



No. PPRA/AP-55/2025
Government of Pakistan
Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
(Appeal & Review Petition Secretariat)
1st Floor, FBC Building, G-5/2, Islamabad

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ORDER

M/s The Chartered Institute of Arbitrator (CI Arb)

...the "Appellant"

Vs.


Grievance Redressal Committee, Ministry of Law & Justice (MoL&J)

...the "Respondent"


Date of Hearing 28.01.2026	Mr. Qamber Ali, Legal Council, Mr. Muhammad Ammad Nazir, Mr. Subhan Shafiq. <i>(On behalf of Appellant)</i> Mr. Javed, Director (P), MoL&J <i>(On behalf of Respondent i.e., MoL&J)</i> Mr. Ehsan Ullah Khan, IMAC, MoL&J <i>(On behalf of Respondent No. 2 i.e., IMAC, MoL&J)</i>
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APPEAL UNDER RULE 48(7) OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RULES, 2004

The Authority received an Appeal filed by M/s the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), through its authorised legal and operational vehicle TCC ADR Centre (Pvt) Ltd. "the Appellant" on 31.12.2025 under Rule 48(7) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004. The Authority on receipt of the Appeal issued notices to M/s the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), ("Appellant"); Convenor Grievance Redressal Committee, Ministry of Law & Justice; International

 Mediation & Arbitration Centre (IMAC), Ministry of Law & Justice; ICDRP/International Law Institute (ILI), USA (the "Respondents"), wherein it was directed to appear in person or through their nominated representatives or Counsel before the Authority before the Appellate Committee in the Committee Room of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

2. On the date of hearing i.e. 28.01.2026, the representatives of the parties, i.e. M/s the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) "Appellant"; Convenor Grievance Redressal Committee, Ministry of Law & Justice; International Mediation & Arbitration Centre (IMAC), Ministry of Law & Justice; ICDRP/International Law Institute (ILI), USA (the "Respondents") appeared before the Committee and presented their arguments at length. The Respondents provided written arguments to the Committee.

 3. The representative of the Appellant submitted that the instant Appeal has been filed as the Appellant is not satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC). The Appellant confines this Appeal strictly to one issue, i.e., Wrongful grant of marks under Section A-4 (International recognition of Certification – 7.5 marks) to ICDRP/ILI, despite non-availability of verifiable documentary proof/evidence and despite the tender's objective and mandatory requirements.

4. The representative of the Appellant further submitted that the procurement seeks training, accreditation and

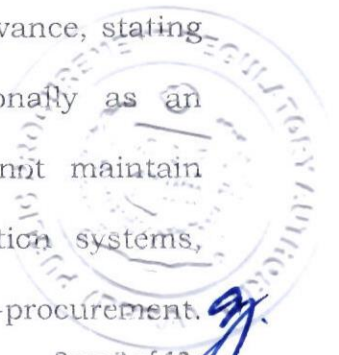


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certification of arbitrators through a recognised international accrediting arbitration body of global repute, and upon successful completion, participants must be certified and accredited for empanelment with the respective international body; fellowship-level certification must be achieved after candidates pass assessments. It was further highlighted that the Bidding Documents make international recognition of Certification and proof of accredited arbitration training as a mandatory requirement. It also expressly requires verifiable documentary evidence /proof for all mandatory requirements. Further added that in technical evaluation – A. Institutional Expertise: Section A-4 awards up to 7.5 marks for international recognition of Certification. The Instructions to Bidders further embed integrity safeguards, including unfair competitive advantage (Clause 4.1) and Corrupt and Fraudulent Practices (Clause 5.1-5.2), which requires truthfulness, fair competition, and meaningful scrutiny of claims and documents presented by bidders.

Amulka

5. The representative of the Appellant further contended that the technical evaluation treated ICDRP in collaboration with ILI USA as eligible and awarded marks, including marks under A-4. The Appellant raised this in its grievance, stating that ICDRP/ILI is not recognised internationally as an arbitration certification authority and does not maintain structured arbitration pathways or accreditation systems, therefore, A-4 marks were arbitrary and mis-procurement.

