

The 13th Biennial IFCAI Conference Co-organized with the BCDR-AAA

23rd March 2015, Bahrain Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Manama

*Hot Issues in International Arbitration in the Arab World
and
Arbitral Institutions and Issues of Conflicts of Interest*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY



International Federation of Commercial
Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI)



Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution
BCDR - AAA

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI)



The International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions was established in 1985. It now consists of 57 member organizations worldwide. The Federation's aims are to establish and maintain permanent relations between commercial arbitration institutions, foster a broad exchange of information on all aspects of arbitration and conciliation, encourage the responsible use of these dispute resolution techniques and facilitate the exchange of information on member organization services.

Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA)



The Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) is an independent dispute-settlement institution established in 2009. In partnership with the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the BCDR-AAA provides commercial and governmental users contracting in the Arab Gulf and beyond with solutions for rapid and effective resolution of economic, financial and investment disputes. The BCDR-AAA provides state-of-the-art facilities for arbitration and mediation of commercial disputes, with a particular expertise in the commercial and investment sectors.

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Evening Reception Sponsor


Amin Law Firm
&
Arbitrators
أمين للمحاماة والتحكيم

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Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners (SAP) is an established legal practice, specialising in corporate and commercial transactional work and complex business litigation and arbitration. The Firm was founded in 1999 and is managed by Sultan M. Al- Abdulla, a Qatari national, who worked for over two decades with the national oil company in Qatar. SAP has its objective to provide its clients with efficient and cost effective legal services, covering all areas of business and law. SAP lawyers carry extensive experience and deep understanding of the market, its various segments and the general regulatory framework of doing business in Qatar. SAP encompasses multinational experienced lawyers from varied legal backgrounds (including the civil, common and sharia'a legal systems). SAP's areas of practice include Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Corporate & Commercial Law, Sporting & Events, Free Zones, Intellectual Property, Banking & Finance, Employment & Labour, Energy, Engineering & Construction, and Telecommunications & IT.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Attorneys at Law
& Legal Consultants, Bahrain
Afternoon Break Sponsor



Haya Rashed Al Khalifa is a full service legal practice and regarded as one of the most prominent and dynamic law firms in Bahrain. With over 20 years of litigation and transactional experience, we are endowed with a long-standing tradition of excellence and we enjoy a distinguished reputation for the quality of its legal advice, delivering highly professional, responsive and cost-effective services tailored to the needs of those whose interests it represents and serves. Our practice has a proven track record for innovation and providing work of the highest quality to meet the needs of our domestic and international clients. We advise on high profile and ground breaking domestic and international transactions and we take time to understand the distinct demands that each client faces. This allows us to build a bespoke service to suit each relationship. Associates of Haya Rashed Al Khalifa Attorneys are well known as dynamic legal advisors with a unique breadth of expertise concentrated on procuring solutions that are innovative and practical. In addition, we also continue to build and develop a network of associate law firms that we work with in several other countries, regularly bringing them together with our own lawyers and clients to share ideas and strengthen work ties. We have a reputation for providing an exceptional legal service and are renowned for our commitment to excellence and for our ability to find innovative solutions to the most complex of legal problems. Please feel free to visit our website at www.hraklf.com for further information.



ZU'BI & PARTNERS
Attorneys & Legal Consultants

Zu'bi and Partners, Attorneys and Legal Consultants, Bahrain
Morning Break Sponsor

Zu'bi & Partners is the merged firm of two long-established Bahrain law practices: Hatim S. Zu'bi & Partners, the oldest established local law firm in Bahrain, and Qays H. Zu'bi Attorneys & Legal Consultants. Our position as a top-tier legal services provider in Bahrain, the GCC region and other countries is widely recognized by independent legal commentators and publications, and is reflected in our client base of leaders in their fields, mainly Fortune 500 companies and banks, including both private and public institutions, government and quasi-government bodies local and international, as well as high net worth individuals. Over the years, we have forged strategic relationships with leading regional and international law firms, and we regularly provide them with local legal opinions which are necessary to close many of the infrastructure or financing deals taking place in Bahrain and governed by Bahraini law. Services we offer include all areas of corporate, banking, finance and commercial law, litigation, arbitration and local court proceedings. For more details, please view our website at www.zubipartners.com. Our partners and associates have been admitted to practice law in many important jurisdictions, including New York, Los Angeles, England & Wales, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Sudan and Egypt, among others, as well as, of course, Bahrain and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. We are also known as “school” for local and expatriate lawyers, some of whom have moved on to join major international and regional law firms in neighbouring countries. This means Zu'bi & Partners can offer clients a unique perspective and depth of expertise across almost any aspect of local or international law.



Global Arbitration Review, United Kingdom

Media Partner

Global Arbitration Review (GAR) is recognised as the leading independent resource on international arbitration news and community intelligence, used by thousands of arbitrators around the world to stay informed. Our team of journalists travel globally and liaise with a wide network of established contacts to provide readers with daily news roundups, including the latest claims, significant developments and moves and mergers; in-depth analysis on significant global issues; and conference reports monitoring trends and decisions from key opinion makers. We produce unique qualitative surveys, such as the renowned GAR 100: our annual ranking of the world's leading arbitration practices; and the Guide to Regional Arbitration: our 'whitelists' and directories of arbitral providers nested in particular regions. We work with leading experts from around the world to produce free-to-view regional knowledge guides. These include insight on the hot topics of the moment and answers to the commonly-asked questions of international dispute resolution. GAR publishes material in print and online to provide you with a format that suits your needs. For information visit: www.globalarbitrationreview.com or contact subscriptions@globalarbitrationreview.com



Transnational Dispute Management, Netherlands

Media Partner

Transnational Dispute Management (TDM, ISSN 1875-4120) is a comprehensive and innovative information service on the management of international disputes, with a focus on the rapidly evolving area of investment arbitration, but also in other significant areas of international investment (such as oil, gas, energy, infrastructure, mining, utilities etc). It deals both with formal adjudicatory procedures (mainly investment and commercial arbitration), but also mediation/ADR methods, negotiation and managerial ways to manage transnational disputes efficiently. See www.transnational-dispute-management.com for more information. You can apply for a free OGEMID trial membership and students can sign up for Young-OGEMID (which is free).

CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS



Dubai International Arbitration Centre, United Arab Emirates

مركز دبي للتحكيم الدولي
Dubai International Arbitration Centre
An Initiative by Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) is a prominent arbitration centre in the Middle East. It was initially established by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Dubai Chamber) in 1994 as the Centre for Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration. The DIAC is a non-profit institution that is independent in its operations from both the Dubai Government and the Dubai Chamber. DIAC provides efficient and impartial administration of commercial disputes. Located in the heart of Dubai at the Dubai Chamber's headquarters, DIAC provides local and international business communities with commercial arbitration services, including modern and well equipped meeting and hearing rooms. DIAC has also developed a pool of experienced arbitrators from different nationalities and legal backgrounds.

Gulf Co-operation Council Commercial Arbitration Centre, Kingdom of Bahrain



The Gulf Co-operation Council Commercial Arbitration Centre's (GCCAC) vision is to have an integrated judicial and arbitration system, independent of the GCC states, including the headquarters state, closely connected to the regional and international arbitration situation with the system and regulations drawn from a multi-party sovereign source that rises above laws in force in the GCC States. The Centre's mission is to enhance the role of arbitration as a self-independent system and a unique tool for resolving commercial disputes and for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and qualify and train a new generation of arbitrators by conducting training programmes of high quality and spread arbitration culture. The Centre's values include complete neutrality and impartiality, integrity in the supervision of arbitration proceedings and ensuring that absolute and flexible justice is served that responds to the specifics of the dispute. Considering the international status of the Centre, it is free from the restrictions of the legal system of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Its presence on the Kingdom of Bahrain's territory is only a physical one, and the award issued by the Centre is not considered issued by the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain which, although it is considered a physical host country for the Centre, yet it is not considered a legal host state in respect of arbitration conducted at the Centre, because it is not related to the Kingdom's national internal legal system. The Centre's regulations or any of its procedures are not subject to control, whether by way of challenge or by instituting cases in the first place seeking to nullify them through any judicial authority in any of the GCC states. This contributes to the expeditious implementation and execution of its awards. If any of the litigating parties applies for dismissal of such order on the basis of invalidation of the award for one of the reasons set forth in Article (36) of the Arbitration Regulation, its duty shall be limited to ascertaining the validity of such reason.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00

Registration and Breakfast *Breakfast Sponsored by Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Qatar*

9:00 - 9:45

Opening Addresses

H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ali Al Khalifa

Minister of Justice & Islamic Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain

Diana Droulers

President, International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI)

Shaikha Haya Rashid Al Khalifa

Chair, Board of Trustees, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA)

India Johnson

President & Chief Executive Officer, American Arbitration Association (AAA)

H. H. Prince Dr. Bandar Bin Salman Bin Mohamed Al Saud

Honorary President of The G.C.C. Commercial Arbitration Centre (Dar Al-Karar), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

9:45 - 13:00

Morning Session Hot Issues in International Arbitration in the Arab World

Topics include:

- Seats of Arbitration in the Arab World
- The Role of Arab Courts in International Arbitration
- Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in the Arab World
- Regime Changes in the Arab World and International Arbitration
- International Arbitration and the Settlement of Inter-Arab Investment Disputes

Chairs:

Ahmed Sadek El-Kosheri, *Senior Partner, Kosheri Rashed & Riad, Cairo, Egypt*

Philippe Leboulanger, *Senior Partner, Cabinet Leboulanger & Associés, Paris, France*

Speakers:

Sultan Al-Abdulla, *Managing Partner, Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Doha, Qatar*

Essam Al Tamimi, *Senior Partner, Al Tamimi & Co., UAE*

Mohamed Abdel Raouf, *Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Cairo, Egypt*

Ahmed Ouerfelli, *Former Judge, Tunis, Tunisia*

Hassan Ali Radhi, *Senior Partner, Hassan Radhi & Associates, Manama, Bahrain*

Karim A Youssef, *Partner and Head of Middle East Arbitration, Amereller Legal Consultants, Dubai, UAE and Cairo, Egypt*

11:20 - 11:40

Morning Coffee Break *Sponsored by Zu'bi and Partners, Attorneys and Legal Consultants, Bahrain*

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch Break
Sponsored by Al Tamimi & Company, Bahrain

14:30 - 17:30

Afternoon Session
How Should Arbitral Institutions Address Issues Pertaining to Conflicts of Interest?

Chairs:

William K. Slate II, *Former President and Chief Executive Officer, American Arbitration Association*
Loretta Malintoppi, *Of Counsel, Eversheds, Singapore*

Report Presented by: **Nassib G. Ziadé**, *Chief Executive Officer, BCDR-AAA, Manama, Bahrain*

Speakers:

Stefano Azzali, *Secretary-General, Milan Chamber of Arbitration, Milan, Italy*
Andrea Carlevaris, *Secretary-General, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris, France*
Hamid Gharavi, *Founding Partner, Derains & Gharavi, Paris, France*
Tarek Riad, *Chair, Executive Committee, Dubai International Arbitration Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates*
Hanno Wehland, *Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, Netherlands*

15:50 - 16:10

Afternoon Coffee Break
Sponsored by Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Attorneys at Law & Legal Consultants, Bahrain

17:30 - 18:00

Closing Session

Summary of Morning Session

Ahmed Husain, *Chief Registrar, BCDR-AAA*

Summary of Afternoon Session

Aysha Mutaywea, *Case Manager, BCDR-AAA*

Concluding Remarks

Richard Naimark, *Senior Vice President, ICDR/AAA*

Nassib G. Ziadé, *Chief Executive Officer, BCDR-AAA*

18:00 - 20:00

Evening Reception
Sponsored by Amin Law Firm, Bahrain

BCDR-AAA Ceremony and Dinner Honoring the Lifetime Achievement of Dr. Ahmed El-Kosheri



On the evening of Sunday 22 March 2015, the BCDR-AAA will be hosting a ceremony honoring the lifetime achievement of Dr. Ahmed El-Kosheri which will take place at Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture & Research in Muharraq, Bahrain. After the Ceremony, a dinner will take place in Bu Zaboon House in Muharraq.

