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*المرکز الإقليمي  
للتحكيم التجاري  
الدولي بالقاهرة  
1999*

**The Cairo Regional Centre  
For International Commercial Arbitration**

# Annual Report

of the Activities of the Centre

2000

Presented by

**Dr. Mohamed Aboul-Enein**

Director of the Centre

Submitted to

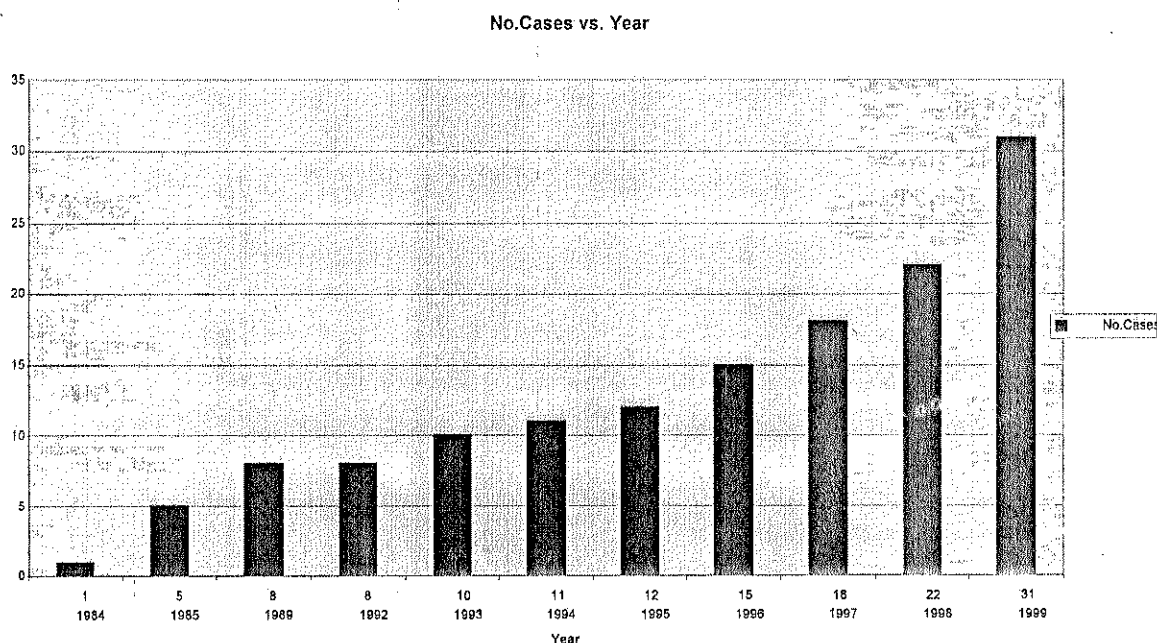
The 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asian African  
Legal Consultative Committee  
Cairo, February 19 – 23, 2000

*“The year 1999 marks the beginning of the Cairo Arbitration Centre’s third decade. Significantly, the turn to our new era was correlated by remarkable and unprecedented progress in the achievements of the Cairo Centre ; a record figure was reached in the number of international cases filed with the Centre and in the broadest sense we succeeded in attaining more recognition worldwide. This report is meant to document the most important achievements and activities all over a year that is of special significance for the Centre as it steps into a new decade and a new millenium ”*

*Dr.Mohamed Aboul-Enein*  
Director of the Centre

## The Year 1999 : When CRCICA Arbitrations reached a Peak !!

*“Working in a CRCICA-administered Arbitration appeals to me as impressive as to abate all traces of past reluctance to arbitrate beyond the Ocean”<sup>1</sup>*, the undertones of such an oration are vividly materialized in the unprecedented hike the CRCICA scored in 1999 by having thirty-one newly registered international cases with a considerable increase over the annual increase of the past year. On a wider scale, such an increase is actually the first of the kind since the early inception of the Centre as illustrated below:



Speaking of the number of cases filed till the date of issuing this report, it is worth noting that the very early weeks of the year 2000 witnessed five new registrations, taking as such the overall number of cases filed before the Centre up to

<sup>1</sup>Extracted from a commentary by a distinguished international arbitrator and a co-member of a Tribunal in an international arbitration concluded in 1999.

