

Rwanda hosts Global Arbitrators for the 2018 SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference



Rwanda hosted Arbitration enthusiasts from Africa and across the globe for the 4th SOAS (School of Oriental & African Studies-University of London UK) Arbitration in Africa Conference from 2nd-4th May 2018 at the iconic Kigali Convention Center. The conference, which was organised under the theme "**The Role of Arbitration Practitioners in the Development of Arbitration**" was hosted by the Kigali International Arbitration Centre and it attracted over 200 arbitration experts.

In his opening remarks, Min. Evode Uwizeyimana, the Minister of State in charge of Constitutional and Legal affairs, said, the recurrence of the SOAS arbitration in Africa conference offers a good opportunity whereby participants will take a pragmatic look at how to position African seats for international arbitration.

The discussions focused on highlighting the crucial role of the arbitration practitioners and users in the arbitral process and how they can better support the development of (domestic and international) arbitration in their individual countries, regions and collectively across the continent and globally.

The KIAC Secretary General, Dr. Masengo Fidele added that conferences are an excellent opportunity to learn from and to interact and exchange viewpoints with other ADR practitioners' from around the world. The conference comes after KIAC hosted the 5th East Africa International Arbitration Conference last year from 28th-29th September 2017 that was attended by over 130 participants from abroad. We need to set up ADR friendly policies, infrastructure and credible systems that are acknowledged by the business community as neutral, expeditious, flexible, cost-efficient, transparent and free of corruption.

According to Emilia Onyema, the Kigali conference theme is part of the four year research project titled 'Creating a Sustainable Culture of Arbitration as a mechanism for Commercial Dispute Resolution in Africa'. SOAS has already organized three previous arbitration in Africa conferences (Addis- Ababa 2015; Lagos 2016, Cairo 2017). She added that Rwanda as the venue for the meeting was proposed based on KIAC achievements in arbitration and the reputation of the country.

Feedback from our partners

I wanted to take this opportunity to commend you and your team from KIAC on a fantastic collaboration to host the 4th edition of the SOAS conference. It was a privilege to be in Kigali and to see all the progress that is going on in Rwanda. All people of Rwanda have plenty to be proud of.

*Sincerely,
Joyce Williams, Esq*

Dear Dr. Masengo,

I trust that you are doing well. It was an absolute pleasure meeting you again during the last SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference in Kigali earlier this month. I must congratulate you for a very well put together Conference. It sure was and intellectually stimulating but entertaining Conference.....Diane Okoko

Au nom de l'association française des femmes juristes, je tenais à vous adresser nos plus vifs remerciements pour nous avoir reçues et avoir consacré votre temps précieux à répondre aux questions de notre délégation.

Grâce à vous et à l'accueil extraordinaire que nous avons rencontré au Rwanda, notre voyage est un vrai succès et nous revenons abasourdies et heureuses de tout ce que nous avons appris. Nous savions, en partant, que ce voyage serait très intéressant, mais nous n'imaginions pas jusqu'à quel point !

Nous sommes parties avec l'idée d'apprendre des rwandais et , nous n'avons pas été déçues, nous avons reçu une magnifique leçon d'espoir, de pragmatisme, d'humanité, d'intelligence collective et avons réalisé combien l'impulsion politique permet de soulever des montagnes.

Veillez croire, Messieurs, en l'assurance de mes respectueuses salutations.

Nathalie Leroy

Présidente
