

Annual Report

2023

设计时代





ADR Connecting the World



Dr. Walid Abanumay

Chairman
Chairman and board member of various national & international companies



Mr. Toby Landau KC

Vice Chairman
Member of Duxton Hill Chambers



Prof. Georges Affaki

Lawyer, Independent Arbitrator and Professor of Law
University of Paris



Ms. Abby Cohen Smutny

Global Head of International Arbitration Practice
White & Case



Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf

Head of the international Arbitration Group
Abdel Raouf Law Firm



Dr. Saud Al-Ammari

Lawyer and Independent Arbitrator
Saud Al-Ammari Law Firm



Mr. Sulyman Al-Majed

Chairman and board member of various of national and foreign companies



Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajlan

Partner, Head of Litigation & Dispute Resolution
AS&H Law Firm



Mr. Abdullah Al-Hashim

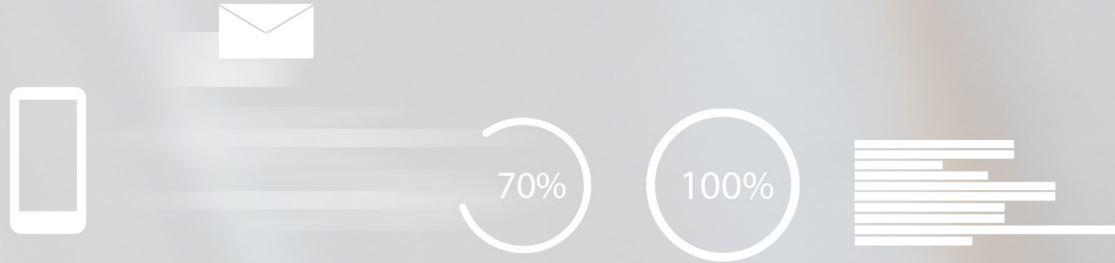
Managing Partner
Al-Jadaan & Partner Law Firm



Dr. Ali Al-Sowailam

Founder and Managing Partner
The Saudi Office, Lawyers & Consultants

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Remarks from the Chairman





Dr. Walid Abanumay



SCCA's appointment as the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the CLOUT Network, its first participation in major international arbitration weeks, the inaugural Riyadh International Disputes Resolution Week (RIDW), and the publication of its revised SCCA Arbitration Rules—all these milestones reflect SCCA's growing international presence in the commercial dispute settlement industry last year.

The SCCA's caseload has continued to grow in 2023, both in the number of cases and the diversity of parties and sectors. The number of cases received increased by 64% compared to the previous year. To address this, SCCA launched its second version of the arbitration rules in May of last year, incorporating the best international standards and practices in the industry.

Last year, SCCA shifted from merely receiving and listening to actively engaging with and enriching the industrial community. It was appointed as the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the CLOUT network and became a member of its steering committee.

Evidence of SCCA's active international presence over the past year is its participation in four major international arbitration weeks: Paris Arbitration Week, London International Disputes Week, China Arbitration Week, and Dubai Arbitration Week. SCCA's involvement

included both organizing events and speaking at others, aimed at introducing practitioners and stakeholders to the Kingdom's industry developments and SCCA's latest services tailored to various business sectors.

The most significant development in this regard is SCCA's initiative to secure a place for KSA on the annual calendar of international arbitration weeks. Recognizing that the Kingdom has something to tell the ADR industry worldwide—especially in light of its major development projects and comprehensive growth—the Riyadh International Dispute Resolution Week (RIDW) was launched in June of last year. This event serves as a global platform, bringing together stakeholders from the dispute resolution ecosystem worldwide to explore opportunities within the largest economy in MENA.

The inaugural edition of the Riyadh International Dispute Resolution Week (RIDW) will take place from March 3–7 next year. We are confident that this event, starting with its first edition, will become a regional hub attracting industry leaders, organizations, and enthusiasts from around the globe, who will witness the remarkable development renaissance underway in the Kingdom. In the meantime, we invite you to explore SCCA's achievements throughout 2023 in the pages of this report. Welcome!

Remarks from the CEO





Dr. Hamed Merah



The past year marked a continuation of SCCA's expansionist approach, guided by the principle of proactively reaching out to users rather than waiting for them to come. Based in Riyadh, SCCA now serves its customers from new offices in Jeddah and Dubai, which opened last year, following the establishment of the Buraidah repetitiveness office in Al Qassim region in 2022.

This operational expansion is reflected in SCCA's growing caseload, particularly in arbitration cases, which numbered 46 last year. The diversity of nationalities involved in these cases also increased to 10. Notably, last year saw the registration of SCCA's first arbitration case involving two foreign parties, underscoring its rising presence in the international arbitration arena.