155 international cases. It is worth noting in this concern that the number of ad hoc arbitrations being administered by the Centre is constantly increasing.

What is distinctive about the arbitrations filed during 1999 is that they unveil the fact that *the CRCICA Arbitration Clause grows also effective where no nationals of the region are concerned* ; Case no. 141/1999 provides the most outstanding example as both parties to the dispute are from North America - one being a Ministry of a North American State and the other a construction company from the same State. Although it did happen in the past that the CRCICA administered cases with the two parties being Africans or Asians ( Non-Egyptians), it is actually significant to have the two parties of a dispute from outside the Afro-Asian Region.

Another distinctive feature of the 1999 CRCICA Arbitrations is that besides cases involving great amounts under disputes, there starts to *be a considerable number of cases with relatively small disputed amounts*, a phenomenon that talks much of the increasing confidence in arbitration as a means for settling international disputes and equally important reflects the similarly increasing confidence in the Cairo Arbitration Center as an international independent Arbitration Organization.

It is perceived that the coming years will witness a more considerable increase in the number of cases to be filed with the Centre, especially because it is statistically proven that the last two years witnessed a remarkable increase in the types and numbers of trade and investment contracts referring disputes likely to arise thereunder to the Cairo Arbitration Centre. The most important type of such contracts are BOT / BOOT ones .

## Efforts to Revise and Update Local Arbitration Laws ..... *Continue progressively*

Since its early inception, the Cairo Arbitration Centre has had many experiences in the amendment and revision of the different national arbitration laws. The past year continued to witness the experience.

### • **The Egyptian Law :**

After six years of application, the need has arisen to review the Egyptian Arbitration Act No. 27/94 in order to cope with users' needs and recent trends in the field of arbitration and other ADR. In this regard, the CRCICA has held quarterly round meetings since April 1998 to review the said Law and draft accordingly a proposal of amendments. Generally speaking, what is deemed basal is to render the Egyptian Law more responsive to correspondent changes in international trade laws and practices and more patterned on the Model Arbitration Law of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ( UNCITRAL). The attendance structure of the said meetings was originally formulated as to feature four basic categories of reviewers ; academicians, legislators, Judges and arbitration practitioners, the last category in itself composes both lawyers and arbitrators. It is expected that the proposal of amendments will take final form within the few coming months to be then processed to the Egyptian Ministry of Justice for action.

It is here of direct relevance to mention that the early promulgation of the Arbitration Law no. 27/94 and the three-year-later issuance of Law 9/97 confirming the arbitrability of disputes arising from administrative contracts were both stimulated by the Centre's efforts to this effect.

- **Other Regional Laws :**

It is observed that there is an increasing resort to the Cairo Centre to review different arbitration laws in the region. In 1999, both the Yemeni and Jordanian Draft Arbitration Laws were referred to the Cairo Centre for comments.

## **New Legal Principles Adopted In CRCICA Arbitral Awards**

Since inception, the CRCICA has followed the practice of compiling and publishing the legal principles adopted by the different arbitral tribunals in the arbitrations administered under its auspices. The practice is meant to provide guidance not only to judges and arbitrators but also to researchers and law scholars. The new principles adopted appear usually in the Centre's Newsletter.

## **Kluwer Law International ... *Publishing the CRCICA Awards***

For the first time, the awards of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration have been published by Kluwer Law International. The volume contains awards issued in English in the cases filed to the Centre up till 1996, originally produced in the English, Arabic or French languages .

The second volume is now under preparation to be published in the near future and is planned to include the awards issued from 1996 till the present time.

The compilation is being edited and presented after omitting the actual names of the parties .

