainers Course. It is worth noting that CRCICA exclusively developed a detailed course administration manual to insure the smooth administration of future courses.

Also under the umbrella of the CRCICA/ABA Distinguished Lawyers CLE Program, a course on *Effective Advocacy skills for Arbitration Practitioners* was held on 12 December 2017. The Course focused on expert aspects of advocacy skills for arbitration, persuasive opening and closing submissions, effective cross-examination of fact witnesses and strategies for examination. Practical sessions included a mock witness cross-examination.

On 18 January 2017, within the boundaries of the third path, the CIArb Cairo Branch one, **the Institute's Introduction to Mediation Course** was held for the first time in Egypt. The course provided candidates with an introduction to the legal position of, and good practice and procedure in, mediation. Successful candidates were eligible to apply for Associate grade of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb).

On 11 October 2017, the CIArb Cairo Branch and CRCICA organized a Training Course on **Managing Delay Damages in Construction Contracts**. The Course presented a thorough understanding of construction delay damages, as the source of frequent claims and disputes, under both the common law and civil law systems.

The last CIArb/CRCICA training of the year was held on 24-25 December 2017, focusing on **“Expert Witness in International Commercial Arbitration”**. The agenda included the fundamental role of the expert witness in international commercial arbitration, interactive exercises, Qs&As and ended by a mock cross examination.

Raising Investment Arbitration Awareness in the Region: A pillar feature of CRCICA Annual Record

Noticing the radical changes in today’s investment arbitration environment, and out of its long-established regional mission to enhance arbitration awareness in the region, CRCICA adopts a fundamental strategy to integrate the dissemination of investment arbitration knowledge into its annual plan, creating as such a round-the-clock platform for regional users.

“Investment arbitration” had been a recurrent theme in all main CRCICA events over the year; the Role of African States in Arbitration Conference examined the legal environment for investment arbitration in Africa and screened practitioners’ thoughts across and outside the Continent. Few days after the 34th UNCITRAL ISDS Session, where CRCICA was represented as an observer, Cairo created a miniature replica of the session during the UNCITRAL’s 50th Anniversary Conference focusing on the Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement and exploring expert practitioners’ perspectives. The Belt and Road Initiative Conference was no exception as it approached the investment environment in Egypt and the chances if it allows for Belt and Road businesses.

The dynamicity of CRCICA Venue as an investment educational hub attracted international entities to address the regional marketplace out of CRCICA Platform. On 2 April 2017, the Centre hosted the African International Legal Awareness’s (AILA) Conference: ***“A Paradigm Shift in International Investment Law”***. On 3 April 2017, LALIVE, a Geneva-based leading law firm, held at CRCICA an expert discussion led by Ms. Laura Halonen on **“Investment Arbitration at grassroots Level: Impact of Recent and Planned Changes to Investment Law on Parties and their Counsels.”**

Outside the local borders, CRCICA was keen to contribute to investment arbitration events across the Afro-Asian region and beyond. On the occasion of the signing of the BIAC/CRCICA/ KLRCA (now AIAC) Belt and Road Arbitration Agreement, the Symposium: ***“Investment Environment and Dispute Resolution in Malaysia and Egypt”*** was held on 9 May 2017, in ***Beijing, China***.

CRCICA Director delivered a speech on Egyptian laws and local courts’ support to arbitration and Dr. Khaled Attia, Partner, Head of Dispute Resolution at Nour & Partners in association with Al Tamimi & Company and member of CRCICA delegation at the Symposium, gave a speech on the legal framework of investment and arbitration in Egypt.

In June 2017, members of CRCICA delegation to *the BIAC London & Zurich Summits* on Dispute Resolution in China successively contributed to the session on: “*The Impact of Regulatory Changes on Private Investment & Finance Disputes in the PRC*” in the two European Cities. Prof. Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab, Founding Partner; Head of International Arbitration, Zulficar & Partners and Member of CRCICA Advisory Committee delivered expert commentaries to the London version of the Session and Dr. Dalia Hussein, CRCICA Deputy Director, contributed to the Zurich version of the Session.

Finally, on 14 December 2017, CRCICA Director delivered a speech on “Expropriation” at the conference on “The Protection of Foreign Investors in the African Extractive Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for African’s Growth and Development”, Dubai, UAE; organized by the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) and the Institute Afrique Monde.

What doubled the significance of CRCICA’s focus on investment arbitration is its being named in many Bilateral Investment treaties (BITs) concluded between Egypt and European parties (including, for instance, the 2010 Egyptian-Swiss BIT and the 2001 Egyptian-Austrian BIT) or concluded between countries from the Middle East and Africa (including, for instance, BITs between Egypt and the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Syria and Lebanon). It is also provided in BITs where Egypt is not a party, such as the BIT between Libya and Morocco.

This has not gone globally unnoticed; the GAR Guide to Regional Arbitration in Middle East and Africa highlights a key recent development which is the rise in investment treaty disputes across the Middle East and North Africa. Among other institutions of the region which are reported to have the potential of gaining bigger market share, “*CRCICA is named as a possible administrator of investment arbitration proceedings in a number of inter-Arab treaties*”.

2017: Into the Heart of Africa

In support of CRCICA’s diversification plan, CRCICA devoted a considerable part of its annual activities to boost relations with Africa. This strategy was mainly echoed in CRCICA’s *first Africa Arbitration Week* held on 2-6 April 2017 which brought more than thirty African nationalities together at CRCICA Premises (For more details: CRCICA 2017 Events: A Regional Gateway for International Arbitration Events).

As the oldest arbitration Centre in Africa, CRCICA continued *to support and promote the growth and promotion of arbitration in Sub-Saharan Africa all over the year*. In May 2017, CRCICA was represented in three successive major arbitral events held in Sub-Saharan Africa as follows:

On 5 May 2017, Dr. Ismail Selim participated at **AALCO’s 56th Annual Session Nairobi, Kenya**. The Session was attended by representatives of 26 member states.

On 14-16 May 2017, he delivered a speech at *the Second ICC Africa Regional Arbitration Conference in Lagos, Nigeria*. Titled “*An Arbitration Seat in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities*”, the speech urged African states to secure legislative frameworks favoring arbitration and guaranteeing the enforcement of arbitral awards.

On 24 - 25 May 2017, Dr. Selim participated at the Colloquium: “**UNCITRAL at 50 and Arbitration in Africa**” in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Colloquium was held under the patronage

of the Government of Cameroon and with the support of Association for the Promotion of Arbitration in Africa (APAA). He presented CRCICA's leading experiences and achievements in Africa in a roundtable entitled "*The Implementation of the Domestic and International Commercial Arbitration.*"

October 2017 provided another example of CRCICA's collaboration with the Arbitration community in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Abuja, Nigeria. On 23 October 2017, Mr. Khaled Osman, CRCICA Associate Director and Head of the Case Management Department attended the Workshop on "***Effective Case Management Processes for Arbitration Institutions in Africa***", and led the third session on "*Appointment of Arbitrators*". On 24 October 2017, CRCICA Director participated at the ***Second Biennial African Arbitration Roundtable on "Growing and Sustaining Arbitration and ADR in Africa"*** organized by the International Centre for Arbitration & Mediation Abuja ICAMA, ***Abuja, Nigeria***. He delivered a speech on: *African States and Governments: To use or not to use ADR*, urging African states to provide adequate legal framework for arbitration and ADR and outlining the need for cooperation among African and Asian arbitral institutions to allow best practice of arbitration, transparency and due process. The speech also included AALCO's visionary 'scheme' for administering international arbitration through establishing notable arbitration centres in Asia and Africa.

On 25 October 2017, CRCICA Director also attended **the Third ICCA Consultative Workshop on Cooperation Among African Arbitral Initiatives**. The workshop focused on the structure of an umbrella organization to support arbitration in Africa, which was later launched in June 2018 as the African Arbitration Association (AFAA). On 26-27 October 2017, CRCICA Director participated at a panel discussion titled: *Proliferation of Arbitration Centres in Africa - A Gift or a Curse?* at **the LCIA African Users' Council Symposium, Abuja, Nigeria**. The panel focused on the important areas of international arbitration and maintaining an arbitration-friendly environment.