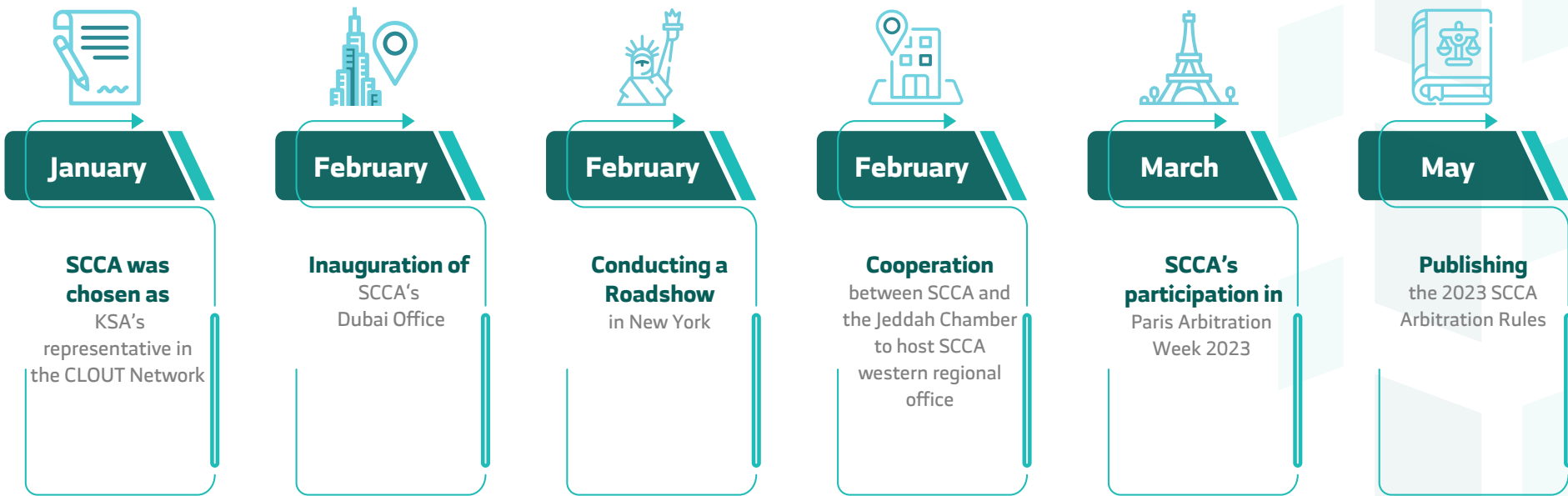
In line with this expansion, SCCA published its revised arbitration rules, a project entrusted to 16 international experts who dedicated 20 months to drafting the chapters and articles. The new Rules received widespread, favorable publicity across the local and international arbitration community, including in-depth reviews in well-known ADR industry publications and from over 16 international law firms.

As a result of the revised rules, the SCCA Court was empowered, which includes 15 international experts

