The 1st ever Inaugural Women in Arbitration was successfully held on Friday 23rd March, 2018, under the theme ‘Promoting Gender Diversity in Arbitration in Africa. The event was graced by the Great Chief Guest Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes Vivour, C. Arb. Mediator, Chairwoman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria Branch.

Some of the key highlights of her speech made clear that Africa as a region is ripe in embracing Arbitration and in growing diversity in its own needs to be considered. As the forum sought to encourage women, the Chief Guest who has demonstrated that she can do it served as an example to the delegates present and encouraged the participation of Women in arbitration.

In her Speech, Madam Adedoyin provided statistics that demonstrated women being largely underrepresented but far much better compared to earlier years. She sighted key contributing factors including implicit and/or explicit bias, Lack of transparency in the arbitrator selection process, preference of parties for selected few arbitrators, the pipeline leak and women not promoting themselves as much as they should nor taking enough care of each other professionally. For this reason Diversity may be considered relevant going into the future.

Then need for attitude change is necessary as women strive to generate work life balance and find value in taking up education and professional practice. The journey may not be easy but worth pursuing.
The growing Regional Centres in Africa are seen to be the way to go in opening the region, engaging Africans in international Arbitration of diverse disputes for both Women and Men. She took time to appreciate men and women from across the Continent who have been instrumental in growing ADR in the region. Kenya’s own the late Norman Mururu, a Quantity Surveyor and key founder member of the Kenyan Branch among others, helped shape the Nigerian Branch to what it is today.

The conference which was also co-sponsored by the ArbitralWomen, an international non-governmental organization with the primary objective of advancing the interests of women and promoting female practitioners in international dispute resolution would be a critical Global community that would champion the growing number of women in arbitration. Worth recognizing are the great efforts by Louise Barrington, ArbitralWomen co-founder with Mireze Phillippe who are working tirelessly to grow the number of women around the world and ensure gender diversity.

The Equal Representation in Arbitration (ERA) Pledge is a global initiative and a call to action for the arbitral community, with the simple objective of improving the profile of women in arbitration with the view to secure appointments of more women as arbitrators on an equal opportunity basis.

The Chief Guest in her final remarks, called upon the delegates to join in the platform to ensure equal participation for all in Arbitration.

Her parting shot to the Men, they have a place and platform to work alongside women on an equal opportunity Basis!

The Chairman of the Kenya Branch, Mr. Calvin Nyachoti, C.Arb., on his part took time to appreciate the timely conference that will continue the conversation in Arbitration and a platform that is open to synergies professional skills that could be shared among ADR Institutes and communities across the Continent.

The Chairperson of the marketing Subcommittee Ms. Eunice Lumallas, FCIArb., thanked the Chief Guest, Speakers and Moderators who accepted to be part of the Inaugural Conference and called for more participation to promote gender diversity.

**THE AWARD CEREMONY**

At the end of the conference, it came down to an evening cocktail and an award ceremony to all our Speakers and Moderators.
The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators would also like to extend its gratitude all the participants who attended representing Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Mauritius.

Also the sponsors who came through in support of the Conference including:

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We look forward to seeing you at the next conference.

**NOTE:** THE SPEECH AND PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
Chief Guest Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes Vivour, C. Arb., making her keynote Speech

The Chairman Mr. Calvin Nyachoti, C.Arb., making the welcome remarks

In support of the Equal Representation in Arbitration; our women in Arbitration

Chairman Mr. Clavin Nyachoti and the Vice Chairman, Mr. Samuel Nderitu

Taking a Break !!!!

In discussion, Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes Vivour, Mohammed Dele Belgore, SAN (left) and Olatunde Busari, SAN (right) from Nigeria
Panelist Mr. Paul Ngotho (Kenya), Ms. Solome Luwaga (Uganda) and Ms. Njeri Kariuki (Kenya)

Dr. Kariuki Muigua, Moderator at one of the session taking up questions from the Audience

Ms. Eunice Lumallas, Chair of the Marketing Subcommittee that organized the event

Mr. Gichinga Ndirangu, Moderator of session.

Speakers Retired Judge Mary Ang’awa (Kenya) and Monica Adhieu Malual (South Sudan)

Mr. Nyagah Kithinji (Speaker - Kenya) and Ms. Kanunu Mutea (Moderator - Kenya)
Ms. Wairimu Karanja, Speaker (Kenya)

Master of Ceremony Eng. Vaizman Aharoni introducing the Speakers

Ms. Folake Sadiq, Chair Young Members Group Nigeria Branch making her presentation

Hon. Senator, Sylvia Kasanga making her presentation

Lady Justice Jacqueline Kamau (Kenya), making her Presentation

Ms. Folashade Alli, (Nigeria) making her presentation
Ms. Leyou Tameru (Ethiopia), making her presentation

Ms. Hilda Damee Yerriah (Mauritius), making her presentation

And there was entertainment ...........

Artist Silayio entertaining during the morning session

Nasambu and Beraccah at the cocktail ....

The discussions went on ........

The discussions went on ........
The attendance and network did not disappoint!!!
And the awards......