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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2014 was a very busy year for CRCICA. After being honored in 2013 as the Regional Institution of 2013 by the Global Arbitration Review "in recognition of its great strides in the past year", CRCICA received another valuable recognition from an independent report mandated by the African Development Bank assessing various arbitration centres across the African continent. The Report considered CRCICA as one of the best arbitration centres across the African Continent that can readily be recommended for use by parties from both the African continent and elsewhere. According to the Report, CRCICA fulfills the Bank's important requirement for a neutral venue even in cases of commonality of origin between one of the parties to the arbitration and the State in which the Centre is located, i.e. Egypt.

Unlike the previous versions of CRCICA’s Annual Reports, which used to cover 18 months of activities, this Annual Report, submitted to AALCO during the first quarter of 2015, covers CRCICA’s caseload and activities during the 12 months of 2014. Since 2012, CRCICA is publishing a quarterly online newsletter covering its caseload and all its activities conducted during the relevant quarter.

CRCICA caseload in 2014 witnessed the filing of more cases than in 2013 as well a new annual record for purely international cases not involving any Egyptian party. CRCICA caseload also continues to cover a vast variety of disputed contracts including media and entertainment, construction, lease agreements, real estate, supply, hotel management in addition to sale and purchase of shares and services. I am particularly proud of the diversity of the nationalities of the parties and arbitrators coming not only from Africa and Asia, but also from Europe and Latin America.

One of the key developments in 2014 is the issuance by CRCICA, for the first time since its inception in 1979, of Practice Notes determining the Centre’s policies regarding its decisions under the Arbitration Rules in force since 1 March 2011. The Practice Notes have been prepared based on the decisions taken by the Centre's Advisory Committee during its quarterly meetings in 2012 and 2013 and have thus far received a warm welcome by the users, who appreciate the enhanced transparency in the institution’s decision-making process. Within this context and thanks to the excellent work of the members of its Advisory Committee, CRCICA also intends to publish in 2015 its practice regarding challenges to arbitrators filed under its auspices.

In 2014, CRCICA continued its regional and international contributions to the development of both international arbitration and commercial mediation. This included holding a major biennial international conference in November in Sharm El Sheikh regarding the role of state courts in international arbitration, followed by another successful event in December celebrating twenty years of application of the Egyptian Law on Arbitration, which is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law of 1985. CRCICA also held several training programs, workshops, lectures and seminars on arbitration and mediation and was actively promoting both dispute resolution mechanisms in Europe (Milan and Marseille), Asia (Beijing and Shanghai), Africa (Casablanca and Mauritius), Middle East (Manama) and the USA (Miami).

Another salient feature of the reported period are CRCICA’s publications ranging from its well-known Journal of Arab Arbitration and the English Volume IV of CRCICA Awards to special updated chapters on arbitration in Egypt and under CRCICA’s auspices published in the reputable
World Arbitration Reporter. CRCICA also contributed to a special publication on interim measures and continues to publish its awards in Arabic.

After the official inauguration of its new Hearing Centre in 2013, CRCICA is starting 2015 with a very ambitious renovation project that would enable it by the end of September to offer to the arbitration community in the region and beyond a new state-of-the art Conference Centre matching its status as one of the best arbitral institutions in the world.
The African Development Bank (AFDB) posted the Assessment Report of Arbitration Centres in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Mauritius. Prepared by Dr. Werner Jahnel, Partner, LALIVE as mandated by the AFDB, the Report focuses on the following three centres: La Cour Commune de Justice et d'Arbitrage (CCJA) in Côte d'Ivoire, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) in Egypt, and the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (LCIA-MIAC) in Mauritius. The purpose of the Report is to assess the said arbitration centres against the requirements and standards for "international commercial arbitration" according to the Bank's Rules and Procedures for the Procurement of Goods and Works and to examine, among other issues, "the neutral venue requirement" in each of these centres.

The research methodology of the report was double-staged based on desk review of documents and site visits of some of the Centres involved. The Final Report consolidates the findings of the two stages and provides a final assessment of each centre. The basic features of the Report on CRCICA follow:

1. **Recognition:** CRCICA is 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.

2. **Neutrality:** CRCICA fulfills the Bank's important requirement for a neutral venue even in cases of commonality of origin between one of the parties to the arbitration and the State in which the Centre is located, i.e. Egypt.

3. **Strengths:** the professionalism of the Centre and the suitability of the CRCICA Rules for the conduct of important international arbitration proceedings are noted as significant features of CRCICA.

4. **Users' Review:** All the practitioners consulted confirmed that the Cairo Centre was functioning very well and that the current political situation in the region did not have any impact on the organization of the Centre and its ability to properly administer the arbitral proceedings. This factor, together with the Centre's status as an independent non-profit international organization, enhance public confidence entrusted to the Centre.

5. **French version of the CRCICA Rules:** The assessor received no negative feedback regarding the Centre. He has however stressed the importance of having a French version for CRCICA's Arbitration Rules, which is due to be released in the first half of 2015.
6. Assessor’s Conclusion: The system at CRCICA as a whole appears to provide the necessary safeguards to guarantee a suitable framework to all parties to the arbitration.

CRCICA reviews the outcome of this report with pride and satisfaction. It is notable that the Centre has recently received similar acknowledgements of neutrality and professionalism from other international financial organizations as well as commercial dispute resolution institutions in the course of their assessment of neutral and appropriate arbitration venues.

The full Report is available through the following link:

**CRCICA DIRECTOR ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF ICCA, APRIL 2014**

The International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) announced new appointments to its Executive Body and Governing Board, ahead of its meeting in Miami in April 2014.

In this context, ICCA elected two vice presidents; Ms. Adriana Braghetta, co-head of arbitration at LO Baptista Schmidt Valois Miranda Ferreira Agel in São Paulo and Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Director of CRCICA.

Both vice-presidents were selected from ICCA’s 40-strong Governing Board, on which they have served since 2012. They replaced ex-vice presidents Teresa Cheng SC, the chair of the HKIAC, and Russian law professor Alexander Komarov.

5 new members including two corporate counsels were also elected to the ICCA Governing Board. All new members of the Executive Body and the Governing Board formally took their posts on 6 April at the ICCA Congress in Miami, where the ex-president, Jan Paulsson, handed over the reins to the current president, Dutch arbitrator Albert Jan van den Berg.
CRCICA'S KEY DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR: THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE NOTES IN THE REGION

For the first time since its inception in 1979, CRCICA issued eight Practice Notes determining the discretion and role of the Centre as well as its policies regarding the following decisions under CRCICA's Arbitration Rules in force since 1 March 2011:

1. The Centre's decision not to proceed with arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules;
2. The application of Article 10(3) of the Rules regarding multiparty arbitrations and its correlation with Article 9(2);
3. The notification to the parties and the arbitral tribunals of the submissions deposited by the parties, in light of Article 17(4) and (5) and Article 48 of the Rules;
4. The termination of already suspended arbitral proceedings due to failure of payment of the costs of the arbitration;
5. The determination of the fees of the arbitral tribunal based on sums in dispute exceeding three million US Dollars in accordance with the scales set out in Table (3) annexed to the Rules;
6. The determination of the costs of the arbitration according to Article 42(5) of the Rules in the case of the arbitral tribunal's decision to terminate the proceedings before the issuance of a final award according to Article 36 of the Rules;
7. The partial payment of fees to the resigning arbitrators; and
8. The advance partial payment of the arbitrators' fees after the oral hearing under Article 45(8) of the Rules.

The Practice Notes were prepared based on the decisions taken by the Centre's Advisory Committee (AC) during its quarterly meetings in 2012 and 2013 and have been approved in the AC's meeting dated 23 June 2014. The Practice Notes shall apply to all currently pending CRCICA cases and are available in Arabic and English on CRCICA's website at the following link:

CRCICA Practice Notes JUNE 2014 (Arabic version):

CRCICA Practice Notes JUNE 2014 (English version):
CRCICA CASELOAD: MORE CASES IN 2014 THAN IN 2013 AND NEW RECORD FOR PURELY INTERNATIONAL CASES

The total number of arbitration cases filed before CRCICA until 31 December 2013 reached 1016 cases. In 2014, 74 new arbitration cases were filed compared to 72 cases scored in 2013. 17 out of the 74 new cases were filed in the first quarter of 2014, while 18 cases were filed in the second quarter of 2014. The third quarter of 2014 witnessed the filing of 23 new arbitration cases, while 16 new cases were filed in the last quarter of 2014. The largest amount in dispute filed in 2014 amounted to US $176,000,000.

According to the statistics of 2014, Media and Entertainment disputes rank on top of the disputed contracts referred to the Centre (17 Cases) followed by construction disputes (10 cases) and lease agreements (9 cases). Real estate and supply cases filed in 2014 amounted to 7 cases each, while the number of cases arising out of hotel management and sale and purchase of shares amounted to 4 cases each. Three cases arising out of services contracts were also filed in 2014. The other 13 cases filed in 2014 related to charter party agreements, information technology, joint venture agreements and telecommunications (2 cases each), in addition to cases arising out of agency, concession, settlement and subcontracting agreements as well as sports-related disputes (1 case each).

The following pie shows a breakdown of the types of disputed contracts in 2014:
The rich variety of the types of disputed contracts referred to CRCICA in 2014 clearly illustrates the importance of arbitration as a means of dispute settlement and confirms the credibility of institutional arbitration under CRCICA’s auspices.

