

CRCICA's Activities in 2020

The challenging circumstances 2020 carried, granted CRCICA a richer understanding of—and deeper commitment to—business sustainability. It has come to our focus to refine our views of what it means to be dynamic in order to stay afloat. Accordingly, CRCICA responded very early to the crisis by publishing, in cooperation with other institutions, a joint statement on arbitration and the pandemic.

See: <https://crcica.org/news/2020/04/16/arbitration-and-covid-19-joint-statement/>

CRCICA also succeeded to contribute to stability and foreseeability in a highly unstable atmosphere and participated both physically and virtually in numerous events not only around Egypt but also in several continents, Africa: Cameroon and Nigeria, Asia: China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Europe: France, Russia, North America, and the United States of America.

The ambition to see cases continue and pursue a workable environment, required us to pedal fast enough to focus on finding concrete tools using digital solutions to serve the business, which helped the Caseload to remain strong where the total number of cases reached 1452 cases, with 67 new cases filed in 2020. The cases related to various sectors, including Construction, Corporate Restructuring, Tourism & Hospitality, Real Estate Development, Media & Entertainment, Oil & Gas, Mining, International Sale of Goods and Telecommunications. Parties involved in these cases came from Bahrain, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malta, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Yemen; while appointed arbitrators came from Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is worth saying that CRCICA excellent technological capacities' allowed to conduct a large number of virtual remote hearings (in full or partial), in cases brought under the CRCICA's Rules, ad hoc cases administered by CRCICA and in cases under other institutional rules.

Alongside to the caseload, CRCICA organized and co-organized more than 25 different Events -13 conducted virtually- with notable Organizations like the UNCITRAL, The Riyadh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Canada Egypt Business Council, the Egyptian Business Council and the CIARB. In addition, we were pleased to host distinguished figures, among them the Head of the Delegation European Union, Delegator to the Arab Republic of Egypt, several Ambassadors from Europe; Ambassadors of Austria, the Netherlands and France.

In addition, CRCICA sponsored a live webinar series featuring discussions on international arbitration that lasted for two quarters (Third and Forth). Moreover, in November 2020, CRCICA was a media partner for two significant webinars, one of which organized by the African Subcommittee of the Arbitration Pledge aiming to support African Women.

Given the importance of our role in providing training programs and workshops on ADR methods, CRCICA co-organized trainings with several entities mentioning the CIARB, Arbitrate.com, Alexandria University and the Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport.

Shedding the light on mediation, Dr. Selim, spoke in the "Mediation Forum" held in Abu Dhabi, followed by two webinars that left a very positive impact on more than 4,000 viewers organized by CRCICA, other than conducting three consecutive rounds of basics to mediation training in both Alexandria and Cairo with almost 55 attendees of various backgrounds. Furthermore, supported in the development of a comprehensive study of Mediation under the "Africa Mediation Network".

Since day one, we have strived to keep the work going and when the year-end approached, we found cause for celebration! We were able to renew our RCP license (Recognized Course Provider) and held our first course under the license in December 2020. We have been recognized for the work we do several times and we are honored with such. Some of the significant recognitions: The Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge recognized CRCICA and its Director for being an active member for the Pledge's recently constituted Africa subcommittee and for the continued efforts on diversity. The Global Arbitration Review (GAR) recognized CRCICA for the measures taken to support its users in response to the Covid19 pandemic. The Association of Young Arbitrators (AYA) recognized CRCICA as one of the 30 Arbitration Power list, finally yet importantly CRCICA was the winner of the 2020 African Arbitration Association (AFAA) Awards in the categories of Diversity Champions, Innovation in Arbitration, and African Institution of the Year.