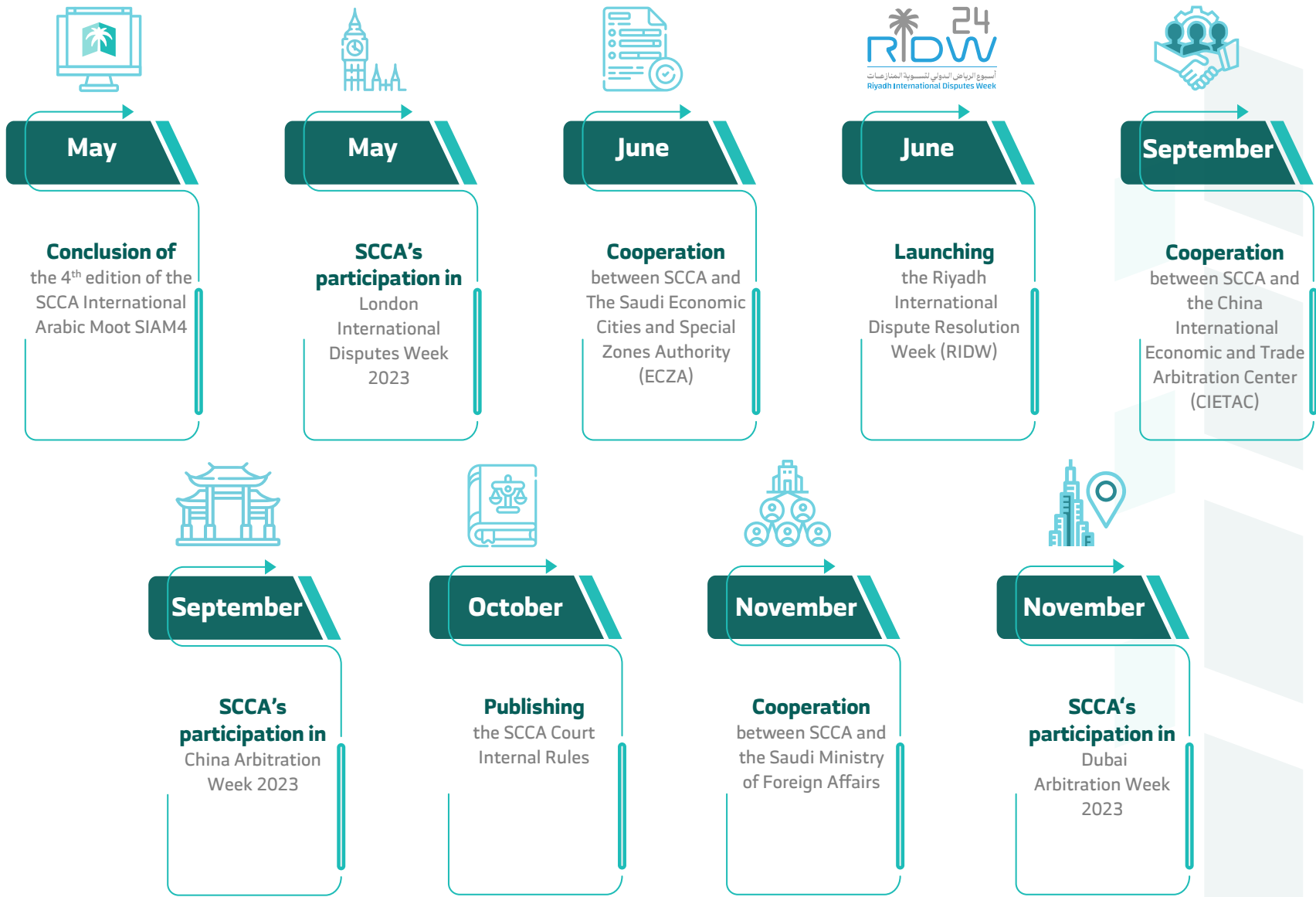
Last year, we conducted 70 meetings and visits with entities across government, private, and diplomatic sectors. This proactive communication approach led to the signing of four cooperation agreements with local and international partners. Notably, we established a local agreement with tThe Saudi Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority (ECZA), providing a procedural framework for alternative dispute resolution services in Saudi Arabia's special economic zones. Additionally, we formed an international agreement with the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), outlining mutual support for arbitration cases managed by both parties, among other collaborative efforts.

The year 2023 was also marked by numerous events involving SCCA, either through organization or participation. We engaged in 50 events, with significant involvement in four international arbitration weeks, placing SCCA at the forefront of global industry gatherings. As a highlight of this engagement, SCCA initiated the launch of the Riyadh International Dispute Resolution Week (RIDW), establishing it as an annual platform for major industry players to dialogue and collaborate on issues related to commercial and investment arbitration, mediation, reconciliation, litigation, and the rule of law.

The achievements continue to serve as a testament to SCCA's annual report for 2023.



2023



Achievements



SCCA Publishes 2023 Arbitration Rules

SCCA announces the publication of its revised SCCA Arbitration Rules following an extensive review of the Rules and public consultation process, and the approval of the final text by the SCCA's Board of Directors.

Read more:



Release of SCCA Court Internal Rules

To further promote transparency, SCCA has published the SCCA Court Internal Rules, which cover several aspects of the SCCA Court's work, including its composition and the appointment of members, the powers and functions entrusted to it.

Read more:



SCCA represents Saudi Arabia on UN's CLOUT Steering Committee

SCCA was appointed as the official representative of Saudi Arabia for UNCITRAL's legal database, the Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts (CLOUT) system, and a member of the recently inaugurated CLOUT Steering Committee.

Read more:





Participation in International Arbitration Weeks

SCCA participated in many international weeks of arbitration and dispute resolution, organizing events in some of them and speaking in others. The number of weeks reached four: Paris Arbitration Week, London Dispute Resolution Week, China Arbitration Week, and Dubai Arbitration Week.

Read more:



Riyadh International Disputes Week Coming Up

Heralding the advanced level of development Saudi Arabia has achieved both in its legislative and legal environment and its dispute resolution system, SCCA announced the launch of Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW).