According to the statistics of 2014, parties from Saudi Arabia rank on top of the non-Egyptian parties referring their disputes to the Centre followed by parties from Sudan, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, U.A.E. and Bahrain, while parties from the U.K. rank on top of non-Arab parties referring their disputes to the Centre, followed by parties from Switzerland, USA, British Virgin Islands, Germany, Greece, Italy, Panama and the Seychelles.

CRCICA is pleased to see that in 2014, its Arbitration Rules have been chosen by parties to 9 purely international contracts concluded between parties from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Sudan, Panama, Switzerland, U.A.E., Seychelles and Lebanon. This marks a new record in the number of purely international cases (not involving any Egyptian party) that have been filed under the auspices of the Centre in one year.

The following pie shows a breakdown of the nationalities of non-Egyptian parties in 2014:

![Nationalities of Non-Egyptian Parties 2014](image)

According to the statistics of 2014, arbitrators from U.K. rank on top of non-Arab arbitrators, followed by arbitrators from Switzerland, France, Germany and Ireland. Arab arbitrators came from Jordan and Syria.

The following pie shows a breakdown of the nationalities of non-Egyptian arbitrators in 2014:
On 10 December 2014, CRCICA Board of Trustees (BOT) held its annual meeting at CRCICA's headquarters in Cairo. The meeting was presided by his Excellency Dr. Nabil Elaraby (Chairman of the BOT) and attended by: Judge Mohamed Amin El Mahdy (Vice-Chairman - Egypt), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Kamal Aboul Magd (Egypt), Dr. Ziad A. Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia), Prof. Bernardo M. Cremades (Spain), Prof. Dr. Yehia El Gamal (Egypt), Judge Dr. Adel Koura (Egypt), Dr. Nayla Comair Obeid (Lebanon), Prof. Dr. Fouad Riad (Egypt).

During the meeting, CRCICA Director presented CRCICA's activities and caseload in 2013-2014 as well as its financial statement of operations for the year ending on 31 December 2013 as audited by the external auditor. The final designs of CRCICA's new Conference Centre and library to be inaugurated in 2015 were also presented.

The BOT approved CRCICA's membership in the International Federation of Arbitration Centres in the Islamic World and unanimously agreed to nominate two new African experts (Ms. Olufunke Adekoya from Nigeria and Judge Abdul Qawi Yusuf from Somalia) to become members of the BOT. The esteemed Nominees kindly accepted the mission.
The Advisory Committee of the Centre is scheduled to meet four times a year. In 2014, the AC met on 24 March, 23 June, 29 September and 16 November.

Meetings were attended by the following members: Prof. Dr. Ahmed S. El KOSHERI (Chairman-Egypt), Dr. Philippe LEOULANGER (Vice-Chairmen – France), Prof. Nassib ZIADÉ (Vice-Chairmen – Bahrain), Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah ABDEL WAHAB (Egypt), Judge. Dr. Borhan AMRALLAH (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Mohamed BADRAN (Egypt), Judge. Mohamed Amin EL MAHDY (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Samir EL SHARKAWY (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Hamza HADDAD (Jordan), Dr. Karim HAFEZ (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Hossam ISSA (Egypt), Judge. Dr. Adel F. KOURA (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Fathi WALY (Egypt), Ms. Rabab YASSEEN (Switzerland) in addition to CRCICA Director.

Among other businesses, the 2014 Committee meetings discussed and approved the final English and Arabic versions of CRCICA's Practice Notes, which shall govern the Centre's policies regarding the following decisions under CRCICA's Arbitration Rules in force since 1 March 2011:

1- The Centre's decision not to proceed with arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules.
2- The application of Article 10(3) of the Rules regarding multiparty arbitrations and its correlation with Article (9/2).
3- The notification to the parties and the arbitral tribunals of the submissions deposited by the parties, in light of Article 17(4) & (5) and Article 48 of the Rules.
4- The termination of already suspended arbitral proceedings due to failure of payment of the costs of the arbitration.
5- The determination of the fees of the arbitral tribunal based on sums in dispute exceeding three million US Dollars in accordance with the scales set out in Table (3) annexed to the Rules.
6- The determination of the costs of the arbitration according to Article 42(5) of the Rules in the case of the arbitral tribunal's decision to terminate the proceedings before the issuance of a final award according to Article 36 of the Rules.
7- The partial payment of fees to the resigning arbitrators.
8- The Advance partial payment of the arbitrators' fees after the oral hearing under Article 45(8) of the Rules and are deemed an important institutional development that fosters transparency in the decision-making process.
CRCICA launched “Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice” (CCATP) 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 program is a progressive educational ladder of four successive modules covering the main arbitration stages being the arbitration agreement, the arbitral tribunal, the arbitral proceedings and finally the arbitral award. The program, in its four modules, provides the ideal platform to underpin and support the development of professional experience in arbitration.

CCATP is held in cooperation with the Cairo Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb). Tutors are Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, CRCICA Director, and Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab, Vice President of the Cairo Branch of the CIArb.

Upon completion of the program, in its four modules, participants are eligible to apply for the membership of CRCICA.

Attendees have been a mixture of lawyers, judges, engineers, governmental officials and representatives of the different business sectors from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Palestine.

In 2014, CCATP was held as follows:
First Module: The ARBITRATION AGREEMENT, 15-17 March 2014

Held by CRCICA and CIArb Cairo, the 2014 round of the Comparative Commercial Arbitration Law: The Theory and Practice (CCATP) started on 15-17 March 2014 by the First Module: The Arbitration Agreement. The course was a balanced combination of lectures and tutorials. It provided participants with sufficient knowledge of the theory and practice in all the requirements for the writing and understanding of the arbitration agreement.

Generally, the didactics of the course are based on an unprecedented collection of documentations including comparative state court decisions on the arbitration agreement of the European (British, French and Swiss), American and Arab (Egyptian, Saudi, Sudanese, Tunisian, Emirati and Syrian) jurisdictions. Also, documents include a unique collection of arbitration agreement related arbitral principles extracted from awards of many international arbitration institutions including CRCICA. The mock case, the educational masterpiece of the course, is tactfully prepared to spot all possible types of the pathological arbitration clauses cited in CRCICA’s rich institutional record.

The course was attended by 45 practitioners representing an outstanding variety of business sectors, being petroleum, construction, real estate, investment, banking, air conditioning industry, trading, representatives of national courts and public prosecutors, ministries of justice of Egypt and United Arab Emirates, the League of Arab States and Libyan Commercial attaches in Cairo as well as private lawyers and professionals from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Second Module: The ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL, 8-10 June 2014

The Arbitral Tribunal: the second module of the Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice (CCATP), was held on 8-10 June 2014. In this module, "the Arbitral Tribunal" is studied in depth based on a big number of the most recent international court decisions and institutional regulations. Unlike the traditional format of arbitral tribunal programs, which mainly
focuses on the composition of tribunals, the program tackled all aspects related to the tribunal including the appointment of arbitrators, the scope and nature of their mission as well as challenge, removal, resignation and replacement of arbitrators. Considerable attention was also given to the rights, obligations and liabilities of arbitrators.

Reference documents included an unprecedented collection of court judgments, published institutional decisions, analytical articles as well as expert commentaries. Participants have had the chance to role play through four mock cases designed to raise and discuss all top issues related to the composition and functioning of the arbitral tribunal, with special emphasis on conflicts of interests including issue conflicts. 30 practitioners participated in this module in representation of many sectors of businesses and professions.

Third Module: The ARBITRAL PROCEEDINGS, 1-3 September 2014

The third module of CRCICA's Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice (CCATP) was held on 1-3 September 2014. Beside traditional topics pertaining to the arbitral proceedings such as the commencement and conduct of proceedings, interim measures, suspension and termination of proceedings, the Arbitral Proceedings Module tackled other important aspects of the arbitral proceedings. Examples of these aspects are: the determination of the rules applicable to the arbitral proceedings, the relationship between the selected procedural rules and the mandatory procedural provisions in the law of the place of arbitration as well as basic principles of pleadings before arbitration.

Evidence in Arbitration was tackled intensively including the general rules of evidence, the rules applicable to the taking of evidence, the means of evidence [writing - witness - experts (The Sachs Protocol) - Inspection], the production of documents [The Redfern Schedule], discovery, tribunal's discretion in weighing the evidence and finally the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration, May 2010).

Fourth Module: The ARBITRAL AWARD, 22-25 December 2014

The fourth module of CRCICA training program on: "Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice" (CCATP) was held at Dr. Aboul-Enein's hearing room from 22 to 25 December 2014. In this module, the "Arbitral Award" was handled in depth as based on most recent court judgments in different jurisdictions. Reference documents included a huge collection of court decisions which were regularly updated, analytic articles, expert commentaries and a model arbitral award. In groups, participants drafted an arbitral award based on the facts of a mock case. With varying professional backgrounds, participants came from Egypt and Jordan.
On 19 April 2014, CRCICA hosted the Oral Pleadings of The Shalakany Law Office International Commercial Arbitration Moot (SAM). SAM is an annual competition of teams representing law schools throughout Egypt and is intended to stimulate the study of international commercial law and to promote and develop interest and skills in international commercial arbitration. The nature of the Moot is intended to lead participants to interpret the texts of international commercial law to develop an expertise in advocating a position before an arbitral panel. The Moot is designed as an educational learning program in the form of a competition. It is not intended to be a competition with material benefits.

