

## **Analyzing the Lack of International Commercial Arbitration Centers in Pakistan: A Comparative Study with Deployment Countries**

**Shahzad Manzoor Khan<sup>1</sup>, Ansar Abbas Dharalah<sup>2</sup>, Waqas Ahmad<sup>3</sup>, Ali Raza Laghari<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Lecturer, Southern School of Law, University of Southern Punjab, Multan. Email: [shahzadmanzoor47@gmail.com](mailto:shahzadmanzoor47@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Advocate High Court Managing Partner at The Legal Solutions & Analysis (LSA) Law Firm, Multan Email: [lala.anas.1357@gmail.com](mailto:lala.anas.1357@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> Lecturer Department of Law, University of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan Email: [waqasahmad@usp.edu.pk](mailto:waqasahmad@usp.edu.pk)

<sup>4</sup> Lecturer Department of Law, University of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan Email: [aliraza@usp.edu.pk](mailto:aliraza@usp.edu.pk)

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### **Abstract**

The study investigated what stop Pakistan from establishing an internationally respected commercial arbitration center, despite being part of the 1958 New York Convention. The study looked at Pakistan's arbitration system next to mature arbitration systems in Asia, trying to understand legal, institutional and procedure issues, monitor court involvement trends and find out about the numbers of specialized arbitrators and how foreign investors view the Pakistani system. Questionnaires were used to survey 50 legal professionals (30 judges and 20 lawyers) in Pakistan's legal centers to study their views on the arbitration system, its obstacles and possible reforms. All participants agreed that Pakistan's arbitration system is not up to international standards because of courts interfering excessively (mentioned by 83.3% of judges and 75% of lawyers). The respondents strongly believed in the benefits of institutional reforms such as setting up arbitration centers (100%), offering specialized judicial training (100%) and working with well-known bodies such as the ICC and LCIA (100%). Lack of disagreement in the meetings revealed that systemic change was resisted. Many pointed out that Pakistan has old and weak laws, with few enforcements and said it could benefit economically from becoming an arbitration hub that brings in more foreign capital and eases the burden on courts. It was recommended that to establish the international commercial arbitration center in Pakistan. Foremost in the study's conclusions was the reason that legal updates and improved capacity are needed at the national level for Pakistan to become a major place for arbitration.

**Keywords:** International commercial arbitration; International Standards; Arbitration centers

### **Background of this study**

The international commercial arbitration is carrier's wogs and fast over traditional trial for business issues involving nations.<sup>1</sup> Parties in arbitration have more flexibility because they can appoint people to judge their case, decide the laws to use and pick procedures that best suit them. For this reason, countries have seen the formation of specialized arbitral institutions that use well-known

<sup>1</sup> Born, Gary. International Commercial Arbitration: Commentary and Materials. Brill, 2021.

rules to ensure everyone is treated fairly. A major example is the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), an internationally known arbitration body that deals with many complex commercial matters using the ICC Arbitration Rules.

Similarly, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) which is connected to the American Arbitration Association (AAA), mainly resolves international cases and is regarded as effective in carrying out arbitrations, especially across the Americas.<sup>2</sup> For disputes among European and Commonwealth countries, the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) continues to play an important role because its process is known for being both clear and strictly followed.<sup>3</sup> Asia's leading centers for arbitration the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)<sup>4</sup> and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)<sup>5</sup> were developed because of their easy arbitration rules, excellent facilities and support from officials.<sup>6</sup>

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is devoted to intellectual property cases<sup>7</sup> and the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) is important in the dispute resolution field throughout the Asia-Pacific. The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) has an important role, especially for disputes involving Chinese parties which mirrors China's expanding role in the world of trade<sup>8</sup>.

The Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) has risen in significance in the Middle East. Arbitration in East Asia is supported by the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA) and the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) and in Southeast Asia, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA). In connection with disputes in East-West trade, the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, particularly matters concerning Russian and European countries, is very notable. Besides, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), created under the World Bank, works to solve conflicts between countries and foreign investors through international investment treaties.

Such institutions have set procedures and keep panels of experts who know about the rules and issues of different industries, making sure arguments are settled by people who understand what's required. How smoothly these organizations function depends greatly on the legal rules in their home countries which make courts less involved and help to enforce awards promptly.