Strengthening CRCICA's Ties with Asia: China and Malaysia under spot

One of CRCICA's strategic goals in 2017 and beyond has been the enhancement of relations with Asia; China with a number of its institutional bodies are on the top of the list together with Malaysia as the Host-Country of CRCICA's sister-institution, the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) [Formerly KLRCA], representing Malaysia.

Within this context, on 9 May 2017, CRCICA signed **the Belt and Road Arbitration Initiative**, a tripartite cooperation agreement with the Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Center and the-then Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration. By virtue of this significant agreement, the parties shall commence close cooperation in handling disputes and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism under the Belt & Road Initiative.

The signing ceremony was held during **the Belt and Road Arbitration Initiative Conference, 9 May 2017, Beijing, China**. During the Event, the three institutions introduced to the Chinese Legal Community the philosophy and significance of the B & R Arbitration Initiative Agreement and the official speech of each institution presented its vision, services and role in the promotion of arbitration in the Afro-Asian region through inter-institutional works and projects.

During his May visit to China, CRCICA Director held collegial institutional meetings with other Chinese allies; the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) and the China Law Society (CLS).

June was another month of remarkable collaboration with China as CRCICA intensively contributed to *the BIAC London & Zurich Summits*, June 2017. CRCICA Delegation was composed of Dr. Nabil Elaraby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ismail Selim, the Director, Dr. Dalia Hussein, Legal Advisor (currently the Deputy Director), Me. Philippe Leboulanger, member of the BoT and Vice-President of CRCICA's Advisory Committee and Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab, Member of the Advisory Committee.

CRCICA also participated at China's Africa Legal Professionals Exchange Project as represented by Ms. Heba Ahmed Salem, Case Manager and Legal Researcher. Ms. Salem attended the 4th Course of China – Africa Legal Professionals Exchange Project, 5- 9 June 2017, Guangzhou, China organized by the China Law Society.

CRCICA continues to support Sino-African Cooperation, especially under the scheme of the China-African Cooperation Forum. On 24-26 November 2017, CRCICA Director delivered a speech at *the First China-Africa Joint Arbitration Centre (CAJAC) international conference* on China-Africa Arbitration titled "*From Vision to Action*", Cape Town, South Africa and aired a message of support to the CAJAC initiative from CRCICA as the oldest African arbitration institution.

It was integrally significant for CRCICA to introduce to the legal community in Egypt and the MENA Region the spirit of Afro-Asian Solidarity in promoting arbitration generally and the Belt and Road Arbitration Initiative in particular. On 12 December 2017, CRCICA organized the conference on: The Belt and Road Initiative: Economic Legal Landscape and Dispute Settlement in collaboration with BIAC and KLRCA (now AIAC) (For more details: CRCICA 2017 Events: A Regional Gateway for International Arbitration Events).

CRCICA Information Tool Crosses Borders: Enhancing Communications with Lawyers Worldwide

CRCICA has adopted a vigorous policy to introduce its role and activities to users and gatekeepers of arbitration in different parts of the world. Within this framework, CRCICA arranged business meetings at international law firms and a selected bar of lawyers to closely approach their expectations and respond to their demands. In 2017, the Director visited Paris, London, Marseille and Lagos where he briefed lawyers on CRCICA's history, caseload, and recent international recognitions and activities including conferences and publications; visits were at the Paris Office of Jones Day and the London Offices of Herbert Smith Freehills and Shearman & Sterling, the Paris Office of Mayer Brown, Aluko & Oyebo and Banwo & Ighodalo Laws Firms of Nigeria. Later in the year, CRCICA Director addressed the lawyers of the North Mediterranean at the Marseille Bar where they showed special interest in CRCICA's Comparative Arbitration Program. This close interaction with users has proven highly effective to increase awareness of CRCICA's regional services and neutral stance and to call international attention to the AALCO's visionary 'scheme' for administering international arbitration.

CRCICA Information Tool Crosses Borders: Reaching far out to Financial Institutions

October 2017 witnessed a remarkable focus on development and investment banks for their significant role in supporting arbitration. On the 5th of October 2017, the Paris Office of Mayer Brown hosted a live meeting between CRCICA Director and representatives of three significant financial institutions providing finance and facilitation services to African Countries; US Im-Ex Bank, UK Export Finance, and US OPIC. The Director delivered a speech on CRCICA and the arbitration environment in Egypt. Discussions approached the distinction between the venue and the seat of arbitration under Egyptian law and jurisprudence, and appointment of arbitrators, and enforcement of awards.

On 4 October 2017, the Director presented CRCICA to the European Investment Bank at its premises in Luxembourg. Questions involved CRCICA's financial stability and independence as well as its permanency and percentage of international cases among the cases administered by the CRCICA.

This point of contact helped informing financial institutions of the independence and neutrality of AALCO-established regional centres increasing as such the probability of their being referred to in internationally-financed projects.

CRCICA Information Tool Crosses Borders: *Dialoguing with Francophone Business and Legal Communities*

Concomitant to the issuance of the French version of CRCICA Arbitration Rules, CRCICA has been keen to develop ties of cooperation with institutional entities representing Francophone businesses. In March 2017, CRCICA Director attended the monthly luncheon of the French Foreign Trade Advisors (*Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur de la France* "CCEF") and a meeting of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Egypt (CCIFE). During the two events, Dr. Selim explored the needs of the Francophone business community and introduced CRCICA's role and activities.

On 20 April 2017, CRCICA was represented by its Director at the Paris Symposium "***Towards a Globalized Law of Arbitration***" organized by Chambre arbitrale internationale de Paris, the Center of International Law of Nanterre (CEDIN) at Paris Nanterre University, the Comité Français de l'arbitrage and CIETAC. CRCICA Director intervened in the First Round Table titled "*Arbitration Centres: From Competition to Cooperation*" focusing on the competition between arbitration centers as a healthy means to ensure better justice, outlining the suitability of CRCICA as an ideal neutral venue to administer cases involving European and Chinese parties, and highlighting the role of regional centres especially in terms of familiarity and affordability.

On 28 September, CRCICA Director was invited by the Société de Législation Comparée ("SLC") to deliver a presentation about the Role and Objectives of CRCICA at *the French Cour de Cassation*. The speech presented the Egyptian Arbitration Law and CRCICA's pivotal role in promoting arbitration in the region, stance in some bilateral investment treaties agreements, as well as the salient features of CRCICA long-established practices including its arbitration costs as featured in "**Arbitration cost compared: GAR 2017 Edition.**"

Other International Contributions

Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration

In 2017, CRCICA Director participated at the **Third and Fourth International Conferences for a Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration** held on 18 January, Milan, Italy and on 19 November 2017, Manama, Bahrain respectively. This series of conferences is a joint venture of the UNCITRAL and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The third conference in the series was locally co-organized by the Institute for the Promotion of Arbitration and Mediation in Mediterranean (ISPRAMED), while the Fourth was co-organized jointly by the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA).

In the Bahrain version, the Director contributed to a panel discussion approaching practical issues related to impartiality and independence of arbitrators against the background of the IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration, the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and BCDR-AAA's new arbitration rules. It is worth mentioning that, in 2015, CRCICA co-organized the **Second Event in this important Euro-Mediterranean Series**. Quoting Mr. Renaud Sorieul, Former UNCITRAL Secretary, *"the Cairo Conference was widely acknowledged to have been a major cornerstone in the whole project"*.