The BCDR-AAA has reserved a limited number of seats for participants of the 13th Biennial IFCAI Conference who wish to attend this Ceremony and Dinner. Ticket price per person for the Dinner is US \$150. For more information, please contact ceremony@bcdr-aaa.org, or visit <http://www.bcdr-aaa.org/ceremony>.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Opening Speakers



H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ali Al Khalifa

Minister of Justice & Islamic Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain

Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa was appointed Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs in 2006. He was re-appointed Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf in November 2010. He held the office of Undersecretary at the Ministry of Justice since 2004, where he contributed to many projects related to the development of the judiciary and the improvement of justice services. During his career, he served as a judge from 1998 to 2003, and Public Prosecutor since the inception of Public Prosecution in 2003. He joined the Ministry of Justice in 1994 as Legal Researcher, and subsequently worked in the field of international judicial cooperation. He holds a Bachelor of Law from Cairo University (1991), a Masters in General Law and Criminology from Cairo University (1993), and a Masters in General International Law from Nottingham University, United Kingdom (1997). He is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, Bahrain, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Council for Judicial and Legal Studies, Amman, Jordan. He participated in many United Nations conferences on the International Criminal Court, human rights and the dialogue among civilizations. He contributed to many international and regional conferences in the field of justice. He was nominated by the Secretary-General of the Arab League in 2002 to serve as one of the Arab experts concerned with the exploration of avenues for prosecuting war criminals in the Occupied Territories. He wrote many research and work papers on criminal and international law and human rights.



Shaikha Haya Rashid Al Khalifa

Chair, Board of Trustees, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA)

Shaikha Haya is the principal and founding partner of Haya Rashed Al Khalifa Law Firm. Shaikha Haya was the vice chairwoman of the Arbitration Committee/ International Bar Association and the former counsel at the Bahrain Ministry of State for Legal Affairs. She has been admitted to the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court of Bahrain and is a member and was a former vice president of the Bahrain Bar Association. Shaikha Haya obtained a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Kuwait, a Diploma in Civil Rights Private Law from the University of Alexandria, Egypt, and a Diploma in Comparative Law from the University of Ain Shams, Egypt. Shaikha Haya was the first Bahraini woman Ambassador, as an Ambassador to France and a nonresident Ambassador to Belgium, Switzerland and Spain. She is also Bahrain's permanent delegate to UNESCO. She was elected as President of the 61st Session of the U.N in 2006/2007 General Assembly, becoming the third woman to hold the position. She received several awards, including the U.N. Millennium Development Goals Special Award, the Path to Peace Award and the Social Creativity Award from the Arab Thought Foundation. Shaikha Haya was a member of various international organizations including, the World Intellectual Property Organisation Arbitration Committee, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration. Currently Shaikha Haya has been the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution since 2010 and Chairperson of ICC National Committee in the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce. In 2014, Haya Al-Khalifa was independently endorsed by IFLR1000 as a leading lawyer in Bahrain in the practice areas of Banking and Finance, Capital Markets and Mergers and Acquisitions.



Diana Droulers

President, International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI)

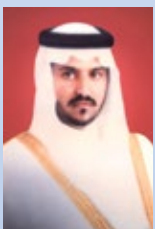
Mrs. Droulers is the Executive Director of the Arbitration Centre of the Caracas Chamber of Commerce. She is President of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), Vice President of the Venezuelan chapter of The Spanish Arbitration Club, member of the ICC International Arbitration Court and represents Venezuela in the Inter American Commercial Arbitration Commission (IACAC). At the arbitration Centre she has overseen more than 400 arbitration cases as well as more than 50 mediation cases. She has acted as a mediator and as an arbitrator in various cases under AAA and Uncitral rules, as well as independent mediations. She also acted as head of the ICC National Committee in Caracas for 8 years. She is a member of the "Arbitration Commission" and "Latin American Arbitration Group" at ICC. As President of IFCAI, she holds the observer status in UNCITRAL's working group II (arbitration), and is a member of the Institutional Arbitration Discussion group. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration and an ICCA member. She belongs to the arbitral women group. She has taught dispute resolution at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and the Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas and Heads the coaching faculty for teams from both for international competitions and has been published widely. She has also taught at the University of Versailles. She is a member of the Metropolitan Council of the City in Caracas, the Board of Directors of the Alliance Francaise in Caracas and the Fundación Francisco Herrera Luque. Mrs. Droulers has both Venezuelan and French citizenship and is fluent in Spanish, French and English.



India Johnson

President & Chief Executive Officer, American Arbitration Association (AAA)

Ms. Johnson is President and CEO of the AAA/ICDR. As Chief Executive Officer, she has responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the organization as well as strategic initiatives and she is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association as well. Ms. Johnson is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA), a member of the Council, the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), is on the board of trustees of the Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy, and is a member of Arbitral Women. Ms. Johnson has participated in numerous organizations and efforts supporting alternative dispute resolution and has assisted various state legislatures, courts and other organizations in learning about or implementing dispute resolution programs. She has made many presentations to business executives, advocates and neutrals regarding arbitration and mediation and has authored articles for both legal and business audiences. Over the years, Ms. Johnson has mediated a number of AAA arbitration cases and other cases to settlement and has also served on volunteer arbitrator panels on non-binding arbitrations of small-claims cases administered by other organizations. Ms. Johnson earned her B.A. from the University of Miami and an M.B.A. from Georgia State University.



