



The Activities of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA)

2nd Half of 2020 & 1st Half of 2021

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I – Events & Webinars

A) COVID-19 & International Dispute Resolution

The COVID-19 pandemic was utterly challenging for the arbitration community given the international nature of our industry. Dispute resolution stakeholders such as counsels, parties and tribunals have turned to CRCICA for information and guidance in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, CRCICA spontaneously dedicated several webinars in spring-summer 2020 regarding the consequences of current sanitary conditions on international dispute resolution.

On 6 July 2020, our arbitral institution broadcasted its first series of webinars on “Mediation in a Changing World: The Future of Mediation to Resolve Post-Pandemic Disputes”. Dr. Ismail Selim, CRCICA’s Director, delivered the opening speech and introduced the speaker Dr. Emad Hussein, fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and International Commercial Arbitrator. The webinar turned out to be quite successful, with 252 people attending the event and 1400 others watching the records on social media platforms.

Along the same lines, on 22 September 2020, CRCICA hosted a forum titled “The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on International Relations”, organized by Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) and the Egyptian Business Council for International Cooperation. Dr. Ismail Selim welcomed the diplomatic guests while the panel discussions was delivered by H.E. Ambassador Christian Beger, Head of European Union (EU) Delegation to Egypt, H.E. Ambassador Stephane Romatet, Ambassador of France and H.E. Ambassador Dr. Georg Stillfried, Ambassador of Austria. The Forum was moderated by Ambassador Amr El Henawy, Assistant to the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

CRCICA pursued its efforts by hosting on 14 October 2020 a webinar titled “Online Dispute Resolution and the COVID Revolution: a blessing in disguise?”. The speaker, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah Abdel Wahab, Member of CRCICA’s Advisory Committee, shared a forward-looking approach into the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and where it may take the world.



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CRCICA was also represented on 22 September 2020 by Dr. Ismail Selim at the China Arbitration Summit 2020 on: “Work Together, Win Together – Global innovation and Development of Dispute Resolution in Face of COVID-19”. The event, which was supported by CRCICA, enabled Dr. Ismail Selim to share CRCICA’s views and experience on the matter.

B) Other Events

Standing out as an arbitral institution requires to get out in front of the arbitration’s narrative by spelling out current and upcoming challenges. For this purpose, CRCICA organized different meetings addressing the major issues encountered by arbitration practitioners. Specifically, CRCICA undertook to set up long-standing series of webinars instead of scattered events.

In the summer of 2020, CRCICA supported the first season of live webinars titled “TagTime Series”. These events are organized by Delos Dispute Resolution where leading counsels, arbitrators and academics are featured. Discussions were followed by a Q&A with the audience and was concluded with the guest speaker tagging the next guest. In the First Season, the speaker was Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah Abdel Wahab. Following the success of the First Season, CRCICA took the decision to renew the experience on 17 November 2020 by sponsoring a second sesason of TagTime Series, this time on “Arbitration in Absentia: How to Deal with Non-participation in International Disputes”. The speaker was Judith Levine, Vice President of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. The Second Season received plenty of positive feedback. Therefore, CRCICA endeavored to make the TagTimeSeries a long-lasting format of fruitful webinars by sponsoring the Third Season early 2021.

On 30 November 2020, CRCICA and the law firm Macchi di Cellere Gangemi co-organized the “CRCICA-Macchi webinar series” designed to discuss selected and trending topics on “International Investment and Commercial Arbitration”. The first topic of the Series was titled: “Counterclaims in ISDS: Challenges and prospects in light of the current reform process of International Investment Law”. The webinar, attended by 170 participants, was presented and moderated by Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General of the International Centre for



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Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Dr. Ismail Selim. On 27 January 2021, CRCICA resumed the successful Webinar Series. The second episode addressed “The International Protection of Foreign Investors between Contract and Treaty”. The speakers were Dr. Ismail Selim, Ms. Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Dr. Dirk Pulkowski, Senior Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Dr. Gabriele Ruscilla, Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration and Mr. Alexis Mourre, President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Anna De Luca, an International Economic Law Scholar and Practitioner. The speakers delivered a guide to the mechanisms protecting foreign investors and looked at how investment disputes are settled.

