



Arbitration in Kingdom Saudi Arabia¹

by

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Arbitration in my country, KSA, has made, in the last few years, genuine steps in this spacious area; in an attempt to catch up with the countries which have preceded us in this respect, via establishing arbitration centers and holding international agreements. "Catching up with the others does not necessarily reflect retardation; rather, it is a source of strength as it highlights one's competence, even if it takes time. With time, this developing country, in the area of arbitration, may get to the first classes, even if it were late." By introducing some new rules, carrying out wide reforms and announcing the declaration of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, may God bless him, to develop the courts Acts and the grievance bureau some of which draw upon arbitration, like article (13) that stipulates that the administrative courts are competent to look into the (requests to enforce foreign judgments and foreign arbitration awards); a compelling evidence is constituted on that the country is going forward in enacting the rules that may help attract foreign investments and support the national economy in all different ways. Without prejudice to the basic principles, the country has recently introduced several relevant rules and regulations, including the following:

- 1- The Higher Council of Economy
- 2- Import Support Committee and another (9) committees

All these together make us quite certain that the future will be promising in the area of arbitration, especially that His Highness, Prince Bander Bin Salman Bin Muhammad Al Saud, who is the "Head of the Saudi Arbitration Team" and the "Consultant of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques", has been doing his utmost to support arbitration and arbitrators not only in the KSA, but also all over the Islamic World; since his presence is obvious in all conferences, events and meetings concerning arbitration. It is worth mentioning in this respect that arbitration in the Arab Peninsula is not something novel, as it has been always there even before the appearance of Islam and the judicial system; the point is that it has recently become a source of support for Justice without replacing it.

¹ Look at arbitration Act & its executive rule issued by the Chamber of Trade & Industry in Riyadh or visit the website of the Saudi Ministry of Justice R 69.