H. H. Prince Dr. Bandar Bin Salman Bin Mohamed Al Saud

Honorary President of The G.C.C. Commercial Arbitration Centre (Dar Al-Karar), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

His Highness Prince Dr. Bandar Bin Salman Bin Mohammed Al Saud was the consultant of the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Highness King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may he rest in peace. His Highness also chaired the Saudi Arbitration Team, and is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Knowledge Economic City (KEC), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Supervisor for the higher education studies program designed for judges abroad. His Highness Prince Dr. Bandar is also the Honorary President of the Saudi lawyers, the Gulf (GCC) lawyers as well as the arbitration center in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Dr. Bandar is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague – Netherlands, a faculty member at the University of Oxford - United Kingdom and a member of King Abdul Aziz University - Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Highness Prince Dr. Bandar is the Saudi Representative at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – France, a key member of the International Law Association – London and a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs – London. His Highness initiated and organized various international private conferences and seminars, attended, participated and contributed in several conferences and seminars around the world. He also authored several articles and reports on various aspects of arbitration. His Highness Prince Dr. Bandar holds several memberships of various academies and international organizations and has initiated and developed numerous laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and holds international and regional accolades. Prince Dr. Bandar holds a Ph.D in International Law.

Morning Session Speakers



Ahmed Sadek El-Kosheri

Senior Partner, Kosheri Rashed & Riad, Cairo, Egypt

Ahmed Sadek El-Kosheri is the Senior Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm in Cairo, Egypt. He has participated in around one hundred arbitration cases over the last four decades, including the Aminoil case against Kuwait, the SPP Middle East/ Egypt case, the Taba case against Israel, and the sovereignty over the Islands and delimitation of the maritime boundary between Eritrea and Yemen. He is a former Judge ad hoc at the International Court of Justice (1992-1993); a former Professor of Law and President of Senghor University at Alexandria (1997-2003); a former Member of the UN “Redesign Panel” for the Reform of the internal judicial system (2006); a former Vice Chairman of the ICC International Court of Arbitration (1998-2009); a Member of the International Law Institute (since 1987); a former Member of the World Bank’s President list of ICSID Arbitrators and Conciliators (up until 15 September 2011); the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration and a Member of its Board of Trustees, and a Judge at the World Bank Administrative Tribunal (since January 2010).



Philippe Leboulanger

Senior Partner, Cabinet Leboulanger & Associés, Paris, France

Philippe Leboulanger is an Attorney called to the Paris Bar and a Lawyer at the Court of Appeal of Paris. His specialisations include international business law, litigation and arbitration. He was an Associate at Coudert Frères, 1974-1977. He has appeared as Counsel, and has been appointed as Co-Arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator and Chairman of Arbitral Tribunals in numerous international arbitrations (ICC, UNCITRAL, ICSID, CRCICA, LCIA, DIAC, CCJA – OHADA, Ad Hoc) concerning State Contracts, Construction, Sales, Distribution, Investments, Oil and Gas, Transfer of Technology, Joint-Ventures, etc. He is a member of various Panels including the ICC (French Committee) ; Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration – CRCICA (Vice- President, Advisory Committee, Member of the Board) ; Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) (Member of the Board of Trustees) ; London Court of International Arbitration ; Kuala Lumpur International Arbitration Centre (Malaysia); Vilnius International Commercial Arbitration (Lithuania) ; Dakar Arbitration Centre (Senegal) ; Madagascar Arbitration and Mediation Centre. Lecturer and visiting professor at various Universities, in Paris, Cairo and Bucharest, Mr Leboulanger is author of “Les contrats entre Etats et entreprises étrangères” and has written numerous articles and notes on international arbitration. He has spoken at various conferences and seminars in the UK, Europe, Africa, India, North and South America and the Middle East.



Sultan Al-Abdulla

Managing Partner, Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Doha, Qatar

Sultan Al-Abdulla’s professional career spans over a period of nearly 35 years. For the most part, he worked for the national oil company in Qatar (Qatar Petroleum) for more than 22 years, during which, he served in a number of positions. During his career with QP, he represented the government of the State of Qatar, QP and QP subsidiaries in numerous oil and gas transactions, usually as a lead negotiator. Since starting his private practice in 1999, he advised many governmental agencies, national and multinational corporations on corporate and commercial matters. He currently focuses on representing clients before judicial and arbitral tribunals in and outside Qatar. His work included serving as an arbitrator. Sultan has counseled, and negotiated on behalf of, local and multinational clients major business transactions and projects. As a litigator, he represents clients before all tiers of courts in Qatar up to the Court of Cassation, ranking in Band 1 for Dispute Resolution by Chambers and Partners. Holding a Bachelor of Laws degree from Beirut Arab University - Lebanon and a Master of Laws degree (International and Comparative Law) from Southern Methodist University - USA, he is an active member of the various Bar Associations including the International Bar Association.



Essam Al Tamimi

Senior Partner, Al Tamimi & Co., UAE

Essam Al Tamimi has over 29 years of experience in litigation and dispute resolution in the UAE and the GCC counties. In 1989, he established what is now the largest firm in the Middle East, Al Tamimi & Company and currently holds the position of Senior Partner at the firm. He has been involved in drafting a number of laws and regulations and has assisted federal and local governments in drafting laws and regulations. Mr. Al Tamimi has extensive experience in advising clients as well as sitting as an arbitrator and appearing as co-counsel in a number of matters in the GCC. He has acted as counsel and sat as arbitrator at a number of disputes regionally and internationally. He is on the ICC Court, serving as Chairman of the ICC UAE Commission on Arbitration, as well as a member of various international ADR courts and associations. He is actively involved in development of arbitration laws in the region. Essam has published a number of articles and books on litigation and arbitration in the UAE and setting up business in the region. He is on the editorial board of a number of prestigious publications.