C) Events Organized by Counterparts

CRCICA was also represented at different events where we were able to share our own perspective on international dispute resolution. For instance, on 16 September 2020, Dr. Ismail Selim represented CRCICA at the 10th edition of the virtual Roundtable organized by IBLJ/RDAI (International Business Law Journal/Revue du Droit des Affaires Internationales) hosted by the Milan Chamber of Arbitration. Dr. Selim also lectured at the CIArb International Virtual Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, held during 4-27 September 2020.

On 9-10 November 2020, Dr. Ismail Selim presented our arbitral institution to the world of Investors at the Third Annual Conference & Exhibition of Investment and Financial Markets, organized by Smart Vision Investment Expo 2020.

CRCICA contributed to two conferences organized by the Nigeria branch at the CIArb. On 18-20 November 2020, CRCICA was represented by Dr. Ismail Selim at the virtual 41st Annual Conference on “Making Arbitration (and ADR) Work for Africa” organized by the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators (NICArb). On November 25-27, CRCICA was also represented by Dr. Ismail Selim and Dr. Dalia Hussein, Deputy Director, at the 2020 virtual Annual Conference titled “Arbitration and ADR in a Free Trade Regime: Assessing Africa’s Readiness” organized as well by the Nigerian CIArb Branch.



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On 10 March 2021, Dr. Mohamed Hafez, Counsel and Legal Advisor to the Director of the CRCICA, represented our arbitral institution at the webinar-based event titled “International Arbitration: Regional Perspectives, Africa”. This event was hosted by Shoosmiths LLP.

On 15 April 2021, Dr. Ismail Selim, participated as a speaker at the Africa Construction Law (ACL) launch event for the Northern Africa Sub-Region. In the framework of his contribution on “The Role of Arbitral Institutions in Construction Disputes”, Dr. Selim presented CRCICA’s wide experience in construction disputes and shed light on CRCICA’s construction caseload during 2016-2020, stressing that almost 25% of CRCICA’s cases involve construction contracts. It is worth noting that CRCICA was a collaborating organization to this event.

On 7 and 8 April 2021, Dr. Mohamed Hafez represented CRCICA at the SIAC Middle East Academy Course titled “Time and Cost Savers at SIAC: Emergency Arbitration, Expedited Procedure and Early Dismissal”.

On 11 April 2021, CRCICA also contributed to the webinar on “Opportunities and Challenges of International Arbitration under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” organized by the Centre for International Alternative Dispute Resolution (CIADR). The webinar was moderated by Ms. Wu Qian (Singapore International Arbitration Centre “SIAC”). Dr. Mohamed Hafez participated as a speaker and delivered a presentation titled “How to deal with Multi-Party and Multi-Contract Arbitration Proceedings”. It is worth noting that CRCICA has entered into the Belt and Road Arbitration Initiative Agreement concluded in May 2019 by CRCICA, BIAC and KLRCA.

On 16 April 2021, Dr. Ismail Selim represented CRCICA at the virtual African Arbitration Association (AFAA) 2nd Annual International Arbitration Conference titled “Reform & Innovation in International Dispute Resolution: African Perspectives” where he delivered the closing remarks. CRCICA also supported the conference as media partner.

Also it is worth mentioning that on 5 August 2020, Dr. Mohamed Hafez participated as a panelist at a webinar titled “Special Interview Series for the Africa’s 50 Most Promising



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Arbitration Practitioners of the Year 2020” to share experiences and practical tips in the field of international arbitration.

As an arbitral institution, it is our duty to promote and support best practices adopted by our counterparts. For this purpose, on 6 January 2021, Ms. Fatma Ibrahim, Mediation Special Advisor to CRCICA, delivered a speech on the Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention).

