

# 2025

## Annual Report



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# ADR Connecting the World

## SCCA Board of Directors



### Dr. Walid Abanumay

**Chairman**  
Chairman and board member of various national & international companies



### Mr. Toby Landau KC

**Vice Chairman**  
Barrister (King's Counsel), Arbitrator, and Advocate



### Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf

**Lawyer and Head of the International Arbitration Group**  
Abdel Raouf Law Firm



### Prof. Georges Affaki

**Lawyer, Independent Arbitrator and Professor of Law**  
University of Paris



### Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajlan

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



### Dr. Saud Al-Ammari

**Lawyer and Independent Arbitrator**  
Saud Al-Ammari Law Firm



### Mr. Musaab Al Muhaidib

**CEO of the Entertainment Sector, Board member**  
Al-Muhaidib Group



### Ms. Abby Cohen Smutny

**Partner and Global Head of International Arbitration**  
White & Case



### Mr. Abdulaziz Alsubaei

**Board Member**  
Mohammed Alsubaei & Sons Investment Company (MASIC)



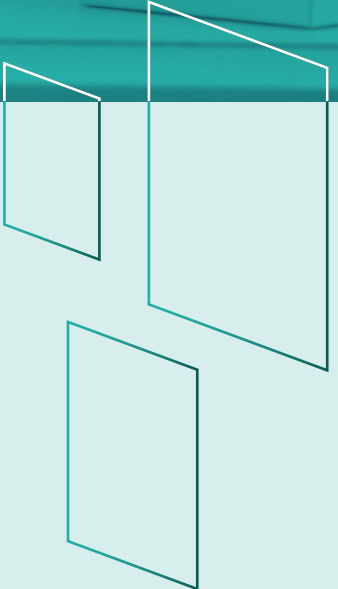
### Mr. Jingzhou Tao

**Independent International Arbitrator**



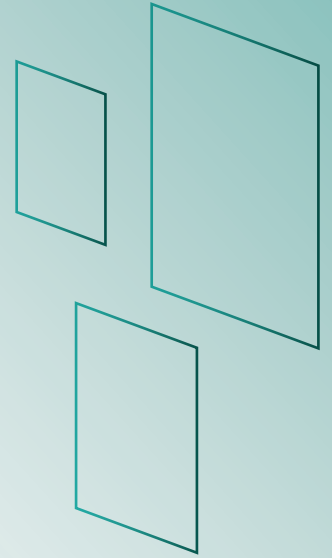
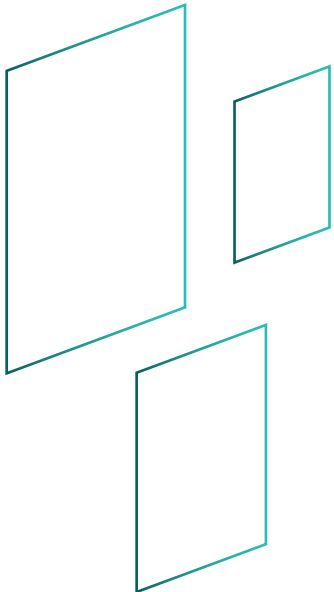
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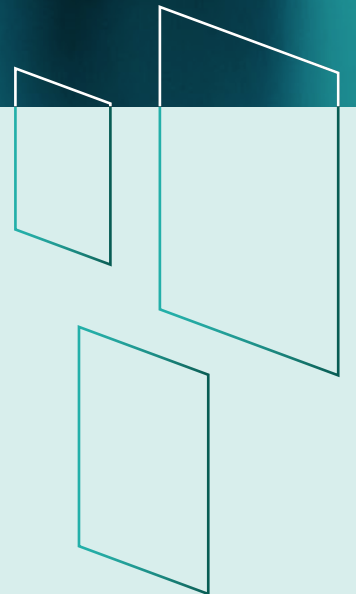
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**Chairman's**

**Message**



**Dr. Walid Abanumay**  
Chairman  
SCCA



**The caseload has achieved sustained double-digit growth over the past five years, marking SCCA's transition from establishing its presence to maximizing its impact.** ”

The Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) continues to record steady annual growth in its caseload, reflecting rising confidence in its services across business sectors both within KSA and internationally. By the end of last year, case numbers grew by 52% year-on-year, reaching 182 cases.