Mohamed Abdel Raouf

Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Cairo, Egypt

Dr. Abdel Raouf is the Director of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) and Lecturer on international commercial arbitration at the various renowned Universities; He is a non-practicing Attorney at law a Abdel Raouf Law Firm, specializing in international commercial arbitration and ADR as well as in commercial, business and investment laws. He is a holder of a Ph.D. in private law from the University of Montpellier I, France in addition to a number of high qualifications from various reputable universities. He was a member of arbitral tribunals in numerous domestic and international commercial arbitrations and also as counsel, for private and public entities, including the Egyptian government, in many international arbitrations. He is the author and co-author of several legal publications on arbitration. He is Vice President and member in various international ADR associations, a CEDR Accredited Mediator, a Resource Person in International Investment Agreements and Investment Disputes, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), an Expert in ISDS, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an Arbitrator listed in the Panel of Arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), an Approved Faculty List Tutor and Assessor at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB) and a member of the Editorial Board of a number of prestigious ADR specialized publications.



Ahmed Ouerfelli

Former Judge, Tunis, Tunisia

Born in Essers (Tunisia) on 23/11/1970, Ahmed Ouerfelli graduated in business law (1993) and got the Master degree in private law (1995) and graduated from the High Institute for the Judiciary (1995). He served as judge in the Court of First Instance of Ariana (1995-1997) then in the Tunis Court of Appeal (the First President's Section). Since 2000, he was appointed as researcher judge in the Center of Legal and Judicial Studies, specialized in business law. In September 2014, he resigned from his position as magistrate. Since March 2011, he was the Legal advisor in chief to the President of the Republic of Tunisia, until 15 February 2015. Ahmed Ouerfelli served as arbitrator and mediator in several commercial cases. He is counsel for the Tunisian government in two ICSID arbitrations. He is arbitrator at the Tunisian National Committee for Sport Arbitration (CNAS). He Chaired the National League of Professional Football (2012). He taught civil law, fiscal law, arbitration law and international trade law at Tunisian Law schools and high Institutes. Author of three books on the Tunisian arbitration law (domestic and international) and other books on company law and tax law. He published more than 70 articles in different fields, mainly arbitration law, in more than 13 countries, in Arabic, English and French.



Hassan Ali Radhi

Senior Partner, Hassan Radhi & Associates, Manama, Bahrain

Hassan Ali Radhi, Senior Partner of Hassan Radhi & Associates LLB from University of Mohammed V. Rabat, Morocco and PhD in Law from University of London. Licensed to practice as attorney before all levels of Bahrain Courts. He practices in various areas such as Banking & Finance, Commercial, Insurance, Maritime and Contract Law. As a practicing arbitrator in ad-hoc and institutional arbitration, he has handled numerous domestic and international commercial arbitrations as counsel or arbitrator which include arbitrations under ICC, LCIA and GCC Arbitration Centre as co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator or chairman of arbitral tribunals. He was awarded Best Lawyer in Bahrain by World Finance-London 2012. He is currently a Council Member of the Institute of World Business of International Chamber of Commerce and the ICC Commission on Arbitration (ICC –Paris); a former member of LCIA Court and Vice Chairman of its Arab Users Council of LCIA; a former member of the Board of Trustees of the BCDR/ AAA; former Co-Chairman of the Arab Forum of the International Bar Association and former President of the Bahrain Bar Association. He is a Professorial associate at the University of London (SOAS) 2007-2009, a Former lecturer at the University of Bahrain and the BIBF and a member of the Editorial Board of the Arab Law Quarterly Bulletin London.



Karim A Youssef

Partner and Head of Middle East Arbitration, Amereller Legal Consultants, Dubai, UAE and Cairo, Egypt

Karim A. Youssef is a partner of Amereller Legal Consultants. He heads the firms' international arbitration practice. Karim is also associate professor of private and international law at the Cairo University School of Law. Karim acts and has acted as counsel, party-appointed or presiding arbitrator in numerous international arbitrations under the rules of the ICC, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), the DIAC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, and the ICSID. Karim also provided Egyptian and Arab laws opinions and testified as expert in a number of arbitral and foreign court proceedings relating to the Middle East. Dr. Karim is also member of the High Committee for Arbitration established under the auspices of the Council of Ministers of Egypt. Dr. Karim's memberships include: the board of directors of the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre (Dubai); the Board of Reporters of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) for Egypt; and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Arab Arbitration. Karim was educated at Yale Law School, where he received LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees, the University of Paris and the University of Cairo. During his time at Yale, Karim was a Howard Holtzmann Yale Fellow in International Dispute Resolution. Karim is fluent in English, French and Arabic, and has basic knowledge of Italian and Spanish.

Afternoon Session Speakers



William K. Slate II

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, American Arbitration Association

Bill is the Chairman and CEO of Dispute Resolution Data; an arbitrator; and served as a Senior Visiting Fellow at Duke University Law School; Past President and CEO of the American Arbitration Association; for 14 years he served as a member of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Working Group and the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law. He has authored 42 articles and book chapters on arbitration, mediation, data, and culture in international conflict management. He has also authored and edited 7 amicus curiae briefs filed with the Supreme Court of the United States on a range of arbitration issues from 1995 - 2012. He has been honored by numerous judicial and legal entities including the 3rd and 4th Federal Circuits, the Virginia State Bar, and the University of Richmond which presented him its Outstanding Alumni Award. The Brazilian National Institute of Mediation and Arbitration awarded him the Hora ao Merito.



Loretta Malintoppi

Of Counsel, Eversheds, Singapore

Loretta Malintoppi is Of Counsel in the Singapore Office of Eversheds LLP. She holds a law degree from Rome University and an LLM in Common Law Studies from Georgetown University Law Centre. Ms Malintoppi is dually-qualified (Paris and Rome Bars) and specializes in international arbitration, both commercial and investment arbitration, and in public international law. She has acted as counsel, advocate and arbitrator in a number of arbitrations regarding disputes arising out of international commercial contracts and has represented private companies, States and State entities in UNCITRAL, ICC and ICSID proceedings. Ms Malintoppi has appeared as counsel and advocate before the International Court of Justice and has also represented states in ad hoc public international law arbitrations. She was a Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and is currently a Vice- President of the ICC Court. Ms Malintoppi has written a number of articles on investment arbitration and State-to-State litigation. She is also a member of the Editorial Board in a number of leading litigation and arbitration publications. Ms Malintoppi is regarded by the legal directory Chambers Global as a leading individual in international arbitration.