Furthermore, CRCICA was involved in the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). First, CRCICA was represented at the Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) by Dr. Mohamed Hafez. Dr. Mohamed Hafez attended the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions, which respectively took place on 21–25 September 2020 and 22-26 March 2021 in New-York and Vienna virtually. Dr. Mohamed Hafez shared CRCICA’s standpoint on UNCITRAL’s draft provisions of “expedited arbitration”. Following this, Ms. Rabab Yasseen, Partner at Mentha & Partners, Deputy Judge to the Civil Courts in Geneva and Member of the CRCICA Advisory Committee, represented CRCICA at the 54th session of the UNCITRAL, held in Vienna from 28 June to 16 July 2021.

CRCICA was also involved in two arbitration weeks. On 6 July 2020, CRCICA’s Director Dr. Ismail Selim acted as a panelist at the first session of the Paris Arbitration Week on “International Arbitration in Africa: Perspectives on Virtual Hearings and the Africa Arbitration Academy Protocol”. CRCICA also participated in the Dubai Arbitration Week, presented by GAR Interactive and DIFC-LCIA on 16-19 November 2020. Dr. Selim represented CRCICA at the session held on 17 November 2020 on “Examining the shifting borders of Middle-Eastern commerce”. In this framework, the “Meet the African Female Arbitrator” Series was also organized in partnership with CRCICA. It featured esteemed Nigerian arbitrator Dorothy Ufot, SAN.

Despite the international nature of CRCICA’s caseload, our arbitral institution continues to provide specific answers to Egypt-related dispute resolution. As a result, on 23 March 2020 CRCICA sponsored the Virtual Conference on “Egypt/UK Partnership for the Promotion of Sustainable Manufacturing in Africa” targeting UK companies wishing to invest in Egypt. The



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event was organized by the British Egyptian Business Association and the Egyptian British Chamber of Commerce. On 25 November 2020, CRCICA supported the Canada Egypt Business Council and the Egyptian Business Council for International Cooperation by hosting a Forum on a burning issue for Egyptian businesses, the “Electronic System of the Egyptian Tax Authority (Invoices & Declarations)”.

Promoting interactive first-class webinars did not prevent CRCICA from putting our thought in writing. In November 2020, CRCICA issued Volumes 31 and 32 of the Journal of Arab Arbitration which is a CRCICA-sponsored Publication of the Arab Union of International Arbitration (AUIA). CRCICA also supported on 15 October 2020 the development of a research titled “Comprehensive Study of Mediation in Africa under the Africa Mediation Network”. The International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) released a project titled “Does a Right to a Physical Hearing Exist in Arbitration” on 18 March 2021. We give tribute to Dr. Dalia Hussein, CRCICA’s Deputy Director, for co-authoring the Egypt’s National Report with Dr. Sally El Sawah, Founding Partner and Principal of El Sawah Law.

II – CRCICA’s Activities in Cooperation with CIArb Egypt Branch

The world’s leading qualifications and professional body for dispute avoidance and dispute management, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), established on 5 February 1999 its Egypt branch, which is seated on the premises of the CRCICA. Since then, we have been laying store to contribute to the positive developments of the CIArb globally and in Egypt.

A) Meetings

Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf acts as the branch Chairperson and Dr. Ismail Selim as the Branch Honorary Treasurer. As part of these functions, Dr. Selim represented the Egypt branch at the CIArb Branch Treasurers Meeting conducted virtually on 29 July 2020.

Several meetings were held on the premises of CRCICA throughout 2020. On 15 September 2020, the third Committee Meeting of 2020 of the CIArb Egypt Branch was conducted virtually. In 2021, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CIArb Egypt Branch was held virtually on 6 April with 40 attendees. Initiatives taken during these meetings include the promotion of age diversity in the CIArb members. For this purpose, In July 2020, the Egypt Branch of the CIArb established a Mentoring Program as the first program initiated by a CIArb Branch in the Middle East. The Program provides young CIArb members interested in arbitration and ADR with the opportunity to learn from the experience of more senior members. The CIArb Egypt also launched a Young Members Group.