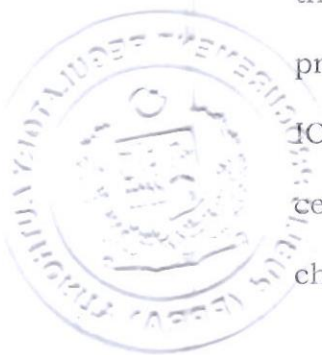




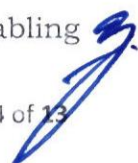
Further submitted that GRC has rejected the grievance, however, the Appellant challenges that the justification on A-4 is not evidence based and does not demonstrate compliance with the tenders mandatory and scoring standards.



6. The representative of the Appellant further submitted that A-4 is not a general reputation or training exposure criterion; it is specifically tied to international recognition of certification, and the tender also demands that successful participants be certified / accredited for empanelment with the international body after assessments. Further averred that the tender's own mandatory regime requires verifiable documentary evidence / proof for international recognition of certification and proof of accredited arbitration training. Further submitted that ILI is a rule of law governance training organisation, not a specialist arbitration certification / accreditation body, and does not award professional arbitration qualifications recognised for empanelment; treating it as equivalent to a professional arbitration certifying institution defeats the tender's objectives.



7. The representative of the Appellant further contended that marks under A-4 could only lawfully be awarded if the procuring agency could demonstrate with verifiable proof that ICDRP/ILI is internationally recognised as an arbitration certification authority and that its certification is of the character envisaged by the tender, i.e., accreditation enabling





empanelment and anchored in assessment-based certification. Further added that A-4 marks were awarded without strict verification, it creates an unfair competitive advantage and raises concerns under the tender's integrity clauses (ITB 4.1, 5.1, 5.2), because bidders can obtain marks through unverified or overstated claims of "international recognition" rather than demonstrate accreditation capacity.

8. The representative of the Respondent No. 2 (International Mediation & Arbitration Centre-IMAC) submitted that the Appellant has failed to point out any breach of law warranting interference by this Authority. The Appellant has failed to establish any lawful cause of action. Further submitted that the Appellant lacks locus standi to file and pursue the instant appeal. Further added that the instant matter has not been agitated in Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) meeting due to which Appellant does not come into the category aggrieved person. Further added that the averments contained in the mentioned paragraphs of the Appeal having been exaggerated colourfully, being totally misconceived hence denied on the following grounds:



- The marks under Section A-4 were awarded strictly on the basis of documentary evidence submitted by ICDRP/ILI. The consortium demonstrated international collaborations and certification arrangements with global partners, including ILI & WIF, which co-issues certificates ensuring international recognition.



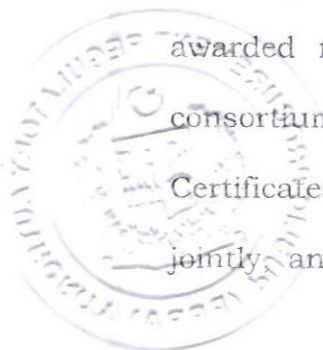
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- Section A-4 relates to recognition of certification, not institutional taxonomy. The evaluation committee evaluated the submitted documents and awarded marks accordingly.
- All bidders were subject to the same mandatory requirements. ICADRP/ILI passed the mandatory stage and were therefore eligible to be scored under the technical matrix demonstrating consistency and fairness.

9. The representative of the Respondent further submitted that the allegation of wrongful grant of marks is speculative, baseless and irrelevant at this stage. Marks under Section A-4 were awarded lawfully on the basis of documentary evidence and equal treatment was ensured across borders. Further added that re-evaluation at this stage is unnecessary and it will prolong the tendering process.

Amir Khan

10. The representative of the Respondent No. 01 (Grievance Redressal Committee) submitted that the bidding document explicitly required "International Recognition of Certification" as a mandatory criterion. As per the bidding document submitted, ILI is an international certificate awarding institution. Further added that the documents stipulated that certification would be issued jointly by the consortium (ICADRP, ILI, WIF, SQA), thereby ensuring international recognition. The Procurement Committee awarded marks under Section A-4 on the strength of the consortium arrangement, which was documented in the bid. Certificates were to be co-issued by the consortium, signed jointly, and anchored in internationally recognised standards.



