

Kluwer Arbitration Blog

Jerusalem Arbitration Center: Merchants of Peace

Roger Alford (General Editor) (Notre Dame Law School) · Wednesday, April 4th, 2012



Last week I had the good fortune to attend a reception in Washington D.C. with various arbitration luminaries announcing the inauguration of the Jerusalem Arbitration Center.

With almost \$5 billion in annual trade between Palestine and Israel, it is imperative to establish a neutral forum for resolving business disputes. JAC is established under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce. Zahi Khouri and Yara Asad of ICC Palestine and Oren Schachor and Baruch Mazor of ICC Israel were on hand to announce the partnership. JAC's goal is to establish, in John Beechey's words, "a truly neutral and independent forum."

[Catherine Rogers](#) at Penn State has been actively involved in JAC's creation, and she expressed to me her desire for arbitration to impact real people on the ground in conflict zones. As she [put it](#),

"Israel is by far Palestine's largest trading partner and, according to some estimates, Palestine is Israel's second largest trading partner after the United States.... [W]hile politicians on both sides seem locked in an intractable battle against peace, peaceful exchanges occur every day between ordinary Palestinians and Israelis. Of course, some disputes arise out of these commercial transactions. In those disputes, Israelis have full access to the machinery of civil justice under Israeli law. Meanwhile, it can be exceedingly difficult for Palestinians to participate in the judicial proceedings in Israel, and Palestinian court judgments are generally unenforceable.... The JAC could provide a better alternative for Israeli-Palestinian exchanges."

A video introducing JAC is available [here](#). Kudos to all those involved in creating this new joint venture, which the ICC evocatively describes as the "merchants of peace" in the Middle East.


To make sure you do not miss out on regular updates from the Kluwer Arbitration Blog, please subscribe [here](#). To submit a proposal for a blog post, please consult our [Editorial Guidelines](#).


Profile Navigator and Relationship Indicator

Includes 7,300+ profiles of arbitrators, expert witnesses, counsels & 13,500+ relationships to uncover potential conflicts of interest.

Learn how **Kluwer Arbitration** can support you.

Learn more about the newly-updated *Profile Navigator and Relationship Indicator*

 Wolters Kluwer



This entry was posted on Wednesday, April 4th, 2012 at 4:34 pm and is filed under [Arbitration Institutions and Rules](#), [Middle East](#)

You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.