

CRCICA ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

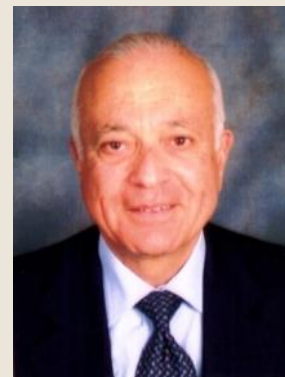


**The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration
(CRCICA)**
An International Organization operating in Egypt since 1979

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Letter from the Director



It is a source of great pleasure for me to introduce this report. The past year was a very successful year for the Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA). In terms of cases filed before the Centre, their number has increased to reach 51 cases in 2009 and 38 cases until mid-2010. If this continues as expected during the second half of 2010, a new record could be reached. Another source of satisfaction is the diversity of both the disputes referred to the Centre and the nationalities of the parties and the arbitrators.

As announced in the last report, the Centre's Advisory Committee, composed of twelve eminent jurists and practitioners, was constituted in March 2009 to advise the Director of the Centre on matters related to *inter alia* the rejection and removal of arbitrators, the amendment of the Centre's Rules and schedules of fees as well as the other activities of the Centre. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on April 21st, 2009 and since then 12 monthly meetings were convened, the last of which was in June 2010. I am personally very proud of the valuable contribution of the Advisory Committee and I look forward to enhancing its role in the future.

As illustrated in this report, the Centre has successfully conducted several programs in the last year.

CRCICA has entered this year into new areas of activities with new partners. The cooperation with the International Financial Corporation (IFC) in the mediation field is fully described in the report. The first Sino- African legal cooperation Forum was held at CRCICA premises in December 2009.

CRCICA also continued to run several activities that testify with its mission and corporate social responsibility, ranging from, first, training students from around the world through our summer internship programs, among which students from Egyptian, French and Canadian law schools. Secondly, offering continuing legal education (CLE) programs to law school graduates and young Egyptian practitioners. Among the successful courses that were offered by CRCICA, a two months CLE program was offered in cooperation with the American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI). Thirdly, collaborating with international institutions to offer further support and development to the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the region. Among the projects that CRCICA is currently involved in is a project with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that is studying the feasibility of establishing a regional advisory facility on international investment law and investor-state dispute settlement.

As for the future, CRCICA is in the process of amending its Rules in conformity with the new UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, working on promoting mediation in the region, continuing to collaborate with significant international

organizations such as the IFC, the UNCTAD and the OECD to further improve alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the region.

In brief, many activities were successfully pursued in the period under consideration and many others are expected to take place in the future.

CRCICA Case Report



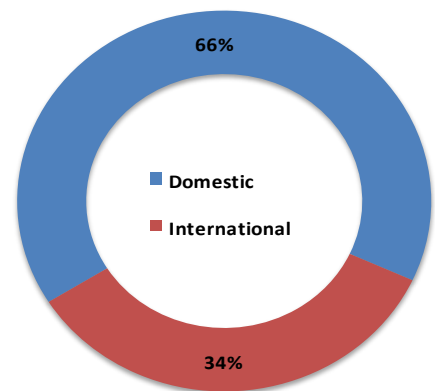
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The total number of domestic and international cases filed before CRCICA reached 697 cases. In 2009, 51 cases were filed; more than 35 per cent of which were international cases involving at least one non-Egyptian party, or involving only non-Egyptian parties. Until mid-2010, 38 new cases, including 12 international cases, were filed before the Centre.

