

PRESS RELEASE

Law Minister lauded the first ever training program on Arbitration organized by BIAC and ILI.

Sunday, 13th January 2013

Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and International Law Institute (ILI), Washington DC, USA jointly launched the first ever training programme on Arbitration in the country today. The program was inaugurated by Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. In his speech, the Minister lauded the first ever training program on Arbitration in the country organized by BIAC and ILI with the support of IFC. Ahmed said our courts are burdened with huge backlog of cases causing delay in disposal. To address the problem, the Government has undertaken a number of measures to expedite disposal of cases. A number of significant amendments have been enacted making ADR as a method of settlement of disputes mandatory. But to get results of these changes in our laws we require trained ADR professionals in the country. This training programme, jointly organized by BIAC and ILI, will help 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 he would try to give BIAC 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 recent amendments in our laws have made ADR mandatory in many areas. This training programme will fill in the dearth of ADR professionals in the country.

The Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Latifur Rahman, who is also the Chairman and CEO of Transcom, emphasized that trained manpower is essential to make ADR successful in the country. The three business chambers: ICC-B, DCCI and MCCI have established BIAC with the view to facilitate the resolution of commercial disputes through ADR. He said that, with the help of the IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank, BIAC is conducting awareness building events and arranging training. This training, conducted with the assistance 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 offered continuing support from IFC to BIAC. The business community will be able to take advantage of the changes in our laws, with the assistance of BIAC.

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.



Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre

The Institution for Alternative Dispute Resolution

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.