Read more:



SCCA and ECZA Collaborate to Provide the ADR Services

SCCA has concluded a cooperation agreement with The Saudi Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority (ECZA). The agreement serves as a procedural framework for providing ADR services in special economic zones.

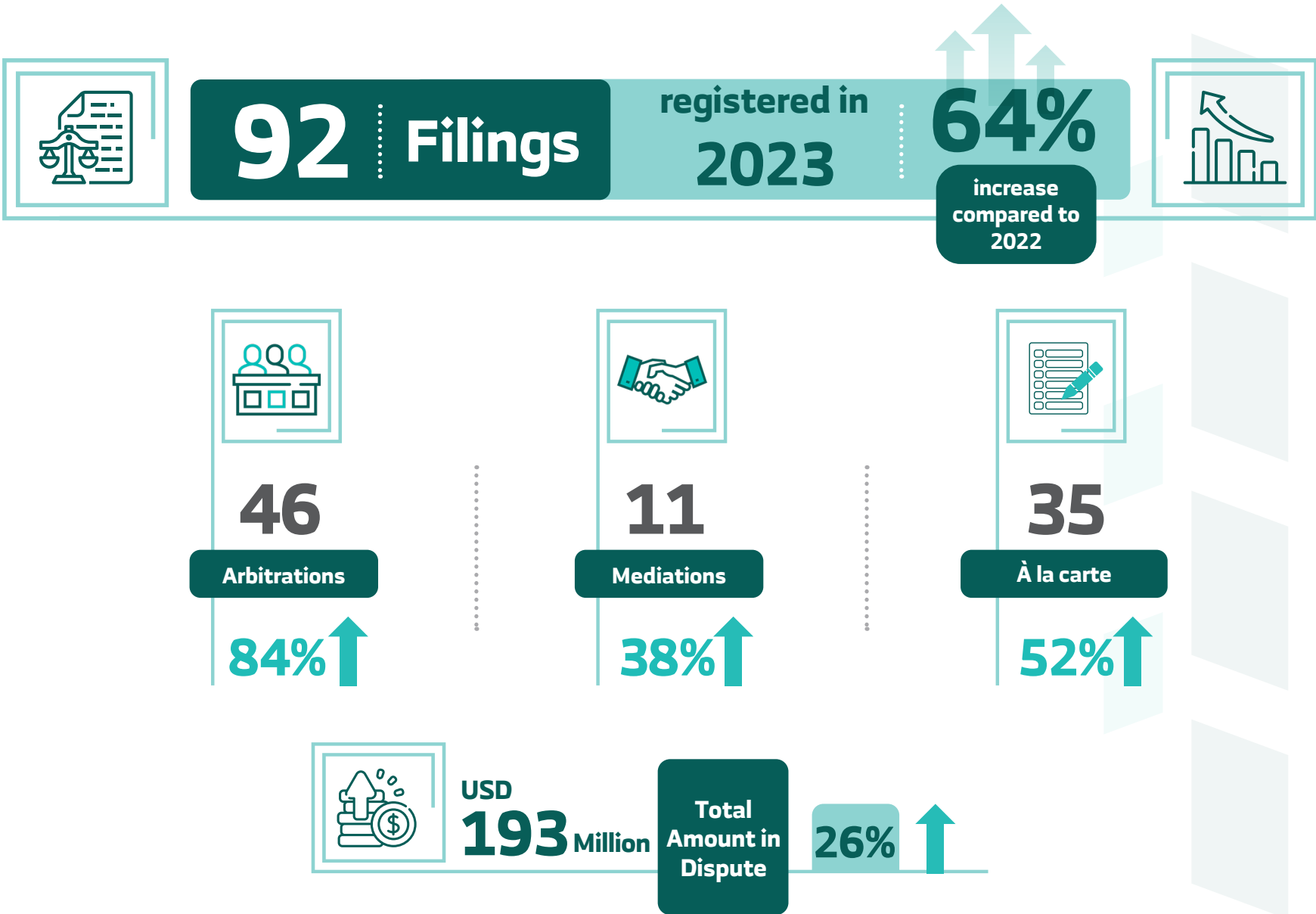
Read more:



