

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



محكمة قطر الدولية
ومركز تسوية المنازعات

**QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE**

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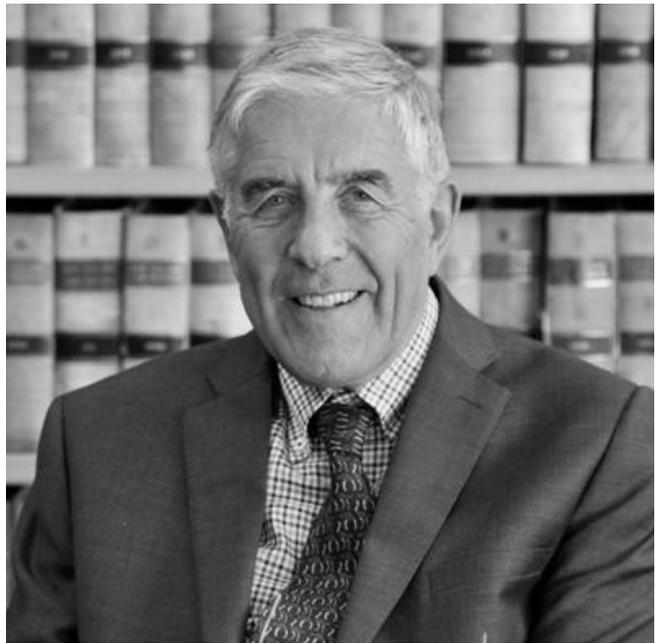


WELCOME MESSAGE

LORD PHILLIPS OF WORTH

MATRAVERS

PRESIDENT



“2017 has been a significant year for the QICDRC.

Perhaps the most important development was the enactment of Law No 2 of 2017 issuing the State of Qatar’s new Civil and Commercial Arbitration Law. The new law, inspired by the provisions of the UNCITRAL Model Law, replaces the provisions relating to arbitration contained within the Civil and Commercial Procedural Law of 1990. The 2017 law allows parties to choose the “Competent Court” that will be responsible for supporting those arbitrations which are seated in Qatar. Parties may elect either the Arbitral Disputes Circuit of the Court of Appeal or the Qatar International Court (specifically the First Instance Circuit of the Civil and Commercial Court). The “Competent Court”, where required, can exercise a number of functions including, but not limited to: (i) the appointment and removal of arbitrators, (ii) determining challenges to jurisdiction, (iii) assisting the arbitral tribunal with the taking of evidence, (iv) hearing appeals and (v) the enforcement of awards.

The volume of work before the Court and the Regulatory Tribunal has increased. In 2017, the Court had 14 separate actions filed before it, the Regulatory Tribunal had 23. All of the matters before the Regulatory Tribunal have related to appeals against determinations of the Employment Standards Office. The Court has heard a variety of cases dealing with matters related to contract disputes, employment, financial services, insurance, as well as enforcement. The ability of the Court to enforce its own judgments throughout the State of Qatar continues to be an invaluable tool to ensure compliance with orders and judgments issued by the Court. As always, the judgments of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal (in English and Arabic) are available to members of the public through the QICDRC website.

At the end of 2017, the soft launch of ‘eCourt’, the QICDRC’s new e Case Management System, took place. eCourt, which is free to access and available in both English and Arabic, allows all Court and Regulatory Tribunal users- litigants, lawyers, internal staff and judges- to access their cases remotely. Actions such as the filing and service of cases papers, corresponding with the Court and accessing orders and judgments can all be performed on eCourt. Moreover, eCourt is integrated with the Court’s virtual hearing capabilities allowing all Court users to participate in proceedings remotely from wherever they are in the world, providing access to justice anytime, anywhere.

As with previous years, supporting academic institutions, students and young professionals is a key part of the QICDRC’s mission. The QICDRC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Qatar University in order to facilitate academic and professional cooperation between the respective institutions. In addition, the Registrar has spent considerable periods of time with students from Qatar University and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (as well as with students from a variety of academic institutions outside of Qatar), providing internship opportunities, lectures and seminars, advocacy training and judging, domestically and internationally, legal competitions. All of this is geared towards developing successful future lawyers.

2018 will be my final year as President of the Court, marking 6 years in the role. I am looking forward to see what new developments and challenges the year will bring.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lord Phillips'.





FAISAL RASHID AL SAHOUTI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

“QICDRC continues to make steady progress

WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEGAL WORLD, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

Following the release of last year’s new arbitration law, QICDRC has aimed to demonstrate an active presence within the legal community by hosting a variety of seminars and delegation visits throughout 2016 and 2017. Throughout the past two years, we have welcomed delegations from across the globe including the United Kingdom, Singapore, France, Mauritania and Turkey and Japan. This is in line with our efforts to establish and enhance our judicial ties with other nations in the region, Europe and Asia.

2017 also saw QICDRC’s first international representation for Qatar at the IBA Annual Conference in Sydney, Australia. Our biggest highlight however, was the Qatar Law Forum which was held November 2017 and was a considerable success. Such events allow Qatar to be placed on the world stage to showcase that Qatar’s judicial framework is part

of an exemplary and transparent legal environment.

In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, it is important now, more than ever, that our work at QICDRC helps portray that Qatar is a leading business destination, where businesses can find reassurance that they will be provided with a legal atmosphere that matches international standards.

QICDRC has a lot to look forward to in the next few years, with the primary focus being on our courts and the development of its technology. The development of our new e-Court is a momentous occasion that will be of benefit to QICDRC staff, judicial members and legal entities. QICDRC will also continue to take part in conferences in Doha and abroad, the Annual Qatar International Arbitration Summit and the IBA Annual Conference in Italy are

just to name a couple of events this year. Our strong relationships with Qatar University and Hamad bin Khalifa University will also be continued in the form of seminars with students and conferences as we seek to play an active role in educating future generations.

