Advanced Commercial Arbitration and ADR in the GCC Training Course

30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026

Geneva

5900 € (Per Person)

Ref: #LEG8538_180425

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides an in-depth exploration of Commercial Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, with a specific focus on their application within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. In an era of rapid economic growth and increasing cross-border transactions, effective dispute resolution is paramount for business continuity and risk management. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is designed to move beyond theoretical concepts and provide practical, actionable knowledge for navigating the complexities of arbitration and ADR in jurisdictions like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and others. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of the entire arbitral process, from drafting robust arbitration clauses to the critical final stage of enforcing arbitral awards. The curriculum draws upon established international principles, as detailed in seminal works like "International Commercial Arbitration" by the renowned academic Gary B. Born, while contextualizing them within the unique legal and cultural frameworks of the GCC. This course equips professionals with the strategic skills needed to manage commercial disputes efficiently, minimize legal costs, and protect their organization's interests in one of the world's most dynamic business hubs.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Lawyers and In-House Counsel.
- Contract Managers and Administrators.
- Commercial and Project Managers.
- Business Owners and Corporate Executives.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Professionals.
- Government Officials involved in public-private partnerships.
- Legal Consultants and Advisors.
- Engineers and Construction Professionals involved in contract disputes.
- Finance and Banking Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Real Estate Development.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy Sector.
- Banking and Financial Services.
- International Trade and Commerce.
- Telecommunications and Technology.
- Maritime and Shipping.
- Governmental and Public Sector Agencies.
- Hospitality and Tourism.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Sectors.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Legal Affairs Department.
- Contracts and Procurement Department.
- Project Management Office.
- Senior Management and Executive Leadership.
- Compliance and Risk Management Department.
- Finance and Commercial Departments.
- International Operations Department.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Analyze the legal framework for arbitration and ADR across different GCC jurisdictions.
- Draft effective and enforceable dispute resolution clauses in commercial contracts.
- Navigate the procedures of leading GCC arbitral institutions like DIAC, SCCA, and ADGM.
- Develop strategies for managing the arbitral process from commencement to the final hearing.
- Understand the principles of evidence and witness examination in commercial arbitration.
- Evaluate the key elements required for a valid and enforceable arbitral award.
- Master the procedures for the recognition and enforcement of domestic and foreign arbitral awards in the GCC.
- Compare and select the most appropriate ADR method, including mediation and expert determination, for specific disputes.
- Mitigate legal risks associated with cross-border commercial disputes.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology employed by BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring participants can apply their learning directly to their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment centered on real-world application. The course heavily features the analysis of case studies drawn from actual commercial disputes within the GCC, allowing participants to dissect complex scenarios and understand judicial precedents. Interactive group discussions and workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry experiences. A significant portion of the training will be dedicated to practical exercises, including mock arbitration sessions and the drafting of arbitration clauses, providing hands-on experience in a controlled setting. Our expert instructors facilitate a participatory atmosphere, providing continuous feedback and guiding participants through complex legal concepts. This blended approach of theoretical knowledge, practical application, and collaborative problem-solving ensures a comprehensive and lasting understanding of commercial arbitration and ADR.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of ADR and Arbitration in the GCC

- Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).
- Arbitration vs. Litigation: A Comparative Analysis for the GCC.
- The Legal Framework for Arbitration in the UAE, KSA, and Qatar.
- Overview of Key GCC Arbitral Institutions (DIAC, SCCA, ADGM, BCDR).
- The UNCITRAL Model Law and its influence in the region.
- Understanding Sharia Law principles in the context of commercial arbitration.
- Types of Arbitration: Ad Hoc vs. Institutional.

Unit Two: The Arbitration Agreement and Commencing Proceedings

- The Importance of a Well-Drafted Arbitration Clause.
- Essential Elements of a Valid Arbitration Agreement.
- Pathological Clauses: Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them.
- Determining the Seat of Arbitration and its legal implications.
- Governing Law of the Contract vs. Law of the Arbitration.
- Commencing the Arbitration: Notice of Arbitration and Response.
- Jurisdictional Challenges and the Principle of Kompetenz-Kompetenz.

Unit Three: The Arbitral Tribunal and Procedure

- Appointing the Arbitral Tribunal: Party-Appointed and Institutional Appointments.
- Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities of Arbitrators.
- Challenges to Arbitrators: Independence and Impartiality.
- The Preliminary Meeting and establishing the Procedural Timetable.
- Managing Written Submissions: Statements of Claim, Defence, and Counterclaim.
- The Role of Procedural Orders in managing the arbitration process.
- Interim and Conservatory Measures.

Unit Four: Evidence, Hearings, and Case Presentation

- The Rules of Evidence in International Arbitration.
- Document Production and Disclosure (Redfern Schedule).
- Preparing Witness Statements and Expert Reports.
- Techniques for Direct and Cross-Examination of Witnesses.
- Conducting the Arbitral Hearing: Opening and Closing Statements.
- The Role of Technology in Virtual and Hybrid Hearings.
- Confidentiality and Privacy in Arbitral Proceedings.

Unit Five: The Arbitral Award, Costs, and Enforcement

- Deliberations and the Process of Making the Award.
- Formal Requirements and Essential Elements of a Valid Award.
- Types of Awards: Partial, Final, and Consent Awards.
- Managing the Costs of Arbitration and their allocation.
- Challenging and Setting Aside Arbitral Awards in GCC Courts.
- The New York Convention and the Enforcement of Foreign Awards.
- Practical Steps and Challenges in Enforcing Awards in the GCC.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As technology and AI evolve, how might Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) reshape the traditional framework of commercial arbitration within the unique legal systems of the GCC?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course distinguishes itself through its unwavering focus on the practical realities of dispute resolution specifically within the GCC. While many courses offer a general overview of international arbitration, our program delves into the nuanced legal and procedural landscapes of key jurisdictions like the UAE and Saudi Arabia. We prioritize application over abstract theory, dedicating significant time to hands-on workshops where participants draft arbitration clauses and simulate key stages of the arbitral process. The curriculum is uniquely structured to address the most critical challenge faced by practitioners in the region: the enforcement of arbitral awards. We provide detailed, practical guidance on navigating local court systems to ensure an award translates into a tangible recovery. Furthermore, the course content is continuously updated to reflect the latest legislative changes and judicial trends in the GCC, ensuring participants receive the most current and relevant knowledge. Our instructors are seasoned practitioners with extensive experience in the region, offering invaluable insights and strategic advice that cannot be found in textbooks, making this an unparalleled learning experience for any professional involved in GCC-related commerce.