## CRCICA's International Events ..... A Past Year and A Year to Come

*"I want just to express the thanks of myself,  
the Pan-African Council and the whole LCIA for the success of our Conference.  
That success was entirely due to your hard work and excellent ideas.  
I shall be able to deliver a very favorable report to the LCIA Board"*

*Madeleine May, LCIA Executive Director<sup>2</sup>*

### • *There is a strategy* :

Speaking in terms of approach and objective, holding international educational events for the CRCICA goes **far beyond mere organizational tasks and profit-making schemes**. Well cognizant of the various challenging changes on both legal and trade-related levels and the direct influence these are likely to have on the economies of the region, the Centre, in planning its scheme of events, develops a comprehensive view meant to intersect the international with the regional and to create a contact point between the various approaches in trade, investment, arbitration and other ADRs inspite of geographical barriers.

This approach is highly materialized , for example, in the BOT series of Conferences the Centre has held since 1996. It remains an asset that the Centre was the first to introduce to the region at that time the concept and methodologies of BOTs together with the works of the few top international entities having initiatives in the field. Since then and up to now, the annual BOT Conference the Centre organizes, plays a pivotal – *if not the most pivotal* – role in tracing all new

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<sup>2</sup>This words appear in a letter Mrs. May sent just after the LCIA Conference the Cairo Centre hosted in December 1999.

international and regional occurrences in BOT practices with a highly analytic approach and a will to “*bring to one round table the five Continents of the world*”<sup>3</sup>.

Similarly significant is the series of Conferences the Centre has held since 1998 on The Impact of WTO Agreements on the Economies of the Third World. Viewing the influence the agreements of the World Trade Organization is envisaged to have on international trade practices - and accordingly on dispute-settlement mechanisms - after the experimental application of the Uruguay Results scheduled to end by the year 2005, it grows necessary to expose the pros and cons involved and attempt creating a comprehensive vision capable of facing all future challenges. This could have not work as effectively as planned without the participation of WTO representatives and the presence of countries of the region having already adhered to the Agreements of the Organization as well as those regional countries either about or reluctant to adhere. Getting aware of the importance of this, the CRCICA manages to contrive such a gathering on annual basis. It is note worthy in this concern that the date of each CRCICA Conference on WTO Agreements is usually scheduled as timely as to discuss the results of past WTO annual ministerial Conferences and the prospects for future ones. The 1999 Conference, for example, was meant to be held some few weeks before the WTO Seattle Conference of November 1999 and it was one of its most vitally posed questions : *How the WTO would get out of the dilemma the 1998 Ministerial Conference forced by explicitly recommending to submit a working scheme addressing all problems and difficulties member states have under current Agreements*. Along the same course, in preparing for the 2000 Conference, the CRCICA is now collecting all necessary input from the WTO itself and interested Countries of the region.

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<sup>3</sup>A comment made by an international reputed scholar and an attendee in the 1998 BOT Conference.



The organizational strategies of past years were based on various fundamentals, the most important of which follows :

- **Planning Budgets**  
**with a *No-profit and Up-To-Deficit* Prospective:**

International conferences and training programs cannot ever take their due course without adequate funding. It proves highly significant for the Centre to take the strategic decision of *providing financial support in achievement of its ultimate and unconditioned vision* which is the promotion of arbitration as well as efficient investment practices and methodologies all over the region.

This has been brought into effect by developing a no-profit strategy and readiness to balance any possible deficit basing the elementary budgetary estimate of most conference and training programs on an initiative grant from the Centre's own funds. Out of this scheme, the Centre has taken the lead in holding and hosting the courses of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators on annual or semi-annual basis since 1995, despite the high costs involved. Similarly, it is this very same approach that encourages developing an agreement with the London Court of International Arbitration ( LCIA ) to host its third Pan-African Conference held in Cairo last December ; the core feature of the agreement was to hold the hosting organization liable to bear all losses, if any.

• **Extending the Role of the Center  
outside *What may Appear as its Existing Area of Interest*<sup>4</sup>:**

One of the strategical targets of the Cairo Centre is to continue raising its profile worldwide and creating in the process new bonds of cooperation beyond existing spheres of interest. Over the past year, the organizational activities of the Centre unfolded some important contributions to the target.

