ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE CENTRE’S ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS 2017
GCC leaders during the (37th) GCC Summit
Kingdom of Bahrain on 7 – 8 Rabi’a Al Awal 1438 Hijra
Corresponding to 6 – 7 December 2016
HH Prince Dr. Bandar bin Salman bin Mohamed Al Saud Honorary President

Board of Directors 2017

Sami Mohammed Sharif
Chairman
Kingdom of Bahrain

Bader Saud Al Bader
Vice Chairman
State of Kuwait

Redha Juma Al Saleh
Member
Sultanate Oman

Dr. Shaikh Thani Bin Ali Al Thani
Member
State of Qatar

Mansoor Abdulla Al Shathy
Member
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mohamed Hilal Al Mahary
Member
United Arab Emirates
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Our Vision
To have an integrated judicial and arbitration system, independent of the GCC states, including the headquarters state, closely connected to the regional and international arbitration situation with the system and regulations drawn from a multi-party sovereign source that rises above laws in force in the GCC States.

Our Mission
To enhance the role of arbitration as a self-independent system and a unique tool for resolving commercial disputes and for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and qualify and train a new generation of arbitrators by conducting training programmes of high quality and spread arbitration culture.

Our Values
Complete neutrality and impartiality, integrity in the supervision of arbitration proceedings and ensuring that absolute and flexible justice is served that responds to the specifics of the dispute.

Our Strategic Objectives
1. To enhance the regional and arbitration nature of the centre in terms of its legal entity, sovereignty, benefits and the nature of its awards, considering that the GCC is the parent institution to which the centre is affiliated.
2. To co-operate on the regional level in order to introduce a new and modern legislation dealing with arbitration, relying upon the concept of the rule of the will prevailing on international commercial markets.
3. To co-operate with judicial and legal bodies in the GCC countries in the fields of arbitration management, appointment of arbitrators and pursuit enforcement of arbitral awards.
4. To provide assistance by way of giving legal opinions and advice when national arbitration centres are established in the GCC countries.
5. To provide advisory services on drafting arbitration agreements or providing a list to choose from the best cadres to undertake the arbitration process.
6. To co-operate on a regional level with chambers of commerce, judicial training institutes, labour unions and professional societies in organizing conferences and seminars and implementing arbitral and legal training programmes.
7. To expand the scope of the Centre’s services on a regional level and publishing academic journals and publications and improve and sustaining the satisfaction of stakeholders.
Secretary General’s Message:

In my name and on behalf of the Board of Directors of GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre “Dar Al Karar” in its 23rd term, 2017, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sami Mohammed Sharif Zainal, Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain, I salute the high level of understanding, cooperation and professionalism of the Board of Directors. The Board Members have exhibited far-sighted strategic thinking in performing their functions as members of a board of directors of an internationally-renown regional arbitration organization. The quest of the Board for achieving the objectives, vision and expectation of the GCC leaders from the establishment of this Centre was relentless.

To start with, I would like to mention the registration of applications for arbitration and the arbitration cases, which is the core role and work of the Centre. In this regard, there has been an increase in registration of applications for arbitration both in terms of numbers and values of disputes compared to last year 2016. This is a testimony to the success of the Centre’s growth strategy. As an indication of efficiency, it is also worth to mention that a final arbitral award that settled a dispute was issued in 2017 in a record time of 46 days from the date of referring the dispute file to the arbitration tribunal. The case related to a guarantee which was subject of a dispute between two parties from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Centre also focused on promoting its programme for qualifying and training of arbitrators in GCC countries. The Centre has conducted about 600 training hours attended by not less than 400 participants, which in turn gives a good opportunity for GCC trainers to demonstrate and prove their skills. Furthermore, the Centre participated in many seminars, forums and conferences.

As for the Centre’s list of approved arbitrators and experts, the Centre has registered 211 members in 2017, an increase of 11 members from last year. The specialization of law came on the top, followed by engineering then enrolment in other disciplines. Saudi Arabia topped the GCC countries in the number of registered members followed by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

I would like, here, to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to HRH Prince Dr. Bandar Bin Salman Bin Mohammed Al Saud, the Honorary President of the Centre, for his role and unstinting support to advance the status and standing of the Centre’s and enable it to take a leading position among international arbitration centers.

I would also like to place on record my appreciation to all staff members. What we have achieved would not have been possible to achieve without their work, efforts and dedication, especially that sometimes some of them were required to work day and night to complete the job.