B) Events

2020-2021 was flourishing for the Egypt Branch which organized for the first time of its history a joint webinar with CIArb London on “Procedural Paranoia in International Arbitration: Is the Vaccine in Sight or Shall We Expect the Disease to Spread Further?” on 27 May 2021. Besides, CRCICA and CIArb Egypt jointly delivered many events of excellent standard. Some of them were focusing on Egypt such as the webinar held on 15 September 2020 titled “Is Egypt a Friendly or Unfriendly Country to Arbitration?” On 13 January 2021, CRCICA also hosted a webinar called “Withdrawal of a Court of Cassation Decision: an Exception on Res Judicata”.



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COVID 19-related issues were also addressed specifically for investment arbitration as part of a joint webinar hosted by CRCICA and CIArb Egypt Branch on “Investment Treaty Reform in Times of COVID-19: A Policy Perspective”. The speaker was Mr. Hamed El Kady, who is an International Investment Policy Officer at the Division on Investment Enterprise of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). With 240 participants attending the webinar, polling surveys were insightful enough to provide an overview of the faced issues.

On 8 March 2021, CIArb Egypt Branch and CRCICA also set up a webinar aiming to provide testimonials of arbitration practice titled “The New World of Arbitration: Lessons for Counsel and Arbitrators from the Past Year”. The event was hosted by CRCICA and led by the renowned arbitrator and counsel Ms. Anne K. Hoffman and moderated by Dr. Ismail Selim. A poll amongst the 145 participants showed that a large majority believed that the changes we have witnessed are beneficial to its users and that they will stay beyond the pandemic.

C) Webinars on Construction & Dispute Resolution

Besides the various kind of subjects jointly addressed by CRCICA and CIArb Egypt Branch, a significant number of organized events broached specific issues encountered in international construction. A subsequent part of international construction contracts is inspired by, or openly make reference to the FIDIC 2017 Red Book. As a result, on 14 July 2020, the CIArb Egypt Branch organized jointly with CRCICA a webinar titled “FIDIC 2017 Red Book: A Civil Law Inclination?” to distill the state of mind of this well-known set of rules.

Variations often constitute the crux of construction disputes. CIArb Egypt and CRCICA left no stone unturned by dedicating an entire webinar to this matter on 15 August 2020. The webinar, titled “Variations After the Contract Completion Date – The ‘Gross’ vs ‘Net’ Debate”, was set as an arbitration case in which Eng. Mahmoud El Saadany acted as sole arbitrator, Dr. Waleed El Nemr as the claimant contractor and Eng. Amr Askar as the respondent employer.

Public Infrastructure Projects are frequently conducted by a private company in cooperation with a state entity or its emanation. These contractual relationships are often created through Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) which give rise to unique arbitration



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disputes. Therefore, on 13 December 2020, CIArb Egypt Branch, in association with CRCICA, hosted a webinar on “Private-Public Arbitration, with Special Reference to PPP Contracts in the MENA Region”. The speaker was Judge Dr. Mohamed AM Ismail, Vice-President of the “Conseil d’État” and judge at the Supreme Administrative Court. The Moderator was Ambassador Mohamed Moustafa Kamal, former assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and attorney-at-law.

In 2021, CIArb Egypt Branch and CRCICA carried on conducting plenty of events on international construction and dispute resolution given the importance of this matter. Indeed, in Africa, the current pipeline of infrastructure projects amounts to no less than 2.5 trillion US dollars.

On 02 June 2021, a webinar on the “Top Ten Issues in International Construction and Related Disputes” was conducted. The moderator was Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab, member of CRCICA’s Advisory Committee, and Dr. Hamish Lal, Partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

On 19 May 2021, the CIArb Egypt Branch organized jointly with CRCICA an interactive webinar on "Good Faith in Construction Contracts in Egypt - What does it mean?" The speakers were Dr. Waleed El Nemr and Dr. Engy Serag. A total of 230 persons attended the event. The webinar was a great success as demonstrated by the encouraging feedbacks and comments of the participants.

On 30 March 2021, a webinar titled “Time-barring Provisions in Construction Contracts” was also hosted by both organizations and moderated by Dr. Ismail Selim. The speaker was Prof. Dr. Sherif Elhaggan, a licensed moderator, Partner and Director at Sherif Elhaggan & Partners.