The Synergy between Civil Law and Common Law

On 8-9 March 2017, CRCICA participated at two panels discussions of the **CIArb Conference on 'The Synergy and Divergence between Civil Law and Common Law in International Arbitration'**, Dubai, UAE. H.E. Dr. Nabil Elaraby, CIArb Patron and Chairman of CRCICA Board of Trustees chaired the panel discussion on *"The role of legislation in developing and sustaining an arbitration friendly seat"*. CRCICA Director participated at the panel discussion entitled: *"The perspective from Arbitral institutions on building the synergy between common & civil law"*. Focusing on *the synergy between civil and common law under the UNCITRAL and CRCICA Rules*, the speech was reformulated into a scholastic article in the CIArb Journal, Vol. 83, No. 4, November 2017. The CRCICA Arbitration Rules were chosen, in the said article, given that they are based on the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules of the 2010 save for minor modifications emanating mainly from the Centre's role as an arbitral institution and an appointing authority. The article concluded that CRCICA Arbitration Rules went further in the embodiment of the synergy between the common law and the civil law systems where the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules adopted a common law approach.

External Institutional Visits:

The Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands

On 20-21 July 2017, CRCICA Director paid a significant visit to the Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands where he had three noteworthy meetings at the PCA, the ICCA Bureau, and The Hague Academy of International Law respectively. At the PCA, CRCICA Director met Mr. Hugo Siblesz, PCA Secretary-General, to discuss fostering mutual relations between CRCICA and PCA which culminated in the signing of a cooperation agreement during the conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of UNCITRAL on 9-10 December 2017, Cairo-Egypt. At ICCA, CRCICA Director

and Ms. Lise Bosman, Executive Director and Executive Editor of ICCA discussed the organization of the Second Cairo New York Convention Roadshow on 2 December 2017. At The Hague Academy of International Law, CRCICA Director discussed with Prof. Jean-Marc Thouvenin, Secretary General of The Academy, the possibility of hosting an educational program of the Hague Academy in Cairo.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Geneva, Switzerland

On 3 October 2017, CRCICA Director visited the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Geneva, Switzerland where he met Mr. Matthieu Reeb, CAS Secretary General, to discuss future relations between the Court and CRCICA as host of the first CAS Alternative Hearing Centre (AHC) in Africa. It was agreed to hold a Cairo Sports Arbitration Week in close collaboration with the CAS.

CRCICA adopts a supporting role towards students and career beginners.

➤ Sponsorship of Students' participations at International Moots

CRCICA sponsored the team of I.D.A.I (Université Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne) having participated in the 14th Vis Moot East in Hong Kong, alongside with Zaki Hashem Law Firm. This Event, the counter part of the Vienna WILLEM C. VIS International Commercial Arbitration Moot, gather young minds in the legal field from all over the world to plead and argue before panels of arbitrators about a mock international commercial case.

➤ CRCICA Internship Program

CRCICA Internship program over the year was beneficial to students and fresh graduates from Egypt, Libya, Cameroon and France. Interns contributed to preparation of legal researches, translations, and attended arbitration hearings.

Conclusions and Recommendations

On the threshold of its 40th Anniversary, CRCICA will continue to emphasize its role in the region and will more examine the needs of its marketplace to introduce, and tailor as may be needed, other Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms such as mediation and adjudication. Arbitration, however, will remain CRCICA's main emphasis and alignment. **Volume Growth of transnational arbitrations** in particular is our persisting target in order to ensure **the global regionalism** of AALCO-established Centres, originated from intergovernmental efforts to improve and promote access to international arbitration.

While we have taken satisfactory strides along this way, we cordially urge our parent-institution to **encourage governments of member-countries** to include the arbitration clause of CRCICA, and other sibling-institutions as the case may be, in their **Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)** *“(in order) to counter-balance the weight of renowned western institutions often criticized for not sufficiently taking into account the specialties and identities of the region”* (a 2017 Review on CRCICA). The recent radical shift in international investment arbitration paths the way ahead for regional centres to continue thriving and it is mainly through collaborative efforts under AALCO's umbrella that we would score peak achievements.

Simultaneously, there is a dire need to identify an AALCO unified mechanism to draw global attention to **the neutrality, integrity and permanence of its regional centres as independent international organizations**. Despite the huge triumph achieved so far, regrettably, the majority of the international arbitration and business community, specifically publishers, reviewers and financial institutions, still label AALCO Centres as “*local arbitration centres*”. Calling a unified move under the umbrella of the Organization will definitely change the scene.

IV. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, LAGOS (RCICAL).

The President and Vice President of the 57th Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

H.E. Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn, Secretary-General of AALCO.

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

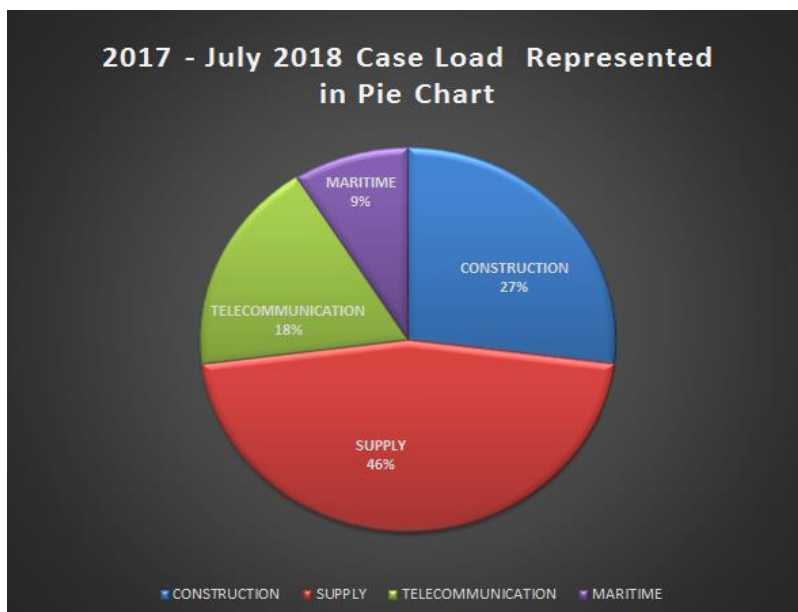
I hereby present to you a brief report on the activities of the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration – Lagos for the year 2017 - 2018.

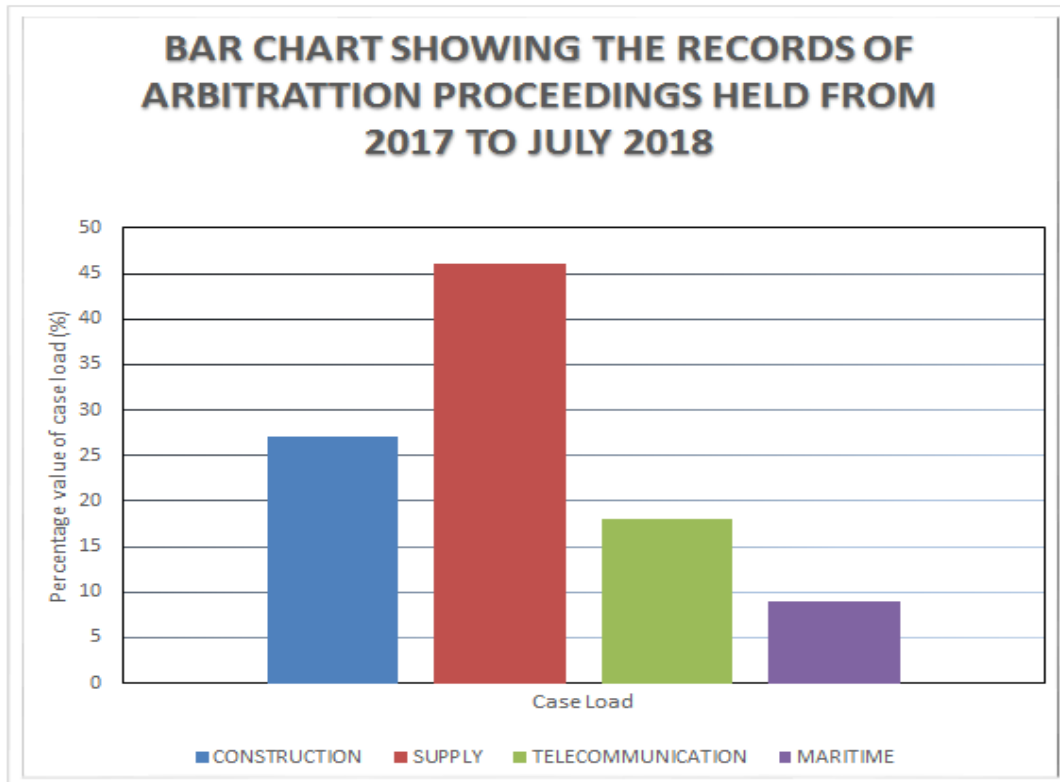
CASE LOAD FOR THE PERIOD May 2017 – August 2018

In the period under review, eleven new cases were filed before the Centre in addition to the already existing caseload.