The pleadings were divided into four teams of students coming from the Cairo University English Section Law, IDAI Sorbonne (Cairo University French Section Law) and Assiut University.

There were two groups of arbitral tribunals. Members of the tribunals were Prof. Dr. Ahmed S. El Kosheri, Senior Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm; Chairman of CRCICA's Advisory Committee, Prof. Dr. Fouad A. Riad, Former Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Member of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), Dr. Naglaa Nassar, Managing Partner of Nassar Law Office, Dr. Khaled El Shalakany, Managing Partner of Shalakany Law Office and Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, CRCICA Director. Ms. Dina Hassan of El Shalakany Law Office and Ms. Menna Sadek of CRCICA also joined the tribunals in representation of junior practitioners.

Students worked on cases as counsels, they filed written statements and delivered oral pleadings. The tribunals were very impressed by the unique performance of students. The IDAI Sorbonne team won the competition and was awarded the first prize.
Launching Seminar of Henri Capitant's Egypt Group, 23 June 2014

On June 23, 2014, CRCICA hosted the international launching seminar of Henri Capitant's Association entitled "The necessity of reforming Private and Economic Relations Laws: a Franco-Egyptian perspective". The general theme involved a close examination and comparison between the evolution of the French and Egyptian laws regarding different legal topics such as the reform of the French civil law, the non-execution of contracts under Egyptian law, the evolution of economic law, evidence law and the evolution of arbitration law.

The seminar helped connecting the legal French speaking community in Egypt from universities, law firms and the different sectors of business environment and also managed to draw a closer look at the challenges and evolution of both the French and Egyptian laws.

The event was organized on the occasion of establishing the Association's Egypt Group, which will function temporarily under the auspices of the IDAI ("Institut de Droit des Affaires Internationales" in Cairo), which is a delocalized branch of the prestigious University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. The establishment of the Egypt Group will foster collaboration between Egyptian and French jurists and will, hence, widen the scope of research in many important topics and changes made in the Egyptian law and case law. Members of the Egyptian Group are Prof. Dr. Hossam Loutfi, Professor at Cairo University, Director of the Civil Law Department (Beni Suef), Dr. Maged Ackad, Principal, Ackad Law Office, Dr. Ismail Selim, Partner, Zulficar & Partners Law Firm, and CRCICA Director, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf.

It is notable that the Henri Capitant Association of Friends of French Legal Culture (Association Henri Capitant des Amis de la Culture Juridique Française) has been involved in the process of reforming the French civil law. The Association, which celebrates its 75th birthday this year, is present through national groups and correspondents in more than 55 countries and has undertaken numerous initiatives, all aimed at showcasing the values and methods of the civil law legal culture.

It organizes numerous events, preeminent among them are the International Days, which have been held since its inception, and the proceedings of which are published in a collection which today includes more than sixty volumes. Each year, these International Days revolve around a theme that involves various branches of the law (private and public, national and international), and bring together lawyers from some thirty countries in Europe, America, Africa and Asia.
SHARM ELSHEIKH Conferences: An Overview

SHARM EL SHEIKH Series of Conferences is the WORLD’s SOLE international biennial conference on «The Role of State Courts in International Arbitration». This biennial event is known to have established a permanent venue for practitioners from all over the world for the exchange of pragmatic thoughts on the renovating relation between state courts and arbitration in a cross-cultural context.

Since 2005, SHARM EL SHEIKH conferences have been organized in cooperation with 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).

The idea of SHARM EL SHEIKH Conferences first blinked in the CRCICA/UNCITRAL joint Regional Judicial Colloquium held in Cairo in 2002. Upon the unique success of the widely attended Colloquium, the UNCITRAL encouraged CRCICA to keep up the tradition of holding similar events as a methodical follow up on the changing relations between the judiciary and arbitration.

Vision

SHARM ELSHEIKH V followed several successive legal and judicial developments in the Arab world that have led to remarkable reforms with respect to the settlement of commercial and investment disputes in general and commercial arbitration in particular. A number of extremely interesting decisions have been rendered in most of the Arab states during the last two years. These decisions are worth of examination and scrutiny due to their important role in emphasizing the supportive, parallel and supervisory role of state courts in international commercial arbitration. It is undisputable that state courts play an important role to determine whether a particular place is convenient to be chosen as a seat for arbitration. The Conference aimed therefore to identify the salient judicial trends in the Arab world and to shed light over the latest judicial practices in the most significant seats of arbitration worldwide, including Europe (France, England, Switzerland, Sweden and Italy), Asia (Turkey), Africa (Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia), the United States and Latin America (Venezuela and Brazil). It attempted to study these trends by tackling the role of state courts during the four basic phases of the arbitration process starting from the arbitration agreement, the arbitral tribunal, the arbitration proceedings and ending with the arbitral award.
Agenda

Through 6 working sessions, the agenda was tackled by almost 30 celebrated international figures from all continents around the globe. Prof. Dr. Ahmed El-Kosheri who was most recently granted the GAR's prestigious lifetime achievement award was the Keynote Speaker.

The Structural pattern of the agenda was based on the role of state courts during the four basic phases of the arbitration process, namely, the arbitration agreement, the arbitral tribunal, the arbitration proceedings and the arbitral award. Most recent, and most controversial, court decisions on arbitration were discussed by national judges and national courts' leading counsels in different jurisdictions as well as international arbitration practitioners all over the globe.

The conference provided floor for most recent arbitration issues. For the first time in the Arab World the new UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration was arrayed. Similarly, discussions tackled the new IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interests and the Use of Advance Waivers in ICC Arbitration.

The program also presented new, and controversial, concepts affecting or likely to affect the due process of arbitral procedures, such as the academic immunity of arbitrators and the role of the emergency arbitrators. For more details, please view the detailed report of the Conference in English:  http://crcica.org.eg/conferences/reports/2014/CRCICA_conf_SharmElSheikhV_1617_November_2014En.pdf

and


Conferees

There was a total of 220 participants in attendance from 28 countries being Algeria, Austria, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sultanate of Oman, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, UAE, UK, USA, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela.
This celebratory event was held on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Egyptian Arbitration Law no 27 / 1994. The agenda featured three discussion panels tackling the following themes:

1) Practical problems arising out of the application of the Egyptian Arbitration Law;
2) Case Law on the Law;
3) Salient Features of the arbitration legislative policy in Egypt;

In a dynamic discussion structure, a wide variety of experts approached the different topics of the agenda. Each panel tackled a number of comprehensive practice-grounded questions that triggered a unique exchange of experience among panelists complemented by expert questions and interventions from the floor.

At the closing session, CRCICA reported a proposal of amendment, integrating the discussions of the conference as well as recommendations of revisions prepared earlier by eminent practitioners under the auspices of the Centre.

Users representing a variety of business sectors were in attendance, including the fields of telecommunication, construction, banking import and export, capital market. Also, many law firms, ministries of justice, universities, non-governmental and international organizations and national courts were represented.

Beside an outstanding majority of Egyptian professionals, there were attendees from United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Yemen who chose to observe the leading Egyptian experience in the application of the Arbitration Law.

The full report of the conference is available in Arabic through this link: http://crcica.org.eg/conferences/reports/2014/CRCICA_conf_arbitration_28_December_2014.pdf
The Duration of the Arbitration Process: Extension, Suspension and Termination, 8 January 2014

On 8 January 2014, Mr. Yasser Mansour, Managing Partner, Mansour Law Office, delivered a lecture entitled "The Duration of the Arbitration Process: Extension, Suspension and Termination". The topic covered all features related to the duration of arbitration out of both theoretical and practical perspectives. The lecture led to a very interesting discussion among the attendees.

Critical Issues Related to the Arbitration Agreement and the Composition of the Arbitral Tribunal in International Commercial Arbitration, 5 February 2014

On 5 February 2014, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Samir El Sharkawy, International Lawyer and Arbitrator; Former Dean, Faculty of Law, Cairo University, delivered a lecture on "Critical Issues Related to the Arbitration Agreement and the Composition of the Arbitral Tribunal in International Commercial Arbitration". By the attendance of a considerable number of in-house counsels, the lecture stimulated lively discussions.

Blending Mediation and Arbitration, 5 March 2014

On 5 March 2014, Dr. Khaled El Shalakany, the Managing Partner of Shalakany Law Office, delivered a lecture on "Blending Mediation and Arbitration". Being of an increasing importance, the topic attracted a big number of attendees from different backgrounds.

Judicial review of the absence of the award signature by the minority of the arbitral tribunal, 2 April 2014

On April 2, 2014, Prof. Nader M. Ibrahim, LL.D., Arab Academy for Science Technology and Maritime Transport, delivered a lecture on "Judicial Review of the absence of the award signature by the minority of the arbitral tribunal". Prof. Ibrahim analyzed the actual application of Article 43(1) of the Egyptian Arbitration Act No. 27 of 1994, which requires the majority of the arbitral tribunal to provide the reasons for the absence of award signature by the minority. Based on recent Egyptian Cassation Court decisions (namely that of: Feb. 9, 2010 and June 11, 2012), the lecturer reached the conclusion that the Egyptian Cassation Court follows an attenuated line of interpretation that focuses on the reason underpinning the legal requirement of justifying the minority's refusal to sign the award, and which the Court sums up in the safeguard
of the deliberations, leading to actual non-requirement of the said justification as long as deliberations between all members of the Tribunal have taken place. This line of case-law is supportive to arbitration, but is considered too much liberal by the lecturer, who calls upon the courts of Appeal and Cassation to require actual explanation for the absence of the signature by the minority, especially as to whether the minority was given the opportunity to participate in the deliberations, as well as the valid formation of the tribunal at the time of the award making.

