



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

GNLU Press Note No. 21/2014

Seminar on Changing Face of Arbitration at GNLU

Gujarat National Law University in collaboration with Amarchand Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co. (AMSS), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration - India (LCIA-India), and Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) organized an International Arbitration Law Seminar on the 28th – 29th March, 2014 for discussing a vast range of issues pertaining to the field of arbitration especially in the changing nature of international scenario.

The inaugural session started with the welcome address by Dr. Bimal N. Patel, Director, GNLU. He addressed the importance of arbitration in modern dispute resolution. He emphasized on the reasons as to why India is not chosen as the arbitration destination by international companies and stressed on the importance of arbitration as one of the best suited method for promoting international trade and commerce and also for peaceful resolution of disputes.

Hon'ble Justice C.K. Thakkar, former Justice Supreme Court of India, the distinguished guest of honour spoke on the existence of arbitration in the Indian Legal System even before the advent of British Raj. He was critical of the arbitration system as it was based on the Crown's court and also on factors like delay, appeal and difficulties in execution as it prevented arbitration as a system from achieving goals of justice. He also spoke on the background and origin of the 1996 Arbitration Act.

Hon'ble Justice A.M. Ahmadi, former Chief Justice Supreme Court of India, the Chief Guest spoke the efforts made to bring about change in the field of legal education in India and the start of National Law Schools in India. He emphasized on how law was a fascinating profession and stated that the thrill of the legal profession lies in the court-rooms. He further lamented on the interference of the court in ADR matters. Commenting on the theme of the Seminar, he stated that the face of arbitration in India cannot be changed as found in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. However, the mode and method of interpretation arbitration laws and the freedom to implement the same needs to be changed.

First Session: Speakers like Mr Shreyas Jaysimha (Founding Partner, Aarna Law) and Mr Abhinav Bhushan (Deputy Counsel, ICC Paris) gave an introductory lecture on International Commercial Arbitration Law. Mr Ashwin Shanker (Partner, the Chambers of George A. Rebello, Mumbai) spoke on and the subject of Maritime Arbitration.

The second Session was themed on lectures on various issues of Investment Treaty Arbitration. Dr. Prabhash Ranjan (Assistant Professor at Faculty of Law, South Asian University), Mr Shreyas Jaysimha, Mr George Pothan (Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi), Ms. Adwaita Sharma (Advocate, Axon Law Partners, New Delhi) spoke on the facet of investment arbitration, including bi-lateral investment treaty.