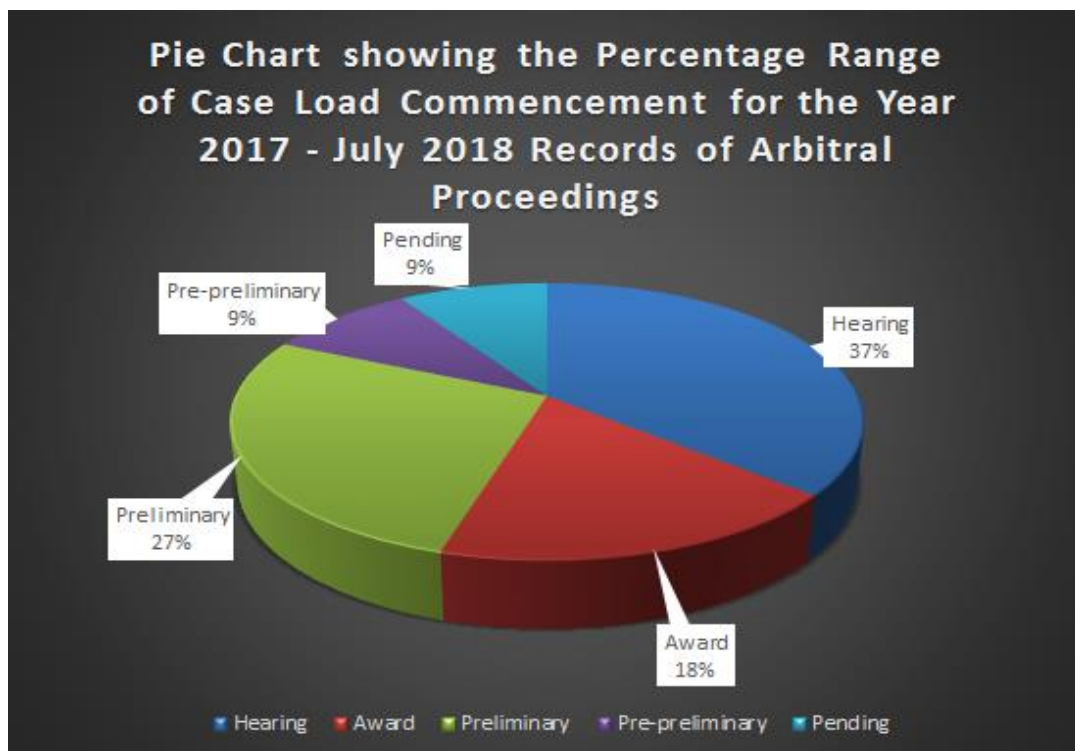
The subject matter of these cases ranged from construction, supply, telecommunication and maritime. All the cases are purely domestic with exception of one with a Canadian party. Four of the cases have commenced fully to hearing stages, two are in the award stage, three are still in the preliminary stages, one is yet to commence, and the other is pending the determination of the Court of Appeal. Out of the eleven cases, three are ad hoc and eight are institutional.

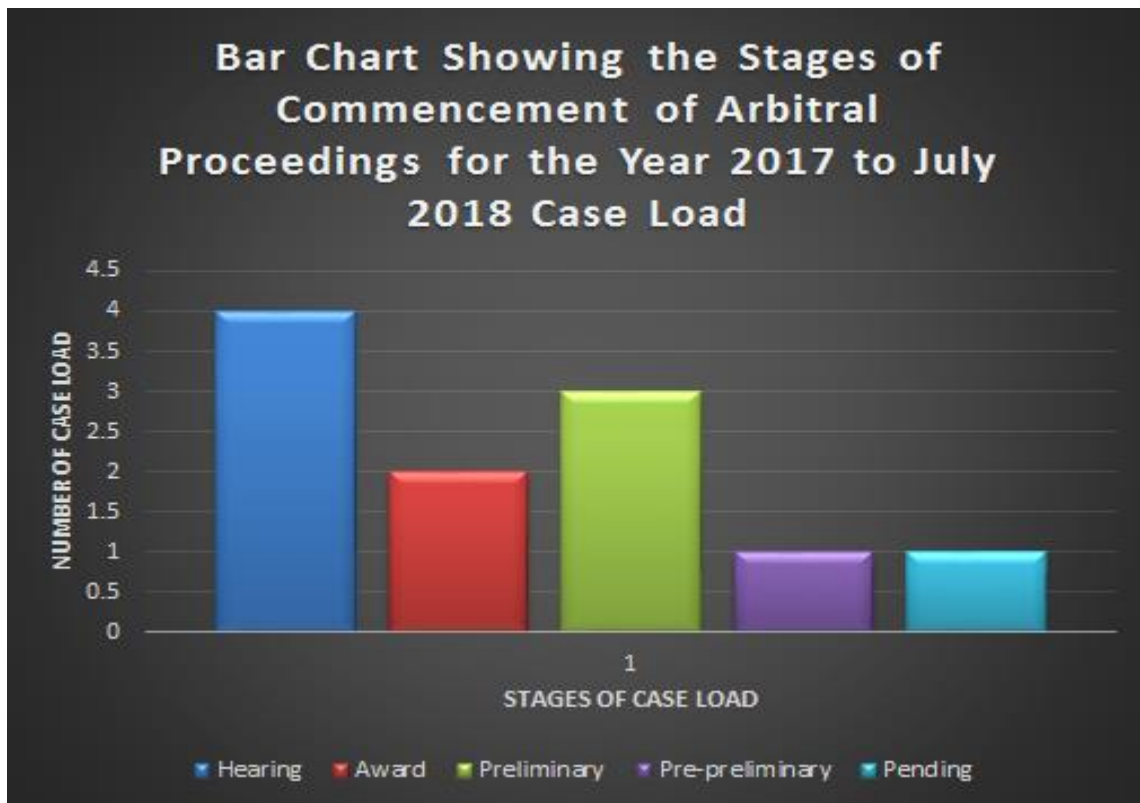
Below shows the pie and bar charts of the case loads:





Below shows the pie and bar charts of the stages of commencement of the case loads:





ARBITRAL EVENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

REPORT ON AFRICA INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AWARENESS (AILA) CONFERENCE OF 31ST OCTOBER 2017

Counsel at the Centre – Messers Oru Omosioni and Mordi McHarry- attended a one-day conference at the Lagos Court of Arbitration, Victoria Island Lagos, organized by the Africa International Legal Awareness on 31st October, 2017.

The event which was themed “Hot Topics in Investment Arbitration” was aimed at broadening the scope of awareness for Arbitration Practitioners particularly as it affects the investors and investment in Africa.

Some experts from across the globe in that field were invited to discuss topical issues related thereto such as Chief Mrs.Tinuade Oyekunle, Chief Bayo Ojo SAN, Mrs.Olusola Adegbonmire, Mr. Ike Ehiribe, Mr. Bobby Benson, Professor Paul Idonigie, Mrs.Funke Adekoya, SAN, Dr.Chrispas Nyombi, Diego Gosis, Olasupo Shasore, SAN, David Hesse, Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile, Obosa Akpata, Ignacio Torterola, Athina Fouchard Papaefstratiou and Muhammad Belgore, SAN., to name a few.