The lecture was attended by members of law firms, mass media sector, investment and construction companies, international organizations, state courts, administrative prosecution, industrial corporations and holding companies.

**Applicable Law in Petroleum Arbitrations, 7 May 2014**

On May 7, 2014, in a biographical narrative structure of his lecture entitled "Applicable Law in Petroleum Arbitration", Prof. Dr. Ahmed S. EL KOSHERI, Senior Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm and Chairman of CRCICA's Advisory Committee, shared with the audience his sixty-year record of experiences in tackling petroleum-related arbitrations. In a chronological fashion, the lecture arrayed the significant developments in oil concession law with highlights on the various legal and political circumstances affecting such developments over decades.

He stressed that the dominating feature of international petroleum contracts, in the past, was a lack of balance between the rights and obligations of host states and foreign petroleum companies, which, in many cases, involved an obvious negligence of national law systems. Concession agreements had been unilateral in nature in that they benefited mainly the oil companies and not the oil wealth holder. However, following a number of political changes and OPEC critical decisions, the practical scene started to change striking a relative balance between rights and obligations. One of the most significant model examples, in this concern, was the Government of Kuwait versus Aminoil Company Case after Kuwait's nationalization of the company in 1978 and the termination of its petroleum concession. As a counsel for the Kuwaiti Government, Prof. Dr. El Kosheri succeeded in convincing the tribunal with the legitimacy of the nationalization in the light of international law despite counter-calls to internationalize the case. The award supports the legitimacy of the nationalization against reasonable compensations. According to the lecturer, the legal principles enshrined in the Kuwait/Aminoil award provided a model for many tribunals to follow.

Prof. El Kosheri concluded that petroleum arbitrations still unfold many developments regarding the balance between rights and obligations of big and high tech foreign companies on one hand and national companies of developing countries with lesser acquisitions and abilities on the other.

The seminar scored the highest level of attendance in the monthly Wednesday One Seminars with 120 participants from Law firms, public authorities, universities, national and inter-Arab holding companies, embassies, oil companies, banks, industrial corporations, construction companies and state courts. It was particularly honored by the presence of many of Professor El Kosheri's colleagues, including Professors Georges Abi Saab and Foad Riad.

**Key Procedural Issues in International Arbitrations Seated in Cairo: The Case for Pragmatic and efficient Solution, 18 June 2014**

On June 18, 2014, Dr. Karim Youssef, partner and head of Middle East arbitration at Amereller Legal Consultants (associated with Mena Associates in Cairo) and associate professor of Law at Cairo University School of Law, gave a lecture titled "Key Procedural Issues in International
Arbitrations Seated in Cairo: the Case for Pragmatic and Efficient Solutions. The lecture was intended to be interactive and focused on practical aspects of doing document production in Cairo. The lecture instigated useful and informative reactions from the floor about the regulation of document production by the parties, under the Egyptian Evidence Law in Civil and Commercial Matters, and under the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence. The interaction with the audience that followed extended to broader aspects of arbitration in Egypt and the day-to-day practical experiences of arbitration practitioners, lawyers generally but also practitioners with non-legal backgrounds, which contributed to enriching the discussion.

Participants represented law firms, schools of law, construction and engineering companies, holding companies, industrial corporations, judicial authorities, general prosecutions, state courts, ministries, investment companies, banks, tourism sector, oil and gas corporations, maritime and social insurance companies, trade firms and international organizations.

International Public Policy in Commercial Arbitration, 10 September 2014

On 10 September 2014, Dr. Ismail Selim, Partner, Zulficar and Partners delivered a lecture entitled "International Public Policy in Commercial Arbitration". Dr. Selim defined the notion of International Public Policy not only in Private International Law, but also and more specifically as a bar to enforcement of arbitral awards. It was noted that such notion designates the body of principles and rules recognized by a State, which, by their nature, may bar the recognition or enforcement of an arbitral award rendered in the context of international Commercial arbitration when recognition or enforcement of said award would entail their violation on account either of the procedure pursuant to which it was rendered (procedural international public policy) or of its contents (substantive international public policy). The Lecturer clarified that such notion is adopted by the majority of states even though only few states explicitly adopt in their Arbitration Laws the term "International Public Policy". Indeed, other states adopt such notion in their jurisprudence whether explicitly or by differentiating between "Public Policy" under Article V-2-b of the New York Convention from one side and mandatory rules from the other side.

Examples were given from the jurisprudence of numerous common law and civil law countries including Egypt. The lecture also involved an important differentiation between the notions of "International Public Policy" and "Transnational Public Policy" and explained the notion of "Lois de Police". Dr. Selim concluded with an overview of two very recent decisions of the Egyptian Court of Cassation on Public Policy in Arbitration. The lecture was very well received from attendees representing many sectors.

Particularity of Arbitration in Construction Contracts, 15 October 2014

On 15 October 2014, Eng. Sharif Al-Nazer, Consultant Engineer and International Arbitrator, delivered a lecture entitled "Particularity of Arbitration in Construction Contracts". Taking into consideration the inter-woven contractual relations in construction disputes, privacy of arbitration is of crucial importance in construction contracts. The lecturer tackled the different aspects of this theme in a stimulating fashion.
Reflections on the Settlement of International Economic Disputes, 23 October 2014

On 23 October 2014, Prof. Dr. Georges ABI-SAAB, delivered a lecture entitled "Reflections on the Settlement of International Economic Disputes". Prof. Dr. Abi-Saab is Emeritus Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, and Member of the Institute of International Law; Former Chairman of the Appellate Body of the World Trade; and Member of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Monetary Fund, and of various international arbitral tribunals (ICSID, ICC, UNCITRAL, CRCICA).

The lecture adopted a comprehensive approach towards the settlement of international economic disputes out of Prof. Abi-Saab's valuable experiences. Attendees were particularly interested in the effect of changing international economic circumstances on the settlement of disputes.

Issues Regarding of the Arbitration agreement in Investment Disputes, 5 December 2014

On 5 December 2014, Mr. Mohamed A.H. Madkour, Partner, Head of Dispute Resolution at Ibrachy & Partners delivered a lecture entitled "Issues Regarding of the Arbitration agreement in Investment Disputes". The lecture handled the most peculiar aspects of arbitration agreements in investment disputes stressing the importance of accurately drafting its provisions to avoid complications that might arise in the course of settling as crucial type of disputes as investment disputes are. The lecture was very well received and have triggered critical practice-based discussions.

Mediation Breakfast September Seminar:

The Role of Mediator between determination and flexibility, 26 February 2014

The first 2014 Mediation Breakfast Seminar was delivered by Fatma Ibrahim, Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation (Middle East and North Africa).

The seminar focused on the role of mediator, as opposed to arbitrators and judges, in assisting parties in dispute reach amicable settlement, rather than imposing a decision on them. The lecturer expounded on the flexible nature of the mediation process, where the mediator focuses on all sides of the dispute (commercial, emotional, and legal), in contrast to adjudicative systems that focus solely on the legal side of the dispute. Ms. Ibrahim also demonstrated how the mediator
explores with the parties the issues in dispute, restores communication between the parties, and assists them explore different and creative solutions to their dispute.

Participants represented an interesting diversity of professions. Beside lawyers and arbitrators, there were representatives of many business sectors such as real state, construction, investment, management of projects and information technology sectors. Federation of agricultural engineers, state lawsuit authority and centres for economic studies.

**The Role of Lawyers in Mediation, 31 March 2014**

The March Breakfast Seminar of the year, "The Role of Lawyers in Mediation", was delivered by Dr. Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab, Founding Partner and Head of the International Arbitration and Project Finance Groups, Zulficar & Partners; CEDR Accredited Mediator; and Professor of Private International Law and Dispute Resolution, Faculty of Law - Cairo University. The lecture was divided in four phases starting by presenting the facts and priorities in mediation then analyzing lawyers' receptivity of mediation which develops from a state of reluctance ("mediophobia") to a state of acceptance in the international level.

The Speaker explained the role of the lawyer throughout the mediation process, which does not only cover the mediation phase, but also the preparation for mediation and the review/drafting of the settlement agreement. The Speaker demonstrated, by reference to international statistics, that mediation can indeed be a lucrative profession for lawyers, and invited lawyers, in conclusion, to embrace mediation as a constantly rising ADR technique and to accept it as a revolutionary legal change.

The majority of participants were in-house counsels of both public and private companies in different fields including steel industry, construction, petrochemicals industry, telecommunications, mass media and petroleum. A number of private lawyers were also in attendance as well as representatives of the administrative prosecution.

**The Stages of Mediation, 30 April 2014**

In the April Mediation Breakfast Seminar titled "The Stages of Mediation", Dr. Maged Ackad, Founder of Ackad Law Office, CEDR Accredited Mediator and Mediation trainer, analyzed the smooth complementarity among the different phases of mediation. After explaining the different types of the mediation agreement, Dr. Ackad categorized the stages of the process into three basic ones; the preparation stage, the investigation stage and the negotiation stage. All three stages reveal a high level of interaction between the mediator and parties. At the end of the lecture, there was a guiding comparison between post-procedures process in two juxtaposed cases; the success and the failure of mediation. The seminar closed by a lively debate that revealed the increasing interest in mediation. Attendees represented holding companies, general authorities, schools of law, private law firms, Arab Investment companies and construction consultancy firms.