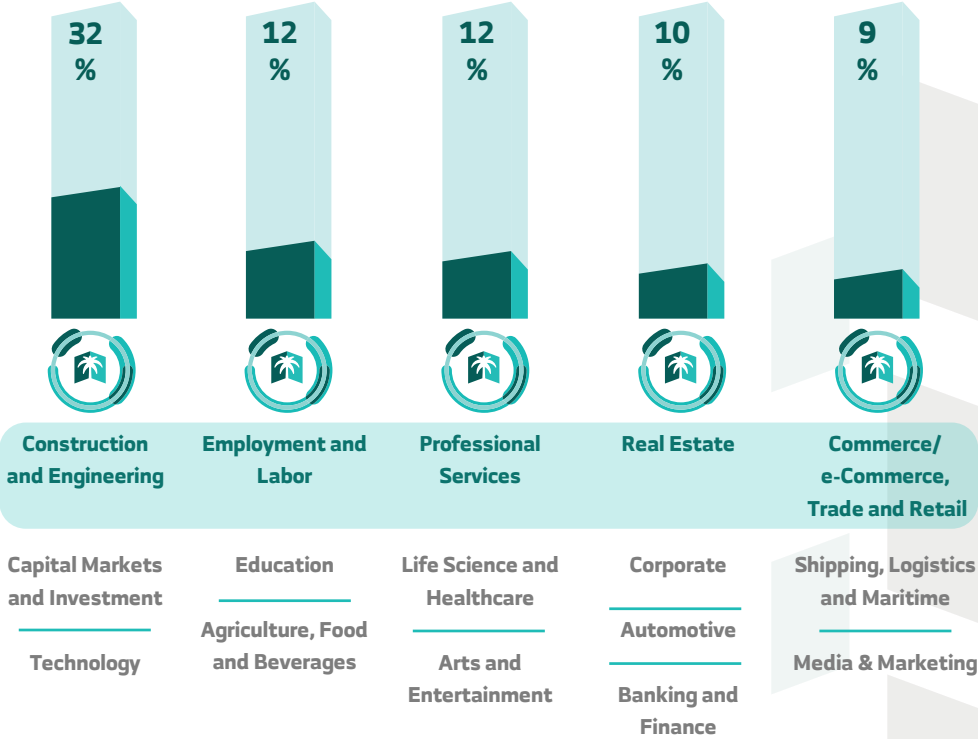
Caseload

1

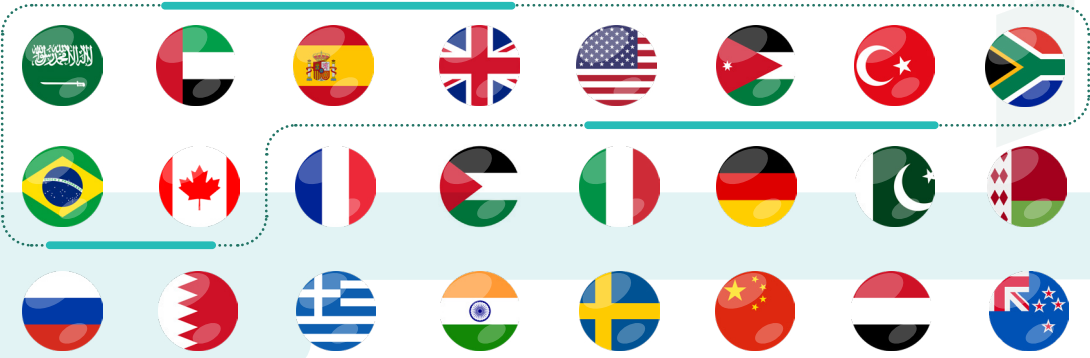




16 Industries
represented in SCCA caseload



10 Nationalities
represented in SCCA caseload



Total of 24 nationalities since launch

**Business
Development**

2



Communication and Collaboration

with the ADR Community and Relevant Government Agencies

SCCA continued its communication efforts both locally and internationally, engaging with businesses across various commercial sectors, diverse ADR institutions, and relevant government agencies. This initiative aims to enhance the benefits of SCCA’s ADR services for business sectors and to advance efforts to empower the industry in KSA and abroad.



70 Meetings and visits



36
Public Sector



18
Private Sector



16
Diplomatic and International Organizations

Business Meetings



Public sector



Financial

SAUDI EXIM
بنك التصدير والاستيراد السعودي

الصندوق الصناعي
SIDF

SAUDI EXIM
بنك التصدير والاستيراد السعودي

الصندوق الصناعي
SIDF



Commerce and investment

وزارة التجارة
Ministry of Commerce

وزارة الاستثمار
Ministry of Investment

هيئة المدن والمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة
Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority

المركز الوطني للتنافسية
NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS CENTER

منشآت
monsha'at

إيسار
EISAR

المركز الوطني
للمنشآت العائلية
National Center
For Family Business



Other

وزارة العدل
Ministry of Justice

وزارة الثقافة
Ministry of Culture

وزارة الرياضة
Ministry of Sport

وزارة الصناعة
والتعدين
والمعادن
Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources

