



## Editorial

It is my honour to welcome you to this special edition of the DIAC Journal *Arbitration in the Middle East*.

This edition is distinguished by its overview of the numerous achievements realised by the DIAC in 2007. One of the most important DIAC achievements this year has been the release of the 2007 DIAC Arbitration Rules, issued in accordance with Decree No. 11, 2007 published on the 7th of May in Issue No. 321, Year 41 of the Official Gazette.

Embodying the latest trends in the field of arbitration proceedings, regulation and organisation, the new DIAC Arbitration Rules reflect the most developed and up to date arbitration principles in arbitration centres worldwide. They are the result of a substantive study conducted by the DIAC—the outcome of which was the submission of the draft arbitration rules to the DIAC Board of Trustees in late 2004. Following several meetings devoted to discussing, editing and amending the draft, as well as taking counsel with local and international law firms. The drafted arbitration rules then took their final form, resulting in their approval by the DIAC Board of Trustees in 2006.

The drafted rules were then referred to the Legal Department in the Office of H.H. Ruler of Dubai, where the Arabic version of the new draft was discussed and edited with a comparison of the its English counterpart. Subsequently, the arbitration rules were published on 7th May 2007 and rendered effective to all arbitration applications registered with the DIAC thereafter.

Moreover, this edition is also marked by the contribution of various articles by professionals specializing in all legal domains addressing a variety of significant issues.

Introducing this special edition of the journal with her Foreword is the respectable *Dr. Naylah Qomeir Obeid*. *Dr. Obeid* is a Professor of International Commercial Arbitration at the University of Lebanon, a member of the Arbitration Court at International Chamber of Commerce, as well as the head of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators branch in Lebanon. It is indeed an honour to have *Dr. Obeid* introduce this special edition of the DIAC journal and the weight her foreword carries with it an accomplished female Arab Arbitrator.