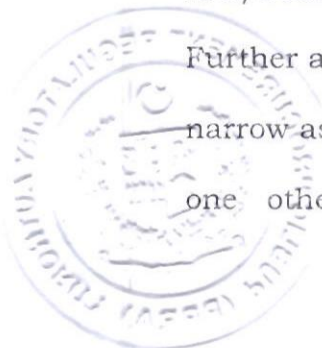
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the purposes of this procurement, to submit on its behalf. Further submitted that CIArb is a UK-incorporated chartered body governed by its Royal Charter and By-laws, under which the creation of branches, delegation of authority, and initiation of legal proceedings require express authorisation by the parent body through its Trustees. In the absence of duly executed power of attorney, board resolution, or written authorisation issued by CIArb evidencing TCC's capacity to act as its legal representative, the Appeal is procedurally defective and not maintainable.

Amjad

13. The representative of the Respondent No. 03 (ICDRP / International Law Institute (ILI), USA) further submitted that Rule 48 permits appeals, it does not permit: reopening of technical scoring disputes after the evaluation has attained finality, or substitution of the Appellant's commercial preferences for the procuring agency's reasoned evaluation. Further submitted that the narrowing of the Appeal to one scoring head (7.5 marks) underscores its non-maintainability. Section A-4 is subject to evaluative judgment, not mathematical certainty. Further submitted that the tender requires internationally recognised training and certification; and assessment-based outcomes. It does not require guaranteed empanelment on ICC/LCIA/ICSID panels; or specified certification models. Further added that the Appellant's interpretation of the bid is so narrow as to tailor it to one organization in Pakistan, CIArb, and one other international organization. The Respondent, in



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collaboration with its international partners, had committed to deliver upon the requirements under the bid.

14. The representative of the Respondent No. 03 (ICDRP / International Law Institute (ILI), USA) further submitted that ICDRP maintains national and internationally renowned panels of arbitrators and mediators and is collaborating with ILI on international training and curriculum development. It is denied that such recognition and empanelment are limited to a single institutional model or to affiliated training and empanelment organizations only. Further submitted that international recognition is a qualitative criterion, capable of being demonstrated through: global footprint, sustained governmental and judicial engagement, institutional credibility, and cross-border acceptance. Further added that as part of the technical bid, ICADRP submitted the official brochure of the International Law Institute (ILI), which formed part of the evaluation material before the Technical Committee and is publicly available on its website. The brochure at page 17 and 19, explicitly evidences ILI's longstanding and wide-ranging international recognition and acceptance by sovereign institutions, judicial bodies, and government agencies across multiple jurisdictions. The Appellant's claim that no verifiable evidence of international recognition was provided is unsustainable and contradicted by the bid documents.

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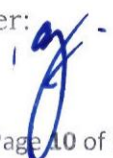
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15. The representative of the Respondent No. 03 (ICDRP / International Law Institute (ILI), USA) further submitted that the award of marks to ICDRP/ILI was based on documentary submissions, evaluated by the Technical Committee, and affirmed by the GRC. ILI's international standing is evidenced by decades of training senior judges, regulators, and government officers; programs conducted across multiple jurisdictions; affiliation with Georgetown University; and repeated selection by government institutions. Further contended that the tender uses the phrase "International recognition of Certification". Certification through: training, internationally delivered programs, government-recognised institutions, empanelment on ICADRP's panel as ILI's representative in Pakistan falls squarely within the tender's language. Further added that ILI is a globally respected rule-of-law and dispute resolution training institution, whose arbitration programs are: practitioner oriented, and internationally delivered. Further added that the Appellant's bid (PKR 4.5 crore) reflects a high-cost, elite centric model. ICDRP's proposal is deeply discounted, designed to expand access, train professionals from all walks of life, and serve national capacity-building objectives.