وزارة الطاقة
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

وزارة السياحة
Ministry of Tourism

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

وزارة التعليم
Ministry of Education

وزارة الداخلية
Ministry of Interior

وزارة الدفاع
Ministry of Defense

وزارة الخارجية
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

وزارة التخطيط
Ministry of Planning

وزارة التنمية الاقتصادية
Ministry of Economic Development

وزارة الزراعة
Ministry of Agriculture

وزارة المياه والكهرباء
Ministry of Water and Electricity

وزارة البيئة، المناخ والمياه
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Water

وزارة الموارد البشرية والتنمية
Ministry of Human Resources Development

وزارة المعلوماتية والتكنولوجيا
Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

وزارة العلوم، التكنولوجيا والابتكار
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

وزارة التدريب
Ministry of Vocational Training

وزارة العمل والشؤون الاجتماعية
Ministry of Labor and Social Security

وزارة الإسكان، التخطيط العمراني والبناء
Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Construction

وزارة البلديات والتخطيط العمراني
Ministry of Municipalities and Urban Planning

وزارة الأشغال العامة
Ministry of Public Works

وزارة البنية التحتية للطرق والنقل
Ministry of Road and Transport Infrastructure

وزارة الطيران والمطارات
Ministry of Aviation and Airports

وزارة النقل البحري والموانئ
Ministry of Maritime Transport and Ports

وزارة الفضاء والفضاء الجوي
Ministry of Space and Aerospace

وزارة المعلوماتية والتكنولوجيا
Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

وزارة العلوم، التكنولوجيا والابتكار
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

وزارة التدريب
Ministry of Vocational Training

وزارة العمل والشؤون الاجتماعية
Ministry of Labor and Social Security

وزارة الإسكان، التخطيط العمراني والبناء
Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Construction

وزارة البلديات والتخطيط العمراني
Ministry of Municipalities and Urban Planning

وزارة الأشغال العامة
Ministry of Public Works

وزارة البنية التحتية للطرق والنقل
Ministry of Road and Transport Infrastructure

وزارة الطيران والمطارات
Ministry of Aviation and Airports

وزارة النقل البحري والموانئ
Ministry of Maritime Transport and Ports

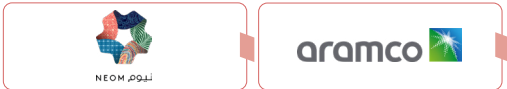
وزارة الفضاء والفضاء الجوي
Ministry of Space and Aerospace



Private Sector



State-Owned or State-Invested Companies



Saudi and Foreign Companies



International Law Firms



Business Communities





Diplomatic and International Organizations



Embassies



Saudi Embassy in China



International organizations





Cooperation to Develop the Industry Locally and Internationally

With the aim of doubling efforts to develop the ADR industry inside and outside KSA; SCCA signed **4 cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding** with local and international institutions to enhance the use of its services in settling commercial disputes.



Cooperation Agreement with the Jeddah Chamber



Aspects of cooperation include:

- Hosting SCCA western regional office in Jeddah Chamber Headquarters.
- Chamber's conference rooms will be available for arbitration and mediation sessions in SCCA-administered cases.



Memorandum of Understanding with the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission



中国国际经济贸易仲裁委员会
CHINA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
TRADE ARBITRATION COMMISSION



Aspects of cooperation include:

- Provide support for the arbitration cases administered by the two institutions.
- Nominating arbitrators from each institution's roster to the other institution.
- Exchanging functional expertise and seconding staff.
- Promoting arbitration and other means of ADR.

Memorandums of Understanding & Cooperation Agreements



Memorandum of Understanding with the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Aspects of cooperation include:

- Work in tandem to raise awareness of Saudi Arabia’s role and achievements in empowering the ADR industry.



Cooperation agreement with The Saudi Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority (ECZA)



Aspects of cooperation include:

- Providing ADR services in special economic zones.
- Establish an office for SCCA in the King Abdullah Economic City headquarters.
- Raising awareness among investors about the remarkable progress of the Saudi arbitration industry.

3

Events



Engagement and Discussions

with all Interested and
Related Professionals

SCCA has established its presence at numerous local and international events, either by organizing, supporting, or speaking at them. This is part of its ongoing efforts to engage with professionals and stakeholders interested in ADR, both within and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



50
Events



45
Partners

Workshops

15

Seminars

14

Conferences

16

Panel
Discussions

5

SCCA Participates in Major International Arbitration Weeks



Paris Arbitration Week

In its first participation in Paris Arbitration Week (PAW), SCCA organized a seminar titled “The New Vision for Saudi Arbitration” for international arbitrators, lawyers, and legal counsels who attended PAW events that year.