Nassib G. Ziadé

Chief Executive Officer, BCDR-AAA, Manama, Bahrain

Nassib G. Ziadé is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) and the General Editor of the *BCDR International Arbitration Review*. Previously, he served as Director of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), as Deputy Secretary-General (and Acting Secretary-General) of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and as Executive Secretary of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal. He is a member of the Court of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and a Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA). He is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), a member of the Panels of Arbitrators and Conciliators of ICSID, and a Council member of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI). He has published extensively in the fields of international law and arbitration law and is a frequent speaker at international conferences on a wide range of legal topics. He has taught at the University of Miami School of Law, at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, at the Hague Academy of International Law, and at the Paris Academy for International Law. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge, a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, and a member of the editorial advisory committees of several law journals.



Stefano Azzali

Secretary General, Milan Chamber of Arbitration, Milan, Italy

Stefano Azzali is a lawyer graduated at the Genoa University - School of Law, and is the Secretary General of the Milan Chamber of Arbitration (CAM), a special branch of the Milan Chamber of Commerce specialized in commercial dispute resolution. CAM provides ADR services such as arbitration, mediation, online mediation, domain names disputes, and contributes to furthering the knowledge and promotion of the ADR culture through its training activities as well as its Studies and Documentation Centre. Stefano Azzali also acts as Secretary Treasurer of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI) and as Secretary General of the Italy-China Mediation Center. Since 2005, he is Visiting Professor of Arbitration Law at Bocconi University - School of Law in Milan and, since 2012, he is Fellow at the Centre for Transnational Litigation and Commercial Law, New York University, School of Law.

From 2001 to 2007 he chaired the Disciplinary Commission of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), where he is now member of its Federal Court of Justice. Author of articles and publications on arbitration, he is member of the panel of arbitrators before various arbitral institutions (ICDR, VIAC, CIETAC etc.) and delegate for Italy for the Uncitral Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation); he acted as arbitrator in several institutional proceedings (ICDR Rules, DIS Rules, Swiss Chambers Rules etc).



Andrea Carlevaris

Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris, France

Before joining ICC, Mr Carlevaris was a partner in the Rome office of Bonelli Erede Pappalardo. His practice covered international arbitration, judicial proceedings involving issues of public international law, conflicts of law and international civil procedure. Mr Carlevaris was a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and of the ICC Commission on Arbitration. Prior to Bonelli Erede Pappalardo, Mr Carlevaris was counsel at the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Mr Carlevaris is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Arbitration Commission of the Union internationale des Avocats (UIA) and of the Board of Directors of the Italian Association for Arbitration (AIA). He is one of the founders of the Italian Forum on International Arbitration and ADR (ArbIt). Mr Carlevaris graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rome (La Sapienza), where he received a doctorate in international law in 1998. Mr Carlevaris is the author of numerous articles and of a monograph on conservatory and provisional measures in international arbitration.



Hamid Gharavi

Founding Partner, Derains & Gharavi, Paris, France

Dr. Hamid Gharavi, co-founding Partner of the Paris based arbitration firm Derains & Gharavi, is a member of the Paris & New York Bars. A French-Iranian national, Dr. Gharavi acted as counsel in over 100 and as arbitrator in over 50 ad hoc and institutional commercial arbitrations as well as under bilateral and multilateral investment treaties. This includes representation in investment landmark cases such as the first award ever of moral damages in favor of an investor under a BIT (DLP v. Yemen, ICSID Case No. ARB/05/17), an award in favor of an investor finding public tender results to be in violation of a BIT (Joseph Charles Lemire v. Ukraine, ICSID Case No. ARB/06/18), an award in favor of a Turkish State-controlled company for expropriation of its shares by the host State's judiciary for the benefit of a third private party (Rumeli/Telsim v. Kazakhstan, ICSID Case No. ARB/05/16), an award in favor of the Republic of Albania dismissing for the first time ever a case based on a fork-in-the-road provision of a BIT (Pantehniki S.A. Contractors & Engineers v. Republic of Albania, ICSID Case No. ARB/07/21) another award in favor of the Republic of Albania dismissing the claim for lack of jurisdiction *ratione materiae* and *personae* (Burimi S.r.l. & Eagle Games Sh.a. v. Republic of Albania, ICSID Case No. ARB/11/18), an award in favor of a French investor ordering for the first time specific performance (Mr. Franck Charles Arif v. Republic of Moldova, ICSID Case No. ARB/11/23), and an award in favor of the Republic of Turkey dismissing the largest ICSID claim ever (19 billion USD) (Saba Fakes v. Republic of Turkey, ICSID Case No. ARB/07/20). His experience also includes arbitration administered by DIAC, the Cairo Regional Centre and Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre, as well as ad-hoc and other institutional arbitrations involving Parties and/or venues located in most Middle Eastern countries. He is a former Court Member of the LCIA and an appointee of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators. Dr. Gharavi is the author of a number of publications on arbitration and of the book "The International Effectiveness of the Annulment of an Award" published by Kluwer.



Tarek Riad

Chair, Executive Committee, Dubai International Arbitration Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Professor Tarek Riad is the Managing Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm, one of the leading practitioners of commercial law and arbitration in Egypt. Professor Riad has an LLB (1980) from Cairo Law School in addition to an LLM (1982) and SJD (1985) from Harvard Law School. Dr. Riad has been a member of the Egyptian Bar and a member of New York Bar. Professor Riad is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Alternate Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, and member of the Scientific Council of the ICC World Business Law Institute. In addition to being professor and the head of the Business and Commercial Law Department at the German University in Cairo. Professor Riad has acted as Counsel, Co-arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator and Chairman in numerous commercial arbitration proceedings under the rules of the ICC, DIAC, CRAC, ADCCAC, and UNCITRAL. Professor Riad has written numerous publications including two books entitled *The Applicable Law in Transnational Arbitration* and *Egyptian Companies Law*, in addition to many articles about arbitration and the legal aspects of doing business in Egypt.