This consistent double-digit growth over the past five years underscores SCCA's evolution from establishing its presence to delivering measurable impact. Now in its ninth operational year, SCCA has emerged as a leader in its field and a benchmark for best practices in ADR.

In July last year, SCCA introduced its digital signature service, enabling parties to execute dispute-related documents electronically without the need for physical signatures—an unprecedented offering among international arbitration centers. This service complements SCCA's fully integrated digital infrastructure, including its recently developed Case Management System, through which ten dispute resolution services have been digitized.

Digital transformation remains a strategic priority, enabling SCCA to enhance efficiency, integrate

innovation, and deliver superior value to its users. This approach has contributed to a diverse user base spanning 31 nationalities since inception, and to an expanded sectoral reach covering 18 industries in the past year alone, led by Construction and Engineering, Professional Services, Shipping and Maritime, Labor and Employment, and Commerce/e-Commerce and Retail.

SCCA's growth is closely aligned with KSA's broader transformation, as it advances its position as a leading arbitration hub in MENA and globally. In this context, the second edition of Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW) was held last year, reflecting a strong KSA commitment to advancing the dispute resolution ecosystem, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation.

RIDW25 featured 87 specialized legal events, with 471 speakers and over 5,300 participants from 83 countries, establishing it as the largest legal event of its kind in the region and among the most prominent globally.

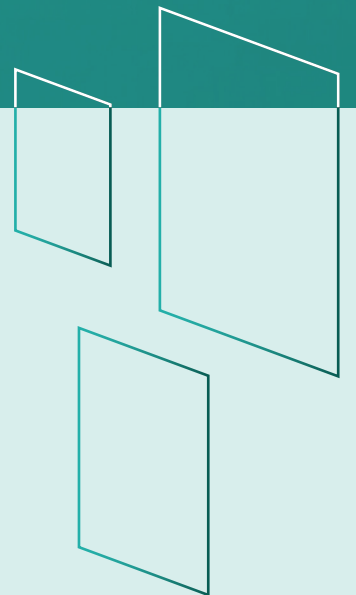
On the human capital front—an essential pillar of a robust arbitration ecosystem—SCCA continues to invest in capacity building. It hosted the sixth edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot (SIAM6), bringing together 924 students from 154 university teams across 24 countries, and trained 429 participants through its specialized ADR programs.





**CEO's**

**Message**





## SCCA strengthened its SCCA Court with leading international experts, as its caseload recorded an average annual growth of 62% over the past 5 years.

SCCA's sustained efforts to build trust over the past nine years have driven both its domestic and international reach, as well as the growth of its caseload in both volume and complexity. Last year marked a milestone in this journey, with the caseload increasing by 52%, driven by a rise in arbitration filings amid the growing inclusion of SCCA arbitration clauses in commercial contracts.

Arbitration cases constituted the majority of filings in 2025, accounting for 65% of the total (119 out of 182 cases). Standard and Expedited Arbitration together represented 77% of all arbitration cases (102 out of 119).

This growth contributed to a significant increase in the total amount in dispute administered by SCCA, which rose by 242% year-on-year to USD 1,09 billion.

In response to this expansion, SCCA further strengthened its SCCA Court by appointing a distinguished group of international experts. This step comes as SCCA's caseload has grown at an average annual rate of 62% over the past five years, increasing the SCCA Court's operational demands. Since its establishment in May 2023, the SCCA Court has issued 738 determinations. With the addition of eight new members, the SCCA Court now comprises 23 members representing 17 nationalities, all recognized leaders in

the international arbitration community.

This progress reflects a continued journey of building trust and reinforcing SCCA's domestic and international standing. A key pillar of this journey has been its active presence in leading global industry forums. In the past year alone, SCCA participated prominently in five of the world's most recognized arbitration weeks: Paris Arbitration Week, London International Disputes Week, China Arbitration Week, Seoul ADR Festival, and Dubai Arbitration Week.

In addition, SCCA contributed to 18 local and international events—as organizer, speaker, or supporter. Among the most notable was the organizing of Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW), including its flagship event, the SCCA 4th

International Conference, which has become a global platform for policymakers, business leaders, and legal experts to explore the future of dispute resolution.