16. The Appellate Committee heard arguments of the Parties at length and perused all available record furnished by the Parties to the subject Appeal. In terms of Rules 29 & 30 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004, which is reproduced as under:



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29. Evaluation criteria: -

Procuring agencies shall formulate an appropriate evaluation criterion listing all the relevant information against which a bid is to be evaluated. Such evaluation criteria shall form an integral part of the bidding documents. Failure to provide for an unambiguous evaluation criteria in the bidding documents shall amount to mis-procurement.

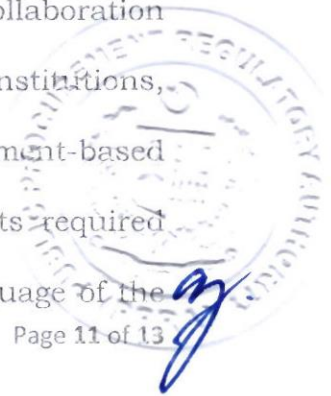
30. Evaluation of bids. -

(1) All bids shall be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria and other terms and conditions set forth in the prescribed bidding documents. Save as provided for in sub-clause (iv) of clause (c) of rule 36 no evaluation criteria shall be used for evaluation of bids that had not been specified in the bidding documents.

It is pertinent to mention that no deviation from the specifications, terms and conditions specified in the bidding documents & evaluation criteria is permissible. The procuring agency may proceed strictly in accordance with terms and conditions set forth in the bidding documents. All participants in the bidding process are bound by the terms and conditions of tender documents and cannot go beyond the purview and ambit of the tender documents.

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17. The Appellate Committee noticed that the record reflects that ICDRP/ILI submitted documentary evidence, i.e., brochures, institutional profiles demonstrating international collaboration and certification arrangements with foreign partner institutions, including provision for joint certification and assessment-based accreditation. Section A-4 of the bidding documents required "International Recognition of Certification". The language of the



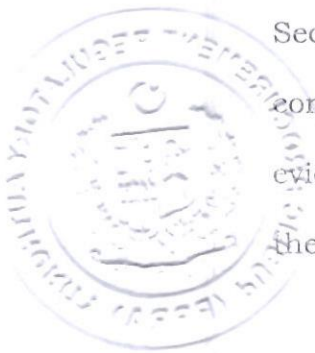
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criterion, as placed on record, does not restrict recognition exclusively to a particular named arbitration institution, nor does it mandate empanelment on specific international panels such as ICC, LCIA, or ICSID. The Technical Evaluation Committee considered such material and awarded marks accordingly.

18. The Appellate Committee observed that the bidding document, as placed on record, does not expressly restrict such recognition exclusively to specialist arbitration bodies, nor does it exclude consortium-based certification arrangements as well as allow individuals to become lead partners of the consortium. The Evaluation Committee and GRC examined the bids submitted and concluded that the consortium arrangement fulfilled the requirement of international recognition of certification. No material has been placed to establish that such finding was perverse, unsupported by record, or made in violation of the prescribed evaluation criteria. No evidence has been produced to demonstrate differential treatment of bidders or deviation from the stated evaluation matrix.


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19. In view of the foregoing, the Appellate Committee finds no illegality, arbitrariness, procedural impropriety, or violation of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 in the award of marks under Section A-4 to ICDRP/ILI Consortium. The evaluation was conducted on the basis of evaluation criteria and documentary evidence submitted by the bidders and within the framework of the bidding document; no violation of Rules 29 or 30 of the Public




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Procurement Rules, 2004 has been established. The decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee does not suffer from any material irregularity. Accordingly, the Appeal is hereby **dismissed**, being devoid of merit. The impugned decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee is upheld.


(Dr. Muhammad Aslam Waseem)
Director General (Legal)
(Member)


(Sheikh Afsal Raza)
Director (M&E)
(Member)


(Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi)
Managing Director (PPRA)
(Chairman of the Committee)

Each page of the order has been signed by all members of the Committee. The order comprises thirteen (13) pages.