As of today, over US \$250 billion worth of construction and other projects worldwide have successfully utilized dispute boards. Thus, CRCICA and CIArb Egypt Branch, jointly with the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF), decided to set up a webinar aiming to spell out the two kinds of Dispute Boards, known as Dispute Adjudication Boards (DABs) and Dispute Review Boards (DRBs). On 19 December 2020, such webinar, titled “DABs v DRBs –



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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions”, was delivered. Building better awareness of dispute boards enabled us to lay the groundwork for CRCICA’s Dispute Boards launch, which occurred in August 2021.

III – Caseload

A) Size

In these trying times, CRCICA had to carry on providing efficient dispute resolution services in a digital format. Our previous investments in state-of-the-art facilities were not in vain.

CRCICA also witnessed the completion of a new phase of its Library's Digitization project aiming to make it more responsive to the needs of the users and to provide digital access to its rich resources of legal information. Not only was CRCICA capable of pursuing a workable environment, but also consistent enough to subsequently increase its caseload. During this period, CRCICA has hosted 108 hearings, with 15 ad-hoc proceedings and the rest related to CRCICA cases. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, users have been encouraged to privilege remote hearings. Therefore, out of the 108 hearings, around 1/3 were fully remote hearings, namely 31. A subsequent part of them were organized on a hybrid basis composed of both limited in-person hearings and remote hearings. In the third quarter of 2020, 16 new cases were filed compared to 13 new cases in the second quarter of 2019. The caseload continued to grow during the Fourth quarter of 2021 with 31 new cases and further reached 32 filed cases for the 1st Quarter of 2021. The 2nd Quarter of 2021 was slightly more subdued, with 24 registered cases, which still represents two times our caseload for the corresponding period in 2020.

B) Diversity

The Centre's caseload involved disputes relating to various sectors, including Banking & Finance, Construction, Corporate Restructuring, Food Manufacturing, Tourism & Hospitality, Corporate Restructuring, International Sale of Goods, Investment Treaty Arbitration, Media & Entertainment, Mining, Oil & Gas, Real Estate Development, Renewable Energy and Mining, Textile, Telecommunications and Transport. When vested with the power to appoint arbitrators, CRCICA endeavored to promote age, gender, and nationality diversity. Throughout the period stretching from the third quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021, CRCICA appointed 28 arbitrators. For instance, during the third quarter of 2020, CRCICA only appointed

female arbitrators with one under 40. As for the fourth quarter of 2020, out of 5 appointed arbitrators by the Centre, 2 were non-Egyptians.

C) Non-Egyptian Stakeholders

A major part of arbitrators and parties were non-Egyptians as detailed in the following table:

	Arbitrators	Parties
Bahamas	N/A	1
Belgium	N/A	1
British Virgin Islands (BVI)	N/A	2
Bulgaria	N/A	1
Cameroon	1	N/A
Canada	6	N/A
Cyprus	N/A	2
France	5	1
Germany	1	N/A
Greece	N/A	1
Italy	N/A	1
Jordan	N/A	1
Lebanon	6	2
Malta	N/A	5
Morocco	1	N/A
Panama	N/A	1
Saudi Arabia	N/A	3
United Arab Emirates	1	5
Ukraine	N/A	1
United Kingdom	3	4
United States of America	3	2
Tanzania	1	N/A

IV – Development Programs

It is a long-standing tradition for CRCICA to provide and support seminars, trainings, and diplomas to make arbitration more accessible in both Africa and the Middle East.

A) Diplomas

Promoting best practices in international arbitration goes beyond cooperation with the business sector. CRCICA aims to shape a new generation of dispute resolution practitioners through diplomas delivered by universities. For this purpose, CRCICA maintained the successful partnership entered with the Alexandria University by signing a new cooperation protocol on February 25, 2021. It establishes a legal education project called the “AlexandriaU-CRCICA Arbitration Initiative”. Despite maintaining past initiatives, CRCICA endeavored to build new relations with the higher education system. On 4 March 2021, CRCICA and Ain Shams University signed a protocol to establish a professional arbitration diploma and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was concluded with the Faculty of Law at Ain Shams University. Besides, Dr. Selim lectured on 20 June 2021 at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He elaborated before EMBA senior students on the benefits of mediation in business disputes. Dr. Selim introduced mediation and other ADR mechanisms to the students, focusing on the Arb-Med-Arb as an option available to the parties at CRCICA. On 14 December 2020, Dr. Ismail Selim, Director of CRCICA, and Dr. Mohamed Hafez, Counsel and Legal Advisor to the Director of CRCICA, contributed virtually to the AUC Course on “Principles of International Contracts & Arbitration”.