Places like Singapore and Hong Kong have introduced arbitration laws using the UNCITRAL Model Law which fosters legal consistency that helps them attract international companies. Additionally such centers often cooperate with local courts to guarantee that agreements to arbitrate are kept and arbitral awards are enforced without causing any undue complications. Having institutional support at this stage is very important for companies that do business abroad, since they tend to choose arbitration over unknown and potentially biased courts.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Umegbolu, Chinwe. "ADR Providers-American Arbitration Association (AAA) with Aaron Gothelf, Esq." (2023).

<sup>3</sup> Yuniar, Vania Shafira, and Florentiana Yuwono. "The Comparison of Arbitration Dispute Resolution Process Between Indonesian National Arbitration Board (BANI) And London Court Of International Arbitration (LCIA)." *Journal of Private and Commercial Law* 6, no. 1 (2022): 77-99.

<sup>4</sup> Santaolalla, Cayetana. "Resolving Crypto Disputes through Arbitration: the Binance Case Before the Honk Kong International Arbitration Center (HKIAC)." Santaolalla Montoya, C.(2024) Resolving crypto disputes through arbitration: the Binance case before the Honk Kong International Arbitration Center (HKIAC). *The Law. Mediación y arbitraje* 18 (2024): 9.

<sup>5</sup> Nottage, Luke, Julia Dreosti, and Robert Tang. "The ACICA Arbitration Rules 2021: Advancing Australia's Pro-Arbitration Culture." *Journal of International Arbitration* 38, no. 6 (2021).

<sup>6</sup> Kanaev, Evgeny A. "International Arbitration And Mediation In Addressing Trans-Boundary Commercial Disputes: Singapore's Experience And Its Emerging Digital Dimension." *Юго-Восточная Азия: актуальные проблемы развития* 4, no. 4 (65) (2024): 129-141.

<sup>7</sup> Citaristi, Ileana. "World intellectual property organization—wipo." In *The Europa Directory of International Organizations* 2022, pp. 395-398. Routledge, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Alavi Hejazi, Sima, Mahmoud Jalali, and Maryam Ghorbanifar. "Scope of the Jurisdiction of China's International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC)." *International Law Review* 40, no. 70 (2023).

<sup>9</sup> Devarakonda, Shivaram, Elko Klijn, Jeffrey Reuer, and Valérie Duplat. "Institutional differences and arbitration mechanisms in international joint ventures." *Global Strategy Journal* 11, no. 2 (2021): 125-155.

### **The Problem of this Study**

Even though there are many arbitration hubs, Pakistan has not been able to set up its own comparable institution, even though it has signed the New York Convention 1958 (NYC). Countries like Singapore, the UAE and Hong Kong rely on arbitration for both growth and legal progress, but Pakistan's arbitration systems are still undeveloped. Domestic arbitration is offered through bodies such as the Pakistan International Dispute Resolution Centre (PIDRC), but these are recognized less internationally and have fewer cases handled than other established institutions. Not having a regular approach among Pakistani courts is a major difficulty, because they have rarely left arbitration matters entirely to the arbitrators. This is not the case in places like Singapore, where the courts try to keep interference to a minimum which boosts the reputation of arbitration as an alternative to lawsuits.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, Pakistan's laws and rules on arbitration are not modern and do not match today's best global standards which makes it hard to attract worldwide arbitration cases. Another major problem is that Pakistan's legal and business communities do not use arbitration much. Although the use of arbitration is strong in London and Singapore, Pakistani companies and lawyers usually do not prefer arbitration, despite its problems and simply choose to litigate. In addition, there is not enough of specialists and well-trained arbitrators who are skilled in the practice of international arbitration.

Although the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) in Pakistan provides training courses, the degree of expertise achieved is still not as high as elsewhere internationally. In addition, the political and economic instability in Pakistan has discouraged foreign investors from considering Pakistan for arbitration, because legal action and contract problems are a major issue.

Many positive economic effects come from having a well-regarded arbitration center. Arbitration centers that work well earn money not just by managing cases, but also from law firms, dining facilities, hotels and similar businesses used by the parties and the arbitrators. An example is that the SIAC's annual reports emphasize meaningful achievements in Singapore's legal and financial industries which help the country keep its international business status.