London International Disputes Week

SCCA participated in London International Disputes Week (LIDW) for the first time, playing an active part in this large annual gathering of the international arbitration and law community, where many renowned international arbitration centers and law firms have a presence.





China Arbitration Week

SCCA has concluded its first time participating in China Arbitration Week. It held seminars in Beijing and Shanghai, and its delegationspoke at number of other events held under the umbrella of the week, with the aim of informing the industry community about developments in the Saudi arbitration landscape and the evolution of SCCA activities to boost trade and investment between China and Saudi Arabia, as well as all of the Middle East and Africa, through the latest ADR services.



Dubai Arbitration Week

SCCA has held its third annual seminar at Dubai Arbitration Week (DAW) and addressed “Exploring Legal Frontiers in ADR and KSA”. SCCA members also spoke at various other key events during that week highlighting the supportive arbitration environment that Saudi Arabia has become and presenting recent SCCA achievements, in particular the publication of the SCCA Court Internal Rules and the publication of the 2023 edition of the SCCA Arbitration Rules.



Organized or Co-Organized:

Workshop

1

KSA's competitiveness in
light of legislative and
judicial reforms



lecture

2

Arbitration
under the Saudi Civil
Law Project



Conference

3

RILPA Saudi
Arabia
Conference



Workshop

4

Public opinion polls
workshop on SCCA's
updated rules - Abu Dhabi
and Dubai



Workshop

5

Public opinion polls
workshop on SCCA's
updated rules - Riyadh



Conference

6

Saudi Arabia and the
Middle East:
International
Arbitration Summit




Featured Events

Seminar

7

The New vision
for Saudi
Arbitration



AFFAKI

Seminar

8

Arbitration
in Saudi Arabia and GCC:
Emerging Trends



 Queen Mary
University of London **CLYDE&CO**

Spoke at:

Conference

9

China Arbitration
Summit 2023 and the
3rd Forum of New Silk
Road Arbitration
Centers



 **中国国际经济贸易仲裁委员会**
CHINA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
TRADE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