We are continuously working towards positioning QICDRC at the forefront of the judicial community. 2018 will require determination and focus and I have faith that by working together, our goals can be achieved and our reputation maintained. Together, I have no doubt that we will achieve significant milestones that will make a positive difference to the legal community.”



ABOUT QICDRC

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) comprises the Qatar International Court (or QFC Civil and Commercial Court) and the QFC Regulatory Tribunal. Both judicial bodies are established pursuant to the relevant provisions of QFC Law No 7 of 2005 as amended. The procedures of both the Court and Regulatory Tribunal are laid down in the QFC Law and the Regulations and Procedural Rules of each judicial body.





OUR VISION

To be recognised as the world's leading forum for the resolution of international civil and commercial disputes.





OVERVIEW - THE COURT

As of 1 January 2018, the judiciary of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal comprise 17 judges from 10 different jurisdictions (Qatar, Kuwait, England and Wales, Scotland, France, Cyprus, India, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand). The judges subscribe to a judicial code of conduct, the cornerstones of which are impartiality, independence, integrity and propriety.

With the agreement of the Supreme Judicial Council in the State of Qatar, the Court and Regulatory Tribunal continue to be supported by Justice Rashid Al Badr who fulfills the role of Enforcement Judge. The successful enforcement of judgments of the Court in 2016/2017 has been a key milestone in the development of the Court. The enforcement jurisdiction of the Court had been untested and, although there was no reason to doubt its powers in this regard, the fact that the Court has been able to successfully enforce its own judgments sets it apart from other comparable judicial institutions in the region.



17 Judges



10 Different Jurisdictions





OVERVIEW - **ARBITRATION**

The Court continues to promote the use of ADR in appropriate cases. 2017 saw an example of this where parties to one piece of civil litigation agreed to submit their dispute to a judicial mediation. More widely, the QICDRC continues to host arbitrations at its premises where parties make such a request and the QICDRC can accommodate it.

On the subject of arbitration, the most notable piece of legislation to be passed in 2017 was Law No 2 of 2017 concerning

the Civil and Commercial Arbitration Law. This law, amongst other things, granted parties the ability to elect the Court as the “Competent Court” to exercise supportive and supervisory roles over arbitrations seated in Qatar. The fact that a piece of State legislation has expanded the jurisdiction of the Court in this regard was welcomed by both domestic and international stakeholders and was seen as huge support for the ongoing work of the Court at the highest level.



JURISDICTION OF THE COURT AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The jurisdiction of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal is provided for under Article 8 of the QFC Law.

Article 8(2)(c) of the QFC Law provides that:

The Regulatory Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction to hear Appeals raised by individuals and corporate bodies against decisions of The QFC Authority, The Regulatory Authority, and other QFC institutions.

Article 8(3)(c)-(d) of the QFC Law sets out the jurisdiction of the Court:

The First Instance Circuit of the Court shall have the jurisdiction to hear the following disputes:

Civil and commercial disputes arising from transactions, contracts, arrangements or incidences taking place in or from The QFC between the entities established therein.

Civil and commercial disputes arising between The QFC authorities or institutions and the entities established therein.

Civil and commercial disputes arising between entities established in The QFC and contractors therewith and employees thereof, unless the parties agree otherwise.

Civil and commercial disputes arising from transactions, contracts or arrangements taking place between entities established within The QFC and residents of The State, or entities established in the State but outside The QFC, unless the parties agree otherwise.

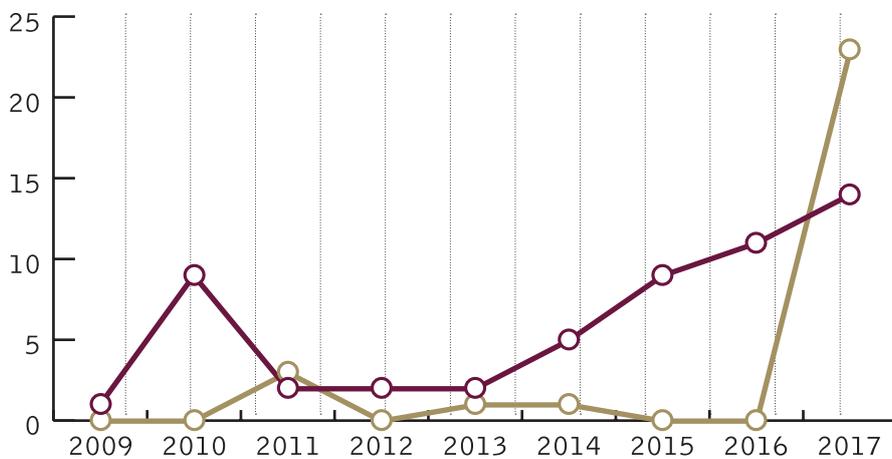
The Appellate Circuit of The Civil and Commercial Court shall have the jurisdiction to hear appeals against decisions of The First Instance Circuit, as well as appeals against decisions of The Regulatory Tribunal. A member shall not sit in The Appeals Circuit to look over an appealed judgment if such member was a member of the circuit that originally issued the judgment.

In addition, Law No 2 of 2017 expands the jurisdiction of the Court where the Court has been selected as the “Competent Court” over arbitrations seated in Qatar.



CASE STATISTICS

- NUMBER OF CASES FILED BEFORE THE REGULATORY TRIBUNAL
- NUMBER OF CASES FILED BEFORE THE COURT



Year	Cases filed before the Court	Cases filed before the Regulatory Tribunal
2009	1	0
2010	9	0
2011	2	3
2012	2	0
2013	2	1
2014	5	1
2015	9	0
2016	11	0
2017	14	23

CASES BEFORE THE QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT 2016 2017

Twenty five cases were filed before the Court throughout 2016 and 2017. These cases ranged in type and included employment, contract, debt recovery, financial service, insolvency and insurance claims. The Court issued 16 judgments throughout this period.



