



Volume: 2 Number: 1

BIAC

Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)

The Institution for Alternative Dispute Resolution

BIAC Quarterly Bulletin

Dhaka, January-March 2013

First ever training on Basic Arbitration in the country organized by BIAC & ILI.

Dhaka, 13 Jan - BIAC and International Law Institute (ILI), Washington DC, USA, with support from the IFC, jointly launched the country's first-ever Basic Arbitration training programme on 13 January. The program was inaugurated by Law Minister Hon'ble Barrister Shafique Ahmed. Minister Ahmed said our courts are burdened with huge backlog of cases causing delay in dispensation of justice. To address the problem, the Government has undertaken a number of measures to expedite disposal of cases. Amendments have also been enacted making ADR as a method of settlement of dispute mandatory. But to get results of these changes in our laws we require trained ADR professionals in the country. This training programme will go a long way in creating a pool of ADR professionals in the country. The Minister also praised the important role played by BIAC in institutionalizing arbitration in the country and said that BIAC should be given an institutional role in our laws. Furthermore, he would encourage government departments to select BIAC Arbitration Rules in their contracts. In his welcome statement, BIAC Chief



Executive Dr. Toufiq Ali said that this training programme will help fill in the dearth of arbitration professionals in the country. Recent amendments in our laws have made ADR mandatory in many areas.

The Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Latifur Rahman, who is a Member of the BIAC Council and the Chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, emphasized that trained manpower is essential to make ADR successful in the country. Three business chambers: ICC-B, DCCI and MCCI have established BIAC to facilitate the resolution of commercial disputes through ADR. He said that, with the help of the IFC, BIAC is conducting awareness building events and arranging training side-by-side with its normal business of facilitating arbitration.

This training, conducted with the collaboration of the International Law Institute, is a step in the right direction. He pleaded for Governmental support to the institution, as has been the practice in such arbitration centres in Hong Kong and Singapore.

IFC Country Manager, Kyle Kelhofer stated that



the IFC has assisted ADR centres around the globe, and they were delighted at the way BIAC was progressing. He assured BIAC of continuing support from IFC. The business community will be able to take advantage of the changes in our laws, with the assistance of BIAC, he observed.

Important statements were also made by Ms. Rokia A. Rahman, President, MCCI and Mr. Carlos Davila, ILI Representative who came from Washington DC for the training. Mr. Sabur Khan, President, DCCI was also present.

The audience comprised representatives of business chambers, including the DCCI and MCCI, Chairman & CEO of pharmaceutical companies, MDs of insurance companies and textile mills, prominent lawyers, etc.

The training programme, which was held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, concluded on 17th January 2013. The Concluding Session was addressed, among others, by Chief Guest eminent jurist, Senior Advocate Barrister Rafique-ul Huq. "Delay and cost of court system has necessitated evolution of ADR throughout the world" said Rafique. He appreciated the role played by BIAC to institutionalize arbitration, a form of ADR, in the country. In this regard, he praised the invaluable contribution made by International Finance Corporation (IFC) by providing assistance to relevant public and private sector institutions to successfully implement the recent amendments in our laws encouraging resolution of certain types of disputes through ADR. He was delighted that BIAC and ILI had

conducted this training, which goes a long way in creating a critical mass of professionals conversant in Arbitration.

In his remarks, BIAC Chairman Mahbubur Rahman said that recent amendments in our laws have made ADR mandatory in many areas. But to get results of these changes in our laws we require trained ADR professionals in the country. This training programme, organized jointly by BIAC and ILI, Washington DC will help meet the requirement of ADR professionals in the country.

BIAC Chief Executive Toufiq Ali stated that the success of the basic arbitration training programme had provided encouragement for arranging advanced training in arbitration. He also stated that BIAC would provide training in mediation, which was a vital necessity as the laws had been amended to make mediation mandatory in certain cases.

IFC representative Dr. Masroor Reaz stated that IFC wants to see BIAC as a driver of ADR reforms in Bangladesh. IFC is very happy and committed to support BIAC to create necessary resources and infrastructure to sustain ADR in Bangladesh.

ILI Representative Carlos Davila and Ronan McHugh of the firm Bailey Law expressed satisfaction with the performance of the trainees, and wished the country success in implementing ADR reforms.

65 trainees - lawyers, engineers, accountants, bankers, company executives and representative of civil society organizations - attended the programme.

Law Minister inaugurates Advanced Arbitration Training.

Dhaka, Feb17- Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and International Law Institute (ILI), Washington DC, USA launched the training programme on Advanced Arbitration on Sunday, 17th February 2013. The program was inaugurated by Law Minister Hon'ble Barrister Shafique Ahmed. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister lauded the commencement of the advanced arbitration training programme, and hoped that this would help in the implementation of the recent changes to our laws to make ADR compulsory in selected cases. It is vital that people be made aware of the new opportunities for out-of-court resolution of disputes. At the



same time, the legal community should have the necessary skills to assist their clients in the best possible manner. He also praised the trainers from ILI and advised them to make their instructions relevant to the participants.

