

## Editorial

We intend that this new Journal will be a periodical written by practitioners of arbitration for practitioners of arbitration.

We have come to realize that the participants in international arbitration, whether parties, counsel, arbitrators or arbitral institutions, have so far lacked an independent and regular forum in the English language where they could exchange ideas, share experiences and learn from each other of the practical problems encountered in arbitration proceedings. It seems to be the case that questions such as the cost and length of the arbitration proceedings, or the independence of the arbitrators towards the parties which appointed them, rarely find their way into the list of topics discussed at congresses or in existing publications, and it is our aim to fill this gap by promoting discussion on these matters at the required scientific level.

International arbitration is expanding, but at the same time is threatened by a danger arising out of its very success, namely parochialism. As damaging as protectionism in international trade, parochialism, by pitting one arbitration centre or country against another, is likely to hurt the appeal of arbitration in general. The real task in hand is not to promote rivalries, but to seek harmony where there is diversity, and to encourage, on the broadest possible basis, the acceptance of arbitration as a desirable method for the settlement of disputes. Success in such an effort will benefit all those who contribute to it, and our Journal will work with determination in that direction.

We are well aware that there are already a number of publications in the field, but the greater part of these are "house journals" which are tied in one way or another to the existing centres of arbitration, and which seek directly or indirectly to promote what they themselves have to offer. In our case however we are entirely independent of any centre or organization and can therefore claim to be the appropriate means of providing information and news of the various centres and facilitating co-ordination between them.

We would like to thank all those who have expressed their enthusiasm and given us encouragement in our new venture.

Dennis Thompson

Jacques Werner