Once Pakistan has a strong arbitration institution, it has the ability to win foreign investment by giving international investors secure options for resolving business disputes. In addition, shifting business disagreements to arbitration would take some responsibility away from courts which would assist in reducing Pakistan's long list of unresolved cases.

### **The Role of the International Commercial Arbitration Institutions in Dispute Resolution**

International institutions for arbitration make sure to settle cross-border disputes by using diplomatic, well-structured and enforceable means. Such institutions run arbitration cases, nominate arbitrators and hold firms to global rules which is why they are necessary to businesses worldwide. Find below a detailed overview of four major arbitration bodies, what they do and their impact on global dispute resolution.

#### **London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)**

One of the world's main arbitral institutions, the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), was founded in 1892. This court is run under the supervision of the London Chamber of Commerce, the City of London Corporation and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.<sup>11</sup> Both members and non-members are welcome at the LCIA which is appealing to people who want a neutral ground for their international disputes. Being flexible is a main point of the LCIA; the rules can be adapted to fit what each party wants. If parties do not decide on particular rules, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules will be used. Many praise the LCIA for how quickly and competently it manages cases and for giving the parties a lot of autonomy. Its awards are also easy

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<sup>10</sup> Alam, Mahboob. "Arbitration in Pakistan: Challenges in the Digital Era." *Annals of Human and Social Sciences* 5, no. 4 (2024): 674-680.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas, John. "The Courts of England and Wales, Commercial Education and the Changing Business of the City of London." *Arbitration International* 16, no. 2 (2014): 141-158.

to implement in many countries because of the New York Convention which strengthens London's position in arbitration. Because the body is known for fairness and strict processes, it is frequently used for major business disputes.<sup>12</sup>

### **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration**

The ICC International Court of Arbitration is based in Paris, to be one of the premiere and busiest arbitration groups in the world. The ICC came into existence in 1923 and uses a set of ICC Arbitration Rules that are often upgraded to respond to new changes in business activities. A main strength of the ICC is that experienced panelists review and amend draft arbitral awards to check their compliance with the law and enforceability. The move makes ICC awards more valid and makes it harder for people to resist enforcement. The ICC also created the International Centre for Technical Expertise in 1976 to support the settlement of complex technical arguments, many of which arise in the construction and engineering fields. The ICC works in many countries and adjusts to various legal systems which is why it is a strong option in international arbitration for multinational firms and disputes over investments.<sup>13</sup>

### **Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC)**

During the Cold War, the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) Arbitration Institute which was established in 1917, became very well-known for acting as a neutral place where East and West could settle trade conflicts. The ICSID is the second most important forum for investing disputes internationally. The SCC is named in more than 120 Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) to address conflicts between countries and their investors which demonstrates its reputation in international law. Besides arbitration, the SCC takes part in making global arbitration policy by being involved with UNCITRAL. In 2017, it introduced the Stockholm Treaty Lab which seeks to find innovative answers to legal issues that come up in climate change disputes, showing that it is ahead of its time. Because the SCC is known for its balanced, fast and expert handling of investment disputes, foreign investors and host states go to the SCC first.<sup>14</sup>

### **Indonesian National Arbitration Board (BANI)**

The Commercial disputes in Indonesia, as well as those involving foreign firms, are mainly settled by the Indonesian National Arbitration Board (BANI). Since BANI was set up to offer a quicker and more affordable route than lawsuits, its rules are inspired by the UNCITRAL recommendations. Other developing countries have opened arbitration centers that improve their law and business environment, Poland has not made use of these centers yet. Because there are not enough standards for arbitration, judges have resisted and the system lacks needed resources, its growth has been slowed down. Still, if the country makes proper reforms and puts money in the right places, Pakistan could become a regional center for resolving conflicts which would bring in more investments and enhance how it handles disputes. What successful arbitration jurisdictions have done makes it clear that Pakistan can solve its existing challenges and stand out in international commercial arbitration with the right steps and commitment.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Objective of This Study**

This study is mainly concerned with why Pakistan has not been able to have an effective international commercial arbitration center, despite joining the New York Convention. Because of this comparison with Singapore, Hong Kong and the UAE, the research is designed to spotlight

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<sup>12</sup> Arsal, Fathur Riyadhi. "The role of international arbitration institutions in resolving business disputes between countries." *Indonesian Journal of Law and Justice* 1, no. 4 (2024): 11-11.