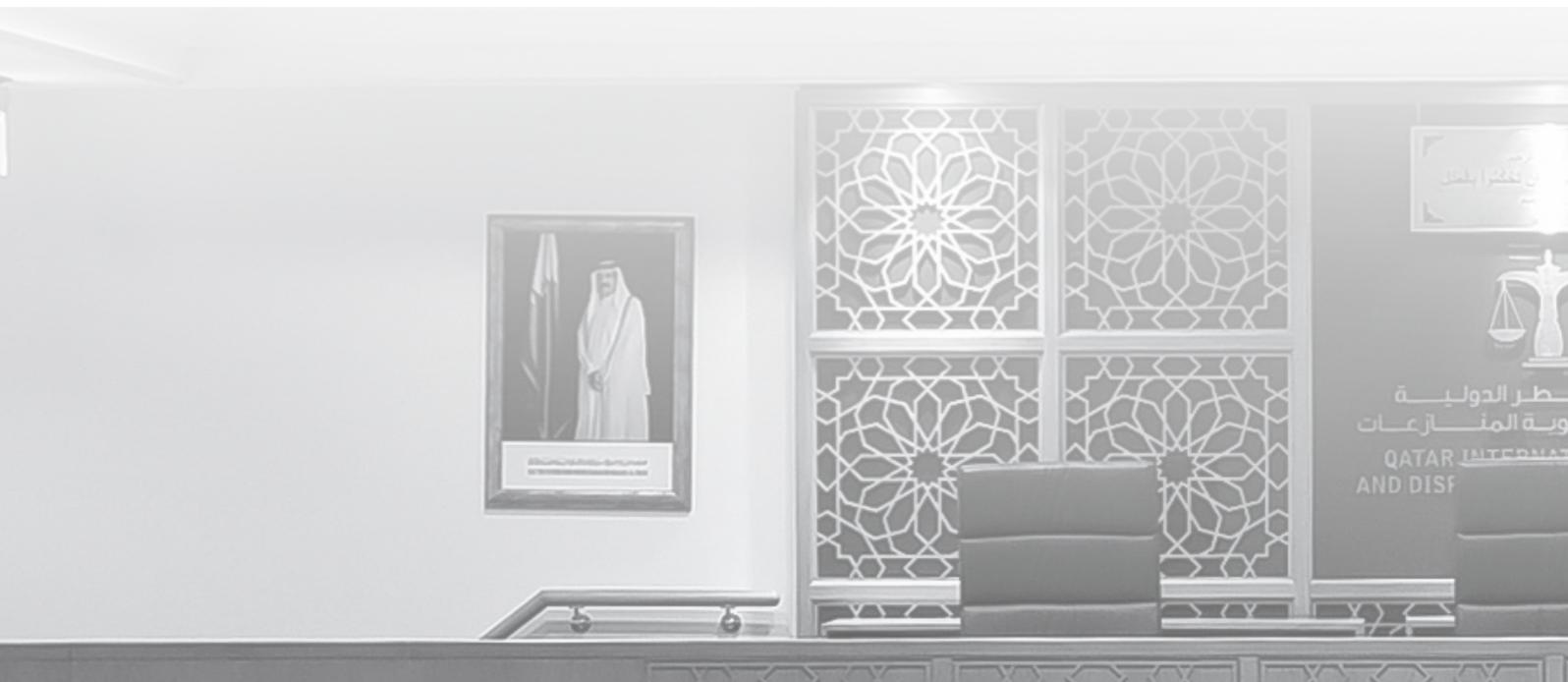
ENFORCEMENT

In Case No 6 of 2016 the first application seeking to enforce a judgment of the Court was filed with the Registry. The judgment was successfully enforced insofar as all relevant competent agencies within the State (including the Qatar Central Bank) complied with the Order of the Enforcement Judge to freeze bank accounts, transfer frozen sums to the Court's trust account and obtain details of registered property. Significantly, the reach of the Enforcement Judge was deemed to extend beyond assets held in the QFC and to anywhere within the State of Qatar. This has, understandably, been hailed as a huge success particularly by legal practitioners in the region.

Since then, one additional application for enforcement was made in Case No 1 of 2016. The Order issued in that case was challenged and the Appellate Division of the Court took the opportunity to observe that, even in cases of enforcement, it is appropriate for the Enforcement Judge to give short reasons for any Order he makes.

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Increasingly, litigants are taking advantage of the ability to obtain summary judgment pursuant to Article 22.6 of the Regulations and Procedural Rules of the Court. This has primarily occurred in cases where no defence has been filed or admissions have been made early on in the proceedings. To date, 6 of the cases filed in 2016/2017 have been disposed of by way of summary judgment.