Welcome to SCCA's Annual Report.

### Dr. Hamed Merah

CEO

SCCA



## SCCA Overview for 2025

February



**RIDW25**

SCCA organizes the second Riyadh International Disputes Week



February



**SCCA25**

Fourth International Conference of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration held



February



**New Board**

SCCA Board of Directors and Advisory Committee reconstituted



June



**New Website**

SCCA's revamped website launches



# 2025

# SCCA Overview for 2025

July



## New Service

Launch of digital signature service for electronic signature of arbitral awards



September



## Ministerial Forum

SCCA organizes first Ministry of Foreign Affairs Forum on World Law Day



October



## SCCA Court

New elite international experts join as members of the SCCA Court



November



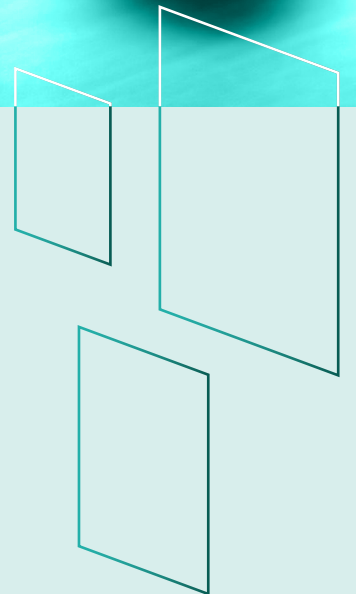
## Cooperation Agreement

New agreement signed with the Hajj and Umrah system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

