

International Seminar on “Forewarned is Forearmed: Construction Disputes Avoidance and Resolution”, was held on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi.

International Seminar on “Forewarned is Forearmed: Construction Disputes Avoidance and Resolution”, was held on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. The seminar was attended by over 200 participants including, construction industry professionals, law professionals, construction law experts, and students. The seminar was organized by NED University of Engineering and Technology, in collaboration with Institution of Engineers Pakistan (IEP) Karachi Centre, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) Pakistan Branch, Asian Civil Engineering Coordination Council (ACECC) Future Leaders Forum. The participants of the seminar were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Asad Ur Rehman Khan, Dean Civil and Petroleum Engineering, NED University. This followed up by address of Barrister Mian Sheraz Javed, Chairman Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) Pakistan Branch.

Engr. Nasir Khan MBE, Principal a HKA, UK and Chair of Construction Industry Council UK (liability panel) made a technical presentation on "FOREWARND IS FOREARMED - Anticipating Challenges, Mitigating Risk", while Dr. Farrukh Arif, Associate professor at NED University presented his teams' work regarding "Practices and effectiveness on arbitration as ADR mechanism in construction industry of Pakistan."

Technical session was followed by Panel discussion moderated by Engr. Sohail Bashir, Chairman IEP Karachi Centre, with Barrister Mian Sheraz Javaid, Engr, Nasir Khan MBE, and Ms. Navin Merchant from Merchant Law Associates as the panelist. The panelist deliberated ways through which Construction Arbitration become a successful ADR mechanism in Pakistan.

On this occasion, Mr. Justice Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan, Honourable Judge of Sindh High Court was the Guest of Honour, and Honourable Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Mr. Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Engr. Sohail Bashir, Chairman IEP, Karachi Centre, formally welcomed the distinguished guests and provided an overview on the objectives of the seminar. Dr. Sarosh H. Lodi, Vice Chancellor NED University in his address highlighted he efforts of NED University to provide and upgrade quality human resource capacity in the area of construction engineering law. He specifically highlighted the integration of construction law courses in Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering degree at the undergraduate level, while provided insights into M.Engg. (Civil) Construction Engineering Law degree being offered by NED University and its impact on the profession being the only construction law program in Pakistan. In his address, Honourable Mr. Justice Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan, stressed upon the efforts to improve arbitration practices, ways to strengthening the arbitration regulations, and importance of intellectual property and professional ethics in the construction law profession.

On this occasion, MoU was also signed between NED University and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Pakistan Branch for collaboration in education, research, and professional development in the area of Construction law with CI Arb recognizing the M.Engg. Construction Engineering Law program being offered at NED University as its qualifying requirement for direct associate membership grade.