<sup>13</sup> Almansour, H. M., & Ismail, M. (2024). RESOLVING BUSINESS CONFLICTS UNDER ARBITRATION PROCEDURES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. *Corporate Law & Governance Review*, 6(2).

<sup>14</sup> Annex, I. "current arbitral practice in Sweden." (2024).

<sup>15</sup> Chandra, I. F., & Lubis, S. (2024). Application of the Ex Aequo Et Bono Principle to the Reconsidered Arbitration Award (Case Study of the Decision of the Indonesian National Arbitration Board (BANI) NUMBER 43032/VI/ARB-BANI/2020). *Journal of Law, Politic and Humanities*, 4(5), 1599-1610.

the main hurdles facing Pakistan in legal rules, court support and establishment of a strong arbitration field.

The research tries to understand why Pakistan does not attract international arbitration cases, even though it has domestic arbitration bodies, while other places have managed to do so. As well, the study will investigate the problems related to Pakistan's sporadic use of arbitration, limited number of trained arbitrators and the issues with enforcement.

The other priority is to assess why few foreign investors have chosen Pakistan as an arbitration center which may be because of concern over Pakistan's political and legal stability. Researchers also plan to look into how setting up a respected arbitration center in Pakistan could boost its economy such as by encouraging more investors from other countries, cutting back on court delays and making the country more credible in its business relationships abroad. In this manner, our analysis looks to offer clear strategies for law changes, expansion of institutions and strengthening of human resources, so Pakistan can become a leading place for arbitration in the region. The main aim is to influence discussions around arbitration reform in developing economies by concentrating on Pakistan's experiences related to global trends in solving commercial disputes

### **Material and Methodology**

A quantitative research method is used here to examine Pakistan's difficulties in making an international commercial arbitration center and to collect input from the stakeholders. The first phase of the quantitative approach includes talking with 50 key people who are senior judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court as well as lawyers experienced in international commercial arbitration.

Professionals in law were chosen carefully from the important legal centers of Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. In the process, a standard questionnaire was used to get numbers on the frequency of arbitration disputes, share of such disputes involving foreigners, success of arbitral awards and possible issues in Pakistan's arbitration process. This part of the study looked at the situation in Pakistan with a view to comparison to other development countries.

