

Foreward message by the Director of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre

It is an honour for me to introduce you to the first issue of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre's quarterly journal. The "**DIAC Journal - Arbitration in The Middle East**" is a publication which is dedicated to international commercial arbitration.

The Journal's prime objective is to represent the Arab countries' stance on international commercial arbitration, by offering information on the development of the rules and laws, which govern commercial arbitration in the Arab countries. In addition, the Journal will depict the trend of the courts in these countries in recognising the efficiency of arbitration and the enforcement of national and international arbitral awards. The Journal will also introduce the available means of commercial dispute resolution in the Arab world, which will include information on the different arbitration institutes and centres in these countries.

To achieve this objective, DIAC has taken the initiative to establish this Journal in English and Arabic, in order to distribute it to specialised and interested practitioners of commercial arbitration worldwide. The reason behind our aim is based upon our recognition of the fact that there is a lack of information and too few publications from the Arab countries, in English, which cover the Arab countries' stance on arbitration. One can recognise this absence of information by simply scanning the library shelves of international arbitration centres, law firms and universities worldwide. This ultimately leads to international researchers making minor references to the development of arbitration laws and rules in Arab countries, or looking at it in a manner, which contradicts reality or even worse, by overlooking it entirely. A result of such may be to lead parties of international commercial arbitration disputes, to be reluctant and hesitant to refer their disputes under the laws and rules of arbitration of Arab countries or from choosing one of these countries as a place for conducting arbitration proceedings. Parties' reluctance may stem from their fear of the unknown or for some, by their narrow views, caused by their ignorance of the level of development of the rules or of the existence of fully developed institutions and centres in Arab countries, or else simply because of their uncertainty of the capability of the courts in Arab countries to fully comprehend the notion of international commercial arbitration.

In light of the increased size of global commerce and the growth of international commercial interests in Arab countries, the need for parties to resolve their commercial disputes by referring to arbitration, has risen. Hence, arbitration centres need to be specialised, when it comes to providing services of commercial dispute resolution through suitable and modern means, being distinctive in its methods in relation to speed, simplicity and cost-effectiveness. In addition, there is also the practical need of providing such services close to the place the contract is enforced, so