Topics extensively discussed and critically analyzed centred on investors protection and obligations provision in the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on the community Rules on Investment, Investment Treaties in West Africa, Africa’s Role in International Investment Law, reforms and

the need for coherence at the national/bilateral as well as regional / continental levels, money matters (Third party funding, security for costs, and settlement offers), Corruption, Illegally Obtained Evidence and States' abuse of power, Burden of Proof, Evidence and the Tribunals' Balancing Acts.

The event offered a veritable opportunity for the Centre's Counsel to interact with colleagues around the globe, thereby obtaining various peculiarities in perspectives from the various regions they represent.

Such knowledge, when applied into the operations of the Centre would enhance its operations

REPORT ON CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, GALA NITE AND INDUCTION CEREMONY OF 2ND & 3RD NOVEMBER 2017

The Centre was also represented at the 2017 Annual Conference, Gala Nite and Induction ceremony of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch, themed "Strengthening the Building Blocks of Arbitration in Africa, held at the Federal Palace Hotel, Victoria Island on 2nd & 3rd November, 2017.

The conference focused on contemporary issues which affect the development of Arbitration and ADR in Africa.

Over thirty speakers drawn from Nigeria and abroad shared perspectives from personal and professional experiences from the civil and public service, academia, Legislature, judiciary, Legal and corporate world.

Prominent among them were Mrs. Idiat Adebule, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, representing the Executive Governor- Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes-Vivour, Hon Justice Opeyemi Oke, Acting Chief Judge, Lagos state, Mr. A.B. Mahmud, SAN., President of the Nigeria Bar Association, Mr. Adeniyi Kazeem, SAN., Mr. Herbert Wigwe, Robert Wheal, Timothy Lemay, (UNCITRAL), Andrew Mckenzie, Hogan Lovells, Stephen Karangizi, Mohammed Kebe, Tunde Ogunseitan, Godfrey Penn, Marille Camille-Pitton, Chief Bayo Ojo, SAN., Isaiah Bozimo, Senator David Umaru, Tunde Fagbohunlu, SAN., Bimbo Akeredolu, SAN., Funke Adekoya, SAN., and Dele Belgore, SAN.

The event afforded young arbitrators the opportunity to seek a full carrier in ADR mechanism of disputes resolution with practical guidance. It also offered a platform where arbitration policy makers/enforcers, practitioners and users can interact, identify constraints and proffer solutions aimed at making arbitration and ADR the preferred method for dispute resolution, especially for commercial transactions in Africa.

The second day being the end of the conference was the Gala Nite which provided delegates the rare opportunity to network with each other across industries and disciplines in a relaxed semi-formal atmosphere.

The high point of the Gala Nite was induction of new Associates, members and Fellows of the Institute.

THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2017

Messers Omosioni Oru and McHarry Mordi attended the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Annual General Conference in 2017 held at the Landmark Event Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The events featured Christian and Muslim religious services, visits to the Nigerian Stock Exchange, the palace of Oba of Lagos, a novelty football match and medical screenings. The theme was: African Business: Penetrating through Institutions Building, Stronger Institutions as panacea for economic recovery.

Over 146 speakers including Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, former Georgian President Nika Gilauri, governors, ministers, legislators, legal, judiciary, corporate business experts graced the occasion with Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN., representing the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.

Governors of Lagos, Rivers, Bauchi, Kano and Ondo States spoke on investment opportunities in their states and the officers of NBA presented various reports relating to their operation of the organisation and agencies such as Nigeria Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Nigeria Law Reform Commission (NLRC), Nigerian Law School, the Corporate Affairs Commission and National Human Rights Commission.

The Vice President acknowledged the enormous task of building and sustaining strong institutions but insisted it was possible to achieve and that the present government was indeed working to actualize that.

In his speech, Mr. Ambode, governor of Lagos State agreed that weak institutions have not done the nation any good particularly in area of attracting investments into Africa and reiterated the need for stronger institutions. He however suggested devolution of powers to states for more efficient and effective harnessing of the natural and human resources nature has blessed us with.

The Chief Justice of Nigeria Walter Onoghen, GCON, encouraged lawyers to formulate and implement legal standards and policies as key players towards building institutions, sustaining and regulating their operations. The issue of prohibition of adverts for legal practitioners was vigorously debated in one of the sessions with some for and others against. Other topics discussed were the Essence of a strong Legal Brand as well as the Rise of a Digital Economy and the Law firm it needs.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW – WORKING GROUP 111 (INVESTOR- STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REFORM)

The Working Group 111 (Investor- State Dispute Settlement Reform) on the work of its thirty-fourth session was held in Vienna from the 27th November to 1st December, 2017.

In entrusting Working Group 111 with a mandate to examine possible reforms related to investor-state dispute settlement, the UNCITRAL Commission provided that the first stage of discussion

would focus on identifying and considering specific concerns regarding investor-state dispute settlement.

It was recalled that the mandate given to the Working Group contained three stages: (i) to identify and consider concerns regarding ISDS; (ii) to consider whether reform was desirable in light of any identified concerns; and (iii) if the Working Group were to conclude that reform was desirable, to develop any relevant solutions to be recommended to the Commission.

By way of background, the current ISDS regime was developed to allow a foreign national (whether an individual or a company) to bring a claim directly against a sovereign state where its investment was made, in a significant break from traditional mechanism which essentially relied on diplomatic means of protection to resolve dispute relating to investment. Importantly, the ISDS regime was intended to “de-politicize” investment disputes and effectively remove the risk of such disputes escalating into inter-state conflicts.

It was also recalled that ISDS provided a method to enforce the substantive obligations of States in the overwhelming majority of investment agreements through the substantive provisions in those agreements. Nonetheless, it was clarified that the mandate given to the Working Group focused on the procedural aspects of dispute settlement rather than on the substantive provisions.

There was general agreement on the importance and sensitivity of the work to be undertaken by the Working Group. It was said that work should be based on a thorough analysis of all relevant issues. It was added that a full and candid exchange of views would support the consensus-driven approach.

50th UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL) AND 60TH NEW YORK CONVENTION ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATION CONFERENCE 2018

This event was organized by the International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI), in collaboration with the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration – Lagos (RCICAL), the United Nations UNCITRAL and the Federal Ministry of Justice, celebrating the 50th UNCITRAL and 60th New York Convention Anniversaries at the prestigious Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria on 14th – 15th June, 2018. The theme of the conference is: Contributions of UNITED NATIONS & UNCITRAL in International Trade Law Harmonization & Dispute Settlement.

Renowned professional speakers and top Government functionaries and participants from around the world attended the conference where various topics were discussed on the issues of international trade law harmonization and dispute settlement. The Chairman International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI) and Managing Partner, Prof. C.J. Amasike & Associates Law Firm, the Federal Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN, Hon. Minister for Industry, Trade & Investment; Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Godfrey Onyeama, Secretary- General of UNCITRAL, Vienna, Austria; Ms. Anna Joubin- Bret, the Vice President of Nigeria; Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON (Represented by Boss Mustapha) amongst other scholars, academicians and Diplomats graced the occasion.

One of the topics canvassed at the Conference by Prof. C.J. Amasike, Chairman IDRI, was the issue of Third Party Funding in Arbitration. The question arose as to what is Third Party Funding, what is its origin and why is the global arbitration community so divided on its applicability. Third Party Funding is a rather recent phenomenon, still very much in its infancy stages and now one of the ‘hot topics’ being debated. More recently, is its infusion into arbitration and it now promises to become a permanent feature of arbitration due to the exponential growth of commercial disputes over the past fifty years coupled with increasing costs of arbitration which may be unbearable for clients and simultaneously attractive for funders/investors.

The Director of the Lagos Centre who also was one of those to give the inaugural speech made presentations on three separate topics; in one of such topics titled “Recent Developments regarding Arbitral Institution in the Region and their Practice of Arbitration Under UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules” gave a brief narrative of the establishment and mandate of the Lagos Centre.

On the usage and application of the RCICAL Rules, emphasis was laid on the Emergency and Expedited Procedures. Article 8.3 was taken into consideration.