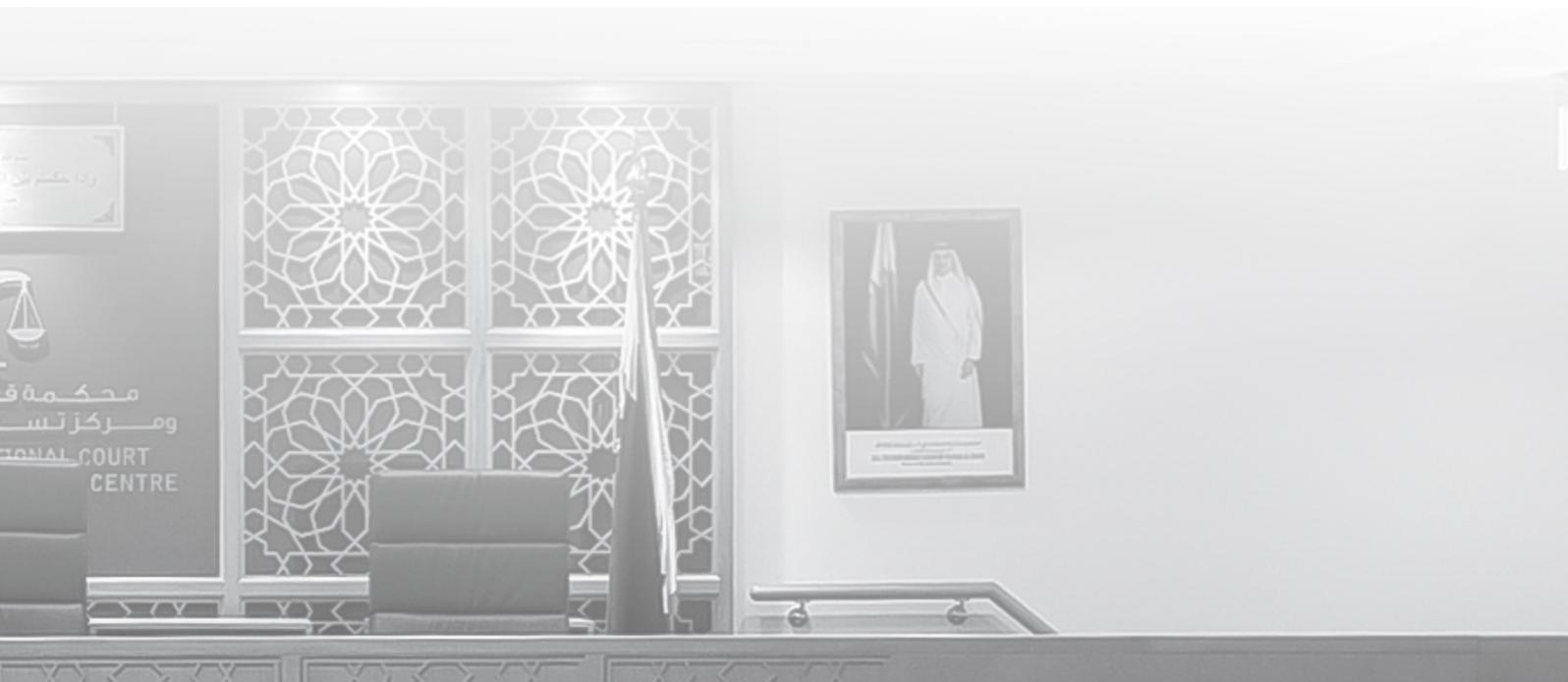


INTERIM RELIEF

In Case No 2 of 2016, the Court granted interim relief in the form of an injunction preventing the QFC Authority from taking any action in respect of cancelling a resident's Residency Permit until such a time as the dispute had been considered and determined by the Court. This proved to be a highly effective means of ensuring that an individual's right to bring an action before the Court was not disadvantaged through his forced removal from the State before the Court could consider the merits of the claim.

COSTS

In Case No 1 of 2016 the Registrar, during the course of a detailed costs assessment, took the opportunity to set out what he considered to be the principles to be applied when determining the reasonableness of costs during a detailed costs assessment. This was considered necessary owing to the lack of guidance contained with the Regulations and Procedural Rules of the Court. On review by the Court, these principles were approved. Accordingly, the Registrar and the Court now has a guiding set of principles to refer to when determining detailed costs assessments.





CASES BEFORE THE QFC REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

2016
2017

Twenty three cases were filed before the Regulatory Tribunal throughout 2016 and 2017. All of them relate to appeals against determinations of the Employment Standards Office ('ESO').

In Case No 1 of 2017 the Regulatory Tribunal upheld the determination of the ESO, finding that the Appellant was not entitled to repatriation benefits in circumstances where he had simply changed employers within the QFC as opposed to returning to his home country.

As at the time of writing, Case No's 2-23 of 2017 (which are all related) are still under consideration by the Regulatory Tribunal.

In all these cases, the parties have consented to the Regulatory Tribunal determining the appeals on the papers, i.e. without the need for an oral hearing.



JUDICIARY

As of 1 January 2018, the judiciary of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal comprise the following:



LORD PHILLIPS OF
WORTH MATRAVERS



DR HASSAN AL
SAYED



CHELVA RAJAH SC



RASHID AL BADR
ENFORCEMENT JUDGE



SIR BRUCE
ROBERTSON



FRANCES KIRKHAM



LORD ARTHUR
HAMILTON



GEORGE ARESTIS

SUPPLEMENTARY JUDGES

| SIR THOMAS SCOTT
BAKER

| SIR PETER
CRESSWELL

NEWLY APPOINTED

| SIR WILLIAM
BLAIR

| DR RASHID AL ANEZI



REGULATORY TRIBUNAL



SIR DAVID KEENE
CHAIRMAN OF THE
REGULATORY TRIBUNAL



**PROFESSOR
FRANCOIS
GIANVITI**



LAURENCE LI



**EDWIN GLASGOW
QC**



**GOPAL
SUBRAMANIAM**
SUPPLEMENTARY JUDGE

REGISTRY TEAM



CHRISTOPHER GROUT
REGISTRAR OF THE COURT AND THE
REGULATORY TRIBUNAL



NOORA AL-QAHTANI
CASE PROGRESSION MANAGER



HAMAD AL-MUSFIR
LEGAL AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD

**LORD PHILLIPS OF WORTH
MATRAVERS**
PRESIDENT OF THE COURT

SIR DAVID KEENE
CHAIRMAN OF THE REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