Hanno Wehland

Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, Netherlands

Dr. Hanno Wehland is a Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, where he deals primarily with arbitral proceedings involving States, in particular investment treaty arbitrations. He has previously practiced in the London offices of Herbert Smith Freehills and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr as well as the Paris office of Eversheds, and has extensive experience of both investment treaty and commercial arbitration proceedings. He holds law degrees from the University of Geneva (PhD), University College London (LLM) and Humboldt University Berlin, and is qualified to practice in Germany. Dr. Wehland is the author of a book on *The Coordination of Multiple Proceedings in Investment Treaty Arbitration* (Oxford University Press, 2013) as well as a range of articles on international arbitration issues. He also practices in French, German and Spanish.

Closing Session Speakers



Ahmed Husain

Chief Registrar, BCDR-AAA

Ahmed Husain is the Chief Registrar and Assistant Chief Executive for Arbitration at the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA). He served as a Supervisor in the Research and Legal affairs Directorate at the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) and its Ex-Court Representative. He has practiced law and was admitted before the Cassation Court in Bahrain. He was also a board member of the Bahrain Bar Society (Secretary-General of the Bar 2007 -2009), the National Commission for Evaluation Academic Degrees (NCEAD), and National Commission for Childhood. His international memberships include the International Bar Association (IBA), the International Association of Lawyers - Union Internationale de Avocats (UIA) and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb). He earned his BA in Law from the Islamic Jurisprudence and Law Faculty at Al Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt in 1987, and carries a Middle Management Diploma from the University of Bahrain, in 1992. In addition, he also holds an MCIArb status from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is a regular keynote speaker at regional and international ADR events and is considered central to the promotion of ADR in the region.



Aysha Mutaywea

Case Manager, BCDR-AAA

Aysha Mutaywea is currently the Acting Senior Case Manager for arbitration in the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution. She administers various types of cases in litigation, arbitration and mediation proceedings, in the capacity of case manager as well as tribunal secretary. She has been the secretary of tribunal to judges as well as arbitrators. She has worked on a wide range of cases such as Banking, Finance, Investment, Insurance, Construction, Real Estate and Employment, with a special focus on International Commercial Cases. A Law Graduate from the Applied Science university (ASU) and a licensed attorney in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Aysha also holds a High Diploma from the Chartered Managers Institute (UK) in Advanced Leadership and Management. She was trained in both arbitration and mediation by the ICDR (International Centre for Dispute Resolution) which is based in New York. Prior to her work with the BCDR-AAA, Aysha was a litigation lawyer practicing in Bahrain Jurisdiction. A member of many legal and professional organizations like Young and International (ICDR), Young ICCA, Moot Alumni Association, International Bar Association (IBA), American Bar Association (ABA), ICC - Y&A Young Arbitrators, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB), international lawyers union among others. Aysha has given a number of presentations on various issues, with a special focus on domestic and international arbitration.



Richard Naimark

Senior Vice President, International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) / American Arbitration Association (AAA)

Richard W. Naimark is Senior Vice President of American Arbitration Association in charge of International of the International Center for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). He is the founder and former Executive Director of the Global Center for Dispute Resolution Research which conducted research in arbitration and ADR for disputes in cross-border transactions. Mr. Naimark is an experienced mediator and facilitator, having served as a neutral in a wide variety of organizational settings. Experience includes work with the United Nations (UNCITRAL); government; universities; corporate; construction; computer; real estate; land use; insurance; and non-profit subject areas.



Nassib G. Ziadé

Chief Executive Officer, BCDR-AAA, Manama, Bahrain

(See speaker biography in the afternoon session)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registrations must be made online at <http://www.bcdr-aaa.org/ifcai>.
All enquiries to ifcai@bcd-aaa.org

DATE AND VENUE

Monday, 23 March 2015
Al Ghazal Ballroom
The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa
Al Seef District
Kingdom of Bahrain
Phone: +973 1758 0000

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Registration (on or before 15 March 2015)
US \$400 (per participant)
Regular Registration
US \$500 (per participant)

The registration fees include conference materials, breakfast, lunch, and evening reception, as well as snacks and refreshments.

ENTRY VISA

Delegates can apply for an Entry Visa to Bahrain directly via <https://www.evisa.gov.bh/>. Hotels in Bahrain provide visa assistance at a nominal fee for guests who will be staying in the same hotel. You may contact the hotels directly for this service.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

1. Debit or Credit Card online at <http://www.bcdr-aaa.org/en/events/the-13th-biennial-ifcai-conference/conference-registration-form/>
2. Bank Transfer to the following account (to be made after completing the online registration):
Account Name: Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution
Account IBAN: BH48 BBKU 0010 0000 2874 93
Swift Code: BBKUBHBM
Bank Name: Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait
The sender bears all the costs.

CANCELLATION

Should you need to cancel your registration, a refund of 50% of the fee is available if a notice of cancellation, in writing, is received by BCDR-AAA either by e-mail at aishaq@bcd-aaa.org or on our fax number +973-17-511300, on or before 15 March 2015. We regret that no refunds can be made after that date. However, the registration may be transferred to another person of the same institution or company at no extra charge.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Special room rates are available from 21 March until 25 March 2015 at the hotels listed below. You may contact the hotel directly (referencing to IFCAI Conference) for assistance in booking rooms at the reduced rates.