I am pleased to share with you what we have been, with the help of God, able to accomplish in 2017. Almighty Allah says “Act! Allah will behold your actions and (so will) His messenger and the believers”.

Ahmed Najem
First: Board of Directors

The Centre’s Constitution stipulates that the Board of Directors shall meet at least once every six months or whenever the need arises. Accordingly, the Board of Directors convened two meetings in 2017 during which a number of resolutions were passed, the most important of which are as follows:

1. Meeting (67) at the Centre’s Headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain - Tuesday 2nd May 2017:
   • Approval of the Annual Report on the Centre’s Activities for financial year 2016.
   • Approval of the financial and administrative report of the external auditors, Messrs. BDO, for the Centre’s 2016 financial year.
   • Approval of the re-appointment of Messrs.’ BDO as auditors for the Centre’s accounts for financial year 2017.

2. Meeting (68) at the Centre’s new headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain - Wednesday 8th November 2017:
   • Handing over of the presidency of the new 24th term, which begins on 1st January 2018 to the representative of the State of Kuwait.
   • Appointment of the UAE member of the Board of Directors as Vice-Chairman for the 24th term.
   • Approval of the Centre’s operational budget for financial year 2018.

Second: Activities of the General Secretariat

A. Construction of Permanent Headquarters:

The Board of Directors, at its meeting No. (57) held on 11 September 2013, approved the construction of a permanent headquarters for the Centre that suits its standing and status as a specialized international organization. The Board of Directors allocated part of the funding budget to this project, which was included as building reserve in the external auditors’ report on the Centre’s financial year ended 31.12.2013. The Secretary General then sent letters to the leaders of the GCC countries to request contributions by the member states to the construction of the permanent headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Letters were sent to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on 3rd November 2013, Emir of Kuwait on 19th January 2014, King of Bahrain on 5th May 2014, President of the United Arab Emirates and Sultan of Oman on 20th May 2014 and Emir of Qatar on 5th May 2015.

The letter to Bahrain was delivered to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain by HRH Prince Bandar bin Salman Al Saud when he was received by His Majesty on 05.03.2014 at the Royal Court in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Following the reception, His Majesty issued his directives to allocate a piece of land for the Centre as a gift. We followed up the matter with the Head of the Royal Court to expedite the
implementation of the royal directives. The Head of the Royal Court sent a letter (No. 243/2015 dated 28.07.2015) to the Government of Bahrain to request it suggest a plot of land. Following liaising with the Urban Planning and Development Directorate, a land in Umm Al Hassam area of Manama was suggested but unfortunately it was not approved by the Directorate of Government Properties of the Ministry of Finance. A further letter was sent to the Deputy Prime Minister on 21.03.2017 to expedite the implementation of the Royal directives, after which he requested the Minister of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning to promptly suggest another suitable piece of land. We hopefully expect that the allocation of land will be finalised during the second half of next year 2018, so that we can start working on preparing the designs and engineering drawings.

A. Official Requirements for the Centre’s Constitution to be Effective in the Sultanate of Oman

The legislative instrument in accordance of which the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre was established, and its Constitution issued, was issued by a regional organization; the GCC Supreme Council. This instrument is a collective international agreement as it was issued by the GCC Supreme Council, which comprises the heads of the six GCC member states, at the 14th Summit Conference held in Riyadh between 7 - 9 Rajab 1414 Hijra corresponding to 20 - 22 December 1993.

Upon our review of the constitutional measures taken by the Sultanate of Oman for the ratification of the Centre’s Constitution “Dar Al Karar”, it became clear to us that these measures were not sound legally because the Constitution was not ratified at the appropriate level of authority. The Constitution needs to be ratified by the state (the Sultanate). After presenting the resolution of the GCC Supreme Council with respect to the establishment of the Centre to the Omani Council of Ministers at its meeting No. 10/2000 on 29th Thule Hijjah 1420 Hijra corresponding to 4th April 2000, a Royal Decree should have been issued to ratify the Constitution of the Centre. However, it was ratified by a ministerial order instead. The issuance by the Minister of Justice of Ministerial Order of No. (88/2000) dated 11.07.2000 which was published in the Official Gazette and stipulated that commercial disputes between parties to a contract may be referred to the Centre and settled in accordance with its Constitution and Arbitration Procedures is not sufficient ratification of the Constitution.