DR HASSAN AL SAYED

FRANCES KIRKHAM
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JUDGES

FAISAL AL SAHOUTI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHRISTOPHER GROUT
REGISTRAR





CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The QICDRC's new e-Case Management System went live in December 2017. Developed in conjunction with Singaporean company Crimson Logic, 'eCourt' provides a safe and secure method by which users can file case papers, receive communications and access information relating to their case. It is free to use and is available in both English and Arabic languages. eCourt is accessible from portable electronic devices (such as smart phones and tablets) allowing users to access their case files and send and receive communications from anywhere in the world.



eCOURT

In this regard, eCourt helps to improve access to justice through a transparent medium which is custom built around the Regulations and Procedural Rules of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal.

eCourt facilitates the end to end management of cases before the Court from the commencement of proceedings through to the issuing of judgments. It has an easy to use interface, customised for litigants in person and legal practitioners, to ensure streamlined navigation.

Moreover, eCourt has the capability to provide notifications by email and SMS to alert users of required tasks and communications, thus ensuring that users are kept up-to-date with how their case is progressing and what actions, if any, are required from them.

Perhaps one of the most exciting features of eCourt is its integration with the Court's pre-existing virtual hearing capabilities, allowing users to participate in live court proceedings from anywhere in the world simply by logging in to the system and accessing a secure link which will transport them into the courtroom.

The judiciary of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal were trained on how to use eCourt following the Qatar Law Forum.

2018 will see the official launch of eCourt where training will be provided to Qatar based lawyers and other interested parties.



HIGHLIGHTS

QICDRC achieved significant local and international exposure through a variety of events held in 2016 and 2017. For the first time, QICDRC sponsored an international event, the International Bar Association Conference held in Sydney, Australia attended by over 4000 individuals from the legal world. Most notably, the 3rd edition of the Qatar Law Forum was held in November 2017 under the patronage of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The forum, co-organised by QICDRC and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC), was highly commended in local and international press with panel discussions held on the rule of law in all forms. QICDRC also continued to make progress in the legal community, with the launch of the newly released arbitration law.



Secretary General of the International Court of Arbitration



Secretary General of the Supreme Judicial Council and Public Prosecutor of Turkey



2016 EVENTS

International Chamber of
Commerce Event

Qatar International Center
for Conciliation and
Arbitration Conference

Legal seminars at QICDRC

Wolters Kluwer Law
Arbitration Seminar

Mock arbitration event,
presided over by the
President of the Court at
QICDRC, for newly qualified
local practitioners

International Bar
Association Annual
Conference,
Washington DC

Annual Qatar Society of
Construction Law event
where Justice Kirkham was
the guest speaker

DIFC Courts delegation
visit

1st Lexis Nexis Business
Law Forum



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

QATAR UNIVERSITY

The QICDRC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') with Qatar University ('QU') in order to facilitate academic and professional cooperation between the respective institutions. Amongst other things, the MoU permits the QICDRC to offer sponsorships to QU students providing them with a financial package coupled with a view to employing them once they have graduated.

In addition, the QICDRC is now funding a chair at QU using the money which was left by Sir William Blair. A further MoU was entered into in order to facilitate this. The recipient of the chair is Professor Francis Bothway.

The Registrar continued to act as the supervising attorney for QU students who, twice a year, undertake a 10 week externship placement at the QICDRC. In addition, the Registrar provided 'an insight to advocacy' awareness and training session to students at QU.

UNIVERSITY OF TREVISO

The Registrar attended the University of Treviso in Italy to lecture Italian and Qatari students who were participating in a Summer School Programme that introduced students to contemporary legal issues in Europe and the Middle East.



MOOTING

The Registrar travelled to Bahrain to provide training to students from the Region who were preparing for the Willem C Vis Moot in Vienna. He also acted as an arbitrator in the competition.

MILITARY COLLEGE DELEGATION

Justice Robertson and the Registrar spent time with delegates from the Military College discussing matters relating to criminal investigations, evidence, court practice and procedures.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND PUBLIC PROSECUTION DELEGATIONS

QICDRC representatives and District of New York Judge Gerald Lebovitz spent two full days with delegates from the Supreme Judicial Council and Public Prosecution discussing matters relating to court practices and procedures, criminal evidence, trial advocacy and ethics.



EVENTS

JAN

- Judicial delegation from Bahrain
- Judicial delegation from French Embassy in Doha

FEB

- HBKU college of Law and Public Policy event
- QICDRC & College of Law at QU collaboration with Qatar Olympic Committee
- Judicial delegation from the UAE, led by Judge Juma Al-Otaibi

MAR

- Official visit from The President of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Judge Yahefdhou Mohamed
- Qatar Arbitration Law Conference
- French trainee judges delegation
- DIFC Courts visit
- The Secretary General of Turkey's High Council of Judges visit

APR

- QICDRC seminar: Newly issued Arbitration Law
- Qatar Leadership Center participants visit

MAY

- Kluwer 3rd Annual International Arbitration Summit
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference at Qatar University



AUG

- ASTAD delegation visit

SEP

- QICDRC seminar: “A Legal Perspective on the Gulf Crisis”

OCT

- International Bar Association Annual Conference in Sydney
- MoU with High Court of Singapore during the visit of HH the Emir to the Republic of Singapore
- Agreement with Singaporean company CrimsonLogic to develop Case Management System
- Qatar University delegation visit
- RICS event at the Marriot Marquis
- ASTAD delegation visit
- QFBA “Legal course for non-legal”