Conference

10

Beijing- Middle East
Investment and Trade
Forum



 **CCPIT**
中国国际贸易促进委员会

Conference

11

Saudi Law
Conference



 **برهان المعرفة**
— BURHAN AL MARIFA —

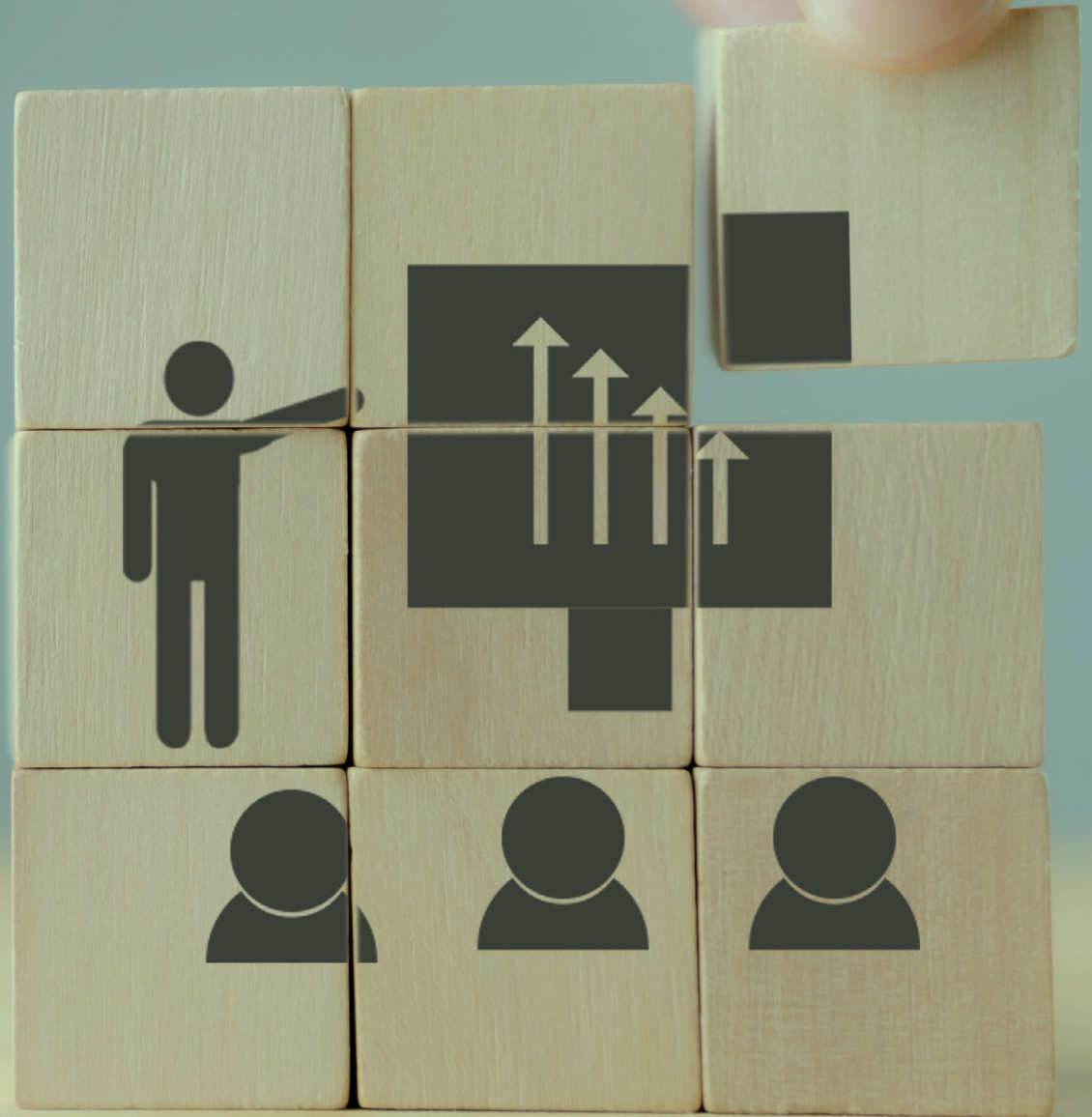
 **إيسار**
EISAR
Arbitration Commission

 **إيسار**
EISAR
Arbitration Commission

 **وزارة السياحة**
Ministry of Tourism

Professional Development

4





Concluding of the 4th Edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot

With wide international participation, SCCA concluded the fourth edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot SIAM4, which saw 780 students and 110 teams compete. This occurred eight months after the competition began, following several stages: announcing the Moot Case, writing the memoranda for the claimant and the respondent, holding hearings, and concluding with the awards for the competition winners.



780
Students



110
Teams



88
Universities



9
Academics



6
Training
Programs



20
Countries



Building the Future Generation

of the ADR practitioners

Through its training arm, the SCCA Academy, SCCA offers a package of qualification programs that come in two main forms: long-term programs (fellowships) and short-term programs, held in partnership with an elite group of international institutions concerned with industry development.

International Fellowship in Commercial Arbitration

During 2023, **292 trainees** joined the program, divided into **15 courses**. The program enables those who pass it to obtain membership in the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and join an elite group of international arbitrators.



Total enrollment by modules

Module 1 Module 2 Module 3

216 19 57



Total participants in the Fellowship Program since its launch

1177



284
Members
(MCI Arb)



108
Fellows
(FCI Arb)

**Mediation in
Commercial
Disputes Program**

SCCA held two courses of the training program Mediation in Commercial Disputes in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah, with the aim of providing those enrolled with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice commercial mediation in accordance with the latest international practices.



39

Trainees



24
Riyadh



15
Jeddah

**Arbitral Tribunal
Secretary Preparation
Program**

SCCA held a training course with the aim of providing trainees with knowledge and skills related to the role and duties of the arbitral tribunal secretary, using typical examples from arbitration cases.



34

Trainees

Dispute Resolution
Clause Drafting
Program

SCCA conducted the first course of the program to familiarize trainees with the essential elements of drafting effective clauses that facilitate dispute resolution.



41

Trainees





Publishing and Awareness-Raising

51



Establishing SCCA Brand

and Enhancing
International
Visibility

SCCA uses media and communication channels as a means to enhance its international presence and introduce the industrial community to the range of products it offers and the environment in which it operates, within the framework of achieving its vision to be the preferred ADR choice in the MENA by 2030, and one of the leading institutional centers worldwide.



24
Media
Campaigns

+ 3.1 M
Impressions

+ 810.3 K
Engagements



+650
Social
Media Posts

+ 3.3 K
Reposts

+ 12.7 K
Likes

415
Replies

Campaign for the 2023 SCCA Arbitration Rules

The 2023 edition of SCCA’s arbitration rules entered into force on May 1, 2023. SCCA covered this entry with a media campaign to introduce the rules and the latest international standards and practices in administering arbitration cases.

The new Rules received widespread, favorable publicity across the local and international arbitration community, and they were covered by a wide range of well-known ADR industry publications and from over 16 international law firms, inspiring more than 20 in-depth reviews.

Campaign Report:







المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration

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