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## Book review

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### INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

*International Commercial Arbitration* by Rashda Rana and Michelle Sanson (Lawbook Co., Thomson Reuters, 2010) ISBN 978 0 455 22824 2, 365 pp, RRP: \$120

Rashda Rana and Michelle Sanson have jointly written a valuable text which provides a straightforward introduction to international commercial arbitration.

Their stated aims are threefold:

1. To specifically address the approaches to international commercial arbitration in Australia, Singapore, China and Malaysia.
2. To provide a semester length course for practitioners or students of international commercial dispute resolution.
3. To offer a practical guide for lawyers and arbitrators.

In my view, the authors have succeeded in these aims with an approach which is both practical and straightforward. The text commences with a list of acronyms and a helpful glossary, which succinctly defines and explains concepts which even experienced practitioners coming to this area may find elusive, such as “kompetenz-kompetenz” and interim measures.

The text commences with an introduction to international commercial arbitration and an analysis of the key issues, followed by the text of the chapter, and a summary of further reading and useful web links for research purposes. This basic chapter format is replicated in succeeding chapters.

The authors’ analysis is thorough, comprehensive and logical. There is a thorough referencing of arbitration rules, including the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA), China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), as well as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and the International Chamber of Commerce’s (ICC) rules. A helpful comparison of the institutional arbitration rules appears in Ch 4.

So that readers may understand the application of particular principles which are discussed in the text of each chapter, the authors have included helpful case examples which illustrate the points previously explained.

The text logically follows through the steps in pursuing an international commercial arbitration, from the arbitration agreement, through the applicable laws and arbitral seat, as well as the administration of an international commercial arbitration, whether institutional or ad hoc. The authors consider both the formation of the tribunal and challenges to the tribunal, as well as its jurisdiction and powers.

They then proceed to deal with the steps to the hearing and issues of importance such as confidentiality, interim measures of protection, court involvement and awards.

A valuable part of each chapter is the reading list which appears at the conclusion. The reading lists offer the reader the option to explore further, in detail, specific issues discussed in the preceding chapter.

The authors provide a simple introduction to each topic at the commencement of each chapter. For readers coming for the first time to deal with issues in international commercial arbitration, the introductions provide a simply expressed and concise analysis of the issues, which are then developed in more detail in the balance of the chapter.

*International Commercial Arbitration* is a practical and helpful text for those seeking an introduction to international commercial arbitration, and would be a worthwhile addition to the library of all practitioners or general counsel who have an interest in international commercial arbitration because the text describes the process clearly.

*Ian Nosworthy*