

## President's message



Our Joint Conference on International Commercial Arbitration, held in conjunction with the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, the International Chamber of Commerce – Court of Arbitration, and the Arbitrators' & Mediators' Institute of New Zealand, proved a great success. I had the pleasure of welcoming on your behalf, various delegates from Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, China, the USA and all mainland states of Australia. The group was also welcomed by The Honourable Justice Keith Mason,

President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal. The highlight of the conference was the mock arbitration which was designed to demonstrate an arbitration in light of the new ICC Rules. We thank the ICC for making the mock arbitration possible. We particularly thank Dr Robert Briner, Mr Paul Gélinas, The Honourable Andrew Rogers, The Honourable Sir Laurence Street, Rt Honourable Sir Ian McKay, Professor Michael Pryles, Mr Robert Hunt and Ms Louise Barrington for their active participation in and the commentary on the mock arbitration. The whole process was certainly interesting and informative – and an Australian first.



C. Croft, R. Briner, M. Pryles.

The conference was undoubtedly successful in ensuring that the Institute and ACICA remain at the forefront of the global market for alternative dispute resolution. As competitive and as demanding as the market stands today, both nationally and internationally, both organisations are well placed, but it is very important that they respond to the changing ADR market and its needs. Both the conference and the ICC Arbitration are part of this process.



In keeping up with the changing and demanding ADR movement, the Institute has dedicated itself to being at the forefront of education and training. The Institute welcomes the beginning of the Advanced Arbitration Course nationally in July after completing our first successful

national semester on the General Course. Currently, the Institute is in the process, together with the University of Adelaide, in finalising an Expert Witness syllabus as an addition to the Professional Certificate. The Expert Witness Course will commence nationally next year.

Internal and continuing education is also a priority to the Institute with each chapter dedicating an evening a month to the 'continuing professional development' of members. Evenings of this kind are designed to cover topics which may further our members' knowledge in alternative dispute resolution, whether it be arbitration, mediation or expert determination.

As part of the continuing education program Master Classes are now being held in each mainland state including the ACT for grade 1 and 2 arbitrators. These classes are designed as refresher classes on topics which arbitrators may have or will be confronted with in an arbitration. They are a means of gathering those who practice in the field of arbitration together to express their views and concerns on matters which may confront an arbitrator. In the three Master Classes held so far, the new structure proved very successful in allowing arbitrators the opportunity to further their knowledge in an interactive topic-based discussion format. The Master Class program and continuing education generally will be significantly developed nationally during the next 12 to 18 months.

Finally, I would like to mention our Joint Conference on Dispute Resolution Strategies for the 21st Century, to be held in conjunction with the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand next year. The conference will be held in Auckland and will cover a wide range of topical issues involved in dispute resolution in various fields. Details of the provisional conference program will be sent to all members with an option to register your attendance. I encourage members to attend as it will address topical issues on dispute resolution as we enter the new century.



**Dr Clyde Croft**, *President*