**Mediation in Construction Disputes: Reality and Perspectives, 29 May 2014**

Construction Disputes was the thematic focus of the May Breakfast Seminar. Dr. Ahmed Fathi Waly, Assistant Professor – Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering at the American University in Cairo, delivered a lecture on "Mediation in Construction Disputes: Reality and Perspectives". The speech highlighted the features and importance of mediation in construction disputes. The disputes settlement mechanism in FIDIC Contracts was tackled with
particular focus on mediation. Moreover, the presentation handled the role of mediators in construction disputes, as well as the difference between mediation and negotiation. Following discussion of case studies, Dr. Waly suggested two recommendations; the first to raise the awareness of all construction stakeholders, owners, consultants and contractors alike, as to the privileges of mediation and the second to consider adding a mediation provision in construction contracts. The presentation triggered an interesting questions and answers session. Attendees were representatives of private law firms, construction companies, schools of law and public sector general authorities directly involved in the construction industry.

**Confidentiality Guarantees in Mediation, 26 June 2014**

The Mediation Breakfast Seminar of June was delivered by Dr. Eman Mansour, Director of the Investors' Dispute Settlement Centre of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), under the title "Confidentiality Guarantees in Mediation". At the outset, Dr. Mansour highlighted the privileges of mediation and responded to possible fears and concerns as based on the comparative law and practice of mediation. The Seminar displayed the various guarantees of confidentiality in mediation under different jurisdictions. Legislative guarantees in different national laws as well as regulatory securities in institutional rules and practices were tackled. The lecture also highlighted the legal penalties for the breach of confidentiality in a number of national legislations including the Draft Egyptian Mediation Law. The presentation was followed by constructive discussions and noticeable interaction from the audience who represented investment companies, ministries, schools of law, holding companies, tourism companies and general authorities and law firms.

**Financial Benefits of using Mediation, 30 September 2014**

Ms. Fatma Ibrahim (World Bank Group) lectured a group of lawyers, engineers and accountants on the financial benefits of using mediation to resolve commercial disputes. The Lecturer explained the "toolbox" of dispute resolution, provided the audience with practical tools to determine the practicality of resorting to mediation or other forms of dispute resolution, as well as worked with the audience on a practical case that identified a number of financial elements that counsels should take into account when advising the parties of the most suitable form of dispute resolution.

**Why and When to be Mediate, 30 October 2014**

On 30 October 2014, the Mediation Breakfast Seminar titled "Why and when to Mediate" was delivered by Hazim A. Rizkana, Partner, Helmy, Hamza & Partners, a member of Baker & McKenzie International. The speech unveiled the core motivation fostering the decision to resort to mediation and provided interesting guidelines as to how to estimate the convenience of this flexible dispute settlement mechanism to a dispute.

**Emotions in Mediation: The Key to Making Smart Choices, 24 November 2014**

In CRCICA's monthly mediation breakfast seminar, Dr. Alexander shed the light on emotions in mediation as a fundamental factor in making decisions. It was emphasized that the recognition of one's and others' emotions in mediation is fundamental to manage and best deal with them and, hence, make smart decisions.
Attendees, drawn from the legal and engineering field, recognized the need to give appropriate attention and deal properly with emotions in mediation as a tool to reaching successful settlement.

**MEDIATION UPDATE**

Flourishing as it is, mediation had been the focus of various 2014 CRCICA events in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFCI). A brief up follows:

**CRCICA/IFCI Mediation Seminars, 2-5 January 2014**

On 2-5 January 2014, four consecutive mediation seminars delivered by Prof. Najda Alexander, Professor and Director of the International Institute of Conflict Engagement and Resolution (IICER), Hong Kong at Shue Yan University.

The themes of each seminar, however, were different; one focused on Effective Dispute Management for In-House Counsels. The Seminar explored the needs and expectations of in house counsels, as varying as their businesses are, in an attempt to place better mediation approaches respectively.

Entitled Opening Mediation Windows in the Arbitration House, the second seminar handled the reciprocity between mediation and arbitration in some cases. In an interactive format, Dr. Alexander discussed the different variables of med-arb and explored with the participants the future of med-arb in Egypt.

The third Seminar titled Mediation for Resolving Construction Disputes discussed the different options for dispute management systems that involve mediation for the construction industry in Egypt.

The fourth and last Seminar was delivered especially for CRCICA CEDR-accredited pool of mediation trainers under the title Training Techniques Seminar. The seminar was well received by trainers for having provided "a thorough and insightful display and assessment of Mediation models and accreditation schemes and standards".

**The Establishment of Construction Mediation Working Group**

Construction sector has been identified as one of the main sectors that are amenable to the use of mediation. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) in collaboration with CRCICA launched a construction mediation project to promote the use of mediation in construction disputes through system design, workshops, capacity building and training. Within this context, CRCICA calls upon a group of experts in the construction industry to establish a Construction Mediation Working Group (CMWG) to drive forward the effective implementation of mediation in the Egyptian Construction Sector. Ms. Aisha Nadar, an international construction consultant, provides technical assistance to help the Group and the supporting Institutions achieve the goals of the Project.

THE CMWG started its work by tailoring the objectives of the Project to Egyptian Construction Industry, identifying construction mediation oppositions and diagnosing possible training needs. It is noteworthy that construction mediation trainings will be held soon.
Mediation Training for University Students

On 22 & 29 November 2014, CRCICA hosted a mediation training for undergraduates conducted by Prof. Dr. Alexander for thirty students from the School of Law, Ain Shams University on the basics of mediation. Students reported high satisfaction and some reported they wanted to start their career in mediation.

Course Management Training

On 23 November 2014, Dr. Alexander also delivered a course to CRCICA mediation-trainers as well as CRCICA Staff on managing mediation training courses, thereby re-affirming CRCICA leading role in mediation-training provision.

The training covered all administrative and logistical issues regarding training provision such as sending invitations to attendees, pricing the training, the shape of the training room, etc.

Transformative Mediation Training and Power Balance

Held on 26-27 November 2014, this two-day training introduced the transformative mediation concept being a unique approach to dispute resolution that works on the level of values, and seeks to empower parties in mediation. The training provided a close overview to the conflict, from the standpoint of how people feel/behave in conflict situations. The training offered different techniques to approach the dispute such as scaling questions; solution-focused questions; specific language used by mediators in order to support the parties make their own decisions without giving any advice even subtly.

Mediation Advocacy Training

It is incumbent upon professional representatives, also called mediation advocates, to negotiate within the mediation framework to the highest level of skill and technique. Held on 9-10 December 2014, this unique course redefined mediation from the perspective of the mediation advocate and outlined duties of mediation advocates and specific duties held by mediation advocates who are also practicing lawyers. Most interestingly, it offered participants a negotiation protocol specifically geared to anticipating and meeting the challenges of mediation.

Attendees were a variety of lawyers, in-house counsel, university professors, and engineers on the art of representing parties during mediation.

Writers’ Workshop

IFC in collaboration with its local partners plans to sponsor a major mediation book project envisioned to be "the definitive leading text on mediation in Egypt and in the region". On 8 December 2014, CRCICA hosted a workshop to explore the potential of drafting the book. Re-assessment will take place early May.

Arb/Med/Arb Roundtable

Given the increasing interest in multi-tiered dispute resolution (MDR) processes, on 11 December 2014, CRCICA hosted a roundtable discussion that involved eminent arbitration practitioners in Egypt to explore the option of institutionalizing Arb-Med-Arb in CRCICA. "Arb-Med-Arb" is a process where a dispute is referred to arbitration before mediation is attempted. If the parties are able to settle their dispute through mediation, their mediated settlement may be recorded as a
consent award. If the parties are unable to settle their dispute through mediation, they may continue with the arbitration proceedings.

Discussions were based on the case study of the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) which recently initiated Arb-Med-Arb.

The feedback from the attendees was very positive, in view of the benefits that the combination of this process can offer.

**CRCICA’S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**

**Revision of the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings**

Upon UNCITRAL's invitation, CRCICA submitted its proposals on possible revisions of the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings which were adopted in 1996. At its forty-seventh session, in 2014, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) agreed that Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation) should consider at its sixty-first session the revision of the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings (1996).

The said Session was held in Vienna, Austria on 15-19 September, 2014. Ms. Rabab Yasseen attended in representation of the Centre. Ms. Yasseen is Partner, Mentha & Partners, Deputy Judge, Geneva Civil Court and Member of CRCICA’s Advisory Committee.

The Session was chaired by one of the eminent members of CRCICA Board of Trustees, Mr. Michael Schneider, who is an international arbitrator and founding partner of LALIVE.