On 31 July 1999, the Cairo Centre played a pivotal role in the International Conference on "*The Practice of International Arbitration*" organized by St. Antony's College, Oxford University under the auspices of Dr. Prince Bandar Salman Al-Saud. In attempting to eliminate some obscurities in dispute *settlement* practices in so far as the Islamic Law ( Sharia ) is concerned, the Cairo Center presented a paper on *the Liberal Trends in Islamic Law on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes*. The approach of the paper attracts many scholars studying the Islamic Law in the different parts of the world turning the CRCICA Paper to be referential in this field of study.

In October 1999, the Centre organized at its Offices a tailor-made Arbitration Training Program for 22 Uzbek judges of high courts . Speaking of the significance involved , the Program established a status of recognition for the Cairo Centre in the Central Asian part of the world<sup>5</sup> . An asset contributing to this fact is that the selected trainees were officially deputized by the Uzbek Ministry of Justice.

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<sup>4</sup> The word area is used here in a broad sense as it verbally refers to the geographical area and figuratively to the area of activities .

<sup>5</sup> It is notable that this sort of cooperation was introduced early in June 1998 when the Director of the Centre conducted an Arbitration Course in Uzbekistan and it is equally important to mention that the year 1998 witnessed the registration of the first international arbitration case involving an Uzbek party.

Equally significant, the Centre has developed for the first time ties of cooperation with an active member of the American Government being the US Department of Commerce as represented in its Commercial Law Development Program ( CLDP ) . In November 1999 , the Cairo Centre and the CLDP joined forces in organizing an international BOT Conference – the fourth in the series of Conferences the Centre has organized since 1996. While the Centre has sustained strong bonds of cooperation with top US-seated international and non-governmental entities such as the World Bank, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Law Institute ( ILI ) , it is notable that the 1999 cooperation with the CLDP marks the first of its kind with a US governmental body.

### • **Hosting other international entities' events :**

The CRCICA has developed an unabated faith in the importance of introducing to the region the works and visions of the various Arbitration Institutions as well as other Law Institutes, roading in the process across geographical boundaries and promoting the notion of all mankind being habitants of one extended *though boundless* village that is *the village of the world*. Well cognizant of the significance involved , the Centre has hosted the first Conference of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions ( IFCAI ) in 1992 and the 'nines' decade gave not its final draw without witnessing that of the London Court of International Arbitration ( LCIA) . In the early 2000, the Centre dedicated a one-day Seminar to introduce the works of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in so far as international trade and investment are concerned. Along the same track , the Centre has most recently developed an agreement to host the next annual Conference of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in February 2001 . ( See Below : Events in Chronology) .

## Events in Chronology

### • *Past Events* :

Following are the events held after the submission of the last annual report in April 1999 :

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZERS	VENUE
May 17 and 18, 1999	Arab Arbitration Institutions between the Present and Future"	- The Cairo Centre -The General Secretariat of the Arab Union of International Arbitration	Beirut University Beirut, Lebanon
June 12 - 15, 1999	Third International Conference on the Settlement of Oil and Gas Disputes	- The Cairo Centre - The World Bank - Ministry of Petroleum, Egypt	Helnan Palestine Htl Alexandria, Egypt
September 19 and 20, 1999	The WTO Agreements, its Impacts on the Arab Economies and Settlement of its Disputes	- The Cairo Centre - World Trade Organization (WTO) - International Law Institute of Washington	Marriott Htl. Cairo, Egypt
September 28 to October 7, 1999	A Training Program for the Uzbek Judges	- The Cairo Centre -The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth and European Islamic Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	The premises of the Centre, Cairo