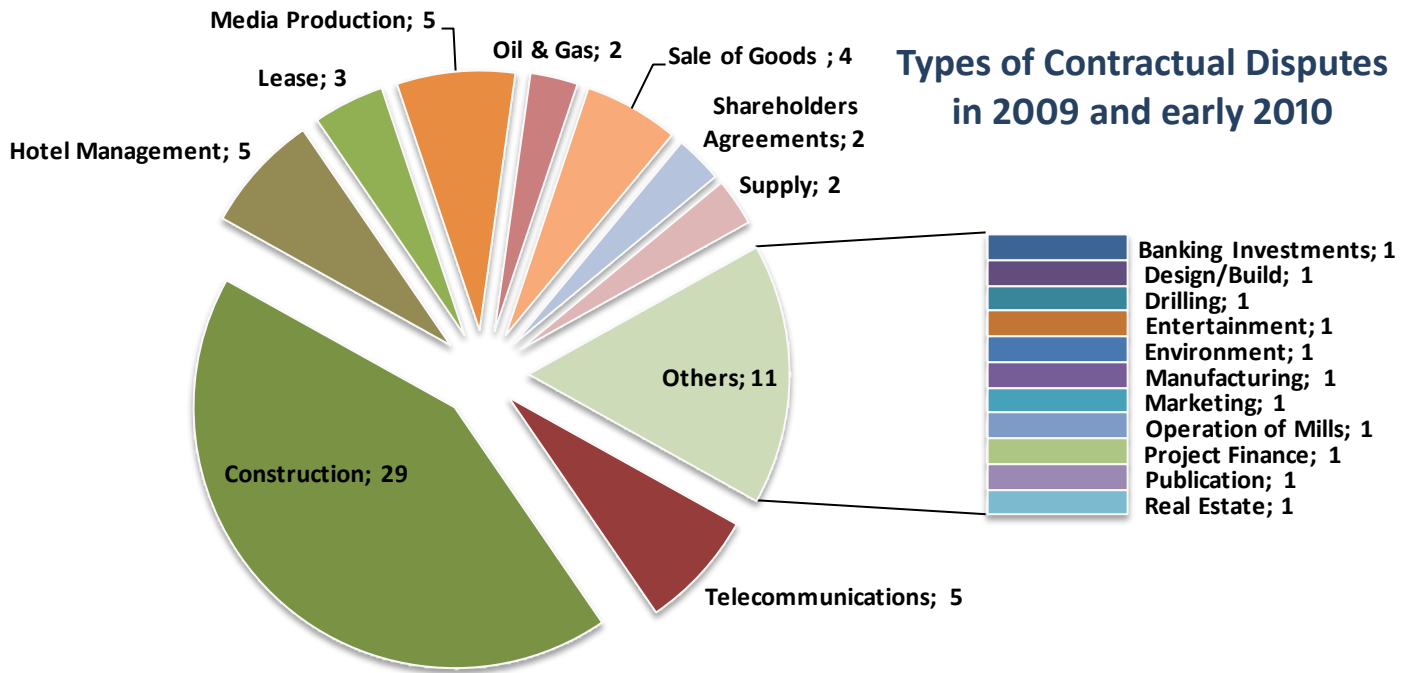
It is worth mentioning that two of the cases filed with the Centre during the 2009/2010, included (i) a case that does not involve any Egyptian party, i.e.: all parties of the dispute were non-Egyptians, (ii) a case that scores the highest amount in claim reaching 1.5 billion Egyptian Pounds, i.e.: USD 267,857,142,00.

It is also worth noting that the credibility of the Cairo Centre as a professional service provider has again been recently recognized by two companies, including one from the United Arab Emirates, which have mutually agreed, after conducting a mediation at the Centre, to discontinue an arbitration already pending before another major European arbitral institution and to submit the dispute between them to arbitration under the auspices of the Centre. This confidence is, of course, a source of satisfaction for the Centre and its members.

The 2009/2010 cases filed before the Centre related to disputes in various fields including Banking Investments, Telecommunications, Construction, Design/Build, Drilling, Entertainment, Environment, Hotel Management, Lease, Manufacturing, Marketing, Media Production, Operation of Mills, Oil & Gas, Project Finance, Publication, Real Estate, Sale of Goods, Shareholders Agreements, Supply and TV Transmission . It is noteworthy that construction cases still rank on top with telecommunications, media production and entertainment becoming increasingly important.

