

Editorial

It is both an honour and a privilege to become *Arbitration*'s next Editor-in-Chief. As I take up the reins, I think back to my first introduction to CI Arb's academic *Journal*. It was thirty years ago, when *Arbitration* was one of the very few publications in the world dedicated to private forms of cross-border dispute resolution. I was a junior associate, desperate to understand the arcane world of international commercial arbitration, and finding *Arbitration* – then a slender, elegant volume available only in hard copy – was a huge turning point. I distinctly recall how the depth and diversity of articles piqued my intellectual curiosity while simultaneously providing me with a strong practical foundation in the field.

Fast forward to the present, when international dispute resolution is one of the hottest areas of practice in the world. Junior practitioners start their careers already well-versed in arbitration, mediation and similar mechanisms, having taken specialized classes in law school and competed in international moots like the Vis and the Vis East. *Arbitration* is now one of a score of publications dedicated to private forms of dispute resolution, and artificial intelligence is on the brink of revolutionizing the very nature of the legal profession. Given these changes, is there still a place for a journal first published in 1915?

The answer is a resounding yes. With a readership including more than 17,500 CI Arb members from more than 150 jurisdictions, *Arbitration* is uniquely placed not only to reach a global audience but to solicit and publish internationally relevant articles that meet the scholarly and practice-oriented goals of dispute resolution specialists around the world.

Going forward, my goal is to present articles that promote the same sense of wonder and enlightenment that I experienced when I first discovered *Arbitration*. Our *Journal* is perfectly situated to promote a broad, internationalist perspective that reflects and responds to the increasingly rapid changes in our field, and I am confident that we will continue to distinguish ourselves in that regard.

This issue of *Arbitration* provides an excellent example of what our *Journal* does best. Four articles provide a spotlight on ADR in the Middle East, a fast-growing region known for procedural innovation. Of the remaining four articles, two consider matters arising under national law (India and Australia) and two adopt a more expansive outlook, focusing on ADR at the inter-governmental level and on choice of law. Future issues will reflect this same kind of breadth and scope,

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balancing scholarly and practical perspectives while also offering insights into theoretical and practical differences in different parts of the world.

As I begin my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, I would be remiss if I did not thank my predecessor, Stavros Brekoulakis, Interim Editor Kabir Duggal, and the members of the last Editorial Board for all their hard work. Their initiatives have set *Arbitration* up perfectly to meet the challenges currently facing our profession, and I look forward to building on their efforts.

S.I. Strong
Editor-in-Chief