November 2 and 3, 1999	International Workshop on Arbitration and On-Line Dispute Resolution	- The Cairo Centre -The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	The premises of the Centre, Cairo
November 14 – 16, 1999	Successful Build, Operate and Transfer ( BOT ) Projects in Egypt	- The Cairo Centre -Commercial Law Development Program, American Ministry of Commerce - The General Authority for Governmental Services, Egyptian Ministry of Finance - International Law Institute of Washington	Meridien Htl. Cairo, Egypt
November 27 and 28, 1999	Elementary Level Arbitration Training Program (CIArb Entry Course)	- The Cairo Centre -The London Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb )	Sheraton Htl. Cairo, Egypt
November 29, 1999	Award Writing Training Course	As above	Sheraton Htl. Cairo, Egypt
November 30 to December 1, 1999	Advanced Level Arbitration Training Program (CIArb Fellowship)	As above	Sheraton Htl. Cairo, Egypt
December 3, 1999	CIArb Member Upgrade Course	As above	Sheraton Htl. Cairo, Egypt
December 4 and 5, 1999	The International Conference on "International Arbitration and Arbitration in Africa, The Year 2000 and Beyond	- The Cairo Centre - London Court of International Arbitration	Marriott Htl. Cairo, Egypt

28 January 2000	International Commercial Arbitration Seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Cairo Centre .</li> <li>- Egyptian Ministry of Justice .</li> <li>- The International Institute for the Unification of the Private Law (UNIDROIT) .</li> </ul>	Sheraton Htl. Cairo , Egypt
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• *Future Events :*

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZERS	VENUE
22-23 April 2000	The Fourth Conference on "The Euro-Arab Partnerships"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Cairo Centre</li> <li>-The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- The European Community ( to be confirmed )</li> </ul>	Cairo / Egypt
15 May 2000	Workshop on the Role of Arbitrators and Lawyers under the Civil and the Common Legal Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Cairo Centre</li> <li>- The Cairo Branch of the London Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ( CIArb )</li> </ul>	Cairo / Egypt
17 May 2000	The Fourth Conference on the Settlement of Oil and Gas Disputes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Cairo Centre</li> <li>- The World Bank</li> <li>- The Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum</li> </ul>	Cairo , Egypt

5 August 2000	Arbitration Training Programs (CIArb Entry and Fellowship Courses )	- The Cairo Centre - The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	Cairo / Egypt
16 September 2000	Arbitration in Banking Disputes	- The Cairo Centre - Society of Arab and African Arbitrators (an affiliate of Cairo Centre) - Federation of Banks	Cairo, Egypt
20 September 2000	International Maritime Arbitration Conference	- The Cairo Centre - The Alexandria Centre for International Maritime Arbitration	Alexandria / Egypt
28 – 29 October 2000	Fifth International Conference on Build – Operate – Transfer Projects	- The Cairo Centre ILI – UNCITRAL – UNIDO	Cairo , Egypt
20 – 22 November 2000	The International Conference on Electronic Commerce and Cross-Border Insolvency	- The League of Arab States - The Cairo Center - The UNCITRAL	Cairo , Egypt
5 December 2000	Arbitration in Insurance Disputes	- The Cairo Centre - Society of Arab and African Arbitrators (an affiliate of Cairo Centre) - Society of Insurance	Cairo, Egypt

23 December 2000	The Third International Conference on World Trade Organization Agreements (WTO)	- The Cairo Centre - World Trade Organization ( WTO ) -International Law Institute of Washington (ILI)	Cairo , Egypt
February 2001	The Annual Conference of the London Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	- The Cairo Centre - The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	Cairo / Egypt
March 2001	The Third Conference on “Arab Arbitration and Arab Arbitral Institutions”.	- The Cairo Centre - The General Secretariat of the Arab Union of International Arbitration and under the auspices of the League of Arab States	

- The above mentioned dates would be confirmed two months before each event.
- Some other events will be organized or co-organized in other Arab Countries. The venues will be fixed after finalizing relevant agreements with the proper entities.

## Providing Training in Arbitration Practice

One of the Centre’s principal motives is to provide continuous training for arbitrators and arbitrators-to-be being the orchestrators of the whole arbitration process. Evident of this is the fact that the Centre has organized more than twenty-five training programs and has played many vital roles in different programs held in many countries of the region, some of these are Yemen, Saudi Arabia ( Jeddah and Dammam ) , Uganda ( Kampala ) ....etc. .



