

SHIAC
“The First Legal Arab Sport Forum”
Sharm El Sheikh 23/24th. April 2010

SHIAC – The Realization of an Idea in Egypt

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Executive Vice President SHIAC
Vice President ECA Egypt

Excellencies, Notables, Honourable participants, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends of SHIAC,

It is a great honour for Dr. Nasri Marco, Mr. Ahmed Helmy and me, founders of SHIAC – The Sharm El Sheikh International Arbitration Centre and our co-organizers the Arab Association for International Arbitration – Dr. Ahdab and the Centre for social, judicial & economic documentation and study – CEDEJ to give a warm and open-hearted welcome to you.

We are very much pleased that you made it possible to participate at this conference “The First Legal Arab Sport Forum” in Egypt.

Before the professionals taking over and entering the very important themes of this conference, led me say on SHIAC’s own account some words.

The idea to invest in an arbitration centre to be built in Sharm El Sheikh, the cradle of important peace processes for the Middle East, has been brought into reality in the middle of the year 2007. SHIAC started to move according to its published vision and mission and is now part of the international and domestic arbitration, mediation and alternative dispute resolution world.

End of 2008, in Valencia/Spain, the European Court of Arbitration, seated in Strasbourg/France has decided together with SHIAC to found in Sharm El Sheikh a representation. As a consequence Dr.Nasri Marco, President of SHIAC has been appointed member of the Board of Directors of the European Court of Arbitration – ECA.

Especially in the last years, the European Court of Arbitration has been more active to increase its presence in various countries, like the Mediterranean states and newly in Russia. An organization has been established to offer a proper service in the Mediterranean countries, particularly in Egypt. The ECA has with its rules and procedures and with the well balanced clauses for arbitration and mediation an outstanding advantage in serving clients recognizing the benefit of an out-of-court process. It is obvious that the European Court of Arbitration is making in collaboration with SHIAC a considerable effort promoting the processes of arbitration and mediation beside the Mediterranean area also in the region of the Gulf and Middle East.

In February 2009 Dr.Nasri Marco was invited to be member in a delegation of the Arab Association for International Arbitration, which had the honour to attend the UNCITRAL Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation) session, which was and is undertaking work on a revision of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

Further to underline SHIAC’s way in the circle of international active arbitration institutions, I would like to emphasize our membership in IFCAI, the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions, which started second quarter of the year 2009.

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It is in our special interest as SHIAC in Sharm El Sheikh, to establish a think tank; I mean a point of reflection, for deepening profound thoughts as related to the enhancement of the implementation of arbitration, mediation and ADR procedures in the region.

We would like to create a place of dialogue between the international arbitration logic and the Islamic comprehension of the basic principles of “tahkim” under the Shari’a. Only such a dialogue will generate the confidence and trust necessary for universally accepted commercial arbitration/mediation and also sport arbitration rules to be applied in the Middle East, the Gulf region and the Mediterranean countries.

Basis for all of this will be the intensive cooperation with responsible, eminent persons, representing their institutions, ministries in the respective countries of the region.

SHIAC as modern institution would like to greatly contribute to this process within the Gulf, Middle East, and with an open gate to Europe and the Mediterranean region.

In times of extreme social and financial changes worldwide, it is certainly necessary not to forget the basis for our acting and thinking, but it is also equally necessary to keep an open mind to clear the way for a forward-looking orientation.

Sport helps in jumping over borders.

Just now the Olympic fire had gone out in Vancouver. Millions saw the games all over the world. The next big event is in front of us, the football world champion ship in South Africa and will probably attract also millions of people.

Sport and sportive activities take up much more space in our society, so that the potential of conflicts is growing.

So we have decided with our co-organizers to honour the 25th anniversary of CAS – Cour d’Arbitrage du Sport - with this conference named “The First Legal Arab Sport Forum”.

I/we wish you a successful, fruitful, enriching time and intensive dialogues; productive sessions and also joy in being here!