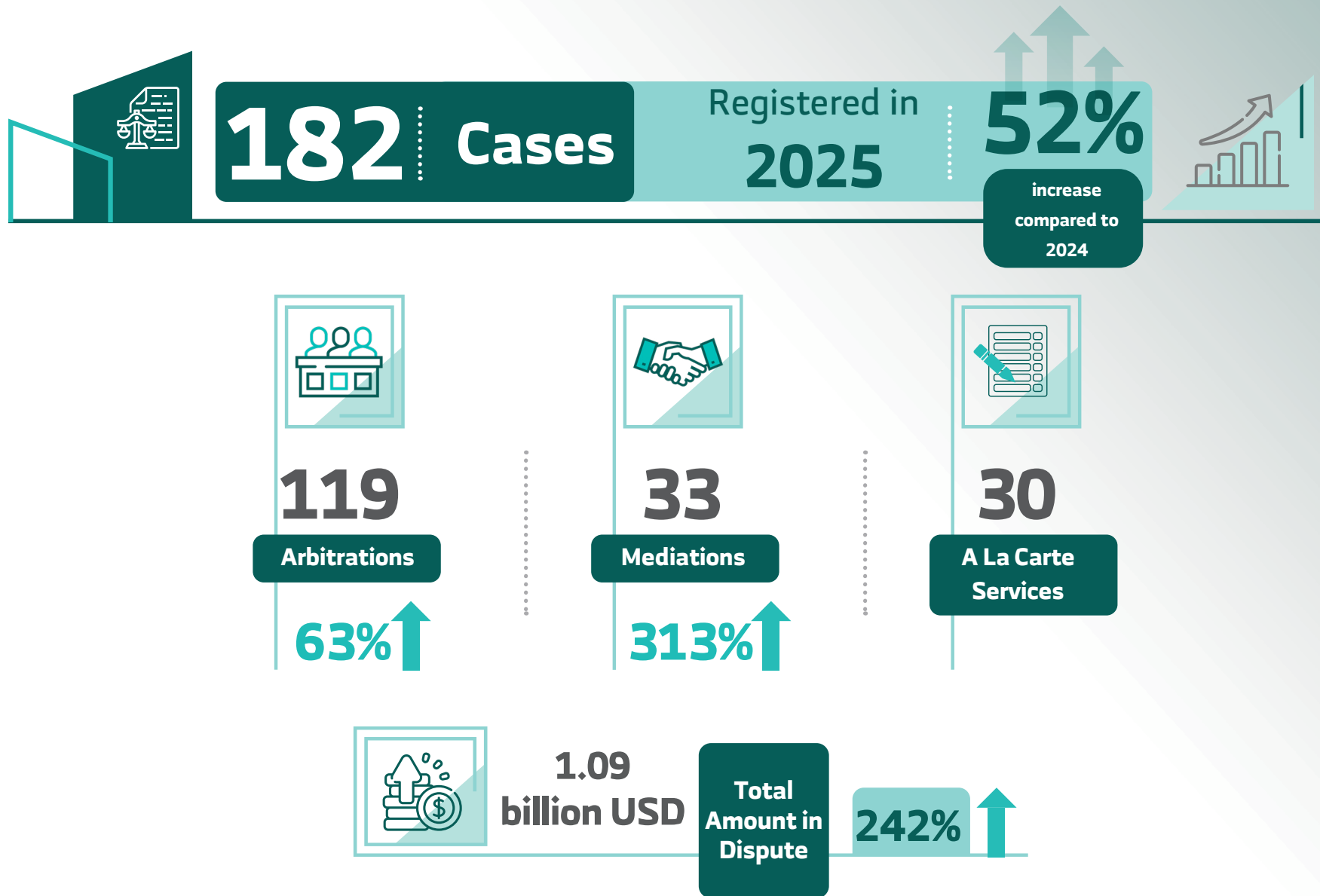




# Caseload



## Case Statistics



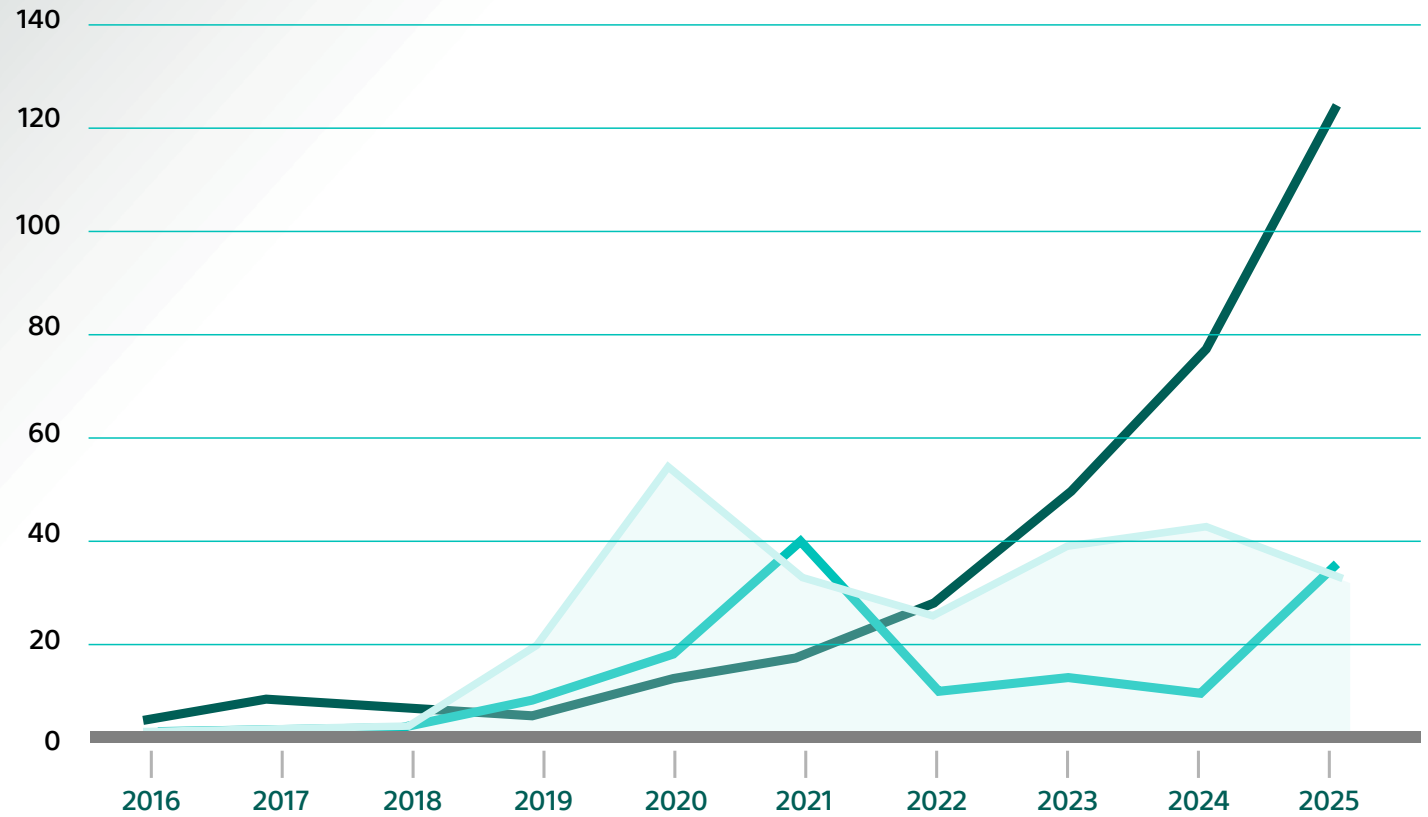
## Case Statistics

### Historical development of SCCA cases

Arbitrations

Mediations

A La Carte Service



## Breakdown of Arbitration Cases and their Resolution Time

### NO. of Registered Arbitrations

No. of Regular Arbitrations

119

40

No. of Expedited Arbitrations

52

No. of Online Arbitrations

25

No. of Emergency Arbitrations

2

### Average days to disposal of 94 Arbitrations in calendar days:

Average days to disposal of 28 Regular Arbitrations

153

259

Average days to disposal of 39 Expedited Arbitrations

148

Average days to disposal of 25 Online Arbitrations

52

Average days to disposal of 2 Emergency Arbitrations

14

## Industries and Nationalities



**18 Industries**  
Represented in Cases



**Top 5 Industries:**



### other industries:

Real Estate

Technology

Capital Markets and Investment

Arts and Entertainment

Corporate

Automotive

Manufacturing

Telecommunications

Agriculture, Food and Beverages

Hospitality and Tourism

Insurance and Reinsurance

Life Science and Health Care

Media and Marketing

## Industries and Nationalities

**12**  
Nationalities

represented  
by parties to  
SCCA cases



out of 31 total nationalities across cases  
registered at SCCA since founding

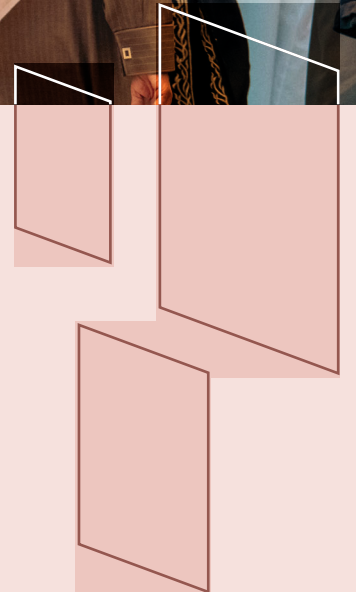


المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري  
