

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE KENYA BRANCH

Dear Colleagues

It has been an enormous privilege for me to be with you for a few days at the time of the Branch's short seminar, Chartered Arbitrator interviews, a meeting with the students of Nairobi University, and with senior officers of the legal system, including the Chief Justice of Kenya, the Minister for Justice, and the Attorney General.

I use this occasion to thank you for your kindness and generosity during my all-too-brief visit, and to mention my excitement at the vibrant and thriving branch which I found in Kenya.

I would like, if I may, to share with you for a brief moment the Vision which we are trying to articulate across the world. It reads

*"Our vision is for the CI Arb's global reputation to be so high that all involved in private dispute resolution throughout the world will wish to join and support us"*

You will immediately realize the difference between a vision and reality. A lot of hard work has to be carried out in every country where we operate, to bring the Vision home. Not everyone has the same enthusiasm, the same ability or the same opportunities to develop their interests in this field. We still have a lot to learn about tailoring our educational products to local circumstances. But I think it is important for Kenya to feel that it is not alone in any sense, but rather that our back up, designed for *you as Members*, is powerful and extensive. It is also important to remember that while the Institute is what you joined, and it is there for you, the entire Membership can benefit from the individual contributions you make to your local effort – by improving our training, writing for our publications, speaking at our conferences and meetings, and linking up with other Branches, and so on.

What I can say to each Member of the Branch directly is that if and when wish to take your membership forward to a higher grade, whether in developing your skills as a Dispute Resolver, learning about the positive power of Mediation and Conciliation, starting to move into Arbitration and Adjudication (which are already very important for Kenya) or engage with intellectual thought around the subject, or whatever you decide, then we are there to try to help you.

All of our trained staff in London are well used to dealing with our Members inside and outside the UK, and will be very glad to hear from you and to offer their skills and advice to individual Members and to the Branch, whatever the problem.

Success as a Branch is hard to measure; only you know if it is doing well, engaging people to make positive contributions, and giving the Membership value for its money. We try hard, in London, to keep the cost of everything as low as we can. Please talk to us, as often and as fully as you need to. You'll find that now that we

are well established here in Kenya, the power of positive cooperation with other professional bodies in many other walks of life will make our Vision into a reality much more quickly than perhaps you could imagine. I am looking forward to hearing of successful mediations in shipping, financial services, the tourism industry and elsewhere, as well as of the success of Kenya's own Arbitrators. There is absolutely *no* reason why Kenya cannot stand tall in the world and become a successful Regional Centre for International Arbitration.

I hope you will give my successor, Mr Joe Behan from Ireland, as much support as you have given me, and I send the Kenya Branch and its Members my warmest good wishes and my thanks for your kindness, and making me feel so very welcome.

John Campbell, QC FCI Arb  
*President, 2009*