

FOREWORD

Nassib G. Ziadé*

With this Festschrift, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) is starting a tradition of honoring Arab scholars and practitioners who promote international arbitration and international law. Over the last few decades, international arbitration institutions and international law societies have generously acknowledged the work of leading scholars and practitioners from the region. The time has come, however, for these individuals to be honored by institutions within the region.

It should come as no surprise that the BCDR-AAA is dedicating this first Festschrift to Professor Dr. Ahmed El-Kosheri. His immense contributions to international commercial arbitration, international investment arbitration, and international law more broadly, as well as his significant influence on a generation of lawyers and students from the Arab region and beyond, fully justify this choice.

Dr. El-Kosheri has been counsel or arbitrator in hundreds of arbitration proceedings, including many seminal cases. He was a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) *ad hoc* committee chaired by Professor Pierre Lalive that examined the first request for annulment of an ICSID award and that established foundational principles followed by subsequent *ad hoc* committees. He was also the President of the ICSID tribunal that included another legend in the field, the late Professor Berthold Goldman, and that for the first time identified consent on the basis of a bilateral investment treaty, thereby ushering in the modern wave of investment treaty arbitration. His impact on ICC arbitration is also notable, as he served as a Vice Chair of the ICC International Court of Arbitration from 1998 to 2009. Currently, he is the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration and a Member of its Board of Trustees.

* Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA)

Dr. El-Kosheri has also greatly influenced the international administrative law field. He serves as a judge with the World Bank Administrative Tribunal, having served previously as a judge with the African Development Bank Administrative Tribunal and as a member of the Redesign Panel that revamped the internal grievance system of the United Nations.

Dr. El-Kosheri is a former judge *ad hoc* at the International Court of Justice, a Member of the Institut de droit international, a former President of the Senghor University in Alexandria, a former Visiting Professor at the Nanterre University Paris X, a former Professor at the Ain Shams University, and a former Professor at the Beirut Arab University.

As a testament to Dr. El-Kosheri's remarkable career, broad intellectual horizons and extensive geographical reach, the Festschrift includes contributions from forty-six authors—judges, arbitrators, practitioners and scholars—representing twenty-one nationalities from the Middle East, North and Western Africa, East Asia, Europe, and North and South America, who wrote on topics as diverse as international arbitration and ADR mechanisms, international investment law, public international law (including international administrative law), and private international law in Arabic, English, and French.

One can hardly think of another Arab figure who has done more than Dr. El-Kosheri to strengthen international law while bridging legal-cultural divides between the Arab region and the rest of the world. He will undoubtedly continue to inspire many generations to come.