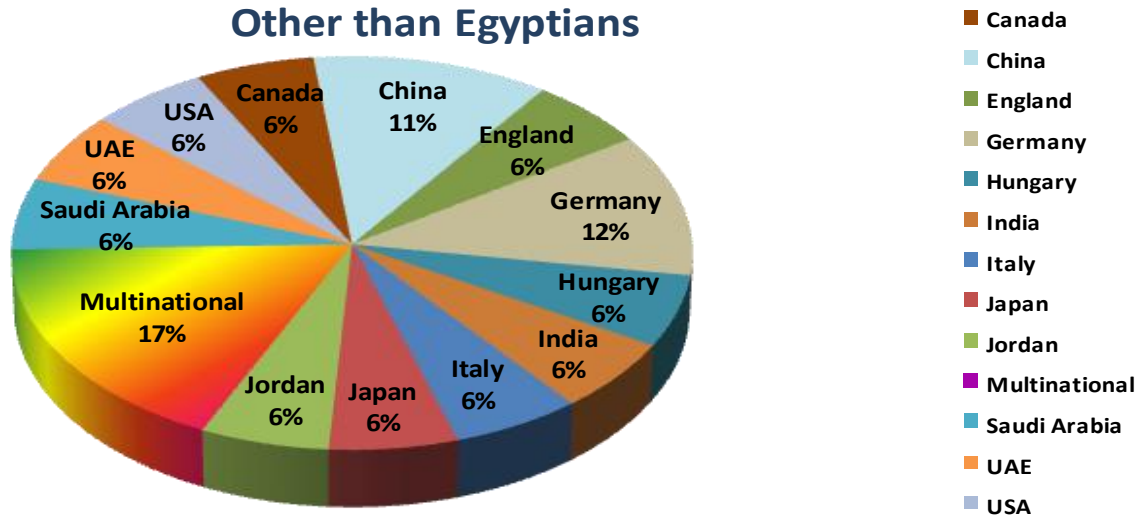


CRCICA Cases
2009 - Mid-2010



In the 2009/2010 cases, and beside the different multinational corporations, CRCICA arbitration proceedings involved parties from different countries including Egypt, Canada, China, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the USA.

Nationalities of the parties in 2009 and early 2010 Other than Egyptians



Just as the nationalities of parties vary, those of arbitrators do. During the reported period, arbitrators acting in CRCICA cases are nationals of different countries including Austria, Egypt, France, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the UK.

In various cases, CRCICA acted as an appointing authority whether in cases applying the CRCICA Rules of Arbitration or in *ad-hoc* cases. In the latter cases, CRCICA has been designated as an appointing authority by either (i) disputants or (ii) the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), which designated CRCICA to act as an appointing authority according to the UNCITRAL Rules in several cases.

Mediation...

"When meditation is mastered, the mind is unwavering like the flame of a lamp in a windless place" BHAGAVAD GITA

2009: A CRCICA Mediation Year: World Bank positions CRCICA as one of the region's leading Mediation training provider

In 2009, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) ⁽¹⁾ selected CRCICA as a regional partner to a 2-year mediation project designed to build local capacities and train master mediation trainers in Egypt. Signed in November 2009, the IFC/CRCICA Cooperation Agreement aims at promoting Egypt's capacity as a regional center of excellence for commercial mediation training and operationalizing the practice of commercial mediation as an effective alternative method of resolving commercial disputes in Egypt.

The project is a multi-activity initiative that targets building mediation institutional capacity in Egypt, providing training and curriculum development, developing mediation skills manuals and raising national mediation awareness.

LAUNCHING EVENT:

The Role of Egypt as a Regional Platform for Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Arab World:

Held on 11 May 2010, the purpose of the conference was to sensitize the audience on the concept and benefits of mediation. The conference was attended by 114 persons from different business sectors.

The overall objective of the collaboration between IFC and CRCICA in this project is to support CRCICA in positioning itself as one of Egypt's and the Region's Leading Commercial Mediation Training Providers (Project Description and Scope of Activities)



CEDR's Consolidated Mediator's Skills Training Course

(1) A member of the World Bank Group



CEDR Director, Mr. Graham Massie

Training

IFC contracted with the Center for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), a leading U.K.-based organization for the delivery of two rounds of training. There was an overall participation of 37 persons.

The first round consisted of a 5-day Consolidated Mediator Training Course, which is designed for participants with no previous training or experience in ADR. At the end of the course, each participant mediated 2 simulated cases. The second round of training consisted of a 4-day advanced mediator training course, which is designed for participants who had some training in mediation.

Seminar

CEDR Director, Mr. Graham Massie, delivered a 3-hour awareness raising seminar on mediation in the construction sector on 19 May 2010 in CRCICA premises. The seminar was attended by 82 participants from the legal, academic, and construction Sectors. The seminar was pitched at an introductory level, and focused on introducing participants to the benefits of independent mediation, and on illustrating the broad principles and processes. The presentation was well received by the audience.

"Equipped me with excellent tools not just for mediation but also for daily business and communication", **Gamal Abou Ali**, Lawyer Hassouna & Abou Ali Law Firm

"A must attend course before becoming a mediator"
Dr. Ahmed Waly, Managing Partner, WALY Arbitrators and Contract Administration Firm

Outcome:

In its early stages, the Project managed to found a solid ground capable of building CRCICA's mediation institutional capacity:

CEDR's high-quality training and thorough assessments supported CRCICA's Roster of mediators by 27 internationally accredited mediators.