NOV

- The 3rd Qatar Law Forum
- “The Importance of developing CSR” conference
- “The Future of Alternative Dispute Resolution” discussion and workshop on “Economic Free Zones” at the Qatar Business Law Forum by LexisNexis
- “Legislative development between the blockade and attracting investment” conference

DEC

- Qatar Business Law Forum Awards
- CIArb & QICDRC MoU signing
- Qatar National Day celebration

2017

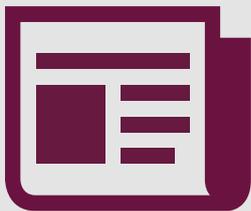


MARKETING STATISTICS - 2017



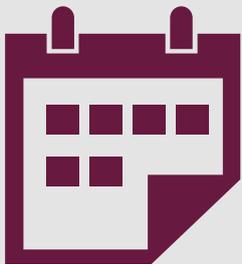
TOTAL AVE*: COVERAGE
LOCAL ENG & AR MEDIA

QAR 418,706



PRESS ITEMS
LOCAL ENG & AR MEDIA

31



EVENTS

30

*AVE: Advertising Variance Equivalence





محكمة قطر الدولية
QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE



مركز حكم القانون ومكافحة الفساد
Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center

تحت الرعاية الكريمة لحضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ تميم بن حمد آل ثاني أمير دولة قطر
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS HIGHNESS THE EMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR, SHEIKH TAMM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI

منتدى قطر للقانون QATAR LAW FORUM

Global Commitment to the Rule of Law
11th - 12th November 2017 | 11 - 12 نوفمبر 2017



محكمة قطر الدولية
ومركز تسوية المنازعات
QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE



مركز حكم القانون ومكافحة الفساد
Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center

منتدى قطر للقانون QATAR LAW FORUM

Global Commitment to the Rule of Law

11th - 12th
November
2017 ١٢-١١
نوفمبر ٢٠١٧

Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the 3rd Qatar Law Forum was successfully held in November 2017. Organised by Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC), the Forum is unique in its ability to bring together global legal leaders to debate not only the nature of the rule of law but practical solutions to some of the most critical issues facing the world today.





QATAR LAW FORUM 2017

Topics discussed were related to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 which include: combating corruption; protecting and enabling displaced persons; modern day slavery; effective judicial institutions (tackling delay and access justice); and financial inclusion.

Qatar Law Forum 2017 provided an opportunity to identify some practical steps toward the realisation of Goal 16. Given the standing of the delegates, the Forum provides an unparalleled opportunity for face to face dialogue and it is intended that as in previous Forums the impact of discussions initiated will continue far beyond the Forum.

PLENARY SESSIONS INCLUDED:



The Rule of Law – Combatting Corruption: Corruption damages everything it touches. That includes people, the environment, stability and progress. It is an issue for business, nations and the world as a whole. It undermines the rule of law, but the rule of law can help us tackle it.



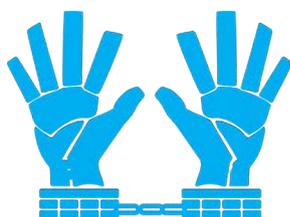
The Rule of Law – Protecting and Enabling Displaced Persons: Conflict, crisis, discrimination and poverty are displacing entire peoples around the world, on a vast scale. The refugees of Myanmar and Syria are recent examples. But what of the huge numbers working away from their own country through economic necessity rather than choice? Some of the displacement is long term, and will affect generations.



The Rule of Law – Access to Justice: UN SDG 16 specifically recognises the importance of strong and effective institutions. Strong and effective judicial institutions are at the heart of the rule of law. But there are examples where the contribution of judicial institutions is reduced by delay and by lack of effective access to justice. And then there is the potential for that contribution to be enhanced by technology.



The Rule of Law – Financial Inclusion: The world's financial systems affect everyone, but not everyone is included in or can participate in those systems. Displaced persons, those in poverty, those without legal identity, all may provide examples of those facing financial exclusion. Like micro-finance and micro-insurance, fintech offers important solutions, and in ways that will in turn affect the world's financial systems more widely. But this is also at heart about equality and the rule of law.



The Rule of Law – Modern Slavery: Doha is home to Bin Jelmoood House, which seeks to play a role in the global abolition of human exploitation. Slavery is in the world's history books, but it is also in today's news. It is the same issue but in modern guise. Sometimes it is hidden and sometimes the world does not want to see what is there. It is a global issue, with equality and the rule of law at the heart of it.

Following the successful format of the previous years (2009 and 2012), all sessions were discussion based. Integral to the programme at the 2017 Qatar Law Forum was the role of young lawyers from around the world and within Qatar, with the forum providing a suitable environment to play a part in further nurturing the cornerstone of a future legal community committed to the rule of law.



