

CIArb Kenya ADR Week 2025: A Premier Platform for Strengthening Dispute Resolution in Kenya Justice System and Charting the Way Forward for domestic and Global Best Practices

Kenya's dispute resolution landscape is set to experience a transformative week in November 2025 with the much-anticipated CIArb Kenya ADR Week hosted by the Chartered Institute of Arbitration Kenya Branch (CIArb). The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Kenya Branch one of the main Branches of the International Organization by the same name with its headquarters in London United Kingdom. It is a membership organization with over 1200 members in Kenya alone and over 17,000 domiciled in other jurisdictions dealing with dispute resolution services such as Arbitration, Mediation, and Construction Adjudication. As the flagship event on the country's dispute resolution calendar, this inaugural week-long conference scheduled for 17th -21st November 2025, promises to unite thought leaders, legal professionals, corporate executives, government officials, and practitioners of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in a comprehensive and dynamic forum. Anchored on the theme "Strengthening ADR Practices through Evidence-Based Excellence," the event underscores Kenya's commitment to advancing efficient, effective, and evidence-driven dispute resolution mechanisms.

A Convergence of Expertise Across Key ADR Themes

The ADR Week, scheduled for 17th to 21st November 2025 at the Kenya School of Government in Lower Kabete, is uniquely structured around five thematic conferences that reflect the diverse and evolving landscape of ADR. The week begins with the Domestic & International Arbitration Conference and Training on 17th and 18th November, offering a critical platform for enhancing skills, sharing best practices, and addressing challenges faced in arbitration matters. Following this, the Construction & Infrastructure Disputes Resolution Conference on 19th November will tackle specific issues pertinent to the fast-growing infrastructure

and construction sector, a vital area for Kenya's economic development. The Conference enhances a platform for discourse from the mandates flowing from the 2010 constitution vide Article 159(2) which provides that in exercising judicial authority the courts and tribunals SHALL be guided by the principles of justice being done to all irrespective of status, justice shall not be delayed and in Article 159(2) c) alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional dispute resolution(TDR) mechanisms.

The highlight on 20th November is the Mediation Conference, which will include a gala dinner and culminate with the prestigious 5th CIArb Kenya ADR Excellence Awards ceremony in the evening. These awards recognize outstanding contributions and excellence within the ADR community both domestic and globally. The week concludes on 21st November with the Alternative Justice System conference, which aims to explore complementary dispute resolution options beyond conventional methods, alongside the Young Members Group (YMG) conference and an optional golf tournament to foster networking and informal interaction.

Driving Professional Growth and Stakeholder Collaboration

Incumbently, CIArb Kenya ADR Week is more than a conference; it is an intensive professional development and stakeholder engagement initiative. It is designed to equip arbitrators, mediators, adjudicators, engineers, in-house counsels, judges, lawyers, academics, and government officials with cutting-edge knowledge and tools. The event invites a broad spectrum of participants including policy makers, investors, business communities, and professional membership associations, reflecting the multi-sectoral nature of dispute resolution.

The week also serves as a critical forum for collaboration between the justice sector, construction and infrastructure governance, the corporate world, and academia. By fostering discourse on global best practices and the latest research,

including insights from the 3rd State of ADR Research 2025, CIArb Kenya aims to build a robust, evidence-based ADR ecosystem that enhances access to justice and economic growth.

Highlighting Kenya's Leadership in ADR Innovation

Kenya has consistently positioned itself as a regional leader in ADR, driven by progressive legislation and a growing cadre of skilled practitioners. The inauguration of ADR Week is a testament to CIArb Kenya's vision to consolidate these gains and propel the country towards ADR excellence. The event framework reflects the diversity of dispute resolution needs, recognizing that arbitration, mediation, and alternative justice systems each play a critical role in reducing the burden on courts and resolving conflicts efficiently.

The inaugural ADR Week initiative highlights Kenya's proactive approach in integrating research, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to confront emerging challenges in dispute resolution. The focused conferences on specialized areas like construction disputes and mediation showcase Kenya's strategic response to sector-specific dispute resolution needs aligned with national development priorities.

CIArb-Kenya Inviting a Broad Spectrum of Participants

The ADR Week is tailored to a wide range of professionals deeply involved in dispute resolution and governance. Arbitrators, mediators, adjudicators, engineers, in-house counsels, judges, lawyers, academics, and government officials are encouraged to participate actively. The inclusion of Alternative Justice System practitioners and policy makers also emphasizes the event's comprehensive scope. Investors and business communities who frequently encounter dispute resolution issues will benefit from the insights shared, while professional

membership associations will gain from the networking and benchmarking opportunities.

Ultimately, CIArb Kenya ADR Week 2025 is poised to be a landmark event that not only advances the ADR profession but also contributes significantly to Kenya's justice sector reforms and business environment. The week-long forum promises to be an enriching experience marked by knowledge exchange, professional growth, collaboration, and recognition of excellence in ADR practice.

As The Chartered Institute of Arbitration Kenya prepares to host this premier ADR event, the spotlight will be firmly on creating stronger, evidence-based dispute resolution practices that serve the interests of justice, economic development, and sustainable peace in the country and the wider region.