CEDR identified 15 accredited mediators as having great potential to be master mediation trainers. On attending an in-depth master training course, they will create CRCICA's own list of approved mediation tutors.

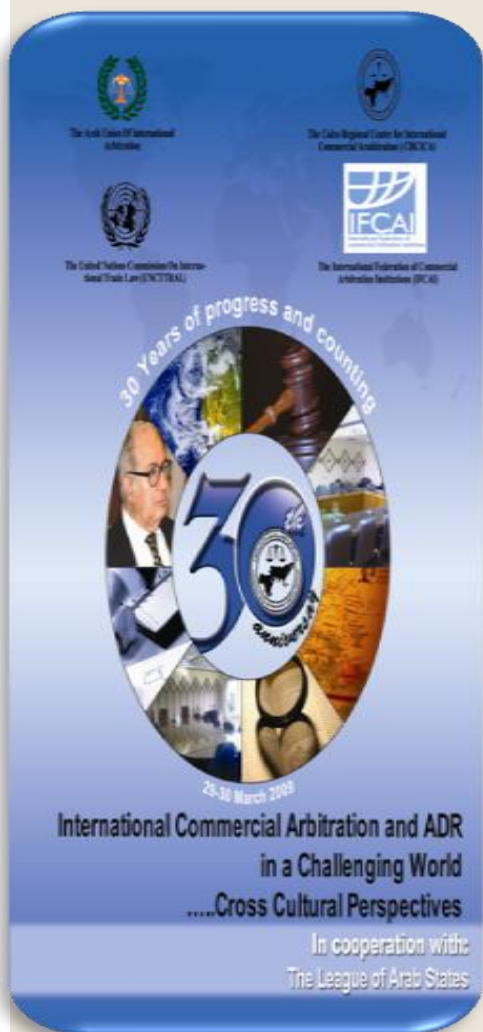


Celebrating 30 Years of CRCICA Success: International Commercial Arbitration and ADR in a Challenging world... Cross Cultural Perspectives.

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On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, on 29-30 March 2009, CRCICA held an international conference entitled: “International Commercial Arbitration and ADR in a Challenging World...Cross Cultural Perspectives”. Held in close cooperation with the UNCITRAL, the IFCAI and the League of Arab States, the Conference witnessed remarkably exceptional gathering of key representatives of all major international and regional arbitral institutions as well as a variety of international arbitration and ADR expert-speakers from 17 different countries. The overall attendance signal of the conference marks a total of 248 participants from 31 different countries being Oman, USA, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Australia, France, Germany, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, UAE, Jordan, Sweden, Yemen, Serbia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, Canada, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Austria, Bahrain, Switzerland, Spain, England.

The Conference opened up by a historic juxtaposition of the perspectives of the foremost arbitral institutions of the World, the ICC, the ICSID and the AAA. The agenda was thematically designed to screen the latest trends of arbitration and ADR through a balanced exposure of the experiences of major arbitral institutions, the views of international practitioners and the expectations of regional practitioners, all three edges were placed under the broad umbrella of international trade and investment laws and regulations as represented in the UNCITRAL, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). Mediation and on-line arbitration were given remarkably exceptional attention.



Cairo 2009: Setting the Stage for Afro-Asian Cooperation: CRCICA hosts the first Sino-African legal Cooperation Forum

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On December the 20th and the 21st, 2009, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) and the China Law Society (CLS) organized the First China-Africa Legal Forum (First FOCAC Legal Forum) in implementation of the Action Plan of the Sharm El Sheikh Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) (Para. 2.4.3) held in November 2009 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Eastern Southern Africa (COMESA) contributed to this landmark event because of their being directly involved in the development of Sino-African relations. The Arab League as well as the Arab Union of International Arbitration (AUIA) were also in attendance.

Having been the most immediate implementation of the Sharm EL Sheikh Action Plan, the event witnessed the participation of 113 delegates from China and 20 African Countries including Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Morocco, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Sudan and Kenya. Non-African Arabs from Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Jordan and Iraq also participated as observers.

Given the theme of the Forum "Strengthening China-Africa Legal Exchange and Promoting All-round Development of China-Africa Relationship", participants in the two-day forum held discussions with various topics including the important role of law in China-Africa Cooperation, the impact of legal



"At the Bandung Conference held in April 1955, the legendary leaders of African and Asian Countries decided to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation. The aim was to create institutions devoted to fostering closer cooperation between states from the two continents. Our parent organization the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was created for this purpose."