The Rules and Procedures of the Centre, being rules applied by a specialized regional organization with an international scope, are effective and binding upon the six parties to the agreement in accordance with the international law. The agreement to set up the Centre creates an international obligation upon each party state to ensure that all official and legal frameworks are in place to ensure the effectiveness and enforceability of the Constitution and Procedures in its territory. The Centre’s Constitution and Procedures were made enforceable in all GCC countries through the issuance of a law, decree law or decree issued by the King or Emir of the respective country, such as Law No. (14) of 2002 in the case of the State of Kuwait, Decree Law No. (6) of 2000 for the Kingdom of Bahrain, Decree No. (19) of 2015 in the case of the State of Qatar and the Edict of the Council of Ministers being the competent authority in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Since the Constitution of the Centre is an international agreement which must be ratified by a Royal Decree in accordance with Articles 42 and 76 of the Basic Statute of the State issued by Sultani Decree No. 101/96, as was the case with the Constitution of the GCC Judiciary Economic Authority which was ratified by Sultani Decree No. 2/2017, the Constitution of
the GCC Emergency Management Centre which was ratified by Sultani Decree No. 56/2013 and the Constitution of the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs by Sultani Decree No. 19/2009.

After visiting the Minister of Legal Affairs at his office in Muscat to coordinate with him in this regard, we sent a letter to the Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry under reference No. 014/2017/A dated 26.02.2017 requesting the prompt implementation of the necessary constitutional procedures in the Sultanate to ensure the enforceability of the Centre’s Constitution and Arbitration Procedures in a proper legal manner, like the rest of the GCC member states, which in turn will protect the rights of the Omani litigants before the Centre. The Constitution of the Centre, together with the Arbitration Procedures (as amended) which was approved by the Trade Cooperation Committee on 5 October 1999 should also be published in the Official Gazette of the Sultanate of Oman.

Third: Management of Arbitration Disputes:

A. Arbitration Applications:
A party wishing to refer a dispute to arbitration will submit an arbitration request (application) to the General Secretariat of the Centre (Arbitration Secretariat Section). The Secretary General will vet the application to ensure that it fulfils all the conditions required in an arbitration application as stipulated in Article 9 of the Arbitration Procedures, especially the existence of an arbitration agreement to refer disputes to the Centre. The Arbitration Secretariat of the Centre received eleven arbitration applications with a total value of approximately US $ 91 million. Some of the applications are still in the process of being registered because of missing documents that are needed for the arbitration proceedings or the applicant is yet to pay his share of the arbitration expenses. The properly-completed applications were processed, which we summarize as follows:

1. Dispute No. (103/2017)
Dispute between a Kuwaiti limited liability company against a Kuwaiti closed joint stock company relates to a breach of its obligations under a land transport contract to provide about 20 to 30 land transport trucks of not more than 5 years of age for use by the respondent. The dispute falls under the jurisdiction of the Kuwaiti law. The arbitral tribunal consists of three arbitrators and arbitration is in English.

2. Dispute No. (104/2017)
Dispute between a Bahraini closed joint stock company against the respondent (Bahraini national) in respect of a building and construction contract related to a property sold within the project of a real estate developer. The dispute falls under the jurisdiction of the Bahraini law. The arbitral tribunal consists of three arbitrators and arbitration is in Arabic.

3. Dispute No. (105/2017)
Dispute between a Bahraini limited liability company against another Bahraini limited liability company. It relates to a subcontract whereby claimant company was to provide security and fire safety services to the respondent company which failed to make payments on the due dates. It was agreed that the law applicable to the dispute would be the Bahraini law. The arbitral tribunal comprises a sole arbitrator and arbitration is in Arabic.
4. **Dispute No. (106/2017)**
Dispute between a Bahraini limited liability company against two Bahraini limited liability companies relates to a number of subcontracts to carry out infrastructure works for King Hamad University Hospital. The subcontracts are governed by the Bahraini law. The arbitral tribunal comprises a sole arbitrator and arbitration is in Arabic.

5. **Dispute No. (107/2017)**
Dispute between a Bahraini limited liability company against a Qatari company and a Qatari national in connection of a concession contract to use a trade name and management of a restaurant business in the State of Qatar. The applicable law is the Bahraini law. The arbitral tribunal comprises a sole arbitrator and arbitration is in English.

