

**EDITORIAL<sup>#</sup>**

TRINA NG\*

International commercial arbitration has experienced immense growth over the past few decades particularly in the United States and Europe. A wealth of arbitration associations, arbitral rules, international arbitrators and international arbitration practices have burgeoned. Nevertheless, its presence and use have failed to entrench themselves in the practice of law in Australia and it tends to escape proper understanding.

Whether this is due to the island continent's physical distance from the rest of the world or some other reason, it is highly likely that Australia will see the practice gain popularity in the years to come. This *University of New South Wales Law Journal* Forum presented itself as an opportunity to bring the international developments and issues surrounding international commercial arbitration to the fore and thereby incite greater interest in this area of law.

As global business transactions rapidly expand, so too will the volume of cross-border disputes related to the associated contracts. Australia will inevitably encounter the need to engage in international commercial arbitration as a means of resolving such disputes. The potential benefits of tapping into this non-litigious method of resolving international disputes are endless.

In drawing together the multi-faceted views of the contributors, it is hoped that the Forum provides a conduit not only to generate more profound interest in the area but also to amplify the voices of these passionate experts on the international stage. The articles traverse a broad range of trends and concerns, ranging from the evolution of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Rules, to the development of hybrid proceedings and complex legal and public issues.

I sincerely hope that the *mélange* of articles presented here will achieve its objective of eliciting greater fascination in international commercial arbitration, its possibilities, and the fact that it provides a fertile ground for thought, debate, and opportunity.

From the outset of collating these articles, I have had the guidance of numerous people. I will be forever grateful to Leon Trakman for the encouraging me to zealously pursue this topic, to Professor David Dixon, Dean of the UNSW Law Faculty, who has extended his support throughout the process, and to each of the outstanding authors whose voices I hope will be heard in this Forum and thereby further readers' awareness and understanding of the field.

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Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Editorial Board for their tireless work, and Fiona Cunningham, whose leadership and dedication inspire and motivate all.