Article 8.3 of the RCICAL Rules provides that: in exceptional urgency on or after the commencement of the arbitration, any party may apply to the Centre (RCICAL) for the expedited formation of the arbitral tribunal, including the appointment of replacement arbitrator under Article 16 of the RCICAL Rules. Articles 8.4 of the RCICAL Rules specify the mode of the application and the requirement to establish the nature of the exceptional urgency. Article 8.4 provides that such application shall be made in writing to the Centre (RCICAL) and copied to all other parties to the arbitration. The application shall set out the specific grounds for exceptional urgency in the expedited formation of the arbitral tribunal.

The Director also discussed the inclusion of new technologies into the arbitration and written witness statements – under the RCICAL Rules.

The Secretary of UNCITRAL, Vienna, Austria – Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret in her keynote address highlighted – UNCITRAL – Contributions to the Harmonization and Modernization of International Arbitration Law in Africa (Arbitration & ADR as Incentives to reduce risk of investing) And Enforcement under ICSID and under the New York Convention of 1958: Difference.

Prof. Walid Ben-Hamida, PhD of the University of Paris, France examined the Suitability of the New York Convention for Modern Trade in Nigeria & other parts of Africa and also examined Investment Framework in Africa (This topic was also delivered by Olufunke Adekoya, SAN, partner AELEX).

Benjamin Siino, Counsel, Sherman & Sherling, Paris, France dwelled on Flexibility and Evolution in the Interpretation of the Convention (Illustrated by Examples such as the Notion of Arbitration, Public Policy Exceptions).

Dr. Judith Knieper, PhD UNCITRAL Legal Advisor, discussed on UNCITRAL Tools to Promote Harmonious Application (The UNCITRAL Secretariat Guide on the New York Convention Guide and The UNCITRAL Transparency Standards).

Emeritus Professor of Law, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa – Prof. David Butler, LL.D made presentation on Enforcement of Settlement Agreement under The New Convention and Legislative Framework Prepared by UNCITRAL. (This topic was also presented by Dr. Judith Knieper, PhD) UNCITRAL Legal Advisor, Vienna, Austria.

Christian Klausegger Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) And Partner, Binder Grosswang, Vienna, Austria made presentation on Contributions of the United Nations and UNCITRAL in Respect of International Arbitration: The Model Law and other Texts (Including the Presentation of Two Draft Instruments On Enforcement of International Commercial Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation being on the Agenda of the Commission Session 2018),and also on the Enactment of the Model Law, and the Prospects for Developments; Or Practical issues Raised by the Application of the Model Law in the Region – (This topic was also discussed jointly by Dr. Judith Knieper, Ph.D and Prof. David Butler, LL.D)

Dr. Gordon Blanke, Ph.D Partner, DWF (Middle East) LLP & Editor Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, U.K in his presentation examined The Promotion & Usage of Arbitration & ADR IN Resolving Disputes in the Financial Sector and International Trends Relating to Energy Dispute Resolution (Olufunke Adekoya, SAN a Partner AELEX Law Firm made a robust presentation on this same topic).

Prof. C.J. Amasike of IDRI and Anna Joubin – Bret Secretary of UNCITRAL made individual presentation on Third Party Funding of Arbitration & ADR.

Tafadzwa Pasipanodya, Partner, FOLEY HOAG LLP, Washington DC, USA in her presentation made a universal discussion on ISDS Reform in light of the recent discussions in WG III of UNCITRAL

Another interesting topic that was discussed in the conference is the Role of the Law Courts During and After an Arbitration

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON LAW, JUSTICE & SECURITY IN NIGERIA HELD ON 5TH AND 6TH JULY 2018 AT SHERATON HOTEL ABUJA

The Director of Centre, Hon. Wilfred Ikatari attended a high level dialogue on Law, Justice and Security in Nigeria on the invitation of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN. The event held at the Sheraton Hotels Abuja on 5th and 6th July, 2018.

Present at the occasion was His Excellency, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN (GCON), who, in his opening address highlighted the importance of Law and Justice in maintaining national security.

Also present were Honourable Justice Walter Onnoghen, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN, the Solicitor-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Permanent Secretary, Minister of Justice, Dayo Apata, Esq., Brigadier-Gen. Mansur Dan-Ali (Rtd)and Lt. Gen.

Abdulrahman Danbazzau (Rtd), ministers of Defence and Interior, respectively as well as the National Security Adviser Maj. Gen. Babagana Monguno (Rtd) amongst other Judicial, Legislative, Academic and Corporate bigwigs.

In his speech title, “Law, Justice and Security in Nigeria: A Plea for Good Governance”, the Lead Speaker, Prof. Akin Oyeboode of the University of Lagos, examined the historical perspectives within regional and international contexts, thereafter evaluated the challenges to Law, Justice and Security stating that trade, commerce and investment cannot thrive in a society devoid of peace and stability, conversely, foreign investments flow into the economy and local investments are secured.

This being the major interest and contribution of the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration - Lagos, inflow and security of new and existing investments under a peaceful environment can be achieved when government and policy makers lean towards good governance as well as arresting and prosecuting agents of insecurity.

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AALCO, HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. DR. KENNEDY GASTORN

The Centre hosted the Secretary-General of AALCO, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn on his official visit to Nigeria from 4th to 7th June, 2018.

Professor Gastorn after series of meetings with top officials of the Host Government of Nigeria, particularly the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN., at the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja where he commended Nigeria as a frontrunner in the activities of AALCO and for the supports for the Regional Centre since inception as well as hosting the AALCO session on three occasions. In response, the Honorable Minister promised continued support for advancement of the Centres activities.

After the meetings in Abuja, he flew into Lagos to meet with the staff of the Regional Centre after which he inspected the ongoing renovation and remodeling works at the administrative headquarters of the Centre.

At the end of his visit, he expressed his happiness and fulfilment at visiting the Centre on his first visit to Nigeria, he appreciated the entire staff for their warm reception, observed that a lot more support and encouragement is required for the centre to achieve its mandate and promised to do all within his office to ensure that the support is given.

PROGRESS IN RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING

The Centre has achieved a remarkable progress in the renovation and remodeling works at the administrative headquarters blocks A and B with resultant increase in the number of hearing rooms, offices and other facilities.

COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

The Centre maintains cooperation and collaboration with major institutions such as the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), the China Law Society, The Arabic Centre for Arbitration and most recently, the International Disputes Resolution Institute (IDRI).

IDRI is a arbitral institution which organizes conferences, workshops and trainings within and outside Africa such as Nigeria, South Africa, France, UK, USA, Dubai, to mention a few.

One of such events was held in Nigeria on 14th and 15th June, 2018 in conjunction with the Regional Centre for Arbitration, the Federal Ministry of Justice in Nigeria and UNCITRAL, in commemoration of UNCITRAL's and the New York Convention's 50th and 60th anniversaries, respective.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE

The Centre in the next quarter will be undergoing the renovation and modernization of its administrative secretariat including the air conditioning system, furnishing, installation of ultra modern electronic and ICT equipment for training, conferences, seminars, workshops, including proceedings.

The Centre also will be reviewing its Rules and will be putting up manual on condition of service for staff of the Centre. The Centre is outlining a working plan to organize international conferences and workshops/seminar in collaboration with International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute (ICSID), International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI) and the host Government.

V. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TEHRAN REGIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (TRAC)

A. Introduction

This Report, comprising of the Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC)'s 2017 Activities and 2018 Prospective, hereinafter the "Report", is respectfully submitted to the Fifty-Seventh Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), Tokyo, Japan.

B. 2017 Activities

In 2017, TRAC continued professionally and efficiently its regional and international contributions to the development of international arbitration by managing domestic and international arbitration cases, organizing conferences, seminars and training course, as well as by signing Cooperation Agreements with high-ranked institutions and universities to motivate young students and promote arbitration. TRAC is now well-recognized for its smooth and professional conduct in Iran and in the region.

