

# KEY NOTE ADDRESS – CIArb Awards/Gala Night

Hon Judges, ADR Practitioners  
Distinguished guests  
Ladies and gentlemen

Tonight we gather here  
To spend time together

To dine, wine and enjoy the evening

But we are also here  
to celebrate those  
who have excelled  
in various areas.

It is also a night  
where we reflect on where we  
have come from  
and where we are today

We honour and applaud  
those who had the vision.  
Those who dreamt big  
and founded CI Arb

What was once a vision  
has become a reality.  
And it is a lesson for us  
that tomorrow is  
something we can  
create today

Are we a lucky lot?  
No we are not  
Luck can be created  
We have created our own luck  
Over the years

We have opened many doors.  
And where there were no  
doors  
We built our own doors.

The road has been rough

Indeed

In a lot of cases  
we had to create the road  
by walking the  
unbeaten path.

We must keep reminding ourselves  
that success is the achievement  
of predetermined worthwhile goals  
That success is a journey  
where the journey  
is as important as the  
destination

We must never ever give up  
we must dream big  
so big  
that the dreams scare us  
someone said that  
if your dream is big enough  
no one can take it from you

We must win the ADR race  
at our own pace  
And on our own terms

We must constantly remind  
ourselves  
to run when we can  
walk if we have to  
crawl if we must  
But we must never ever  
give up

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Let us now reflect on the idea  
of  
Acres of diamonds:

You have all come across a story  
of a man who travelled far  
and wide  
To look for diamonds

He sold out his farm  
before he went  
The person who bought it  
discovered diamonds in it.

Africa is a diamond  
CIArb Kenya is a diamond

Let us look for our wealth  
here  
Russel H. Conwell puts it this way  
“It is possible to grow and prosper  
In our own acre of diamonds”.

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For the young ones walking  
this path  
I will tell you again  
You must get rid of  
the Fear of Failure  
And the Fear of  
Success.

It is possible to be  
    what you intend to be  
It is possible to achieve  
    what your heart cherishes  
Ultimately you are the sum total  
    of your thoughts  
The Bible, the Holy Quran  
    and other sages  
    will tell you  
That  
    As a person thinketh so  
    are they.

As Les Brown puts it 'You were born  
to win'

    Remind yourself every day  
    That  
Even when rain, thunder and  
    dark clouds  
    threaten to ruin your day:  
    you were born to win

Keep hope alive  
uphold the thought  
that there will always be  
a better tomorrow

That though it may be dark now  
the sun will rise tomorrow  
In the words of Martin Luther King  
“It is only when it is  
dark enough  
Can you see the stars”  
Hold the vision of  
a better tomorrow  
A bright warm tomorrow

Find your own success  
Find your own acre of  
diamonds  
Right where you are  
with what you have

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A story is told of a child  
who went without food  
almost daily  
Dropped out of school  
at standard two  
standard five  
High School – multiple times:  
For lack of school fees.

The child dreamt of being  
a pilot  
or a doctor  
And held onto the belief  
that dreams  
do come true.

That child did not become  
a pilot or a doctor.  
The child became a lawyer  
and an Arbitrator.



That child was me.

And I stand before you today  
humbled and grateful.

I have been a chair of this  
Organisation  
a Chairman and  
a Trustee of CIArb

I have travelled the world  
won many awards.

So yes  
it is possible

For those who will win awards  
And to all of you

I say congratulations

You have come this far

Let us walk together

Towards greater success

God bless you all.