Dr. Nabil Elaraby, CRCICA Director at the opening ceremony of the First FOCAC Legal Forum (December 2009/Cairo-Egypt)

"We have participants from more than 20 African countries here, which means our proposal was echoed actively by these countries and they have shown deep interests. This is a fairly good start," Liu said.

Madam Liu Yang, Executive Vice-President of the China Law Society (CLS)



systems on China-Africa trade and investment relations, and the dispute resolution mechanisms between China and African countries. According to Madame Liu Yang, Executive Vice-President of the China Law Society (CLS), *“this forum set up a long-acting platform for the Chinese and African Legal circles ... to provide more support for economic and trade development between China and Africa”*.



A pioneering Sino-African initiative as it was, the First FOCAC LEGAL Forum provided a sound infrastructure for holding the second FOCAC Legal Forum which is scheduled to be held in September 2010 in Beijing China. In continuation of its fruitful cooperation with CLS, CRCICA liaised between African stakeholders in the 49 FOCAC African member countries and the Chinese organizing party to define the most important topics of regional interest to be included in the agenda of the Second FOCAC LEGAL Forum.

“ we are quite impressed with your delicate marketing scheme showing the abundant experiences of CRCICA in organizing such international events” **Mr. Gu Zhaomin**, Director-General Overseas Liaison Department, China Law Society (CLS)



In Focus: Sharm el Sheikh III The Role of State Courts in Arbitration

2-4 June 2010 Sharm el Sheikh – Egypt

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Oman



U.A.E



Saudi Arabia



Sudan



Jordan

Sharm el Sheikh III was held on 2-4 June 2010, the Conference was the third in the only international series of conferences organized biennially since 2005 on the renovating relation between state courts and arbitration in a cross-cultural context. CRCICA partners in the Sharm El Sheikh Conferences initiative are the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), and the Arab Union for International Arbitration (AUIA) .



26 countries were represented in the conference, these are Austria, Bahrain, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela and Yemen With 35 speakers from 14 Countries representing different legal systems, the event was a tremendous success.

The agenda featured comparative analysis of the different aspects of the role of state courts in arbitration in eastern and western countries. Most recent international court decisions including but not limited to decisions of the French, Swiss, Swedish, English and American courts were discussed in a splendid cross-cultural context.



On the sidelines of the Conference, the Centre organized an **ARBITRAL WOMEN** ⁽¹⁾ lunch , which was attended by approximately 20 women working in arbitration from Egypt, Venezuela, England, Switzerland, Poland, Sweden and Lebanon .The meeting was as a remarkable token of women’s active role in international commercial arbitration.

In implementation of one of SHARM EL SHIEKH III most important recommendations, CRCICA will establish a working group to act as an institutional discussion forum on the critical relation between state courts and arbitration in disputes arising out of administrative contracts. To view the full report of the Conference and the detailed recommendations, please visit www.crcica.org.eg

Sharm El Sheikh III is tentatively scheduled for February 2011.



ARBITRALWOMEN

(1) The International Network of Women in Dispute Resolution

ABA/CRCICA CLE PROGRAMMES

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CRCICA has been offering Continuing Legal Educational (CLE) programs since the 80's on different complementary levels with key international law schools and institutions including the Queen Mary School of International Arbitrators (SIA), University of London, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and the International Law Institute.

As of the year 2008, CRCICA started focusing on CLE programmes offered to recently graduated lawyers. A cooperation agreement was signed with the American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative (ABA) to that effect. The goal of the CRCICA/ABA CLE programme is mainly to develop the practical skills of recently graduated lawyers, helping them to become more effective advocates for their clients. It includes classes on *inter alia* legal research, legal writing, advocacy, negotiation, client relations and legal procedure. Given the success achieved by the programme in its first year, it was decided to expand the programme this year and offer it as many times as possible, in both Arabic and English languages. The programme was offered 9 times which gave the opportunity to train almost 242 Egyptian lawyers recently graduated from law schools in different universities around Egypt. The classes were taught by Egyptian and non-Egyptian practitioners and academics. At the end of each course, a moot arbitration was held at CRCICA whereby students were divided into claimants and respondents and argued a case about international sales of goods before different practitioners and arbitrators from Austria, Egypt, France and Germany.



