



## Press Release

### ICAS and CRCICA enter into Agreement to launch the first African CAS Alternative Hearing Centre in Cairo

On 4 July 2012, Lausanne, Switzerland witnessed the official ceremony of signing the cooperation agreement between the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) and the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) entitling CRCICA to host the first Alternative Hearing Centre (AHC) for the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Africa. This is part of a delocalization scheme of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) to create "CAS alternative hearing centres" on different continents which would be used to host CAS hearings and meetings related to arbitration or mediation procedures involving parties based in certain regions in the world. *"The presence of CAS in the region will simplify the procedures as the parties will no longer need to travel to the CAS headquarters in Switzerland to defend their cases,"* said **Mr. Mathew Reeb, CAS Secretary General**, commenting on the establishment of regional CAS AHCs.

By virtue of this agreement, being the first in Africa, CRCICA CAS AHC joins only other three AHCs all over the world in Malaysia, China and United Arab Emirates. **Dr. Nabil Elaraby, the Secretary General of the Arab League and Chairman of CRCICA's Board of Trustees**, finds the naming of the Cairo Centre as a CAS AHC *"a clear recognition of the professionalism, high reputation and central position of the CRCICA in the field of commercial arbitration."*

This institutional cooperation between CRCICA and CAS is expected to ensure the status of CRCICA as an international arbitral organization administrating many trade and investment disputes in addition to a growing number of sports related disputes during the last two years. CRCICA hosting of CAS arbitral sessions is foreseen to have a future positive impact on the functioning and accessibility of sports arbitration procedures in a region having thriving sport practices both qualitatively and quantitatively however their resulting disputes lack the required paralleled development of alternative means for the settlement of sports disputes especially sports arbitration and mediation.

According to the Agreement, all CAS AHCs, including CRCICA AHC, will be officially registered on CAS website. The ICAS will favor such centres to organize meetings or seminars or any activities related to the development / promotion of the CAS in the region concerned. Within this context, CRCICA will cooperate with CAS to provide training services on CAS procedures and to develop sports law and regulations in the region in the light of CAS experience.

Later on 11 December 2012, CRCICA will hold an international sports arbitration conference in Cairo on the occasion of the official inauguration of the CRCICA CAS AHC with the attendance of **Mr. John Coates, CAS President**.

For more information and for registration of media representatives at the December inaugural conference, please contact Conferences and External Relations Department at the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration ; E-mail : [conferences@crcica.org.eg](mailto:conferences@crcica.org.eg).  
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