MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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ADR CENTRE

International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) was established at the initiative of some of the leading legal luminaries. It was registered as a Society in May 1995 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for the promotion and development of ADR facilities and techniques to facilitate early resolution of disputes and to reduce the increasing burden of arrears in Courts. It is an autonomous organisation working under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, with its Headquarters at New Delhi and Regional Centres at Hyderabad and Bangalore.

The Centre has a panel of about 320 arbitrators and conciliators consisting of retired Judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, retired members of various Tribunals, senior advocates, senior engineers, chartered accountants, etc. The ICADR has fixed fee for Arbitrators as per ICADR Arbitration Rules, 1996 and the said fee is very cost effective.

Apart from promoting the settlement of domestic and international commercial disputes outside the Court System by different ADR mechanisms, the ICADR is holding, from time to time, Seminars/Workshops/Conferences for

training arbitrators and conciliators. From 1998 to 2011 about 10500 persons have been trained as Arbitrators/Conciliators in Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jaipur and Chandigarh. In this connection, ICADR has so far held eight Conferences of international level in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangaluru and Mumbai and 98 Seminars/Workshops. ICADR is also conducting P.G. Diploma Courses in ADR and Family Dispute Resolution on regular basis and through Proximate Education in collaboration with NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad to promote and popularise ADR methods.

The ICADR has constructed its own centrally airconditioned building at New Delhi in 2005 consisting of basement, ground, first and second floors with floor area of about 50,000 sq.ft. It was inaugurated by the then Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti on 29th August, 2005. ICADR is providing excellent facilities for conducting arbitral proceedings in air-conditioned arbitration halls with separate chamber for the Arbitrators, secretarial assistance, xerox, fax, e-mail etc. at a nominal cost. Many organisations are utilising the services of Arbitrators from the Panel of Arbitrators maintained by ICADR. At the request of the parties, the ICADR facilitates the appointment of competent, impartial Arbitrators/Conciliators from its panel and also monitors the process of arbitration/conciliation at a nominal cost. Since October 2005, 399 cases were heard by different Ministries and other parties and 344 hearings by Arbitrators appointed by ICADR in various cases have taken place till date in ICADR's new Headquarters building.

The ICADR has started the construction of Phase-II of its building consisting of Block C&D (Convention Centre and Business Centre) and Block E (Future Block). The Foundation Stone for the construction of Phase II of ICADR's Headquarters Building was laid on 21st May, 2010 by Hon'ble Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, Union Minister for Law and Justice. H.E. Dr. H.R. Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka and Chairman, ICADR presided over the said Function. The new building of ICADR will provide a decent infrastructure having latest facilities like Videoconferencing, Transcription, etc., for holding not only

domestic arbitration and mediation cases but also international commercial arbitration and mediation cases under one roof in New Delhi.

ADR Centre is an initiative of Centre for Public Policy Research based in Kochi, Kerala which provides Arbitration, Mediation/ Conciliation service to various entities. Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) is a think tank dedicated to intensive research on economic, social, and political issues. ADR Centre assists the common people in settling their disputes out of court. The Centre believes in expanding the scope of ADR and assist in settling disputes in an effective manner. The Mission of the Centre is to formulate a system for general public to redress their disputes using ADR mechanisms and thereby enabling them to enjoy the hassle free settlement process. The Centre explores the possibility of resolving the disputes in the pre-litigation stages or those in the preliminary stages of judicial processes. By and large, Centre aims for speedy justice in lesser time period and at minimum cost complying with Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

ADR Centre has been active in conducting various Conferences namely 'Taking ADR to the commons' held at Indian Law Institute, New Delhi on 22nd November 2008, Talk on Gram Nyayalaya on 8th February 2009, programme on "Resolving disputes for maritime business", Training programme on Mediation in association with Cochin Chamber of Commerce on 15th February 2011. Further ADR Centre have had constant engagements with various Chambers of Commerce like Cochin Chamber of Commerce, educational institutions like Rajagiri School of Social Sciences etc. ADR Centre has conducted various Arbitrations,

Mediation/Conciliation proceedings with the assistance of its expert panel of Arbitrators and Mediators/Conciliators.

Whereas the above two Institutions wish to cooperate in the promotion of alternative dispute resolution procedures for the settlement of all kinds of domestic and international commercial disputes, both the Institutions agree as follows:-

- 1. ADR Centre and ICADR shall collaborate in conducting Arbitration proceedings as per the ICADR Arbitration/Conciliation Rules.
- 2. ICADR agrees to engage Arbitrators from ADR Centre for conducting Arbitration cases in Kerala, which are referred to ICADR from parties situate in Kerala. ICADR also agrees to persuade the parties to utilise the facilities of ADR Centre for conducting arbitration proceedings in such cases. The cost of the facilities shall be payable by the parties in equal share to the ADR Centre at the rates specified by that Centre.
- 3. ADR Centre agrees to share the list of Arbitrators and Mediators/Conciliators with ICADR for the purpose of this MOU.
- 4. Both the Institutions shall examine possibilities, whenever appropriate, of jointly organising training programmes on mediation, arbitration and other related procedures as well as organising seminars, conferences and research studies in the field of alternative dispute resolution and intellectual property. The costs of such activities shall be shared by both the Institutions on case to case basis.

- 5. This MOU has been entered into for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either Institution with one month's prior notice in writing.
- 6. This MOU may be amended by written agreement of both the Institutions.

 This MOU shall become effective on the dates of its signature by both the Institutions.

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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, NEW DELHI

B.S. SALUJA

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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DATE

ADR CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH, KOCHI

DHANURAJ D.

CHAIRMAN