

# International ADR Development Service: India



In March 2006, Lawyers in Development commissioned a review of mediation and its potential in India. The report focused on how mediation was perceived in India and how it could be applied to the current justice system. Structural necessities which would have to be put in place for mediation to work on a national scale were also analysed. It highlighted the great benefits mediation could bring to India's legal system in terms of access to justice and administration.

ADR Group was invited to develop and deliver a structured mediation development project, jointly with the highly regarded Indian Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution. The project was funded and supported by the British Council, South India. ADR Group was tasked to deliver specialist training on mediation and dispute resolution skills.

From 28<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 in Chennai (formerly Madras), we successfully developed and delivered an international mediator training programme for a large group of local legal professionals, mainly lawyers. The programme included tailored tuition on the complexities of Indian law in so far as they overlap with modern dispute resolution techniques.

These initiatives were supported by the local community and received considerable coverage in the Indian press. Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, A.P. Sharp stated that historically "**mediation and conciliation is very much a part of our culture**" emphasising how vital it is to Indian culture in order for the country to progress.

In November 2008, ADR Group delivered its highly acclaimed "Train the Trainer" programme to a select group of specialist mediators and trainers. This programme is a key building block to enable the further ongoing development of mediation capability within India, using local trainers in a professional and highly cost-effective manner.

The Indian Parliament has also actively sought to imbed mediation through its enforcement of Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code.

Since the first organised training, ADR Group has continued with their programme to train new Indian mediators and have acted as a source for support and knowledge.

If you would like more information about ADR Group's work in India or have an interest in ADR Group delivering Mediation Development in your country, please contact Michael Lind, Managing Director of ADR Group on [mike.lind@adrgroup.co.uk](mailto:mike.lind@adrgroup.co.uk) or on +44 (0) 117 946 7180.