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration



**Business**

**Development**



## Outreach Meetings

### Fruitful meetings

### with ADR institutions

SCCA organized a series of meetings with various international and local institutions in the industry, aimed at introducing SCCA and its distinctive services to business sectors and establishment of all sizes, as well as familiarizing actors with the Saudi ADR industry as a safe, supportive venue for commercial arbitration.



More than **95** outreach meetings



**30**  
Government sector



**30**  
Private sector



**22**  
Law firms



**17**  
International legal and diplomatic organizations and systems

## Partnerships



The numerous meetings conducted by SCCA with industry institutions have resulted in several partnerships aimed at promoting the use of ADR in commercial disputes and fostering the exchange of knowledge and expertise in this field, which will drive industry growth and enhance the level of practice at the local, regional, and international levels.

### MOU Annex



Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs



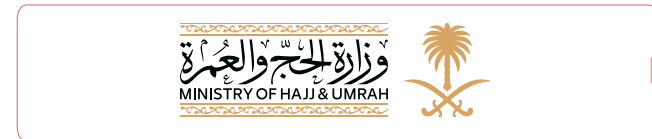
### Areas of cooperation:

- Partnership to hold local and international events related to the Saudi ADR industry that will contribute to recognition of Saudi Arabia's achievements and its efforts to become a safe, supportive venue for international arbitration