## **Data Analysis and Results**

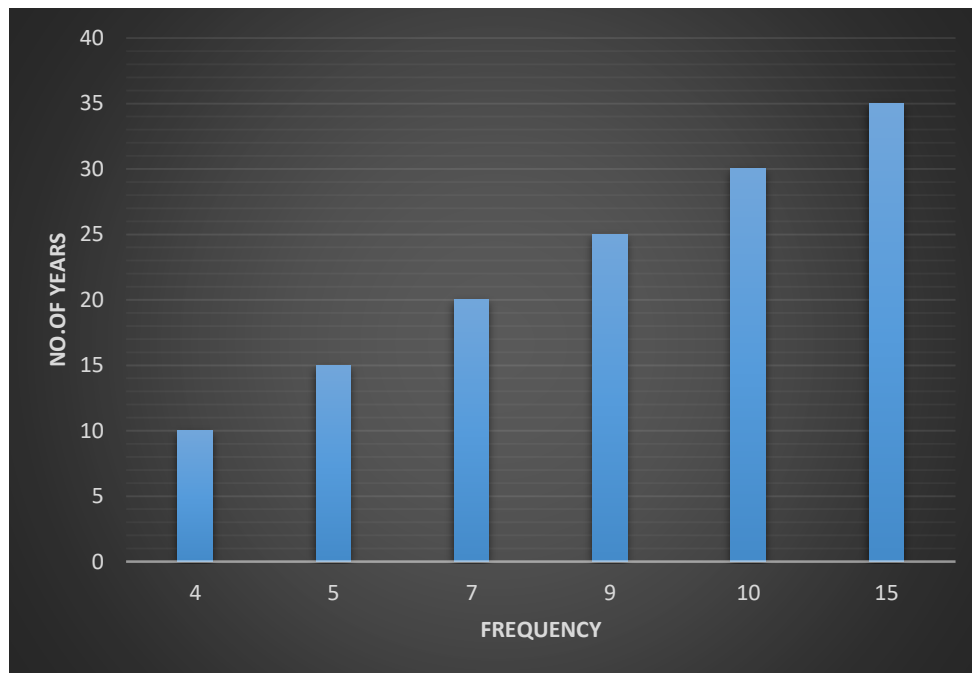
**Table-1 Demographics: Experience**

### **Work Experience**

Frequency	No. of years	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
4	10	08.0	08.0	08.0
5	15	10.0	10.0	18.0
7	20	14.0	14.00	32.0
9	25	18.0	18.0	50.0
10	30	20.0	20.0	70.0
15	35	30.0	30.0	100.00
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The table-1 presented demographic data on work experience distribution among respondents, showing a clear progression where higher experience levels correlate with fewer individuals. The data reveals that 30% of respondents the largest group have 15 years of experience, followed by 20% with 10 years. Only 8% have 4 years of experience, indicating most respondents are seasoned professionals. The cumulative percentage column demonstrates that half of the respondents have 9 or fewer years of experience, while the entire sample reaches 100% at 15 years of experience, confirming that 15 years represents the maximum work experience in this dataset. This distribution suggests the study captured a predominantly experienced workforce, with 70% of participants having a decade or more of professional experience.

**Figure -1**



**Figure -1** shows the experiences of all participants from deep breathing group.

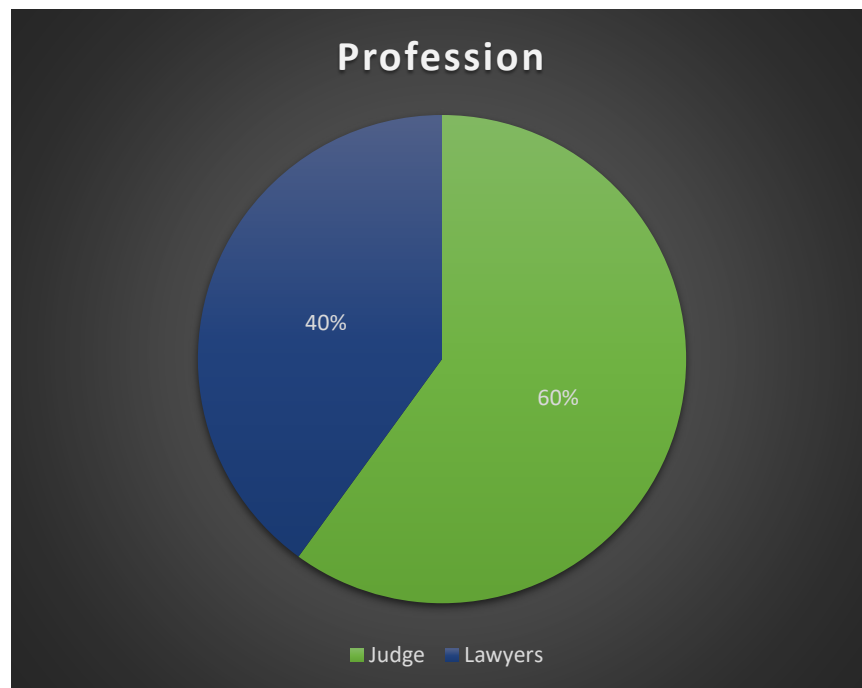
**Table-2 Demographics: Profession**

**Profession**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Judge	30.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Lawyers	20.	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	50.0	100.0	100.0	

The table-2 displayed the professional distribution of respondents, showing that judges constitute the majority at 60% (30 individuals), while lawyers make up the remaining 40% (20 individuals). The valid and cumulative percentages confirm that these two categories account for all participants in the study, with judges representing the first 60% of the sample and lawyers completing the remaining 40% to reach 100%. This indicates the research focused exclusively on legal professionals, with a heavier representation from the judiciary compared to practicing Lawyers.