B) Trainings

CRCICA also organized different events providing intensive training in dispute resolution dedicated to students, arbitration practitioners, businesses, and institutions. For instance, CRCICA organized with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) an online Training Course for the students of the AASTMT on “International Commercial Arbitration as a Dispute Settlement Mechanism” during 6-17 September 2020.



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On 5-12 December 2020, CRCICA also organized a new round of the Training Course on “Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice (CCATP)”. It was the first course organized under CRCICA’s renewed license as “Recognized Course Provider (RCP)”. It was accredited as equivalent to the CIArb Module (I) on international arbitration and qualifies successful candidates to apply for the membership of the CIArb. The course program covered the most important issues in international arbitration and ADR: an overview of ADR mechanisms, arbitration agreements, arbitral tribunals, arbitral proceedings, arbitral awards, and post-awards remedies. Following this fruitful session, CRCICA relaunched with persistent success a round of trainings on 14-18 March 2021.

Noting the importance of spreading the Mediation knowledge as an important amicable tool to settle disputes, CRCICA organized three rounds of Foundational Mediation Training courses. The courses were conducted respectively on 15-16 November 2020 in Alexandria, and on 18-19 and 22- 23 November 2020 at CRCICA’s premises in Cairo. The trainings attracted a wide audience spectrum comprised of lawyers, judges, university professors, diplomatic, engineers, and high-level business executives.

The global pandemic has forced global arbitration to move online in just a matter of months and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) has gone from being a novelty to mainstream. In this sense, CRCICA has co-organized with “Arbitrate.com” an online course titled “Online Arbitration: Best Practices and Avoiding Pitfalls – Full Course” to give arbitrators a deep and profound exploration in the ODR world. Four Leaders in the arbitration field gave the course, Professor Benjamin Davis (University of Toledo), Mirèze Philippe, Special Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration, Colin Rule CEO of Arbitrate.com and Professor Amy Schmitz, Professor of Law at the University of Missouri School of Law.

Initiatives in 2021 were also marked by the Second AlexandriaU-CRCICA International Vis Pre-Moot and International Commercial Arbitration Conference which was hosted during the month of March 2021. Indeed, mootng activities are one of the ideal techniques to merge academic studies with practice. Furthermore, CRCICA supported the virtual 18th CIETAC Cup International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition held during 15-20 November 2020.

C) Seminars

Besides trainings, CRCICA delivered two seminars on “Dispute Settlement of Agricultural Export Contracts” which were jointly organized with the Agricultural Export Council (AEC) and held respectively on 13 October 2020 at CRCICA's premises, Cairo and on 17 November 2020 in Alexandria. The opening and closing speeches were delivered by Dr. Ismail Selim, Director of CRCICA, and Mr. Hany Hussein, CEO of the Agricultural Export Council. The panel discussion was delivered in both events by Ms. Fatma Ibrahim, Mediation Special Advisor at CRCICA, Mr. Fehmi Karami, Mediator, International Arbitrator, and Trainer on Mediation (Lebanon) and Mr. Sherif El Saadani, Partner Amereller who delivered a speech on CISG. The events were attended by members of the Agricultural Export Council in Cairo and Alexandria and representatives of 34 Egyptian agricultural companies.

Furthermore, CRCICA successfully held a strategic partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and co-organized the “Contract Administration Training Program” that generated an incomparable experience and remarkable outcome. The aim of the workshop was developing legal and contract management skills of the employees of the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater. Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Housing Utilities and Urban Communities, through conducting a 3 round training program, titled “Contract Administration Training Program”.

V – Recognition

We carried on thriving for the best throughout these trying times. Our efforts were awarded several times in 2020 and 2021.

