Book Review

A Guide to the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration by Howard M. Holtzmann and Joseph E. Neuhaus

Kluwer Law and Taxation Publishers 1307 pp (including Index). Hard cover ISBN 90-6544-305.3 Recommended Price Dfl 450; UK £139; US\$225

By any measure this is a monumental reference work. Its publication is timely following the General Assembly of the UK adopting a resolution approving the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration in 1985 and the adoption of the law by Australia in 1989.

The main aim of the book is simple, namely to produce a reference which traces the legislative history of each Article of the Model Law quickly and easily.

The arrangement of the book is staightforward, the major chapters dealing with the Arbitration Agreement, Composition of the Arbitral Tribunal, the Jurisdiction of the Tribunal, Conduct of Proceedings, The Award and Termination of Proceedings, Recourse against the Award and Recognition and Enforcement of Awards.

Within each chapter there are three parts, namely the Text of the Article of Law, a brief commentary outlining issues considered during drafting and extracts from documents produced within UNCITRAL during the drafting of the Article.

The book brings together a wealth of information which will be useful to practising international arbitrators, the legal profession, legislators, educators and researchers.

Included in the appendices are full texts of the UNCITRAL Model Law, UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

A very clear type face has been used. This, along with an excellent index and use of bold headings, has resulted in the publication of an easy to refer to text.

As more countries adopt the Model Law and as it becomes more widely used and accepted by the international business community, so too will this publication become more sought after as a leading reference on the subject.

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Editor's Note: Copies of the book may be obtained from Kluwer Law & Taxation Publishers, PO Box 23, 7400 GA Deventer, the Netherlands