During the sessions, the Notes were thoroughly discussed and deliberated. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft of revised UNCITRAL notes on organizing arbitral proceedings, based on the deliberations and decisions of the Working Group and to identify specific issues for discussion at the next session of the Working Group. Delegations were invited to contribute proposals and comments to the Secretariat in view of the preparation of a revised draft version of the Notes. The draft Report is available through the following link:


It is notable that CRCICA contributed to various UNCITRAL works such as the UNCITRAL Digest of Case Law on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, the UNCITRAL Recommendations to assist arbitral institutions and other interested bodies with regard to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules as well as the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration.
ISPRAMED Report on Independence and Impartiality of Arbitrators

In May 2014, the Institute for the Promotion of Arbitration and Mediation in the Mediterranean (ISPRAMED) released its first Report resulting from the comparative work of practices and rules on arbitration among the members of the Network of the Mediterranean Arbitration Centres, namely:

- Arbitration Court of Morocco (Morocco)
- Cairo Regional Centre for International Arbitration (Egypt)
- Centre for Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation of Algiers (Algeria)
- Chamber of Arbitration of Milan (Italy)
- Lebanese Arbitration Centre (Lebanon)
- Legal Department of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (Turkey)
- Tunis Mediation and Arbitration Centre (Tunisia)

The Report focuses on Independence and Impartiality of Arbitrators in the light of the practical experiences of member-centres. This involves five basic principles and a set of common practices representing the standard procedural stance of member-centres in relevant cases.

According to the Report, the common institutional practices among the seven centres are based on five cases being; Arbitrator's relationship with the Institution; Arbitrator's relationship with the parties; Arbitrator's relationship with parties' counsels; Arbitrator's relationship with another arbitrator and finally Arbitrator's relationship with the subject matter of the dispute.

Within this context, CRCICA practice profile shows that the most frequent cause for challenging arbitrators is related to the arbitrators' current or previous relationship with the parties or parties' counsels. Challenges based on such causes are upheld by the Tripartite Ad hoc Committees composed from amongst the members of CRCICA Advisory Committee to rule on such challenges.

The Report provides guidance in the decision-making process of institutions dealing with cases which raise doubts as to the arbitrators' independence and impartiality. It also offers guidance to international arbitration users, to know beforehand the positions of the centres on critical issues of arbitration. While being consistent with the international arbitration practice, the principles and practices highlighted in the report are able to accommodate the legal cultural differences in the Mediterranean area.
By and large, this important work, which is a product of intensive collaborative devotion, is meant to be a useful tool in the hands of different stakeholders working in the Mediterranean Area, as it illustrates the high quality standards followed by the institutions operating in the Area. The full Report available through the following link: http://www.ispramed.it/root/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Report-on-Independence.pdf.

On 13 October 2014, CRCICA Director attended the Institute’s fifth meeting of the Network of Arbitration Centres in the Mediterranean held in Casablanca, Morocco. The meeting tackled inter alia, the publication of the Report

The Foundation of the International Federation of Arbitration Centres in the Islamic World

Under the auspices of his Highness Prince Dr. Bandar Salman M. Al-Saud, President of the Saudi Arbitration Group, the First Forum for Arbitration in the Islamic World was held at Um Al Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia from 9 to 10 March 2014. CRCICA Director delivered a speech addressing the past, present and future of CRCICA, its activities and contributions to the theory and practice of arbitration in its region.

On the occasion of the Forum, the International Federation for Arbitral Institutions in the Islamic World was established composing ten arbitration centers including CRCICA. The Federation is intended to foster cooperation among member-institutions. On 28 September 2014, CRCICA hosted the meeting of the Drafting Committee of the Federation’s Draft Bylaws, which will be soon finalized.
CRCICA PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Colloquium on Arbitration in Egypt, Milan Chamber of Arbitration, Italy, 18 February 2014

On 18 February 2014, the Milan Chamber of Arbitration (CAM) organized a Colloquium, with CRCICA Director as keynote speaker, on Arbitration in Egypt within the context of the Colloquia on international arbitration held periodically by the Milan Chamber of Arbitration and addressed to professionals and in-house counsels who are already familiar with the subject of international arbitration.

The Colloquia aim at exchanging views with arbitration experts from different jurisdictions and providing the participants with practical tips on how to use arbitration at different latitudes. They are held in an informal round-table setting in order to encourage the participants to share their experiences with a view to professional development and networking.

The Colloquium on Egypt was moderated by CAM's Secretary-General, Mr. Stefano Azzali, and was attended by 21 Italian lawyers and in-house counsels from 12 law firms in addition to other companies and entities.

CRCICA Director made a presentation titled "Overview of arbitration in Egypt with special emphasis on institutional arbitration under the auspices of CRCICA" addressing inter alia the salient features of the Egyptian Law on Arbitration and Institutional arbitration under the auspices of CRCICA.

Commercial Mediation, an effective tool for dispute resolution, Cairo, Egypt, 25 March 2014

On 25 March 2014, the Legal Committee of the French Chamber of Commerce in Egypt (CCFE) organized its second Mediation Seminar for the CCFE on: «Commercial Mediation, an Effective
Tool for Dispute Resolution». The half-day event took place at the Aida Ballroom, Marriott Hotel, Cairo, Egypt and was attended by more than 60 persons from different backgrounds.

The Seminar was intended to discuss new developments in alternative dispute resolution, analyze and share experiences while focusing on the most important practical issues in mediation, based on what's happening right now in the field.

The Seminar offered to companies an opportunity to discuss mediation which is a rapidly evolving and widely used method for dispute resolution that have proved successful in many jurisdictions. The Seminar was also the forum where companies and their in-house counsels shared best practices and lessons learned in order to stay in control of their claims and disputes.

CRCICA Director was invited to explain the salient features of the new CRCICA Mediation Rules in force since January 2013. He also shared his recent experience as mediator in two mediation cases that were successfully concluded.

Other speakers included Judge Wadie Hana Nashed, the Secretary General of the Committee drafting the mediation law at the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, who tackled the future of mediation in Egypt, while focusing on the salient features of the draft mediation law. A second panel moderated by Dr. Maged Ackad, Managing Partner of Ackad Law Office and CEDR Accredited Mediator, included Dr. Eman Mansour, Director of the Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes at the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), who explained the practical experience of her Centre in the settlement of disputes by mediation. Finally, Ms. Fatma Ibrahim, Operations Officer, IFC Advisory Services, Middle East and North Africa-Commercial Justice Program, addressed the role of IFC in the development of mediation in Egypt.

**IFCAI's Council and General Assembly Meetings, Miami, USA, 6-7 April 2014,**

In his capacity as Vice-President of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), CRCICA Director attended both the IFCAI Council and the 20th IFCAI General Assembly meetings held in Miami on 6 and 7 April 2014, respectively.

During such meetings, the revision of IFCAI's Constitution was discussed based on a draft amendment submitted by the Nominating Committee composed of Bill Slate, Adrian Winstanley and Jens Bredow as well as the discussions that took place during the last Council meeting held in Paris on 5 December 2013.

The next IFCAI Council meeting is scheduled to take place in November 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the occasion of the Sharm El-Sheikh V Conference on the role of state courts in
arbitration, while the 13th IFCAI Biennial Conference shall take place in Manama, Bahrain on 23 March 2015. The tentative theme of the Conference is legitimacy of international arbitration from an institutional perspective.

**ICCA Miami Congress: Legitimacy: Myths, Realities, Challenges, Miami, USA, 6-9 April 2014,**

The International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)'s Congress was held in Miami from April 6 to 9, 2014. The program of the Miami Congress focused on legitimacy issues with special emphasis on the myths, realities and challenges.

On 7 April 2014, a panel involving representatives of nine arbitral institutions including CRCICA addressed the following question: Arbitral Institutions Can Do More to Further Legitimacy. True or False?

Based on the answers provided by the panelists to a questionnaire prepared before the Congress, the panel discussed whether arbitral institutions have been steady stewards of legitimacy in arbitration, or, as more say, are they stagnant and protective of the status quo? In particular, can arbitration be legitimate if the arbitrator selection process is opaque, the quality of awards is variable, and the arbitral process lacks foreseeability? Particularly as the growth in regional institutions continues, are there consistent practices to be encouraged, and others to be eschewed, to promote and preserve legitimacy?

The session was intended to challenge whether institutions are doing enough to ensure the availability of diverse, well-trained arbitrators and to ensure first-rate, timely performance of their duties.

CRCICA Director headed one of the three sub-panels and delivered a speech discussing whether arbitral institutions are enabling a "mafia" and are indifferent to delays and costs. Based on the answers collected from all nine arbitral institutions, he concluded his presentation by stating that the alleged existence of a "mafia" that is enabled by arbitral institutions is clearly a myth and should not be perceived as an institutional issue. He added that, from the perspective of arbitral institutions, the community of arbitrators is rather viewed as an exclusive club, access to which is not really hindered for newcomers. This is demonstrated by relevant efforts exerted by organizations like the ICCA, the IFCAI and the IBA, whose Arbitration Section is becoming its largest one. Drones of highly able younger practitioners are flooding into the field. More women are becoming prominent. Every region has people of fine expertise and growing acceptability in the field. Accordingly, arbitration institutions are not solely responsible for the shortcomings in the system. These problems should not deter them, however, from pursuing every effort to
expand the pool of qualified arbitrators and to take the lead in this mission in order to maintain not only the trust of their users, but most importantly the legitimacy of institutional arbitration.

**ICCA New York Convention Roadshow, Manama, Bahrain, 3-5 May 2014,**

The International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) held the New York Convention Roadshow from 3 to 5 May, 2014 in Manama, Bahrain. The Roadshow was the first of a series of planned dialogues on the 1958 convention in Bahrain and the Arab World and accompanied the publication of an ICCA guide to its interpretation and application, in Arabic. ICCA has already held similar dialogues in Mauritius, bringing together judges from 13 African countries.