TRAC's major activities during 2017 are summarized as follows:

1. Providing institutional services for administering arbitration cases;
2. Organizing various conferences in collaboration with other arbitral institutions:
 - Second TRAC & ISTAC Joint Seminar; and
 - Second TRAC & SCC Joint Seminar
3. Organizing a training course on "International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution;
4. Organizing second Iranian Commercial Arbitration Moot Court (jointly with Arbitration Centre of Iran Chamber);
5. Revision of TRAC Rules of Arbitration;
6. Internships for graduate students;
7. Adding new names to the list of arbitrators;
8. Sponsoring Iranian teams in the Annual Willem C. Vis Arbitration Moot and holding the first Pre-Moot among Iranian teams;

And

9. Enlarging TRAC's network throughout the world.

C. Enlarging TRAC's network throughout the world

1. Providing institutional services for administering arbitration cases

In 2017, by enlarging its networks, TRAC's arbitration clause has been inserted in various types of international and domestic contracts involving both public and private sectors. Furthermore, TRAC administrated effectively its pending cases and tried to speed up the arbitral proceeding to make it efficient for both parties.

2. Organizing conferences in collaboration with other arbitral institutions

2.1. Second TRAC & ISTAC Joint Seminar

Since 2016, TRAC and Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC) decided to engage in joint efforts by way of yearly seminars in Paris, Istanbul, and Tehran, in order to introduce their rules and operations and to set out their distinguishing features. Following this plan, the first round of TRAC and ISTAC joint seminar was held in December 2016 in Paris in association with Derains & Gharavi International Law Firm.

On June 06, 2017, TRAC and the Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC), in cooperation with Derains & Gharavi Law Firm, held their second joint event in Tehran, Iran.

The purpose of this seminar was to discuss the importance of arbitral institutions and the role of host states, and was held in three panels.

- ***First Panel:***
Emerging Arbitral Institutions: Room and Ingredients for Success? Moderator: Mr. Matthieu de Boissésou, Independent Arbitrator.
 - Regional Room for Success? by Mr. Nicola Mariani, Dechert LLP, Georgia
 - ISTAC – Introduction and Latest Development, by Mr. Ziya Akıncı, President, Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC)
 - TRAC – Latest Development, by Mr. Oveis Rezvanian, Director, Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC)
- ***Second Panel:***
The role of Legislation and Judiciary of Host States of Arbitration Institutions in UAE, Iran and Turkey. Moderator: Mr. Hansjörg Stutzer, Founding Partner, HOUVENIN Rechtsanwälte.
 - Arbitration in Iran, by Mr. Moshkan Mashkour;
 - The DIAC Example – Strengths and Weaknesses UAE Law and Judiciary, by Mr. Guillaume Borg, Director of Legal Affairs of Middle East and North Africa of SNC

Lavalin;

- Turkey, by Ms. Candan Yasan, Secretary General, Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC).

- ***Third Panel:***

Investment Arbitration; Latest Developments

Moderator: Mr. Moshkan Mashkour, Sanglaj International Consultants

- The Balance Sheet of States in Investment Arbitrations, by Mr. Martin Doe Rodriguez, Senior Legal Counsel of Permanent Court of Arbitration
- Should Iran Ratify the ICSID Convention, by Mr. Hamid G. Gharavi, Founding Partner at Derains & Gharavi International Law Firm

The second TRAC-ISTAC Seminar was warmly welcomed by lawyers, students and practitioners involved in international commercial and investment arbitration.

2.2. Second TRAC & SCC Joint Seminar

On September 13, 2017, TRAC, together with the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, and International Chamber of Commerce Sweden (ICC Sweden) held Second TRAC & SCC Joint Seminar in Stockholm, Sweden.

The purpose of this seminar was to discuss important legal framework of doing business in Iran, including but not limited to sanctions issues, financing and regulations and efficient dispute resolution for better business management, considering the high interest of regaining business relations between the two countries in two panels.

- ***Doing Business in Iran: sanctions, financing and regulations***

- Moderator Mr. Erik Belfrage, Consilio International
- Adineh Abghari, Senior Legal Counsel, Tehran Regional Arbitration centre (TRAC)
- Ms. Saideh Yahyavi, Head of Middle East Group, Magnusson Mr. Mattias
- Hedwall, Partner Baker McKenzie Stockholm Mr. Victor Carstenius, Senior Country Analyst EKN

- ***Efficient dispute resolution for better business***

- Mr. Fredrik Andersson, Partner, Mannheimer Swartling, Gothenburg
- Mr. Mohsen Mohebbi, Professor of Law, Founding Partner, Persia Doostdar Law

Offices

- Mr. Mohammad Hossein Tavana, Legal Counsel, Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC)

3. Training Course on “International Construction Contracts & Dispute Resolution”

On September 6, 2017, the Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre (TRAC) and the Arbitration Center of Iran Chamber (ACIC) hosted a one-day joint training course on International Construction Contracts & Dispute Resolution.

The course was composed of an opening remark and six main subjects which covered all essential and hot issues in the field of construction dispute resolution. The instructors of the course were Mr. Richard Harding (Barrister, Keating Chambers) and Mr. Mark Blanksby (Partner, Clyde & Co).

The Course covered the following subjects:

- Introduction to construction industry;
- Construction contracts;
- FIDIC;
- Type of disputes;
- Preparing and presenting claims; and
- Arbitration process.

The lecturers of this training course were Richard Harding QC, one of the leading English barrister practicing in the field of international arbitration of construction disputes in the Middle East and [Persian] Gulf regions, and Mark Blanksby, a leading construction and projects lawyer with over twenty years' experience.

4. Organizing the Second Iranian Commercial Arbitration Moot Court

TRAC is proud to announce that, in 2017, it organized the second Iranian Commercial Arbitration Moot Court, jointly with the Arbitration Centre of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ACIC). The final round of competition hearing was held in May 2017 in Tehran and 20 teams participated in this event.

The goal of this Moot Court as of the first one was to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration for resolution of international business disputes. This competition starts with realization of concrete problem of commercial issues and the students in a simulated forum learn the process of arbitration.

5. Revision of TRAC Rules of Arbitration

Since TRAC's establishment, its Rules of Arbitration were essentially based on the UNCITRAL Rules of Arbitration, with some modifications to make it suitable for institutional arbitration.

Considering the revised version of UNCITRAL Rules (2010) as well as contemporary developments in the field of international arbitration, TRAC commenced the process of reviewing and updating the arbitration Rules in 2017 by establishing a Committee of international and local practitioners and academics based on the practical experiences, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of arbitration under the Rules -without altering the original structure of the text- by presenting provisions on Expedited procedure and Emergency Arbitration which has been done with precise comparative study of other forerunner arbitration centers.

After public consultation in late 2017, the final version of TRAC Arbitration Rules was sent to the AALCO in order to obtain the required approval. TRAC Rules are expected to become affective by March 2018.

6. Internships opportunities for graduate students

In 2017 the TRAC offered internship opportunities to young professionals. The interns were assigned projects and tasks that are relevant to international arbitration and they had the opportunity to put into practice and further development their theoretical knowledge under the supervision of legal counsels.

7. Adding new names to the list of arbitrators

TRAC list of arbitrators comprises various experts from all around the world. In 2017, TRAC was pleased to receive the applications of many outstanding arbitrators. A number of these applicants were added to the TRAC's list of arbitrators and some others are still under consideration.

The updated list of arbitrators is available on TRAC's website (www.trac.ir) and accessible to users.

8. Sponsoring the Iranian team in the Annual Willem C. Vis Arbitration Moot

As previous years, TRAC supported and helped Iranian teams for participating in the VIS-Moot by providing financial supports and useful information and recommendations as well as organizing a pre-moot in the Centre.

9. Enlarging TRAC's network

In line with its networking policy, TRAC enlarged its collaboration with other arbitration centers and reputable law firms specialized in the field of international commerce and international arbitration all over the world.

