Given the dynamic growth of African economies and the expansion of cross-border trade and commerce, the need for readily accessible African arbitral institutions has become increasingly urgent. Accordingly, this book not only offers an in-depth analysis of the role arbitration centres based in African cities currently play throughout the continent but also defines and recommends ways in which they can emerge as a major and indispensable factor in the growth and development of commerce in Africa.

Administrators of arbitration institutions from a variety of African countries offer insightful appraisals and suggestions directed to promoting the development and delivery of efficient, effective arbitration services to users across the continent. Among the issues and topics covered are the following:

- types of arbitration institutions available in Africa;
- viability and sustainability of these institutions;
- institutions’ relationship with government;
- quality of service;
- performance of arbitration institutions in their respective countries and regions;
- national laws that regulate arbitration in Africa’s fifty-four states;
- extent of collaboration with foreign institutions;
- provision of functional facilities, transcription services, hearing rooms, document handling, and managerial and translation services;
- marketing activities and strategies;
- mending the disconnect between Francophone and Anglophone countries;
- role of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration (CCJA); and
- necessity of overcoming foreign negative perceptions and bias.

The book was inspired by an arbitration conference hosted by the African Union Commission at its headquarters in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

As a contribution to the discussion of the role arbitration and arbitral institutions can play in transforming the legal landscape in African countries for the resolution of commercial disputes – indeed, the entire discourse on legal efficiency and access to justice in African countries – this book will prove invaluable to practitioners and academics in international commercial arbitration within and beyond the continent. Its emphasis on the creation of a facilitative, supportive, and conducive cultural and infrastructural environment as a mechanism for commercial dispute resolution in Africa and for the practice of arbitration in Africa will appeal to in-house counsel, external legal advisors, consultants, arbitral institutions, arbitrators, and government policymakers.
Table of Contents

Editor
Contributors
Foreword
Acknowledgements
Introduction
Emilia Onyema
PART I
General
CHAPTER 1
Arbitration Institutions in Africa
Emilia Onyema
PART II
Regional Arbitration Institutions in Africa
CHAPTER 2
The CCJA as a Regional Arbitration Institution
Mahutodji Jimmy Vital Kodo & Narcisse Aka
CHAPTER 3
The Cairo Regional Arbitration Centre
Mohamed Abdel Raouf & Dalia Hussein
CHAPTER 4
Arbitration Institutions in East Africa
Kariuki Muigua
PART III
Arbitration Institutions in Africa
CHAPTER 5
The Experience of LCIA-MIAC
Duncan Bagshaw
CHAPTER 6
The Lagos Court of Arbitration Centre
Megha Joshi & Tolu Obamuroh
CHAPTER 7
The Ghana Arbitration Centre
Emmanuel Amofa
CHAPTER 8
Arbitration Centres in French-Speaking African Countries
Jean Alain Penda
CHAPTER 9
Promotion of Arbitration to Domestic Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
Bernadette Uwicyeza
Appendices
APPENDIX I
African Countries: Arbitration Laws and Conventions
APPENDIX II
African Countries: List of Arbitration Institutions
APPENDIX III
Bibliography
Table of Cases
Table of Legislations
Index

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