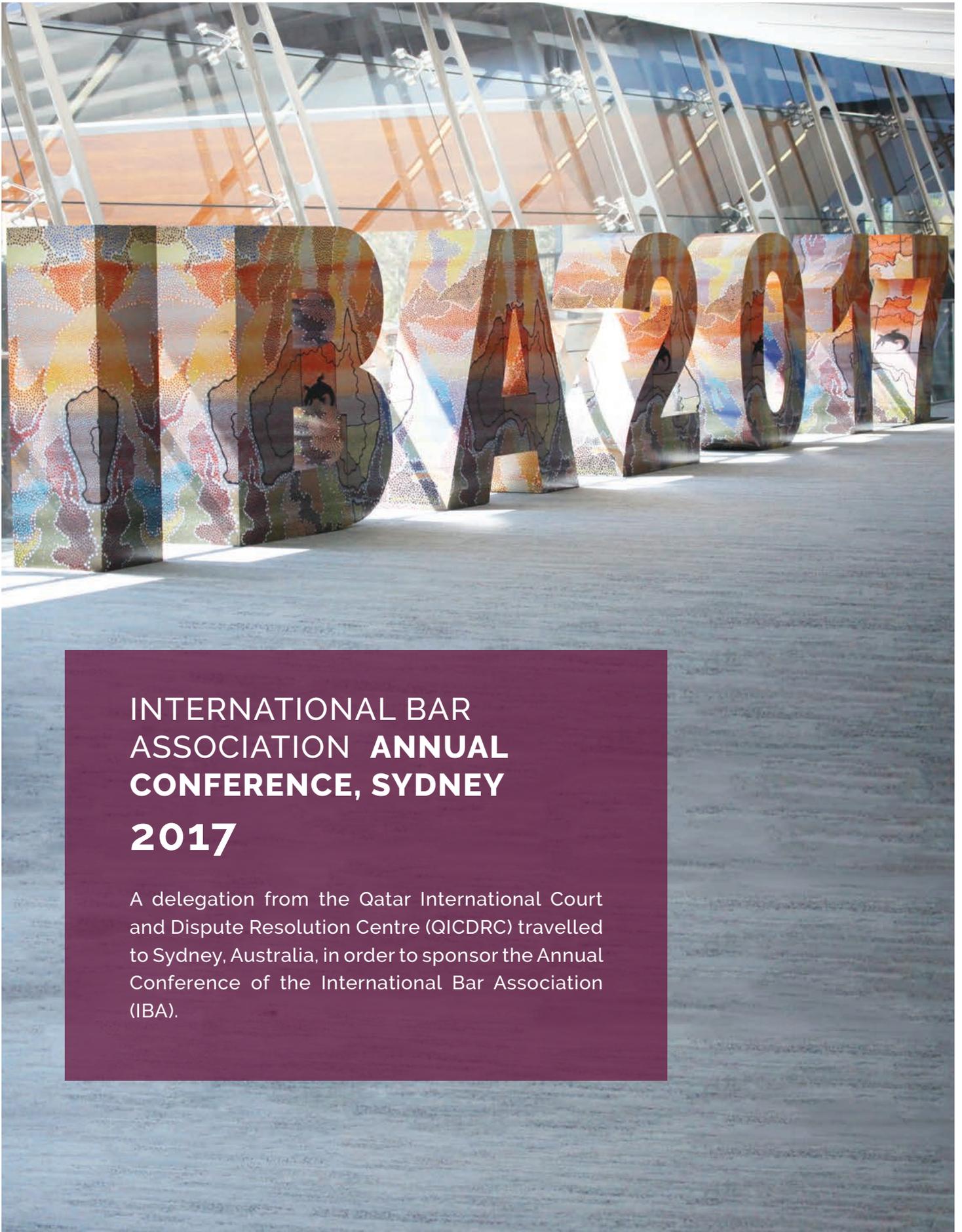
QATAR LAW FORUM 17

MEDIA SUMMARY

 @QATARLAWFORUM	TWEETS 137	TRENDING HASHTAG #منتدى_قطر_ للقانون	FOLLOWERS 1.3K
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*AVE: Advertising Variance Equivalence
**MEV: Media Equivalent Value



INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SYDNEY** **2017**

A delegation from the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) travelled to Sydney, Australia, in order to sponsor the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association (IBA).



IBA 2017

The 2017 conference was attended by over 4,000 judges, lawyers and other legal professionals who congregated to attend sessions on a wide variety of legal issues including anti-corruption, arbitration, construction, crime, health, human rights, environment, financial services, insolvency, intellectual property, international trade and customs, litigation, mediation, media, mining, oil and gas, technology, and transportation.

A highlight of the conference was the Arab Regional Forum lunch that was also sponsored by QICDRC. The sold-out forum lunch provided a welcome opportunity for dialogue between legal professionals from various Middle Eastern countries as well those from the international legal and business community who conduct business in the Middle East.

Of the numerous sessions that were held throughout IBA, Mr Grout spoke passionately about litigation and arbitration in Qatar as well as about the importance of employment laws that strive to protect fundamental rights and freedoms.

As to the latter, Mr. Grout, during a session presented by the Discrimination and Equality Law Committee, talked about the improvements that had been made in Qatar following recent changes in the law and commented upon the employment framework in the Qatar Financial Centre. During a session on the role of good advocacy in arbitrations, jointly presented by the Forum for Barristers and Advocates, the Arbitration Committee, the Litigation Committee and the Mediation Committee, the panel discussed the challenges that can arise for advocates who are appearing before international panels.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING



MOU WITH HIGH COURT OF SINGAPORE

HH the Emir and the Singaporean Prime Minister attended the signing of an MoU for judicial cooperation between the Supreme Judiciary Council of Qatar and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Singapore for the sustainability of cooperation and interaction between the two parties and an MoU for judicial cooperation between Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) and the Supreme Court of Singapore for cooperation within the framework of experiences' exchange and discussion of issues of mutual interest, as well as an MoU for the implementation of the financial provisions between QICDRC and the Supreme Court of Singapore.