The Roadshow was organised by Mrs. Marike Paulsson, a member of ICCA's judiciary committee, and Prof. Nassib Ziadé, CEO of the BCDR-AAA. Discussions were led by Prof. Nassib Ziadé along with Dr. Hamza Haddad Director of the Law and Arbitration Centre in Amman and Dr. Mohammed Abdel Raouf, CRCICA Director in his capacity as member of ICCA's governing board and judiciary committee. Bahrain's Judge Yousif Al-Akyabi also steered discussions.

The Roadshow was launched on the evening of 3 May, with speeches from Ziadé, Jan Paulsson, Bahrain's minister of justice and foreign affairs Shaik Khalid Bin Ali Al-Khalifa, and His Highness Prince Dr Bandar Bin Salman Al-Saud, a member of the Saudi royal family who leads the Saudi Arbitration Centre in Riyadh. The launch was attended by the Bahraini minister of culture, Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa and Arab ambassadors in Bahrain.

Supported by the Kingdom of Bahrain's Supreme Judicial Council, the BCDR-AAA and the Arab League, the Manama Roadshow brought together judges from the appeal and cassation courts of 13 Arab countries and came up with recommendations to improve the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards in the Arab World.

A total of 51 judges attended from Bahrain, Dijibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Their recommendations included that ICCA and the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) should collaborate to launch a website of judgments rendered in Arab countries regarding the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards; that Arab judges should work towards a unified judicial approach in this area; that legislative bodies in Arab countries should coordinate to remove contradictions in their relevant legal regimes; and that Arab countries that have yet to accede to the convention should do so.
There were also calls for Arabic to be accredited as an official language for international treaties and agreements related to international commerce and international arbitration.

Finally, the delegates pledged to highlight to the international arbitral community the flexible nature of Islamic shariah law and its easy integration into commercial contracts and arbitration rules. The complete list of recommendations is available through this link: http://www.arbitration-icca.org/NY_Convention_Roadshow.html.

Those wishing to assist with the ICCA and BCDR-AAA website for Arab judgments relating to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards should email bureau@arbitration-icca.org.

**First Mediation Conference CCFE-Alexandria, 18 May 2014**

On 18 May 2014, the Alexandria Branch of the French Chamber of Commerce in Egypt (CCFE), organized its first conference on Mediation in Alexandria on: «Commercial Mediation, an Effective Tool for Dispute Resolution». The half-day event was hosted by the French Consulate in Alexandria, Egypt and was attended by more than 30 persons from different backgrounds.

The Seminar was intended to discuss new developments in alternative dispute resolution, analyze and share experiences while focusing on the most important practical issues in mediation, based on what's happening right now in the field.

CRCICA Director was invited to explain the salient features of the new CRCICA Mediation Rules in force since January 2013 as well as the lessons learned from his personal experience as mediator.

Other speakers included Judge Wadie Hana Nashed, the Secretary General of the Committee drafting the mediation law at the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, who tackled the future of mediation in Egypt, while focusing on the salient features of the draft mediation law.

After a very lively Q&A session, a second panel also moderated by Dr. Maged Ackad, Managing Partner of Ackad Law Office and CEDR Accredited Mediator, included Dr. Eman Mansour, Director of the Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes at the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), who explained the practical experience of her Centre in the settlement of disputes by mediation. Finally, Ms. Fatma Ibrahim, Operations Officer, IFC Advisory Services, Middle East and North Africa-Commercial Justice Program, addressed the role of IFC in the development of mediation in Egypt while focusing on how mediation could create value out of the dispute.
Conference on legal risks and countermeasures of international investment and trade from the perspective of China-Africa cooperation, Beijing, China, 17-18 September 2014

CRCICA Director participated among other 15 African experts from 10 African nations in the Conference on legal risks and countermeasures of international investment and trade from the perspective of China-Africa cooperation that took place on 17-18 September 2014 in Beijing, China. The Conference was organised by the China Law Society in cooperation with other China-Africa institutions. In a session dedicated to tackling disputes settlement mechanisms of international investment and trade, CRCICA Director delivered a speech on "Institutional Arbitration as a Means of Setting Sino-African Economic Disputes: The Experience of Egypt". In which he overviewed the salient features of arbitration in Egypt with special emphasis on institutional arbitration under the auspices of CRCICA. Other topics included ADR in South Africa, Kenya and China.

The conference was attended by 100 persons including businessmen, lawyers, professors and judges.

Public-Private Dialogue on Public-Private Partnerships in Egypt's River Transport Sector, Cairo, Egypt, 18 September, 2014

On 18 September 2014, a conference titled "Public-Private Dialogue on Public-Private Partnerships in Egypt's River Transport Sector" was held in Cairo. The conference was the final day of a 3-day workshop related to public-private partnerships in the river transport sector. The event was organized by the River Transport Authority, the Investment Security in the Mediterranean (ISMED) Support Programme and the OECD. It aimed at exploring the means to develop river transportation in Egypt, the various challenges that it face and whether PPPs (public
private partnerships) could be a proper mechanism to serve this purpose. The conference presented the legislative and political framework of PPPs in Egypt and discussed the draft report prepared by ISMED regarding River transportation in Egypt. A final report that includes the comments expressed by the attendees in this workshop will be presented at the ISMED Working Group Conference which will be held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris in December 2014. CRCICA was represented in the conference by Dr. Dalia Hussein, legal advisor at the Centre.

**China-Africa Conference on International Investment and Legal Risks, Shanghai, China, 23 September, 2014**

CRCICA Director participated among other 15 African experts from 10 African nations in the China-Africa Conference on international investment and legal risks that took place on 23 September 2014 in Shanghai, China. The Conference was organised by the China Law Society and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University in association with other academic and arbitration institutions. In a session dedicated to tackling China-Africa Trade and International Commercial Arbitration, CRCICA Director delivered a speech covering the option of referring Sino-African commercial and investment disputes to arbitration under the auspices of CRCICA, in which he overviewed the salient features of arbitration in Egypt as well as the relevant provisions of the CRCICA Arbitration Rules. Other topics included the salient features of arbitration in Seychelles as well as under the auspices of the Shanghai International Arbitration Centre (SHIAC).

The conference was attended by officials from local authorities in Shanghai in addition to professors, businessmen, lawyers and judges.
On 14 October 2014, the Institute for the Promotion of Arbitration and Mediation in the Mediterranean (ISPRAMED) organized a conference with the Arbitration Court of Morocco on the "Selection of arbitrators: the key to efficient arbitral proceedings", in Casablanca, Morocco. The Conference was attended by persons of different backgrounds and tackled the selection of arbitrators by the parties, the required background and qualifications, the independence and trust of arbitrators and the case of beauty parades, the appointment of arbitrators in multiparty arbitrations and the importance of the selection in guaranteeing streamlined proceedings. CRCICA Director participated in a roundtable moderated by Prof. Mohamed El Mernissi regarding the role of arbitral institutions in managing the selection process, in which he explained the role of CRCICA in the selection of arbitrators in its capacity as appointing authority. Among the other institutions participating in the said roundtable was the Milan Chamber of Arbitration, the Centre of Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration of the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Tunis Mediation and Arbitration Centre, the Istanbul Arbitration Centre of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, the Lebanese Arbitration Centre of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon and the Arbitration Court of Morocco. Prof. Charles Jarrosson, University Panthéon Assas Paris II and ISPRAMED's Network Coordinator, made the conclusions at the end of the Conference.
Construction Contract Development, Challenges and Dispute Resolution Conference, AUC, Cairo, Egypt, 22 October 2014

On 22 October 2014, the American University in Cairo (AUC) in conjunction with the Society of Construction Law (SCL-UK) held a conference at the AUC Campus in New Cairo, Cairo Egypt on "Construction Contract Development, Challenges and Dispute Resolution" where the contractual and legal challenges in construction contracts were tackled with special emphasis on the modern alternative dispute resolution mechanisms available for the settlement of such disputes. CRCICA Director made a presentation on the settlement of construction disputes by arbitration under the auspices of CRCICA. The conference was very well attended mainly by engineers and lawyers from Egypt and the Middle East.

IFCAI Council Meeting, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 17 November 2014

The IFCAI Council held a meeting on 17 November 2014 on the occasion of the Sharm El Sheikh V Conference on the Role of State Courts in International Arbitration. The meeting was attended by Diana Droulers, IFCAI President, Stefano Azzali (Secretary-Treasurer), Annette Magnusson and Mohamed Abdel Raouf (Vice Presidents) as well as Nassib Ziade (Councillor). The following arbitral institutions were therefore represented in the meeting: Arbitration Centre of the Chamber of Commerce of Caracas, the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan, the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) and the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA). Among the matters on the meeting's agenda was the preparation of the forthcoming IFCAI Biennial Conference scheduled to take place in Bahrain on 23 March 2014 as well as the launch of the new IFCAI website.
For a Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration, Marseille, France, 8 December 2014

On 8 December 2014, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the French Inter-ministerial Delegation for the Mediterranean organized an international conference on "For a Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration" in the impressive Villa Méditerranée in Marseille, France.

After an inaugural session in which the current work of the UNCITRAL in the field of International Commercial Arbitration was explained by Renaud SORIEUL, UNCITRAL's Secretary, Philippe Leboulanger, Vice-Chairman of CRCICA Advisory Committee and member of CRCICA Board of Trustees, tackled the development of Euro-Mediterranean relations in the field of international commercial arbitration and investment. The new UNCITRAL Guide on the New York Convention of 1958 was also explained.