### Cooperation Agreement



Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah



### Areas of cooperation:

- ADR technical support provided to the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah
- Implementation of specialized training programs for Ministry employees and staff in the Hajj and Umrah sector
- Arbitration and mediation services provided to all sectors of the Hajj and Umrah system
- Organization of joint events and activities in the fields of arbitration and ADR

# Partnerships

## Memorandum of Understanding

International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)



### Areas of cooperation:

- Nomination of arbitrators, adjudicators, and mediators at the request of one of the parties
- Hearing rooms and meeting spaces provided, with support, for holding arbitration, and mediation sessions
- Promotion and development of arbitration, and mediation as means of resolving construction and engineering contract disputes
- Exchange of information and publications on arbitration, mediation, and other ADR methods

## Memorandum of Understanding

Saudi Coordination Council of Tawafa Companies and Service Providers for Pilgrims from Abroad



### Areas of cooperation:

- Technical support for drafting model dispute resolution clauses in contracts
- Arbitration and mediation services provided to the Council and to companies serving pilgrims from abroad
- Implementation of specialized training programs for the employees of the Council and of companies serving pilgrims from abroad
- Organization of joint events and in the ADR field

## Partnerships

### Memorandum of Understanding

Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)



#### Areas of cooperation:

- Nomination of arbitrators at the request of one of the parties
- Sharing of knowledge on best practices in relevant topics
- Exchange of visits between the parties for training and learning purposes
- Organization of joint activities, such as conferences, workshops, and training courses in international arbitration

### Cooperation Agreement

Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre

مركز عُمان للتحكيم التجاري  
Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre



#### Areas of cooperation:

- Exchange of technical support and support services in arbitration and mediation cases
- Collaboration in raising awareness of arbitration and mediation
- Exchange of specialized information and publications on arbitration and mediation
- Organization of training events and programs in areas of common interest

Panel Discussion 1 | الجلسة الحوارية الأولى

الاتجاهات الإقليمية والمنظورات الدولية  
بشأن تسوية المنازعات التجارية

Legal & Economic landscape - Regional Trends  
and International Perspectives on Commercial ADR



Events

## Overview of Events

### Dialogue and communication

shape the future of commercial dispute resolution

SCCA places great importance on participating in local and international events and forums related to dispute resolution, whether as an organizer, speaker, or supporter. It does so with the aim of promoting its services and enhancing its institutional presence, as well as exploring opportunities for cooperation and building strategic partnerships with actors in this sector.



## Overview of Events



### Riyadh International Disputes Week 2025

The premier legal event in the Middle East and North Africa



In only its second year, RIDW attracted a wide range of industry practitioners, including lawyers, legal practitioners and counsels, representatives from major international companies, and international dispute resolution organizations. They turned out for an international legal event encompassing dozens of specialized legal activities to discuss trends in the commercial dispute resolution industry and forecast future directions.



## Overview of Events



## Overview of Events



### SCCA 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition

One of the world’s largest legal conferences

The main event of Riyadh International Disputes Week 2025, SCCA25 attracted local and international attendees from all over the world, including high-level decision-makers, legal experts, business leaders, the legal sector, and international organizations.

**28**  
speakers

**1,350**  
attendees

**3**  
panel discussions

**2**  
keynote addresses

**2**  
presentations





## Regional New York Convention Roadshow



مجلس تسوية المنازعات الدولية  
مملكة البحرين  
Council for International Dispute Resolution  
of the Kingdom of Bahrain



ICCA  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

The 2025 Riyadh International Disputes Week witnessed the convening of the Regional New York Convention Roadshow, held for the first time at the level of the GCC countries. The event brought together a distinguished group of judges from supreme courts, courts of appeal, and enforcement courts across the region, alongside a large number of local and international speakers, to examine the provisions of the New York Convention and to build a bridge of cooperation between the judiciary and the arbitration industry. The program was held through a strategic partnership between SCCA, the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), and the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with the support of the Council for International Dispute Resolution of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



# Paris Arbitration Week 2025



During its participation in PAW25, SCCA, in collaboration with Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, organized a seminar titled: “Saudi Arabia - The New Arbitration Hub in the MENA Region.” SCCA also participated as a speaker in three specialized events, in addition to attending 13 other events.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



# London International Disputes Week 2025



LONDON INTERNATIONAL  
DISPUTES WEEK

During LIDW25, SCCA organized a seminar titled: “The Evolving Landscape of Construction Disputes in Saudi Arabia,” in partnership with HKA and King & Spalding. SCCA also participated as a speaker in three different events, in addition to attending 17 other events.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



# China Arbitration Week 2025



As part of CAW25's events, SCCA organized a seminar in Beijing, in collaboration with Zhong Lun Law Firm, titled: "Saudi Arabia - China: Powering Partnerships, Sustainable Investments, and Preventing Disputes," The seminar highlighted the latest developments in the KSA's ADR framework and its pivotal role in fostering a secure and sustainable investment environment between the Saudi and China.