CIArb & QICDRC MOU SIGNING

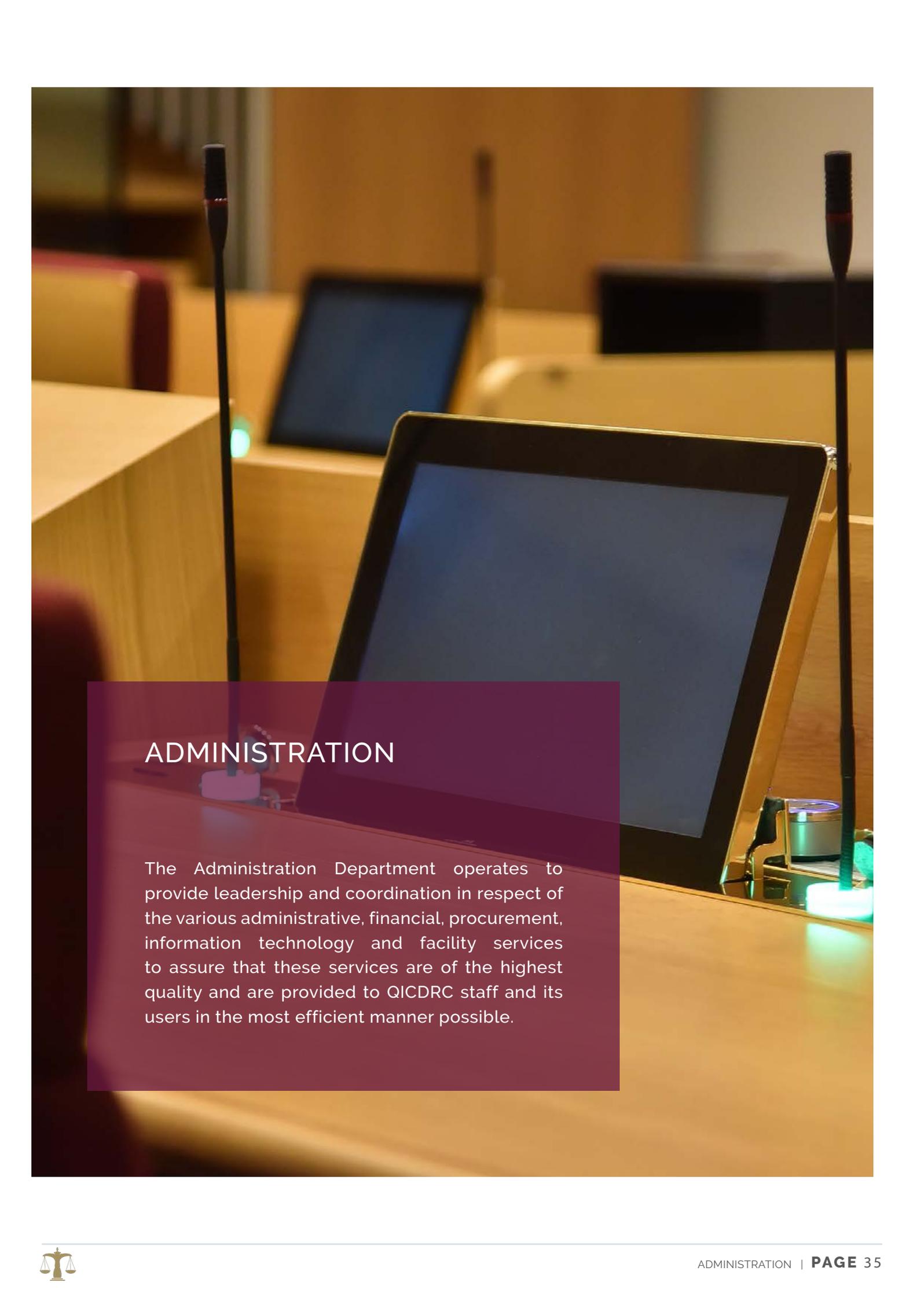
In late 2017, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) opened a branch office in Qatar following the signing of a MoU with Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre.

CIArb is a global hub of excellence for the practice and profession of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) with a membership of 16,000 people. Under the terms of the MoU, CIArb will open a branch at the QICDRC's premises and provide a range of resources to the Qatari legal community, most notably arbitration training in line with international best standards in both Arabic and English languages.



The MoU establishes a strategic partnership between CIArb and QICDRC, where the two sides will work together to promote the practice of ADR in Qatar, improve the quality of specialised arbitration programmes, and enhance the ADR skills of Qatari lawyers.





ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Department operates to provide leadership and coordination in respect of the various administrative, financial, procurement, information technology and facility services to assure that these services are of the highest quality and are provided to QICDRC staff and its users in the most efficient manner possible.

The main goal of the Administrative Department is to provide a safe and supportive environment, offer best in class technologies, provide outstanding service to its staff and its users, assuring well-maintained premises and pursue excellence. In order to achieve those goals, the Administration Department implemented multiple projects, services and events in the year 2016-2017, a selection of which are listed below:

WEBSITE

The QICDRC launched a new website for the public in the beginning of the 2016. The website creates a world-class platform that reflects the QICDRC's status as one of the most technologically advanced Court and dispute resolution facilities in the world. It also provides an interface to eCourt- the newly implemented e-Case Management System.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure of the Court also underwent significant improvement. For example, by providing web collaboration to anyone, anywhere with feature rich content sharing capabilities that help bring a new dimension to the court workflow. This simple yet secure click-to-connect system quickly brings participants into a conference on a PC, tablet, or smartphone by clicking a URL link received in an IM, email, or calendar invitation. Another accomplishment is the installation of motorised touch screen monitors for enhancing communication in the courtroom which ingeniously and comfortably integrates different types of connectors for external system use. This also provides an interactive high definition interface for users to access the e-Case Management System, video conference, evidence etc.

EVENT FACILITIES

The QICDRC also facilitated events in the multi-purpose rooms which are equipped with up-to-date IT-setup and can be used for ADR proceedings, meetings and other functions. There have been 29 number of events which have been hosted in our premises successfully.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The QICDRC also had an opportunity to visit the Polycom Executive Briefing Centre in Paris to experience the revolutionary technologies collaborating voice, video and content. In addition, the QICDRC also had multiple pilot projects as part of the research and analysis plan thus bringing the best for the Court and its users.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The QICDRC has portrayed its sense of responsibility towards the society by donating IT equipment to Qatar Charity.





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