BIAC Chief Executive Dr. Toufiq Ali, while delivering the welcome statement, outlined the programme of BIAC in arbitration. Presiding over the Meeting, BIAC Chairman Mr. Mahbubur Rahman emphasized that trained manpower is essential to make ADR successful. He said that, with the help of the IFC, BIAC is conducting awareness building events and arranging training on ADR regularly. This training, conducted with the collaboration

of the International Law Institute, is a very important step in this regard. Governmental support to BIAC is essential, in the context of promoting investment in the country and for smooth running of business.

Forty five participants were registered for the two-week long training programme, which was conducted in two batches. The concluding session of the training programme was held on 28th February.

At the Concluding function, BIAC Chief Executive Dr. Toufiq Ali praised the commitment and attention of the trainees as well as the dedication of the trainers. During the two-week period, there have been three hartals; however, the trainees have come on those days despite the difficulties in transport. Due to globalization of trade and commerce, everyday hundreds of commercial agreements are being executed in the country. Many of these agreements are with multinationals



or companies abroad. The country requires qualified professionals, with an understanding of international standards and practices in arbitration, to advise the companies. This course will help create a pool of trained arbitration professional in the country, he hoped. He observed that some of the trainees of Advanced Arbitration Course may be selected as trainers for BIAC's future training programme on arbitration.

Kim Phan, Executive Director of ILI expressed her satisfaction in joining with BIAC to conduct Advanced Arbitration Training in Bangladesh. She stated that ILI understands that for advancement of trade and commerce in this region, it is important to develop basic ADR infrastructure in Bangladesh. ILI is happy to be associated with this initiative of promoting ADR announced by Law Minister of Bangladesh as well as the Bangladesh Government. ILI would be happy to associate itself with such programmes of BIAC in future.

BIAC Lecture on Arbitration at Northern University



Dhaka, Mar 25- BIAC Lecture on Arbitration was arranged at Northern University on March 25 for the final year students of Law Department of the said University. BIAC considers such programme important as many of the law graduates may pursue the legal profession in future. In the

context of recent changes in our legal regime, making mediation and arbitration mandatory in certain areas, such programmes have become all the more useful. The programme was comprised of two parts: Keynote Presentation and Q&A Session. The Lecture was inaugurated by Dean of the Faculty of Law Professor Dr. A W M Abdul Huq. BIAC's Director A H M Nurul Islam in his lecture provided a conceptual background of

arbitration and operational issues critical to the successful resolution of arbitration proceedings in the light of BIAC Arbitration Rules. This was followed by Question & Answer Session. In total about 50 final year students of Law Department attended the programme.

Arbitration can play a significant role in reducing case backlog - Chief Justice

Dhaka, Mar 15- Terming case backlog as one of the big obstacles to ensuring justice, Chief Justice M Mozammel Hossain said arbitration can play a significant role in reducing case backlog and establishing peace in the society.

He was addressing a workshop jointly organised by the Supreme Court and UNDP, on arbitration and awareness at Annex Bhaban Auditorium of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on Friday, (15 March) morning.

"There are many general conflicts which can be settled at initial stage. But those minor matters are coming to courts, which created case backlog and hampered the judicial activities of important cases. The number of courts and judges has not been increased in proportion with the increasing

cases", the Chief Justice said.

He said that it is not possible to settle the increasing number of cases with limited courts. "Hence, we have to think about alternative system". "The people, who expect more from the judiciary, want justice without any delay. We could not reduce case backlog despite sincerity at all level", said Mozammel Hossain.

Mozammel Hossain stressed on performing the judicial activities ignoring threats and limitations. He also called for raising awareness about alternative dispute resolution system for settling conflicts.

The workshop was attended by 250 lower court judges, judicial officials and lawyers.

(Source: The New Age, 16th March 2013)

BIAC Seminar on Arbitration held at South East University

Dhaka, Mar 30- BIAC organised a Seminar on Arbitration on March 30 in collaboration with Law & Justice Department of South East University at the University Seminar Hall. The Seminar was participated by teachers and students of Law & Justice Department of the said University.

Dr. Toufiq Ali, Chief Executive of BIAC presented the key note paper. Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain, Vice Chancellor, Southeast University presided over the function while Professor Dr. A N M Meshkat Uddin, Pro Vice Chancellor was the chief discussant.

Dr. Toufiq Ali, Chief Executive of BIAC in his keynote speech explained relevance of ADR in the context of our existing legal system. Thereafter, he narrated emergence of BIAC as an institution to improve trade and investment environment in the country as well as framing of BIAC Arbitration Rules providing a transparent and flexible procedure for arbitration. The key note speech was followed by remarks and queries from the audience, which were addressed by Dr. Ali.



Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain in his presidential address remarked that the topic is very relevant and useful for the students of law. He hoped that such collaboration with BIAC will continue in future. Professor Dr. A N M Meshkat Uddin, in his discussion, pointed out that although our court process is very complex and dilatory, ADR has not gained popularity in the country. Such programme will sensitize people about ADR and arbitration. In total about 150 final year students of Law Department participated in the programme.

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