The role of CRCICA in CLE recently did not stop to directly providing CLE programmes, however, given the vital importance of maintaining a high level of expertise among practicing lawyers and to ensure that the training of the next generation of lawyers meets international standards and in order to further develop CLE programmes throughout the MENA region, CRCICA cooperated with the ABA and hosted an event on creating and administering CLE programs. The event took place on November 2009 and was entitled “Creating and Administering a CLE Program: A Course on Essentials for Administrators and Practitioners.”

The five-day course provided in-depth training on core aspects of continuing legal education programming and administration. The objective of the course was to assist CLE administrators and practitioners by enhancing their knowledge of practical aspects of CLE administration and programming. Focus areas of the course included: administration and funding of CLE; faculty selection and development; teaching methodology; curriculum and course development; utilization of technology in CLE; and program evaluation.

The course was taught by The Hon. Judge David Nuffer, U.S. Magistrate Judge for United States District Court for the District of Utah; Richard Vittenson, Director of the ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education; Joseph Besharse, Associate director of technology and Products, ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education; and James Buchanan, Senior Education Specialist, United States Federal Judicial Center. The conference was attended by legal professionals from countries from throughout the Middle East and North Africa, including Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and United Arab Emirates, and included practicing attorneys, judges, representatives of judicial and legal training institutes, and professors of law.

Towards Iraqi Legal Capacity Building: CRCICA and OECD Collaborate



Over the years, CRCICA has been called upon to provide technical assistance sustaining legal infrastructures in various African and Asian countries. This has varied between establishment and operation of national arbitration centres, drafting, revising or awareness-raising of national arbitration laws in many countries of the region including, inter alia, Morocco, Djibouti, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Palestine and lately *IRAQ*⁽¹⁾.

Iraqi's integration into international world trading system and its internal development require enhancing its trade and investment infrastructure and increasing the understanding of arbitration mechanism and settling disputes that may arise especially between the Iraqi government and foreign investors. Out of this perspective and since December 2006, CRCICA has been involved in providing training for and raising awareness of Iraqi officials to help the government establish an Iraqi Arbitration Centre and draft its national arbitration law. While these developmental projects were initially launched in cooperation with the American-Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, they found their way in 2009/ 2010 through CRCICA's close cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In October 2009, CRCICA and OECD co-organized a training workshop for Iraqi Officials on **Investor-State Dispute Settlement and the Development of a Model Investment Treaty**. The workshop brought together CRCICA and OECD experts knowledgeable about International Investment Agreements (IIA) and Investment State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) issues, Iraqi investment climate and its legal and regularly framework. Iraqi government

(1) Obvious as is, the geographical allocation of the states involved quite symbolizes CRCICA's interactive existence in the Afro-Asian region.



officials from the national and investment commission were in attendance.

In July 2010, building on the success of the October event, OECD, CRCICA and the Egyptian General Authority for Investment (GAFI) cooperated to organize another successful workshop entitled : **Enhancing and sustaining private foreign investment in Iraq: the Iraqi International Legal Investment Framework** (*Investment Law implementation, Arbitration Law, Investor-State Dispute Settlement and Model Investment Treaty*). The Workshop enhanced understanding of investor-State dispute settlement through review of mechanisms and procedures, case studies and the drafting of clauses; boosted capacity in negotiating international investment agreements through a review of components for a model investment treaty and a simulated negotiation exercise; and analyzed the Iraqi draft Arbitration Law and its implementation.

In May 2010, analogous to the OECD/CRCICA trainings, CRCICA held a one-day seminar for an Iraqi delegation composed of lawyers and members of the Consultation Council (*Majles El Shura*) on **the Application of the Egyptian Arbitration Law no. 27/1994**. The seminar was meant to familiarize Iraqi practitioners and members of the legislative authority with the practical issues arising out of the application of national arbitration laws and the ways to deal with them eventually. It is worth noting that the Egyptian Arbitration Law is patterned on the UNCITRAL Model and has been in application for 16 years.

CRCICA in a Year:

International Outreach and Regional Contribution



CRCICA - UNCITRAL - New York - June 2010



CRCICA - GCC training Kuwait 2009

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In 2009/2010, CRCICA has actively contributed by expert speeches and research papers in various arbitration conferences and meetings in the US, Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland, Tunisia and Lebanon. Relevant events involved the UNCITRAL, the IFCAI, the International Bar Association (IBA), the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and the AUIA ...etc.