SCCA also held a seminar in Hong Kong, in collaboration with Clifford Chance, addressing the landscape of arbitration in Saudi, the legal frameworks enabling international investments, and the effective management of disputes.

In addition, SCCA participated as a speaker in three different events, alongside attending five other events.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



# IPBA Mid-Year Regional Conference 2025



SCCA participated as a speaker at the IPBA Mid-Year Regional Conference 2025, held in September in Madrid, under the theme: “Bridging Four Regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.” The conference brought together leading international arbitration centers, as well as a distinguished group of global leaders and experts, to discuss commercial arbitration, cross-border investment, the role of artificial intelligence in law, and the future of dispute resolution.

As part of a road show conducted in Madrid during that period, SCCA also organized a seminar titled: “Arbitrating in Saudi Arabia – Opportunities, Stability, Transparency, and Preventing Disputes,” in partnership with Ontier. The seminar attracted a distinguished legal audience and featured insightful discussions on the state of commercial arbitration in Saudi Arabia and the best approaches to enhancing transparency and dispute avoidance within the commercial environment.

SCCA also participated as a speaker in three different events, in addition to attending two other events.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



### Seoul ADR Festival 2025



As part of its first participation in SAF25, SCCA held a seminar titled: “Saudi Arabia and Korea: Enabling Growth, Enhancing Certainty, and Preventing Disputes,” in partnership with Al Tamimi & Company and Kim & Chang. The seminar addressed developments in the legal and judicial environments in Saudi Arabia and Korea, as well as the role of legal partnerships and dispute resolution solutions in facilitating business operations and stimulating foreign investment between the two countries.

SCCA also participated as a speaker in three different events, in addition to attending six other events.



## Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks



# Dubai Arbitration Week 2025



As part of DAW25's events, SCCA held a seminar titled: "Investing in Saudi Arabia: In-House Counsel Insights on Navigating an Evolving Market and Preventing Disputes." The seminar explored the role of commercial arbitration and ADR mechanisms in supporting sustainable economic growth in the Kingdom by enhancing the investment environment and providing efficient and impartial dispute resolution mechanisms, thereby positioning the Kingdom as an attractive investment destination.

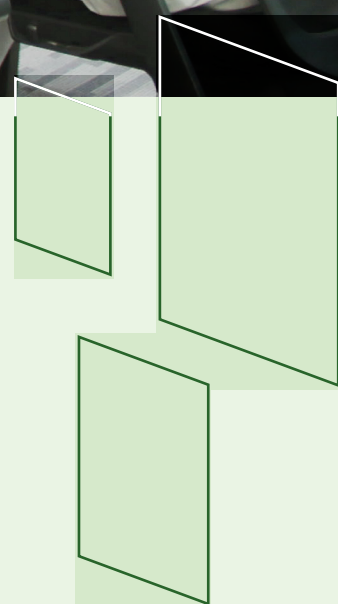
SCCA also participated as a speaker in six different events, in addition to attending four other events.





**Professional**

**Development**

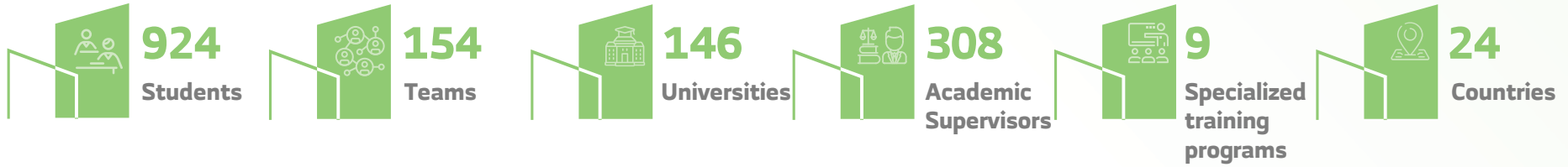


## SCCA International Arabic Moot



### Conclusion of SIAM6

Featuring extensive international participation, the sixth edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot concluded during the Riyadh International Disputes Week 2025. The competition gives law students an opportunity to gain practical experience in international commercial arbitration, enhancing their practical skills and reinforcing their legal knowledge, thus shaping a skilled generation of legal practitioners in the Arab world.