Similarly , the Centre provides training for under-graduates and scholars of the different law schools. In this concern, it is note worthy that the Centre has most recently developed an agreement with **the Georgetown University Law Centre** to take part in the latter's Internship Training Program for the year 2000 by providing training for students of the University at the Cairo Centre .

## **Establishing Specialized Arbitration Institutes**

It is observed that there starts to be a recent increase in the number of cases in particular fields of investments, a fact that gives birth to the idea of establishing specialized Arbitration Institutes under the auspices of the Cairo Arbitration Centre . The late 1999 and the early 2000 witnessed a progress in this concern as mentioned below :

### **• Branch for the Peaceful Settlement of Petroleum Disputes :**

It is proven statistically that the number of petroleum disputes referred to the Cairo Centre is constantly increasing. An important factor that leads to this growth and is expected to keep it up is that all arbitration clauses in the international petroleum agreements between the Egyptian Governments and international petroleum companies nominate the Cairo Centre without the least exception. Out of this fact , in October 1999, the Cairo Centre and the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum agreed to establish a specialized petroleum Branch that is meant to administer disputes in the field, a task that would definitely entail providing training and education for arbitrators and lawyers taking part in a petroleum-arbitration process. Although the founding elements necessary for establishing the Branch have already been featured, technical and managerial details are still under finalization and it is planned that the year 2000 will not give its final draw without witnessing the establishment of the Branch.

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- **Venue for the Settlement of  
Alexandrian Business Disputes :**

Alexandria, the Port and the City, is such a vital Mediterranean spot embracing many trade transactions that are not limited to marine dealings. The legal complexities this might involve urge the *Alexandrian Society of Businessmen*<sup>6</sup> to propose establishing a Commercial Arbitration Venue jointly with the Cairo Arbitration Centre and its Affiliate the Alexandria Centre for International Maritime Arbitration. The proposal is now about to take its legal form and the Venue is thus envisaged to be established by the end of this year .

- **Contribution to the works of International Organizations**

*Washington .... New York .... Munich .... Vienna ..  
all four Cities witnessed the contributions*

- **Contributing to a World Bank Project  
for the Improvement of Insolvency System:**

In July 1999 , the Director of the Centre was appointed a member of the World Bank Institutional Capacity Working Group assigned to present a draft set of principles and guidelines for a sound insolvency system and for strengthening insolvency management institutions. The Working Group consisted of ten judges, all other nine are nationals of non-African or non-Asian Countries. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September Washington Meeting, , the Director of the Centre presented a Working Paper on the Education, Training and Maintenance of Judges and Court Personnel expressing the view that *“diversities of legal systems , socio-economic and political backgrounds worldwide summon a dire need to systemize education and training processes as*

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<sup>6</sup> The Society is a well-famed entity representing the main business stream in Alexandria and having more than 300 members. It is avowed that the resolutions and policies of the Society strongly affect trade and investment in Alexandria.

*intensively and as extensively as possible*" and proposed accordingly the establishment of a Global Research, Training and Information Centre for Cross Border Insolvency<sup>7</sup>. The works of the Working Group will continue in support of the World Bank's Insolvency-related activities .

• **Contributing  
to the Global Centre for Dispute Resolution Research :**

In June 1999, the American Arbitration Association announced sponsoring the formation of the Global Center for Dispute Resolution Research. A highly autonomous, self-governing organization, the Global Center will be the first research facility dedicated to examining the use and effectiveness of dispute resolution practices on a worldwide basis. The Director of the Centre was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Centre, among other ten top international arbitration experts and it is envisaged that the works of the Centre will affect the mechanisms of dispute settlement worldwide.