**Registered Arbitration Applications from Begining of 2007 until the End of 2017**
Valus Percentage of Arbition Applications by Nationality

Table No. (1)
Value of Disputes Referred to Arbitral Tribunals (in US $)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispute No.</th>
<th>Dispute Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>103/2017</td>
<td>11,052,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104/2017</td>
<td>1,078,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105/2017</td>
<td>233,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106/2017</td>
<td>452,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107/2017</td>
<td>3,949,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,766,971</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table No. (2)
Arbitration Applications Not Registered Yet Because of Missing Documents (in US $)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Litigant Parties</th>
<th>Dispute Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahraini Company v. Bahraini Company</td>
<td>29,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahraini Company v. Bahraini Company</td>
<td>83,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatari National v. UAE Company</td>
<td>67,881,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwaiti Company v. UAE Company</td>
<td>659,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Company v. a Gulf Bank</td>
<td>4,511,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahraini Company v. a Bahraini and a Saudi</td>
<td>663,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>73,830,016</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Arbitral Awards Issued In 2017:
An arbitration award will have a number of effects, including those relating to the arbitral award itself, in that it is binding and enforceable. The other effects relate to the arbitral tribunal in terms of the termination of the arbitral proceedings and the ending of the tribunal’s work except in respect of correcting or clarifying an award. Article (15) of the Constitution and Article (36/1) of the Arbitration Procedure stipulate that “An award passed by a Tribunal pursuant to these Rules shall be binding upon the two parties and final. It shall be enforceable in the GCC member States once an order is issued for the enforcement thereof by a competent judicial authority”.

The arbitral tribunals have issued the following awards:

1. **Award No. 80/2014**

On 29th August 2017, a single arbitrator issued an award on the dispute between the claimant company (of Saudi nationality) against the respondent company which is based in the Republic of Estonia regarding the breach of a concession contract for the manufacturing of electrical cables. The Saudi law is the governing law of the dispute. The arbitrator ruled that the respondent did not violate any of the terms of the agreement and rejected all the demands of the claimant who was also obliged to pay the arbitration expenses.
2. **Award No. 99/2016**

An arbitral tribunal comprising three arbitrators issued on 18th September 2017 an award in settlement of a dispute between the claimant (Bahraini company) and the respondent (Libyan national). The dispute related to the failure of the respondent to make payments on a sale contract of an apartment. The award included the annulation of the sale contract and handing over the apartment to the claimant company. The award refused the claimant’s demand to retain an amount of US$ 100,000/- (US $ one hundred thousand) and obliged the respondent to bear half of the arbitration expenses and pay it to the claimant.

3. **Dispute No. 100/2016**

On 24/12/2017, a single arbitrator issued an award on a dispute between a claimant (Saudi company) and a respondent (Saudi national) related to a contract for the sale of vehicles and equipment. The award ordered the respondent to pay the claimant a sum of SR 620,000 (Saudi Riyals) being the amount owed by him under the disputed contract. The award also obliged the respondent to pay the claimant company a sum of SR 33,000/- being the respondent’s share of the arbitration fees.
Fourth: Registration in Arbitrators’ Roll and Experts’ Register

The Centre’s Constitution provides that an arbitrator must satisfy certain general conditions that may not be waived or amended, namely, an arbitrator must be independent and impartial. The General Secretariat of the Centre shall have the authority to consider approving the appointment of an arbitrator, but Article 12.1 of the Arbitration Procedures restricts the authority of the Secretary General to appoint an arbitrator but only from among the Centre’s Arbitrators Roll. Hence the Centre’s emphasis on having a list of arbitrators from various professions and specializations such as lawyers, judges, legal practitioners, engineers, accountants, merchants and persons enjoying wide experience and knowledge in commerce, industry or finance. To be an approved arbitrator or expert, one must fulfil the Centre’s conditions set forth in the Rules of Registration in the Arbitrators’ Roll.

Registration in Arbitrators’ Roll from the Beginning of 2008 until the End of 2017

Some 211 arbitrators and experts joined the Arbitrators’ Roll and Experts’ Register, an increase of 11 memberships or 5.5% over those registered in 2016. The new members (175 men and 36 women) increase the total number of registered memberships to 2070 as on 31.12.2017.
Table No. (3)

**Specializations of Arbitrators and Experts Registered in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialization</th>
<th>Number of Arbitrators</th>
<th>Number of Experts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks and Investment</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Business Management</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Valuation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Contracting</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Systems</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. (4)

**Nationality and Country of Residence of Arbitrators and Experts Registered in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality/ Country of Residence</th>
<th>Number of Arbitrators</th>
<th>Number of Experts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Qatar</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Bahrain</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanate of Oman</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Kuwait</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt Arab Republic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fifth: Training Programmes, Workshops, Seminars, Forums and Conferences

