

COMMENTARY

The London Court of International Arbitration.

During 1993 The London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) celebrates its centenary.

Inaugurated in 1892 as The London Chamber of Arbitration it changed its name to The London Court of Arbitration in 1903 and adopted its present name in 1975.

The LCIA has always operated under the auspices of the Corporation of the City of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in 1975 The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators joined these bodies and provided it with administrative services. In 1986 the LCIA was incorporated as a company with directors drawn from these three bodies, experienced arbitrators, also the Bar Council and Law Society.

During the 100 years of its existence there is evidence that the LCIA, as possibly the oldest arbitral body in the world, has made a substantial impact on the settlement of international disputes by arbitration. The LCIA Rules continue to gain acceptance in the commercial world and there is evidence of the increasing use of its clauses being incorporated into international contracts.

The Registrar and Chief Executive of the LCIA, Mr Bertie Vigrass O.B.E. is well known internationally and particularly in Australia where he is personally known to many of the Institute's members, Councillors of the Institute and directors of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. Mr Vigrass visited Australia in 1985.

One hundred years is a long time, The Institute of Arbitrators Australia congratulates the LCIA on reaching this important anniversary of its inauguration.

VISITOR TO AUSTRALIA

During March 1993 Mr NGUYEN HUY THANG of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of Vietnam visited Australia. During his stay in Melbourne Mr THANG spent several days at the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration discussing matters of mutual interest. Upon his return to Vietnam Mr THANG will be involved in establishing an international arbitration centre in Hanoi under the auspices of the local Chamber of Commerce and promoting its facilities world wide.