• **Evaluating the UNCITRAL Insolvency Model Law :**

On the 13<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1999, the Director of the Centre took part in evaluating the UNCITRAL Insolvency Model Law through the works and discussions of the Third UNCITRAL/INSOL Multinational Judicial Colloquium held in Munich – Germany . The presentation briefly tackled the pros and cons of adopting the Model Law in Egypt and in the Arab World. **Being the only representation reviewing the effects of adopting the Model Law regionally** , the evaluation was received attentively and was featured in the Colloquium Report circulated to all INSOL Members .

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<sup>7</sup> The full text of the Presentation is available at the Secretariat of the Cairo Regional Centre.

Having observed that there is no sufficient knowledge and comprehensiveness of the said Law in the third World, the Centre now attempts to introduce it to the region and compiles observations and comments accordingly. The data – now under collection is meant to provide input for the International Conference on the Insolvency Model Law and other UNCITRAL Activities the Cairo Centre will hold in November 2000 jointly with the UNCITRAL and in cooperation with the INSOL. To give the circulation of thoughts its full round, the Centre will then submit the recommendation of its Conference to the next UNCITRAL/INSOL Colloquium.

### **•Attaining Consultative Status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization :**

In July 1999, the Centre attained consultative status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The scope of cooperation between the Centre and the Organization was proposed to include the introduction of the works and services of the latter to the region, with special consideration to activities related to the promotion of investment and technology and policy framework for small-and medium-scale enterprises ( SMEs). This would include but is not limited to holding joint seminars and workshops on regular basis.

This sort of cooperation with a UN-Body is envisaged to achieve as many successes as does the cooperation between the Centre and the UNCITRAL. It is here worth noting that the Centre's being an observer at the UNCITRAL Sessions since 1984 has been very instrumental in introducing the Commission's scope of works – as wide as it is – to the whole region.

## Cooperation with other Arbitration Centres

The Cairo Centre is always keen to provide technical and administrative assistance to the different Arbitration Centres of the region, especially newly-established ones, this started in 1990 when the Cairo Centre deputized one of its top officials to Djibouti for two weeks to assist in planning the fundamentals necessary for the establishment of the Djibouti Arbitration Centre. Similar examples of cooperation continue with other arbitration Centres. However, it is note worthy that the howabouts of the assistance provided differ in each case .

Similarly, the Cairo Centre is keeping ties of cooperation with the thirty-seven Arbitration Institutions which it concluded cooperation agreements with.

In the year 1999 , the Cairo Centre started a special experience of cooperation with the *Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg* which extended an invitation to the CRCICA's Director to conduct one of the session of its **International Arbitration Program** to take place on June 15-18, 2000 in Salzburg.

## The Progress of the General Secretariat of the Arab Union of International Arbitration

Hosted since 1997 by the Cairo Arbitration Centre and established under the presidency of its Director, the General Secretariat of the Arab Union of International Arbitration (the Secretariat) continues scoring successes. In setting its future strategies and targets, the Secretariat held over the last year two major meetings, the first of which was held in Amman in preparation for the Secretariat's Second Annual Conference entitled "**Arab Arbitration Centres .... Between the Present and the**

Future" which was held in Beirut on 18 May 1999 . The second meeting was held on the sidelines of the International Commercial Arbitration Conference held in Beirut on October 11,1999.

Among other activities and schemes , the Secretariat manages to have the membership of various Arbitration bodies and Centres in the Arab World , a fact that led to the change of its official name from the Secretariat of Arab Arbitration Centres to the General Secretariat of the Arab Union of International Arbitration .

One of the most vital achievements of the Secretariat is the issuance of the *Arab Arbitration Periodical* which is actually the first international periodical published in the Arabic language . The publication appears in two volumes , the latest of which was issued in January 2000 and it addresses many topics of interest in the field of arbitration both on the international and regional levels.

Having already attained establishment and recognition in the Arab World, the Secretariat embarks on introducing its works and objectives to the different parts of the world. Evident of this is the fact that it will be represented in the next Conference of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration ( ICCA ) to take place on 2-4 March 2000 in New Delhi / India .

