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Introduction

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10th Biennial Conference of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law

Introduction

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The events of September 11 impose a new sense of urgency on the need to rationalize political, economic, and social interchange in a globalized world of increasing hostilities. Founded in the early 1980s, the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law continues to contribute to development of a more rational world order by “identifying the international nature of commerce, the common problems faced across jurisdictions and the benefits in solving commercial and consumer problems by attention to approaches elsewhere.”¹

Legal experts from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America participated in the 10th Biennial Conference of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law held August 9 through 13, 2000 at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Participants addressed a wide range of topics relating to the changing legal structure of an increasingly global economy as illustrated by the table of contents which precedes this preface.

The Conference’s discussions and revised papers presented in this volume facilitate exchange of ideas amongst distinguished scholars on cutting edge issues in their areas of expertise. The

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1. COMMERCIAL AND CONSUMER LAW; NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS, Preface (Ross Cranston & Roy Goode eds., Clarendon Press Oxford, 1993). (We borrow this language from the eloquent preface by Oxford Professors Ross Cranston and Roy Goode to the proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law held in Oxford in August 1990).

discussions are designed to develop suggestions by legal practitioners and legal educators for improving the law, legal education, and the world community.

An important symbolic event was also part of the 10th Biennial Conference. The Academy quite properly bestowed recognition awards for outstanding work in negotiation, preparation, and implementation of the *United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods* to John Honnold, Professor Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Kazuaki Sono, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Policy, Tezukayama University in Japan, and Gerrold Herrmann, then Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and Chief of the International Trade Law Branch, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, Vienna. Professor Honnold and Dean Sono preceded Gerrold Herrmann in this capacity.

Recognition awards were also bestowed for outstanding work in negotiation, preparation, and implementation of the *Principles of International Commercial Contracts* to Professor Michael Joachim Bonell of the University of Rome Law School and Consultant to the International Institute for Unification of Private Law headquartered in Rome, Italy and Walter Rodino, Deputy Secretary General of the Institute.

The Penn State Dickinson Law Review in cooperation with the Penn State Dickinson School of Law Center for International and Comparative Law is privileged to dedicate this issue of the Law Review to those five distinguished members of the International Academy for their outstanding contributions to development of a rational world order.