



Foreword

Among the remarkable achievements realized by Dubai throughout the last decades, the creation of the DIAC was certainly one of the most impressive. It wasn't at all easy in such a short period to create an active and well structured arbitration centre, draw its rules, issue the laws and regulations governing it, select a reliable board of trustees from various countries and legal cultures all around the world, set up a list of qualified arbitrators, set up the logistical support and financing of its activities, inform the legal and business community of its launching and participate in the crucial conferences that were organized in Dubai in various fields of the commercial and legal activities.

Throughout the ages, merchants realized that it was useless to start business without setting up the means of resolving the disputes that would inevitably arise from their activities and this is why the Middle – Eastern Countries have successfully developed, throughout the years, various means of resolving disputes through arbitration or ADR. Those traditional institutions had to be reviewed, adapted to international trends, national laws and international treaties, and this is why the setting up of the DIAC was of a crucial importance in the business development in the area. There are certainly several arbitration centres which are now flourishing in the Middle East but the creation of the DIAC didn't aim at competing with them but rather at establishing a close cooperation with them, benefiting from their experience and that of the main arbitration centres in the world and providing them with its own contribution in an area which is playing a continuously increasing role in the world economy. Such an activity wouldn't have been complete without a publication summing up the DIAC's activity and informing the public of the new legislation promulgated in the area, of the main courts decisions and arbitration awards rendered there, of the comments of the practitioners and jurists on the above and suggesting the measures that would develop business in the area and harmonize it with the rest of the world. The first issues of the DIAC Journal have certainly helped satisfying those needs and we expect the contents of the present issue to follow up that trend and encourage any comments or suggestions that would help improving those achievements.

In addition to the information on the various activities of the DIAC and its prospective plans, the present issue provided valuable contributions to some important contracts, such as construction, civil engineering, transfer of technology, shipping, rules governing arbitration and disputes settlements (e.g. under ICC Rules, expertise, procedure in some Emirates Courts) etc... This pragmatic and experienced approach should certainly help businessmen and jurists alike develop their information in the