## **The Progress of the Cairo Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ( London)**

Since the issuance of the last report, the Cairo Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators has been operating successfully under the auspices of the Cairo Arbitration Centre. It grows notable that the membership scope of the Branch is undergoing remarkable expansion with new nationalities being introduced.

On 4 December 1999, the Branch Annual Dinner was held with the perspective to introduce the works of the Institute locally and regionally. Attended by the Vice-President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and other members of the Institute as well as various international arbitrators, the occasion rang resonant echoes beyond the boundaries of Egypt .

Taking into consideration the requirements and expectations of the regional arbitral environment , all the Branch sub-committees are busy planning the scheme of future activities and the year 2000 is thus expected to witness various events to be held by the Branch in cooperation with the Cairo Arbitration Centre, one of the most important activities of these is the organization of a Workshop on **the Role of Judges and Lawyers in the Arbitral Process under the Civil and the Common Laws**. The Workshop is provisionally scheduled to be held in May 2000 .

## **The Activities of the CRCICA Affiliates**

One more year comes to witness the progress of the Affiliates of the Centre. **The Institute of Arbitration and Investment** plays an important role in organizing the international Conferences and Training Programs held by the Centre . On equal footing , it manages to conduct research in fields affecting or likely to affect the promotion of investment in the region , this includes but is not limited to Euro-Arab Partnership Agreements , World Trade Organization Agreements and World Bank different trends and regulations . Similarly , the Society of Arab and African Arbitrators has scored remarkable progress in introducing Arbitration and other ADR Techniques to the region and in qualifying arbitrators according to acknowledged methodologies .

## **A New extension for the Premises of the Cairo Centre**

The Cairo Centre bought a new extension to its premises. The floor area of the new extension is 400 square meters, thus the total area of the Centre's premises becomes 1200 square meters.

The extra space and facilities permit the Centre to hold several arbitration sessions in parallel and also to host training programs and conferences more frequently.



**Draft Resolution to be considered**  
**for Adoption by the Thirty-Ninth Session of the AALCC.**

- A. In lieu of the decisions taken at the AALCC (hereinafter the Committee) Baghdad and Doha Sessions, held in February 1977 and January 1978 respectively, bringing into existence an Asian African integrated scheme for the settlement of commercial disputes.
- B. Recalling the agreements concluded between the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the AALCC on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1979 and November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1983, March 30 and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1986, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1987 and July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1989 concerning the establishment and functioning of the AALCC Centre in Cairo (hereinafter the Centre).
- C. Appreciating the report presented by the Director of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (the Director) on the progress made by the Centre during 1999/2000.
- D. Commending the speedy progress which the Centre had made to provide West Asia and Africa with the efficient, expeditious, fair and cost-effective system for the settlement of commercial disputes promoting in so doing Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques other than arbitration such as conciliation, mediation and technical expertise.
- E. Esteeming the Centre's other activities and endeavor to qualify Asian and African Arbitrators and to provide through its pioneering Institute of Arbitration and Investment a pivotal regional contact -point for all international investment - related progression by organizing international seminars and conferences as well as providing a new computerized system for trilingual storage of all arbitral information.
- F. Viewing with appreciation the Centre's tremendous financial efforts exerted for more appropriation of its owned Headquarters in Cairo.

**G.** Encouraging the promotion of the above mentioned Asian African integrated scheme for the settlement of commercial disputes.

**In Witness thereof;**

The Committee requests and extends recommendations to:

1 (a) – All the AALCC Member Governments to recommend to proper entities and parties in their respective countries to include an arbitration clause in each agreement or contract referring the settlement of all disputes related to these agreements or contacts to the Centre.

1(b) – To fully support the growing activities of the Centre, to benefit from it and to consider consolidating its finances through regular annual and/or Ad Hoc contributions to assist and help it implement its ambitious plans of activities, services and expansion.

2 – The Committee Secretary-General to kindly lend his valuable assistance and dynamic contacts to the Centre to this effect.

3 – The Secretary-General and the Director to report to the AALCC coming 40<sup>th</sup> Session the continuing progress of the work of the Centre.