A) CRCICA's Awards

In November 2020, CRCICA's role in the development of arbitration in Africa was reflected in two significant publications; the International Trade Report and One Africa One Voice Pan African Parliament Magazine 2020. The latter published CRCICA's Profile outlining the background, recognitions, and activities of CRCICA. In December 2020, the Association of Young Arbitrators (AYA) topped CRCICA among Africa's 30 Arbitration Powerlist 2020 for contributing to "shaping the development of international arbitration in Africa".

CRCICA's endeavors in the promotion of diversity in arbitration were also pointed out. In December 2020, CRCICA has won the 2020 African Arbitration Association (AFAA) awards in the categories of "African Institution of the year" but also in that of "Diversity Champions".

The COVID 19 pandemic plunged all of the arbitral institutions into trying times for the virtual sustainability of their arbitration services. CRCICA responded very early to the crisis by publishing, in cooperation with other institutions, a **Joint Statement** on arbitration and the pandemic. Armed with state-of-the-art facilities, our arbitral institution undertook to switch to remote and hybrid hearings upon the approval of the parties.

On 9 July 2020, the Global Arbitration Review (GAR) recognized our efforts when paying tribute to the response by the international arbitration community to the coronavirus pandemic.

Besides, CRCICA was chosen as the Exclusive Arbitral Institution in the Headquarters Agreement between the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt (ARE).

B) Staff Awards

Not only has CRCICA won several awards, but the director of CRCICA, Dr. Ismail Selim, as well as members of our board or trustees and advisory committee also did so. We congratulate Dr. Ismail Selim for becoming an Expert Member of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of China in December 2020. "Africa Arbitration" The African Arbitration Association also recognized CRCICA's Director in the Africa's 30 Arbitration Powerlist for the year 2020, along with 3 members of CRCICA's Board of Trustees, namely Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Mr. Christopher Ojo, Dr. Gaston Kenfack, as well as 3 members of CRCICA's Advisory Committee, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah Abdel Wahab, Ms. Samaa Haridi, and Dr. Emilia Onyema.

Also, we wish success to Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Vice Chairman of CRCICA's Board of Trustees, Member of CRCICA's Advisory Committee and former director of the CRCICA in his new position as a member of the Grand Egyptian Museum's Board of Directors in 2020. It is worth noting that Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, along with Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah Abdel Wahab, Vice President of the CRCICA's Advisory Committee, and Dr. Karim Youssef, Member of CRCICA's Advisory Committee, were listed in April 2021 on the Legal 500 Arbitration List for Africa composed of leading arbitration practitioners on the continent.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Salah Abdel Wahab was appointed Treasurer of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) in March 2021. He has also returned to direct one of CIArb's leading trainings, namely the Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration taught at Christ Church, Oxford University.

Moreover, in August 2020, Dr. Dalia Hussein, CRCICA's Deputy Director, was selected as a mentor of the Association of Young Arbitrators (AYA)'s 2nd mentoring program for Young Arbitration Practitioners in Africa. We out to pay tribute to Prof. Dr. Nayla Comair-Obeid, member of CRCICA's board of trustees, for being chosen to be the "Arbitrator Intelligence Presiding Arbitrator of the Year 2020" among hundreds of other arbitrators.

We are proud of these achievements and wish all of them every success in their respective positions.



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VI – Conclusion

Thus, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, CRCICA was able to organize and sponsor plenty of events. Cooperation is also a key to success as a subsequent part of them were held in partnership with other counterparts such as the CI Arb. Our caseload became stronger with CRCICA's number of registered cases for the 2nd Quarter of 2021 being two times more important than what we observed during the corresponding period in 2020. Attendees of our trainings, seminars, and diplomas pointed out the compelling nature of the delivered content. Besides, CRCICA's ranks have swelled by appointing new employees and welcoming interns. We are proud to see that both CRCICA and its staff members received as many awards and recognitions. Therefore, CRCICA has reinvented itself and successfully continued to thrive during the first waves of COVID-19. CRCICA will carry on striving to keep the work going forward and build the future.