Hotel Name	Contact Person	Room Rates
The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa	Mr. Prakash Ramaiah <i>Group Reservations Coordinator</i> Direct : +973 1758 6870 Facsimile : +973 1758 0627 Email: rc.bahrz.group.reservations@ritz-carlton.com	Deluxe Room BHD 83++ (Single) BHD 116++ (Double) Includes complimentary breakfast Club Room BHD 150++ (Single) BHD 150++ (Double) Includes complimentary breakfast, club access and free internet
Westin Bahrain City Centre	Ms. Ilham Almai <i>Complex Sales Manager</i> Direct : +973 1717 1405 Facsimile : +973 1717 1555 Mobile : +973 3838 1433 Email: Ilhame.Almai@starwoodhotels.com	Deluxe Room BHD 90++ (Single) BHD 95++ (Double) Executive Room BHD 105++ (Single) BHD 120++ (Double) Both room categories include complimentary breakfast and internet
Le Méridien Bahrain City Centre	Ms. Ilham Almai <i>Complex Sales Manager</i> Direct : +973 1717 1405 Facsimile : +973 1717 1555 Mobile : +973 3838 1433 Email: ilham.almal@starwoodhotels.com	Superior Room BHD 70++ (Single) BHD 75++ (Double) Club Room BHD 85++ (Single) BHD 100++ (Double) Both room categories include complimentary breakfast and internet



Places to Visit in Bahrain

Please visit the **Bahrain Ministry of Culture website** for more places

Source: Bahrain Ministry of Culture website

Qal'at al-Bahrain Site and Museum

Hours of operation: Tuesday to Sunday (closed Monday) 8am - 8pm

Entrance fee: 500 fils

Free guided tours (prior booking advised)

Free trilingual audio guides for the visit of the site can be collected at the museum's information desk
Seaside Museum Café:

Open daily from 8am - 10pm

For further information please call:

17567170- 17567171- 17567177

qab_sitemuseum@moc.gov.bh



Known as Dilmun in ancient times, Bahrain's rich trading history is reflected in numerous archaeological digs around the island. Qal'at al-Bahrain site (Bahrain Fort site) is among the most exciting of these and is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fort is located atop a 17.5 hectare artificial hill that has been built while enduring over 4,000 years of continuous occupation. It is also the site of the former capital of Dilmun and is one of the most prolific archaeological digs in the Arabian Gulf. Excavations over the past 50 years have revealed residential, public, commercial, and military structures that testify to the importance of the location over the centuries. Open to the public since 2008, the site museum display area consists of 5 exhibition halls organized around the massive Tell Wall with over 500 artifacts showcased and many interesting layers of its historical legacy revealed, which is further highlighted with the use of the available audio guides. Additionally, a seaside café offers a stunning view of the fort and the surrounding palm groves.



Old Houses of Muharraq Muharraq

Hours of operation:

Shaikh Isa Bin Ali House:

Sunday to Tuesday, 8am - 2pm; Wednesday to Saturday, 9am - 6pm;

Friday, 3pm - 6pm

Shaikh Ebrahim Center:

Saturday to Thursday, 9am - 1pm and 4pm - 7pm

For further information please call: +97317322549

Muharraq, the former capital of Bahrain, is known for its cultural contributions through the many restored traditional Bahraini houses that can be found amidst the narrow lanes and byways. The Sheikh Isa bin Ali House is Bahrain's most impressive example of Gulf Islamic architecture featuring four courtyards, beautifully carved wooden doors, and perforated gypsum panels. The Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research provides an important insight into several particularly interesting aspects of Bahrain's heritage. From embroidery at Kurar House to a splendid showcase of Bahrain's pearling history at the Bin Matar House, the former home of a renowned pearl merchant, the various houses reflect Sheikh Ebrahim Center's commitment towards preservation of both traditional architecture and history.

The collection of houses includes the Sheikh Ebrahim Lecture Hall, Iqra Children's Library, Heraf al Diyar, Nukhida House (the first house to be restored along the Pearling Path), Kurar House, Abdullah al Zayed House, Bin Matar House, Bu Zaboon House and Mohammed bin Faris House. Each building showcases different aspects of Bahrain's rich heritage.

Hosting regular art exhibitions and film screenings in the old city is Maison Jamsheer, another example of the traditional courtyard houses, which is situated a stone's throw away from Sheikh Ebrahim Center.

Suq Al Qaisariya Muharraq

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012

Suq al Qaisariya is one of the oldest sections of the Muharraq Suq and offers a charming shopping experience that every visitor and resident of Bahrain should enjoy. Currently undergoing extensive restoration work by the Ministry of Culture, the first phase of the project (which has been completed) features a number of renovated shops selling a variety of products ranging from pearls to spices and tea, as well as a traditional café – café Zaafaran – arranged around a number of historic madbassahs.

Since antiquity Bahrain has been famed for its natural pearls which were highly sought after for their unique color and luster (the result of forming at the confluence between fresh underwater springs and the salty sea). Cultured pearls are banned in Bahrain and every pearl purchased locally comes with a certificate of authenticity.

Suq al Qaisariya is an integral component of the “Pearling, Testimony of an Island” project. This Pearling Path is approximately 2 miles long and describes the unique story of pearling in Bahrain and its physical testimony. Designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2012, this path can be traversed in order to discover and experience the different elements of the overall narrative.



Bahrain National Theatre Sheikh Hamad Causeway, East Corniche

The exquisitely designed Bahrain National Theater is the first national theater in the Kingdom and one of its cultural icons. Located between the sea and the Bahrain National Theater lake, the shimmering edifice symbolizes the link between land and sea. Its intricately woven ceiling is inspired by the ceilings of traditional Bahraini homes, with crisscrossing aluminum slats that allow light and air to pass through.

Inside, the auditorium’s modern and delicate curves contrast with its elm-covered walls to resemble pearling dhows. In fact, its entire design draws heavily from the country’s sailing traditions, with a surrounding courtyard that stretches to the sea’s edge, making the entire building look as if it is floating on water. Rising from the top of the building is a golden architectural element that illuminates the center of the glass façade.

The Bahrain National Theater, the third largest theater in the Arab world, can accommodate 1,001 people, an homage to the tales of 1,001 Arabian Nights. Sprawled over 11,869 square meters, the theater, in addition to the main auditorium and two balconies, also houses a smaller auditorium that can seat 100 people, as well as a café in front of the sea. The theater is the place to go to watch top global musical and theatrical shows, or just to admire its amazing architectural design.



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