

GENERAL EDITORS' NOTE

It is a great pleasure to be associated with the birth of a new journal devoted to international arbitration. The *Asian International Arbitration Journal* is an initiative of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. We are fortunate in having as our publishers, Kluwer Law International, which has a reputation second to none in the field of international commercial arbitration.

There are already a number of quality journals devoted to international commercial arbitration and it is legitimate to ask why another one is being produced. The answer lies in the regional focus of this journal. The *Asian International Arbitration Journal* aims to deal with international arbitration from an Asian perspective or focus. In this regard it should be noted that the significance of Asia in international commercial dispute resolution is rapidly rising. Certainly, statistics bear this out. For example, in 1983, 3.1% of parties to International Chamber of Commerce arbitrations came from Asia. By 2003, the percentage had risen to 13.9% comprising some 220 parties. The statistics published by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre also show a similar rise in arbitrations administered by those organisations.

The growth of international arbitration in Asia is not surprising. It has followed inward investment and the rapid economic development of the region. Many arbitration centres and organisations have been established in Asia. In addition to the Singapore and Hong Kong centres, mention must be made of such well-known organisations as the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration and Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia. Some 20 of these organisations have come together to form a regional group known as the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group.

We accepted appointment as General Editors of the journal on the basis that editorial policy and content would be determined independently by us. We would, however, like to state that the opinions and views

expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the General Editors, nor of the arbitral institutions that conceived this publication. Guidelines have been established which give preference to articles which deal with developments within a country in the region or which deal with broader issues of interest and demonstrate a high level of analysis. In addition to scholarly articles, notes on arbitral awards and legislation and book reviews will also be published. We welcome contributions which should be sent to the General Editors at mpryles@claytonutz.com and bdgccf@nus.edu.sg. In general, articles should not exceed 8,000 words. Further information about our editorial policy guidelines and our style guide can be obtained from Sabiha Shiraz at sabihashiraz@siac.org.sg.

We aim to make the *Asian International Arbitration Journal* a high quality journal with a regional focus but by no means parochial in nature. We are delighted to be associated with this endeavour and hope that readers find the journal worthwhile and interesting.

Michael Pryles
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August 2005