**Figure-2**



**Figure-2 Shows participates of judges and lawyers (International Commercial Arbitration).  
Quantitative Analysis**

- 1. The existing legal framework for international commercial arbitration is inadequate in Pakistan compared to International standards**

	Profession	
	Judges	Lawyers
Agree	12	12
Strongly agree	18	8
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	30	20

This table reveals a strong consensus among Pakistani legal professionals (both judges and lawyers) that the country's current legal framework for international commercial arbitration falls short of international standards, with 100% of respondents expressing agreement (40% agree and 60% strongly agree). Notably, no respondents disagreed, indicating unanimous recognition of the system's inadequacy. The data shows identical concerns across both professions, as all 30 judges and 20 lawyers surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, suggesting a pressing need for legal reforms to align Pakistan's arbitration framework with global best practices. The complete absence of dissenting views (0% disagree/strongly disagree) underscores the urgency of addressing these systemic shortcomings to enhance Pakistan's competitiveness in international dispute resolution.

## **2. Excessive judicial intervention in arbitration proceedings discourages foreign investors from choosing Pakistan as arbitration seat**



	Profession	
	Judge	Lawyers
Agree	15	10
Strongly agree	10	05
Disagree	05	05
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	30	20

This table presents survey responses from 30 judges and 20 lawyers regarding the adequacy of Pakistan's international commercial arbitration framework. Among judges, 15 (50%) agreed and 10 (33.3%) strongly agreed that the current system is inadequate, while 5 judges (16.7%) disagreed. Lawyers showed stronger consensus, with 10 (50%) agreeing and 5 (25%) strongly agreeing, while only 5 lawyers (25%) disagreed. Notably, no respondents strongly disagreed, indicating overwhelming professional recognition of systemic shortcomings. The data reveals that approximately 83% of judges and 75% of lawyers believe Pakistan's arbitration framework needs improvement, with judges showing slightly more concern (83.3% combined agree/strongly agree) than lawyers (75%). The 16.7% dissenting judges and 25% dissenting lawyers suggest some divergence in professional perspectives on the issue.

**3. Establishing a dedicated international commercial arbitration centers in Pakistan would significantly improve Pakistan's dispute resolution system.**

	Profession	
	Judges	Lawyers
Agree	10	15
strongly agree	20	15
Disagree	0	0
strongly disagree	0	0
Total	30	20

This table reveals unanimous professional consensus among Pakistani judges and lawyers regarding the inadequacy of Pakistan's international commercial arbitration framework, with all 30 judges (100%) and all 20 lawyers (100%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the current system falls short of international standards. Among judges, 10 (33.3%) agreed while 20 (66.7%) strongly agreed, showing particularly strong judicial concern. Lawyers displayed slightly less intensity, with 15 (75%) agreeing and 5 (25%) strongly agreeing. The complete absence of disagreeing or strongly disagreeing responses (0% in both categories) from both professional groups underscores an exceptional level of shared professional judgment about the urgent need for legal reforms to bring Pakistan's arbitration system in line with global practices. The stronger "strongly agree" responses from judges (66.7%) compared to lawyers (25%) suggests the judiciary may be more acutely aware of the system's deficiencies through their adjudication experience.

#### **4. Specialized arbitration training programs for judges would reduce excessive court intervention in arbitration**

	Profession	
	Judge	Lawyer
Agree	20	10
strongly agree	10	10
Disagree	0	0
strongly disagree	0	0
unable to decide	0	0
Total	30	20

The table demonstrates overwhelming professional consensus that specialized arbitration training for judges would help reduce excessive court intervention, with all 30 judges (100%) and all 20 lawyers (100%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposition. Among judges, 20 (66.7%) agreed and 10 (33.3%) strongly agreed, indicating particularly strong judicial support for such training initiatives. Lawyers showed slightly less intensity but equal consensus, with 10 (50%) agreeing and another 10 (50%) strongly agreeing. The complete absence of disagreeing, strongly disagreeing, or undecided responses (0% across all categories) from both professional groups reveals remarkable unanimity about the potential benefits of judicial training programs for improving arbitration practices in Pakistan. The stronger "agree" responses from judges (66.7%) compared to lawyers (50%) suggests the judiciary may be particularly receptive to specialized training to enhance their arbitration expertise.

