

Editorial

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The Geneva Global Arbitration Forum

The idea had been in the air for a long-time: that of gathering annually our readers to talk over some of the most current issues of the day—a natural role for a journal like ours. Yet, as for so many things in life, more pressing professional commitments and other projects came in the way year after year.

What prompted us to act this year is the perception that an important phenomenon, which has barely been discussed up to now, is underway, namely the globalization of arbitration. By this we mean a dispute resolution world where boundaries disappear: geographical boundaries, with the quantum leap of the magnitude of transcontinental and transnational cases, with parties and arbitrators originating from all over the world, and proceedings taking place everywhere. Conceptual boundaries as well, with the limits between private commercial arbitration and interstate arbitrations getting blurred, with more and more States and State-controlled agencies taking part in private commercial arbitrations, and the tendency that is shaping up to allow private parties to present their own claims in interstate arbitrations. Globalization offers opportunities for the cross-enrichment of the various dispute resolution institutions, and this is the dimension which our Forum will endeavour to explore.

This Forum, which we hope to hold annually during the autumn season, will be rooted in Geneva. Although one of the places most favoured for arbitration, Geneva is, strangely, overlooked by the organizers of conferences in this field. Still, this city has something unique to offer in the research of methods to settle disputes. The Forum, with the active participation of our readers, will hopefully become part of this process.