# Training Programs



## Shaping future generations of alternative dispute resolution practitioners

Through its training arm, SCCA Academy, SCCA offers a suite of training programs in two main forms, long-term programs (fellowships) and short-term programs, put on in partnership with selected international institutions involved in the development of the industry.

## International Fellowship in Commercial Arbitration

In 2025, **287 candidates**, making up **14 cohorts**, enrolled in the program. The program enables successful candidates to attain CIArb membership and to join an elite class of international arbitrators.

### Enrollment by module



## Training Programs

### Mediation in Commercial Disputes

SCCA organized four rounds of the Mediation in Commercial Disputes program in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al-Khobar with the aim of providing those enrolled with the necessary knowledge and skills to practice commercial mediation in accordance with the latest international practices.

 **120** trainees

 **31**  
Riyadh

 **63**  
Jeddah

 **26**  
Al-Khobar

### Arbitral Tribunal Secretary Preparation

The Arbitral Tribunal Secretary Preparation training program was implemented with the aim of providing trainees with knowledge and skills related to the role and duties of an arbitral tribunal secretary, using model arbitral disputes.

 **22** trainees

## Training Programs

### Drafting Dispute Resolution Clauses

The Drafting Dispute Resolution Clauses training program was organized with the aim of familiarizing participants with the essential elements of drafting a sound clause leading to the resolution of disputes.

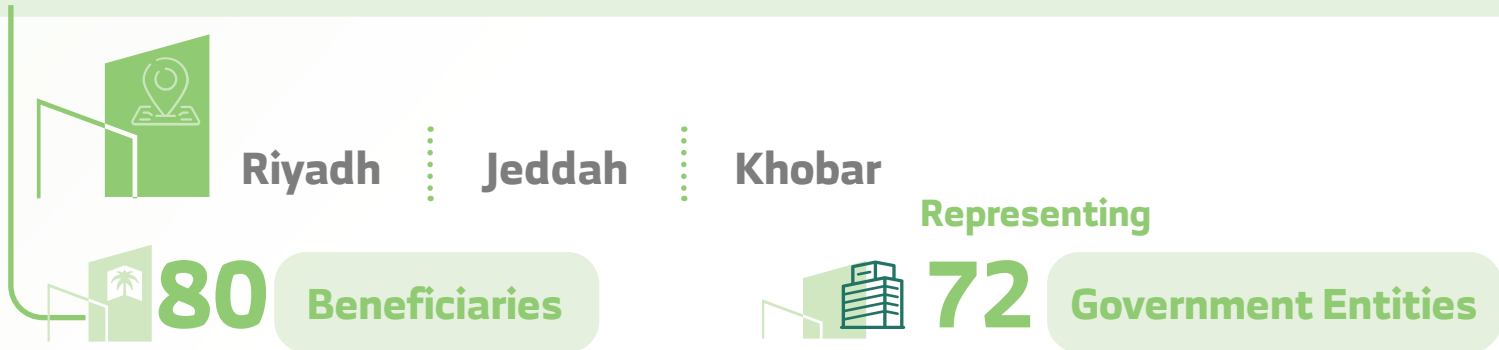
 **62** trainees





## Fruitful Collaboration in Shaping the Future of Dispute Resolution

SCCA Academy, in collaboration with Digital Skills Program, organized several editions of the training program titled: “Mediation and Conflict Management in Digital Government Projects.” The program aimed to develop participants’ capabilities and enhance their skills in negotiation, mediation, and conflict management within the context of digital government projects, thereby enabling the effective application of these skills across various business sectors and contributing to higher-quality outcomes.





[www.SADR.org](http://www.SADR.org)

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