Being one of the prime arbitration and ADR training providers in the region, CRCICA was called upon to vitally contribute in providing training for practitioners in Kuwait, Iraq and recently in Cape Verde on the settlement of international investment disputes, the drafting of arbitral awards as well as on corruption and arbitration. It is notable that CRCICA helped developing a pool of regional tutors and expert speakers to participate in OECD's and UNCTAD's training workshops on investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)

In 2009/2010, CRCICA participated in three UNCITRAL Sessions which took place at the premises of the United Nations in New York and Vienna. Two of the sessions were dedicated to the work of Working Group II which was mainly reviewing and amending the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The third Session was the Commission's meeting, in which the suggested amendments were discussed and adopted by the UNCITRAL in June 2010.

In continuation of its long-standing cooperation with the UNCITRAL, CRCICA reviewed the Arabic version of the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Rules. It is noteworthy that the Cairo Centre has been involved in the arabization of international arbitration rules and literature. In the 2000's, CRCICA prepared the Arabic version of the Swiss Arbitration Rules and the only authorized Arabic translation of the ITC Publication: **ARBITRATION / ADR : The SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL DISPUTES.**



UNCTAD - Investment workshop - Cape Verde 2009

CRCICA's contributions in specialized publications

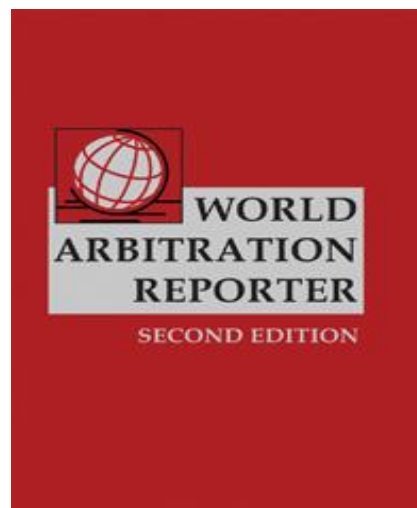


During the reported period, CRCICA has had remarkable research contributions in reputed publications, the most significant of these are as follows:

How Should International Arbitrators Tackle Corruption Issues?, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Deputy Director and Secretary-General, CRCICA, ICSID Review, Spring 2009. This article reviews how international arbitrators are at present tackling corruption issues. Based on the available case law, the author distinguishes between the arbitrators' approach adopted in commercial arbitrations, involving mainly two private entities, and the one adopted in investment arbitrations, where host States typically are the respondents. According to the author, the reviewed arbitral decisions demonstrate that some international arbitrators, cognizant of their role in fighting corruption, adopt a positive position, by redressing corrupt practices, while others seem to be indifferent, by refusing to tackle corruption for reasons pertaining to their limited powers.

The Chapter on Egypt, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, World Arbitration Reporter (WAR), Juris Publishing, 2010. This Chapter includes a comprehensive and updated overview of arbitration in Egypt, starting from the historical evolution of the law until the enforcement of foreign and domestic arbitral awards. The Chapter refers to relevant recent court decisions and legal writings as well as recent amendments introduced to the Egyptian Arbitration Law.

Report on the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Ms. Laila El Shentenawi, Legal Advisor, CRCICA, World Arbitration Reporter (WAR), Juris Publishing, 2010. This chapter provides information about the practices and rules of the CRCICA. It includes a general description of the institution,



and the services provided thereby, as well as the main features of the CRCICA Rules.

The above chapters were published in the second edition of WAR, which was launched during the ICCA Conference in May 2010. WAR is published by Juris under the direction of Michael Kitzen. The first edition of WAR was edited by Professor Hans Smit and the late Vratislav Pechota, while the second edition was edited by Professor Loukas Mistelis and Ms. Laurence Shore under the blessing of Professor Smit.

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Corruption and Arbitration, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Liber Amicorum Bernardo Cremades, Wolters Kluwer 2010. The Liber Amicorum was presented to Bernardo Cremades on the 22nd of June 2010. It is an impressive volume of more than 1,250 pages with over 70 essays relating to commercial and investment arbitration.

The Journal of Arab Arbitration, Volumes 13 (December 2009) and 14 (June 2010). This specialized periodical, issued by the Cairo Centre on behalf of the Arab Union of International Arbitration (AUIA), comes in a new look and includes very interesting commentaries and comparative analysis of most recent arbitral awards and court decisions. The last volume (Vo.14) was entirely dedicated to publishing the written contributions of the distinguished speakers who enriched the Sharm El Sheikh III Conference on the Role of State Courts in Arbitration (2-4 June 2010).