A. Professional Certificate in Training Programmes:

1. Arbitrators Qualification and Development Programme:

The Centre conducts a programme especially designed to qualify and develop arbitrators. The programme comprises an orientation stage “The Concept of Arbitration and its Legal Nature” followed by five consecutive stages covering all phases of arbitration (the arbitration agreement and guidelines on how to draft it, procedures for administration of arbitration cases, arbitral award: fundamentals and methodology, enforcement or annulment of an arbitral award and finally a mock up practical case). Demand on this programme is growing in all GCC countries, and it is part of the Centre’s requirements and conditions for registration on the Arbitrators’ Roll. The programme was passed by 161 GCC citizens and Arabs residing in the GCC. It was implemented in cooperation with:

- Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre - Abu Dhabi
- Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Riyadh
- Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration - Doha
- Ministry of Justice of Oman - Muscat
- The headquarters of the Centre supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) - Manama

1. Engineering Arbitration and Construction Contract in the View of FIDIC:

The legal nature of disputes in international construction contracts and model contracts of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) requires having a mechanism for resolving disputes that may arise between the contractor and the employer. This training programme was enhanced in 2017 by changing the contents of the first stage to make it focus on the legal aspect of arbitration, the basic principles of litigation and the general conditions governing the arbitrator’s work. The programme consists of three stages:

- Stage 1: Nature of Arbitration and the provisions/ clauses of a construction contract
- Stage 2: FIDIC contracts (conditions, claims and settlements)
- Stage 3: Practical workshops on resolving disputes involving building and construction contracts.

This programme was implemented in Jeddah, in cooperation with the Saudi Council of Engineers, and also at the headquarters of the Centre in the Kingdom of Bahrain with support from the Labour Fund (Tamkeen). The programme was passed by 69 GCC nationals and residents.
B. Workshops:

1. **International Arbitration in Investment Disputes**:

   The workshop was developed based on the Washington Convention of 1965. It was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the Bahrain Bar Association on the sidelines of the first session of 2017 of the Permanent Office of the Arab Lawyers’ Union. The workshop which was attended by not less than 80 lawyers was facilitated by international arbitrator Dr. Yarob Saleem Rayyan.

2. **Arbitration in Maritime Disputes and Marine Insurance**:

   The workshop was held with support from the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) during the weekend (Friday and Saturday) 22-23 December 2017. It was attended by 38 specialists in the field of maritime and a group of advisers and lawyers from the GCC countries. It was facilitated by Captain Dr. Abdul Amir Abdul Redha Al Faraj.

C. **Seminars, Forums and Conferences**

1. **Bait Al Tijjar and Settlement of Disputes Seminar**:

   The Centre participated in the activities of the Commercial Disputes Settlement Committee of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bait Al Tijjar) which was held on Tuesday, 7th March 2017. The Secretary General of the Centre presented a working paper titled “The Work of Dar Al Karar enriches the Theory and Practice of Arbitration”.

2. **The Second Omani Lawyers’ Forum**:

   The Omani Lawyers Association organized the Second Omani Lawyers’ Forum under the title “Legal Works of Lawyers in the Commercial Field” at Muscat Intercontinental Hotel in Oman on Thursday 16th March 2017. The Secretary General of the Centre presented a paper at the opening session titled “The Role of the Lawyer in a Commercial Arbitration Contract”.

3. **Conference on Judiciary and Arbitration in the GCC Countries**

   Under the patronage of the Minister of State and the Governor of Dhofar, the Centre held its 22nd Annual Conference in Salalah under the title “The Judiciary and its Relationship with Arbitration in GCC Countries” at Crowne Plaza Hotel Salalah during 15-17 August 2017. It was held in cooperation with the Omani Ministry of Justice, Dhofar branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Administrative Affairs Council for Judiciary.
During the conference, working papers on the following topics were presented:

- Arbitration and problems related to its constitutional legitimacy.
- Arbitration in GCC countries’ legislation.
- The role of the judiciary in GCC countries in supporting the arbitration of disputes.
- Selecting the applicable law in the internationalization of arbitration.
- The enforcement power of the national and foreign awards of arbitrators.
- Legal framework for contesting the validity of arbitral awards in GCC countries.
- The need to regulate the licensing and proclamation of arbitration centres in GCC countries.

Sixth: Memoranda of Understanding and Bilateral Cooperation

Memoranda:

The Centre has signed at its headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain two memoranda of understanding and cooperation with:

- Emirates Maritime Arbitration Centre, based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- MC Academy for International Legal Studies, based in Belgium and has a branch in the Kingdom of Bahrain.