C. 2018 Prospective

TRAC aims to continue offering its institutional support as a neutral, independent and

international organization for the conduct of domestic and international arbitration proceedings. To pursuing this objective, 2018 prospective plan of TRAC is as follows:

1. Exploring new areas by releasing new Rules of Arbitration

Revision of TRAC Rules of Arbitration and adding new features will have a great impression on TRAC's function and encouraging business users to incorporate and/or refer their disputes to TRAC as a pioneer arbitration forum in the region.

In order to increase the usage of TRAC Rules of Arbitration, TRAC aims to officially announce its Rules in a conference by inviting the significant practitioners and scholars in the field of arbitration.

2. Organizing training courses, workshops and seminars and cooperation with arbitral institutes and academic centers

In the accomplishment of its educational duty, TRAC envisages to organize different workshops, seminars, training forums in the field of international arbitration and conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding with different organizations and universities to increase awareness regarding arbitration and motivate all practitioners to advise their clients to benefit from a transnational safe environment for settlement of their international commercial disputes.

D. Concluding words

This is a brief rundown of TRAC activities in 2017. TRAC has now gained a valuable recognition in the field of international arbitration in Iran and in the region. TRAC looks forward to enlarging its reputation and activities in 2018 and is grateful for the support of AALCO and Iranian government for achieving its goals.

V. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NAIROBI CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION (NCIA).

A. About NCIA

1. It may be recalled that during the Forty-Fifth Annual Session of AALCO held at New Delhi (Headquarters) on 3 April 2006, the then Secretary-General of AALCO and the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Regional Centre for Arbitration in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya.
2. In pursuance to the MoU, an Agreement Establishing the Nairobi Regional Arbitration Centre for Arbitration was signed between the then Secretary-General of AALCO and the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya during the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of AALCO held at Cape Town, Republic of South Africa from 2-6 July 2007.
3. During the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session in Beijing (China, 2015) the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Kenya noted that the Government of Kenya had shown its commitment to establishing a regional centre by enactment of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration Act No. 26 of 2013 to establish the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration (NCIA).⁵
4. NCIA is governed by a Board of Directors of eminent practitioners, consisting of a Chairperson and eleven members, two of whom are from the East African region. The daily affairs of NCIA are managed by a Registrar.

B. Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution Conferences, 2017 - 2018

5. In keeping with the mandate of AALCO regional arbitration Centres to promote the practice of international commercial arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution, the NCIA held the 1st National Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference, in Nairobi June 2018.
6. The Conference coincided with launch of the Nairobi China-Africa Joint Arbitration Centre (CAJAC). This attracted participation from practitioners in Kenya, South Africa and China. More than 300 participants took part in the two-day conference.
7. Organizing a CEO's Roundtable on 4th June 2018 attended by Chief Executive Officers and Business Leaders in Kenya. The event was graced by the Chief Justice and the Attorney General among other participants from leading companies in Kenya. It was an opportunity for participants to hear perspectives from South Africa and China.
8. NCIA has continued to participate actively in forums organized by partner institutions and other arbitral institutes including the just concluded AALCO regional arbitration Centres Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia hosted by the Asia International Arbitration Centre, July 2018.

⁵ See, the Report of the Fifty Fourth Annual Session of AALCO, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 13-17 April 2015, p. 321, available at www.aalco.int

9. Attended and participated in the 24th International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) Congress held in Sydney, Australia between 15th and 18th April 2018. The 2018 Congress addressed the theme '*Evolution and Adaptation: The Future of International Arbitration*'. The ICCA Congress is widely regarded as the largest and most important conference in the international arbitration universe and combines rigorous and stimulating programming featuring leading figures from around the world with the opportunity to engage informally with a vast number of arbitrators, arbitration practitioners, government officials and judges.
10. Attended and participated in the 4th SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference co-hosted with the Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) held in Kigali, Rwanda between 2nd and 4th May 2018. The 4th SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference addressed the theme '*The Role of Arbitration Practitioners in the Development of Arbitration in Africa*'.

C. Collaborations

1. Joint activities with the Kenya judiciary 2017- 2018

11. Collaboration with the Judiciary and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in undertaking a baseline study on alternative dispute resolution in Kenya with a report on assessment, situational analysis and recommended action points on Kenya's alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
12. Collaboration with the Judiciary and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) organized a national alternative dispute resolution stakeholder forum on 12th and 13th April 2018 dubbed 'Cultivating a Robust Coordinated Alternative Dispute Resolution Framework for Kenya towards Sustained Economic Growth and Access to Justice'.
13. Partnering with the Judiciary to facilitate the conduct of Court Annexed Mediation held between 4th and 8th December 2017 at the NCIA Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre.
14. The launch of the China Africa Joint Arbitration Centre – Nairobi took place in June 2018 as an initiative of the NCIA and the Beijing International Arbitration Centre to promote arbitration cooperation between the two centres.

D. Educational Activities

1. 1st NCIA Moot Competition, May - June 2018

15. In June 2018, NCIA hosted the 1st Moot competition in Nairobi for investment arbitration. The competition attracted participants from law schools in 9 Universities in Kenya. This provided an opportunity to the students to showcase their talent and learn from each other.

The event is set to be held annually to provide a platform for upcoming practitioners to interact with international commercial and investment arbitration practice.

16. Organized training titled ‘Introduction to Commercial and Investment Arbitration’ to members of the Kenya Chinese Chamber of Commerce. The training is one among many other developed by the Centre to capacity build and develop stakeholders on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

E. Administration of Disputes

17. The year 2017-18 has continued to record a growth in reference of disputes for administration by the Centre. The disputes totaled in value at USD 1.5 – 2.0 million and varied in nature of disputes from supplies, construction and other general commercial contracts.

F. Planned activities for the NCIA

18. These are some of the activities lined up by NCIA for the remainder of 2018
 1. Quarterly seminars on select topics in international commercial and investment arbitration.
 2. Investment Arbitration Conference co-hosted in Nairobi as a precursor to the CIarb international Conference in November 2018

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE AGENDA ITEM

12 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT ON THE AALCO'S REGIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRES

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fifty-Seventh Session,

Considering the Report on the AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres contained in Document No. AALCO/57/TOKYO/2018/ORG 3,

Noting with appreciation the introductory remarks made by the Secretariat and the report of the Directors of the Regional Arbitration Centres,

Reaffirming the commitment by the Governments of the Member States towards enhancing the role of the Regional Arbitration Centres,

Recalling decision relating to the Integrated Scheme for the Settlement of Disputes in Economic and Commercial Transactions adopted at its Doha Session in 1978,

Expressing satisfaction over the increasing use of the facilities and the opportunities offered for both domestic and international arbitrations under the auspices of its Regional Arbitration Centres,

Appreciating the efforts and contributions of the Governments of the Malaysia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Republic of Kenya for hosting the respective Regional Arbitration Centres,

Further appreciating the promotional activities undertaken by the Directors of the Centres, including organization of seminars and training programmes, to promote international commercial arbitration in the Asian and African regions,

Reiterating the earlier decision of the AALCO on the necessity for the Governments of the Member States to promote and support the use of the Regional Arbitration Centres,

Further reiterating its proposal, after consultation with the Directors of the respective Regional Arbitration Centres, for the holding of International Arbitration Conference biennially, by rotation in each of the Centres, with the support of the Member States,

1. **Requests** the Member States to continue their support to the Regional Arbitration Centres and use the AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres for resolving their disputes and in particular to consider in their contracts, the inclusion of the Arbitration Clause of AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centres;
2. **Urges** the Regional Arbitration Centres to consider to the extent possible, among themselves, the formation of a common system both administratively and financially between the Centres and common standards for the qualification of arbitrators;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to take an initiative towards establishment of another Regional Arbitration Centre in any interested Member State in the South-African, East-Asian and South Asian regions.
4. **Directs** the Regional Arbitration Centres to meet at every AALCO Annual Session to enable an exchange of ideas and to report the outcome to the Organization; and
5. **Decides** to place this item on the provisional agenda of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Session.