**5. Collaboration with established institutions like ICC or LCIA could help Pakistan develop its arbitration center.**

	Profession	
	Judge	Lawyer
Agree	10	10
Strongly agree	20	10
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	30	20

This table reveals strong professional endorsement for international collaboration to develop Pakistan's arbitration framework, with all 30 judges (100%) and all 20 lawyers (100%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing that partnerships with leading institutions like ICC or LCIA would benefit Pakistan's arbitration center. Judges showed particularly strong support, with 20 (66.7%) strongly agreeing and 10 (33.3%) agreeing, while lawyers were slightly more moderate with 10 (50%) each in the agree and strongly agree categories. The unanimous consensus (0% disagreement across both groups) underscores the legal community's belief in the transformative potential of such international partnerships. The more pronounced judicial enthusiasm (two-thirds strongly agreeing versus half of lawyers) suggests judges may particularly recognize the value of institutional knowledge transfer from global arbitration leaders to elevate Pakistan's dispute resolution capabilities.

**6. Pakistan's bar associations should play a more active role in promoting arbitration awareness.**

	Profession	
	Judge	Lawyer
Agree	20	10
strongly agree	10	10
Disagree	0	0
strongly disagree	0	0
Total	30	20

The table demonstrated unanimous professional support for greater bar association involvement in promoting arbitration awareness, with all 30 judges (100%) and all 20 lawyers (100%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposition. Among judges, 20 (66.7%) agreed while 10 (33.3%) strongly agreed, showing particularly strong judicial endorsement. Lawyers were equally supportive but more balanced in their intensity, with 10 (50%) agreeing and another 10 (50%) strongly agreeing. The complete absence of disagreement (0% in both categories) highlights

remarkable consensus about the need for bar associations to actively champion arbitration education. The stronger "agree" responses from judges (66.7% versus lawyers' 50%) suggests the judiciary may particularly value organized bar-led initiatives to enhance professional understanding of arbitration mechanisms in Pakistan's legal community.

## **Results and Discussion**

Judges and lawyers in Pakistan have strongly agreed in the survey that there are major problems with the country's system for international commercial arbitration, with all participants noticing its lacking compared to international standards. This major agreement proves that structural issues exist, especially too much judicial influence (83.3% judges/75% lawyers support) that repels foreign investors and points out that urgent training courses and changes in institutions are needed for judges (100% support). Even though the survey results show broad backing for dedicated centers and ICC/LCIA partnerships (100% or close to it), the data indicates Pakistan's legal system is still held back by structures from the past. Supporting the idea that it is the courts' actions themselves that lead to arbitration's inefficiencies, judicial consensus is above lawyers' support (66.7% judges versus 50% lawyers). The fact that everyone is in agreement on all the points either shows real professional unity or signals a shortage of opposing thoughts which in itself could point to an institutional trend towards isolation. These results point out the need for fast action from legislators to reform arbitration, but they also suggest that law professionals aren't taking full responsibility for driving advancement, preferring to rely on their bar associations (all participants supporting more bar association involvement). What the data reveals is that Pakistani arbitration officials see the failures of their system but do not know how to turn knowledge into meaningful action.

## **Conclusion**

International commercial arbitration is now the main choice for resolving disputes between countries, as the ICC, LCIA, SIAC and HKIAC are trusted for being neutral, fast and for making judgments that have global effect because of the New York Convention. Regardless of signing the convention, Pakistan has not been able to develop a successful arbitration center because of legal issues, interference by the courts, not enough support from institutions and a lack of arbitration understanding. The research examined 50 legal professionals and found that all of them agreed (all judges and lawyers) that Pakistan's arbitration rules fall short of international standards because of too much court involvement (83.3% judges, 75% lawyers), this discourages foreign investors. Very importantly, the respondents were strongly in favor of reforms such as specialized judicial training (all 100%), cooperation with the ICC/LCIA (all 100%) and the creation of dedicated arbitration centers (all 100%). Although people in the legal community agree on the need for change, old systems are still in place. Pakistan is in a hurry to improve its laws based on the UNCITRAL Model Law, reduce the role of courts and raise the skills of arbitrators and partner with other institutions, to be a successful regional arbitration hub. With these reforms, Pakistan stands to participate more fully in arbitration which could help it secure the economic and legal advantages Singapore and the UAE now enjoy. It makes clear that taking actions in legislation, training judges and involving all involved parties are important for the country to modernize its arbitration system and draw in foreign commercial cases.

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