CRCICA upgrades in-house facilities



In 2009, CRCICA re-designed its internal architecture to create two new fully equipped courtrooms and two parties' recess rooms. The new spatial facilities allow for the smooth running of more than two hearings at a time. It also increases training facilities raising the overall capacity of in-house breakout spaces to 8 workshop rooms.

More recently, in 2010, CRCICA equipped the main court rooms with 2 motorized screens, projectors and LCD screen 47 inch . These high-tech facilities are assets added to CRCICA institutional services.

Being quite cognizant of regional scholars' needs of up-to-date information on arbitration and ADR, CRCICA has lately entered into agreement with the Library of Alexandria (*Bibliotheca Alexandrina*) to renew its own Library and data retrieval facilities according to the latest documentation methods.



Expanding Cooperation Agreements



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CRCICA - CIETAC - Cooperation Agreement



CRCICA - CLS - December 2009

In expanding its regional partnerships, CRCICA concluded three new cooperation agreements in 2009/2010 scoring as such a total of 60 international cooperation agreements.

May 2009: cooperation agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Commercial Arbitration Centre (**BAHRAIN**):

The agreement is basically meant to foster mutual cooperation in the field of regional arbitration services and trainings.

December 2009: cooperation agreement with the China Law Society (CLS) (**CHINA**):

On the occasion of the first FOCAC Legal Forum, the agreement was concluded to establish a long-term mechanism to reciprocate better understanding of the legal cultures of both China – as a symbol of Asian Excellence - and Egypt - as a key African Country.

May 2010: cooperation agreement with China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) (**CHINA**): The agreement frames out an ambitious scope of cooperation between CRCICA and CIETAC furthering bi-institutional exchange of services whenever needed.

Adjacent to long-term agreement, CRCICA has recently concluded two interim agreements, one with the IFC to develop mediation training and awareness raising programs over two years and the second a renewal of the CRCICA/ABA to carry on holding Continuing Legal Education Programs in 2010.

"We are fortunate to partner with CRCICA. We have benefited tremendously from their experience and know-how in planning our awareness raising events. I don't see how we could have organized these without CRCICA's assistance. Thank you."

Fatma Ibrahim, Associate Operations Officer, IFC



CRCICA - CIETAC - May 2009

Looking Ahead : CRCICA Future Plans



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Revision of **CRCICA Arbitration Rules:** Upon the adoption of the revised UNICTRAL Model Arbitration Rules (June 2010), CRCICA will soon issue a revised version of its own Rules touching the bottom-line of newly emerging needs under the uniform umbrella of the UNCITRAL. After consultation with experts, users and practitioners, CRCICA is also revising its schedules of arbitrators' fees.

Establishing a working group on the relation between state courts and arbitration in administrative contracts disputes: CRCICA will establish a working group to act as an institutional discussion forum on the critical relation between state courts and arbitration in disputes arising out of administrative contracts. The group will include Egyptian specialists and members of the Egyptian State Council to discuss problems relating to such disputes and propose possible solutions.

October 2010: CRCICA-FIDIC Training Seminar FIDIC Contracts – Latest Developments:

CRCICA and the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) will cooperate to hold a training seminar on FIDIC Contracts – Latest Developments. The seminar will be held in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Egyptian Society of Consulting Engineers (ESCON). The agenda is designed to tackle the most recent developments relating to the application of the FIDIC different contracts under national laws. It is noteworthy that CRCICA and FIDIC have started a fruitful institutional cooperation since 2007 meant to raise awareness and build capacities to improve the regional use of FIDIC Contracts.

Regional Seminar on: Investor-States dispute settlement and international investment law: towards a regional advisory facility for the Arab-African region?

CRCICA and UNCTAD will jointly hold a regional seminar on Investor-States dispute settlement and international investment law to explore the regional feasibility of establishing an ISDS Advisory Facility for developing countries in the Arab-African region. Tentatively scheduled for November 2010, the seminar will be held in cooperation with the Arab League with the involvement of a wide range of ISDS stakeholders in the region to have their views and expectations surveyed before the actual establishment of the Facility.

The services of the envisaged Facility are being negotiated to include capacity building, technical assistance, mediation and ADR training, access to information, dispute prevention and ISDS advice. The geographical scope of the Facility is said to ab initio include African and Arab Asian Countries. The environmental viability of the Facility, however, might allow for possible extension to non-Arab Asian Countries at a later stage.