

M. N. VENKATACHALIAH

A COMMENDATION OF IIAM COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICE VISUALIZED BY THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATION & MEDIATION.

The Indian Institute of Arbitration & Mediation (IIAM), a registered society, has innovated an extremely effective idea of a decentralized, socially oriented and inexpensive Dispute Resolution Mechanism to serve the needs of the common people obviating their recourse to more expensive, embittering and protracted litigations in the courts of law. The formal dispute resolution mechanisms are wholly inappropriate to the aspirations and needs of the common people for speedy justice.

I had the privilege of being on the Advisory Board of IIAM along with Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, Former Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice K.S. Paripoornan, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Former Cabinet Secretary & Former Governor of Jharkhand, Dr. Madhav Mehra, President of World Council for Corporate Governance, UK, Dr. Abid Hussain, Former Ambassador to the US, Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal, Former Governor of Sikkim, Dr. G. Mohan Gopal, Director of the National Judicial Academy and Mr. Michael McIlwrath, Chairman, International Mediation Institute, The Hague.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India inaugurated the "IIAM Community Mediation Service" on the 17th of January 2009 at New Delhi. Every participant extolled the great potential of this innovative scheme to bring justice to the doors of the common man under a scheme which provides for voluntary participation with the assistance of experienced lawyers, retired judges, former civil servants and other public spirited people who will act as mediators to bring about a just and mutually acceptable solution to potentially litigative situations. In the formal system there is always a loser and a winner, but Community Mediation provides a win-win situation for both sides. This will promote peace and harmony in the society. It will provide a quality of justice equal to or even better than in the formal dispute resolution system.

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Indian Institute of Arbitration & Mediation is willing to provide the know-how for establishing such "mediation clinics" by public spirited institutions, Corporates and all those who realise that in the last analysis, their own well-being consists in and depends on peace and tranquility in the society at large. IIAM will provide free of cost advice and technical support and even "build, operate and transfer" the Mediation Clinics, which can be run on minimal financial support.

I have great pleasure in commending to all Institutions, particularly Corporates and other public spirited persons interested in the welfare of society, to participate in this exciting experiment of bringing justice between man and man in a society which is tending more and more towards strife and friction. The legal system as it now stand has not been able to provide inexpensive, satisfactory and timely solutions to peoples' problems.

I must commend the dedicated work of Sri. Anil Xavier, a promising lawyer with a fine sensitive social conscience, in developing the innovative institution of "IIAM Community Mediation Service".



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July 24, 2009