Welcome to the ICC Qatar March 2018 newsletter. In this issue, you will find major highlights, upcoming events, trainings, and different sponsorship opportunities. We have also included the ICC publication best sellers should you wish to make purchases.

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**ICC AND QATAR CHAMBER CEMENT FUTURE OF WORLD TRADE AGENDA**
The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry have renewed a partnership agreement aimed at securing a robust ICC World Trade Agenda (WTA) work programme, established in 2012 to contribute to the advancement of the global rules-based trade and investment policy agenda. A joint initiative of ICC and the Qatar Chamber, the WTA mobilizes the worldwide business community around an inclusive and multilateral trade agenda for sustainable economic growth and inclusive job creation.

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**ICC QATAR, THOMSON REUTERS ORGANIZE SEMINAR ON EFFECTS OF APPLYING VAT ON BUSINESSES**
The first ‘Impact of VAT Compliance on Businesses in Qatar’ seminar was organized by the International Chamber of Commerce Qatar in collaboration with Thomson Reuters and supported by Qatar Chamber. During the seminar it was highly recommended that companies prepare early for the application of VAT tax to process all necessary financial and technological matters, in order to avoid any errors in institutions and companies when the VAT is applied on goods and services later.

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**GLOBAL BUSINESS CONCERNED BY “TRADE WAR” THREAT**
In view of growing global trade tensions – following the US administration’s announcement of plans to impose new duties on imports of steel and aluminum – ICC has issued the following statement: ICC Secretary General John Danilovich said: “There will be no winners from a trade war. Open markets are – and remain – the key driver of economic growth, prosperity and job creation across the world. Families struggling to make ends meet will be hardest hit by any new tariffs which will inevitably push up prices at the till and restrict consumer choice. In a globalized world trade is not a zero-sum game – and policy decisions must reflect this reality.

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**JOHN DENTON AND PAUL POLMAN TO TAKE UP NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES AT WORLD’S LARGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION**
Mr. Denton is a legal expert and adviser on global policy, international trade and investment and infrastructure. His advice is sought by Australia’s most prominent corporations and by governments and international bodies alike. Mr. Polman is a globally recognized business leader and a pioneer in the field of corporate sustainability. Mr. Polman served as a member of the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel responsible for formulating the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) – launched in 2015 – and was subsequently appointed as a UN SDG Advocate responsible for promoting the “Global Goals”.

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NEW ICC REPORT CONFirms TRADE & EXPORT Finance Are NOT Risky BUSINESS
The low credit risk level of trade and export finance products continues to compare favorably to that of similar asset classes, shows the 2017 ICC Trade Register. Default rates for a range of trade finance products ranged from 0.03% to 0.24%, demonstrating the extremely low level of credit default risk such activities present banks and other financial institutions, according to the 2017 ICC Trade Register—the authoritative annual report from the ICC Banking Commission.

Read more…

ICC COURT LAUNCHES BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE COMMISSION
The International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Court) has announced the establishment of a commission to address dispute resolution potential in relation to China’s Belt and Road Initiative. Alexis Mourre, President of the ICC Court announced the establishment of the commission during the ICC Court’s working session last autumn. The commission will drive the development of ICC’s existing dispute resolution procedures and infrastructure to support Belt and Road disputes. Justin D’Agostino, Global Head of Disputes at Herbert Smith Freehills and Hong Kong’s alternate member of the ICC Court, has been named commission chair while Mingchao Fan, ICC Director for North Asia, will act as secretary.

Read more…

ICC PUBLICATIONS
Best Sellers

Drafting and Negotiating International Commercial Contracts
Business Guide to Trade and Investment
Secretariat’s Guide to ICC Arbitration

For more information and member discounts please contact Bhumika

ICC TRAINING AND EVENTS

20 Mar 2018
Pre-ICN Forum: Emerging Themes in Global Antitrust Policy and Enforcement
New Delhi, India - English
Now a joint conference of ICC and IBA, the Pre-ICN Forum will bring together antitrust enforcers from across the world. Click here for more

23 Mar 2018
ICC YAF: Arbitrators: Superheroes?
Quito, Ecuador - Spanish
ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (ICC YAF) is organizing a conference on the occasion of the XI International Arbitration Conference of Center of Arbitration and Mediation of AMCHAM Quito and the Ecuadorian Institute of Arbitration (IEA). Click here for more

10th ICC YAF-YAAP Joint Conference Young approaches to arbitration
Vienna, Austria - English
The conference is organized on the occasion of the Vienna Willem C. Vis Moot. Click here for more

ICC ACADEMY
ICC OFFLINE TRAINING
The ICC Academy offers a wide range of specialized programs, leveraging ICC’s position as a world leader in defining commercial rules and standards to support international commerce.

ICC’s online trainings are exceptional tools for business professionals who want to become experts in a specific area thanks to in-depth but flexible and affordable courses. We offer e-learning courses in the following areas:

International Arbitration & ADR
International Trade Portfolio
International Trade Finance

For more information please contact Bhumika
ABOUT ICC QATAR

ICC Qatar is the globally-influential national committee of the Paris-based ICC in the State of Qatar, and works to connect businesses of the country to the world – and the world to the businesses of Qatar.

We facilitate, educate, and gather businesses of Qatar in creating a strong and prosperous business outcome as well as in expanding their role in contributing to the national and global economy.

As an apex business chamber that advances the interests of Qatar business community in trade, investment, and industrial and international relations, ICC Qatar currently represents a growing number of Qatar-based businesses as well as the local and foreign business chambers and key national associations of the business sector.

Nationally, ICC Qatar serves as a bridge between the government and businesses to drive a business friendly environment. Internationally, ICC Qatar represents the business community in bilateral, regional and multilateral for the purpose of promoting trade expansion and business networking.

For more information, contact the ICC Team.

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