CRCICA Director addressed the "Issues and Challenges of Investment Arbitration: An Arab Perspective", where he explained the salient differences between commercial and investment arbitrations, investment arbitration in the Arab World with special emphasis on the Egyptian Experience as well as the CRCICA caseload, the impact of using the UNCITRAL Rules on the settlement of investment disputes, in addition to the salient jurisdictional and substantive issues and challenges of Arab ISDS.

At the same panel, Mr. Rinaldo Sali, Vice Secretary General of the Milan Chamber of Arbitration, explained the activities of ISPRAMED, while Ms. Rabab Yasseen, Member of CRCICA Advisory Committee, tackled the issues and challenges of investment arbitration from a practitioner's perspective.
Investment Integration and Policy Reforms in the MENA Region, Cairo, Egypt, 9-11 December 2014

CRCICA participated in the Regional conference on Fostering Regional Integration on Investment, held on 9-10 December 2014 at the premises of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt. The conference was organized by the League of Arab States in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the OECD. In a session dedicated to the "State of Play of Existing Tools to Promote Investment in the Region", CRCICA representatives, Dr. Dalia Hussein, legal advisor and Ms. Heba Salem, case manager and legal researcher, delivered a speech on CRCICA's vision to enhance investment arbitration in the region. The speech also presented CRCICA's experience in investment arbitration and assessed the latest amendment to the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Arab Capital in the Arab States.

The Limitus Test: Challenges to Awards and Enforcement of Awards in Africa, Mauritius, 15-16 December 2014

On 15 and 16 December 2014, the third biennial Mauritius International Arbitration Conference (MIAC) was held in Mauritius with the following title: "The Litmus Test: Challenges to Awards and Enforcement of Awards in Africa".

MIAC 2014 featured panels formed of international and regional leaders in the field who explored from practical perspectives challenges to awards and enforcement of awards in general with special emphasis on Africa.

Over two days, a very interesting combination of panels and workshops was made as follows: Two panels of experts presenting papers, one focusing upon challenges to awards and the other upon enforcement of awards. Two practical workshops involving advocates and judges relied on
mock cases to demonstrate how in practice advocates can argue challenges to awards and enforcement of awards and how a tribunal might go about adjudicating on these matters. Two Panel-led discussion sessions allowing all delegates attending the conference to raise questions and points for discussion arising from earlier panels.

CRCICA Director led the discussions on the recognition and enforcement of awards in a panel-led discussion session moderated by Mr. Hugo Siblesz, Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and involving Prof. Philippe Leboulanger, Leboulanger et Associes, Paris and Vice Chairman of CRCICA Advisory Committee, as another discussion leader.

CRCICA PUBLICATIONS


In 2014, CRCICA issued volumes 22 and 23, and reproduced Volume 1 in its 3rd edition, of the Journal of Arab Arbitration. The Journal is a semi-annual CRCICA-sponsored publication of the Arab Union of International Arbitration (AUIA). Each volume of the Journal includes a number of articles, judicial awards and arbitral precedents. The table of contents available through the following link: http://crcica.org.eg/publication/JournalOfArabArbitration/v22.pdf.

English Volume IV of CRCICA Arbitral Awards

Kluwer Law International published the fourth English volume of CRCICA Arbitral Awards which is authored by Dr. Mohi-Eldin Ismail Alam-Eldin, the Senior Legal Adviser of the Centre. Volume IV includes seven complex construction cases. Each award is squeezed into around 100 pages originally out of 300/500 pages. To order the Book, interested scholars are invited to contact: http://www.kluwerlaw.com.
CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Contribution to Getting the Deal Through - Arbitration 2014

GETTING THE DEAL THROUGH

Arbitration

A Chapter on CRCICA has been published in the ninth edition of Getting the Deal Through - Arbitration 2014, which provides international analysis in key areas of law and policy for corporate counsel, cross-border legal practitioners and business people. The scope of coverage of the publication is expanding annually. In the 2014 edition, there are 52 jurisdictions and 13 arbitral institution chapters. The full Chapter is available through this link:


Interim Measures in International Arbitration, Juris Publishing Inc., June 2014

CRCICA contributed with a chapter on Egypt in the Juris Publishing first edition of Interim Measures in International Arbitration edited by Mr. Lawrence W. Newman and Dr. Colin Ong. Contributors gathered from 43 different countries all over the world, to inform the reader about the essential elements of the different interim measures which are available as part of the arbitral process, each in his/her respective jurisdiction. According to the published editorial note, this book combines the best elements of a focused legal textbook with the essential practicalities of a practitioners' procedural handbook. It is notable that Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are the only representatives of the Arab world in this important Publication.

CRCICA contributed two chapters in the World Arbitration Reporter - 2nd Edition, one on Egypt and the other on the works and activities of the Centre.

Extensively revised and updated by leading authorities in the field, the World Arbitration Reporter (WAR) is said to be the only integrated reference work containing detailed commentary and analysis on national legislation from more than 100 countries as well as information on the rules of procedure of more than 100 international and national arbitral institutions and the leading international arbitration treaties and agreements.

WAR - Second Edition is divided into four comprehensive volumes on: National Arbitration Country Reports; National Arbitration Institutions; International Arbitration Institutions and International Arbitration Treaties, Bilateral and Regional Agreements.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT:

CRCICA and CAM-CCBC (BRAZIL) sign a cooperation agreement, Cairo, 20 November 2014

On 20 November 2014 CRCICA and The Arbitration and Mediation Centre of The Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC) entered into a cooperation agreement in order inter alia to foster their respective roles in the development of arbitration, mediation and other ADR, to exchange relevant information and publications, to recommend to each other suitable individuals to serve as arbitrator or mediator and, wherever possible, to provide technical assistance regarding conference room facilities, hotels, and translation, teleconference and transcription
services. It is worth mentioning that both institutions were established in 1979 and are therefore celebrating 35 years of existence in 2014.

**STUDY VISITS AND INTERNSHIPS:**

**A Visit by a Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 23 March 2014**

On 23 March 2014, a governmental Saudi delegation paid a study visit to the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. The visit was a part of a legal training on international law conducted by Volterra Fietta, an international law firm. The delegation was composed of 8 lawyers from the Royal Court, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Petroleum accompanied by trainers from Volterra Fietta.

As a part of an extensive training program, the visit was meant to provide the trainees with a practical insight into the functioning of international organizations and arbitral institutions and provide them with an opportunity to engage with individuals who work with international law on a daily basis.

Trainees listened to a detailed presentation on the works and functioning of the Centre followed by a questions and answers session.

**A Visit by a Senior Representative of the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre, 28 April 2014**

On 28 April 2014, and in implementation of the cooperation agreement concluded between CRCICA and the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre in 2009, Mrs. Eman Issa Abdul salam, Communications and marketing Media Coordinator of the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre
visited CRCICA. The main target of the visit was to exchange knowledge and share experiences regarding the organization of conferences and regional events. Discussions tackled the organizational tools and methodologies of the Cairo Centre as well as the marketing needs and expectations of the Gulf Area. Future mutual cooperation between the two centres were also deliberated and the idea of holding an inter-Arab Arbitration Colloquium were raised enthusiastically.

**INTERNSHIPS**

**June 2014:** CRCICA organized a two-week intensive internship program for two undergraduates; Youssef Rizkana, the School of Law, University of East Anglia (UEA), United Kingdom, and Ziad Loutfi, School of Law (English Section), Cairo University. Interns were given the chance to examine the Rules of the Centre and the Egyptian Arbitration Law no. 27/1994 and to attend three hearings and CRCICA-hosted events. To enrich their understanding of arbitration, they were involved in a comparative research about the complexity of the arbitration agreement and its consequences; the differences between ad hoc and institutional arbitrations; the difference between arbitration and litigation and the salient features of the rules of different arbitration institutions.

**July 2014:** Dr. Amira Mahmoud-SAAB, a French Lawyer, attended two-week training at CRCICA. The training was in agreement with the Paris Bar Association which requires fresh members to conduct a training in France or in an international organization abroad. CRCICA was recognized as one of the international organizations opening internship opportunities for locals and foreigners as well.

During the internship, Dr. Mahmoud-SAAB conducted a comparative study between the 2011 CRCICA Arbitration Rules and the 2010 UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. She also drafted the French version of CRCICA Arbitration Rules (currently under final revision), discussed legal issues pertaining, inter alia, to the scope of the arbitration agreement in two CRCICA cases and attended few hearings.

**November 2014:** Krishnan Shakkottai, a British National in the a 2nd Year of a LL.B programme at ILS Law College, Pune, a leading law school in India, joined CRCICA for a two-week internship. Mr. Shakkottai had the chance to observe the international arbitration community in its various practices as he attended an important international hearing at the Centre and also participated at Sharm El Sheikh V: The Role of State Courts in International Arbitration.
**FUTURE EVENTS:**

The detailed calendar of CRCICA 2015 Events is under preparation, some of which follows:

**June 2015, Cairo-Egypt:** “Cairo Roadshow to promote the 2016 ICCA Congress”, in cooperation with the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (MIAC)

**June 2015, Cairo-Egypt:** The fifth Round of “Comparative Commercial Arbitration, Theory and Practice” (CCATP), in cooperation with the Cairo Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

**October 2015, Cairo-Egypt:** Regional Conference on “The Settlement of Media and Entertainment Disputes”.