

Welcome to the International Expert Witness Journal

A New Dawn in Asia

In his Nichomachean Ethics, Aristotle expressed an optimistic destination for the truth-finding process: “With a true view all the data harmonize, but with a false one the facts soon clash.” Fast forward a couple of millennia and you have John Stuart Mill acknowledging the subjectivity of forensic inquiry in his treatise, On Liberty: “He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that.” Or, if you like, in the pithy articulation of Aganbegyan in the modern newspaper, The Guardian: “You only find complete unanimity in a cemetery.”

The role of an expert in modern dispute resolution is a complex one, but its essence is captured in the goal of the Expert Witness Institute, i.e. to support the proper administration of justice and the early resolution of disputes through high-quality expert evidence. An expert, as we know, may be engaged by a court or tribunal, or by one of the disputants. In any case, the expert remains obliged to present an honest opinion based on an objective evaluation of the materials available to guide the court or tribunal towards the truth. As the Institute recognises, there is another equally important function of an expert. That is to resolve disputes promptly without even the need for clashing expert testimony in a hearing.

The President of EWI Singapore, Mr Leslie Chew SC and I are very pleased that the august Expert Witness Institute, established in London in 1996, has chosen Singapore as its base in Asia to promote this important goal of the Institute. It is a privilege to write this note for the special international edition of the Expert Witness International Journal on the occasion of the EWI Singapore Conference 2019.

On the 15th of October 2019, leading experts on myriad industries, academics, lawyers and end-users will converge in Singapore to explore the role and nature of Expert Evidence. It will no doubt be informative and stimulating. One might even be able to discuss Aristotle and Mill, or prove Aganbegyan wrong.

Chan Leng Sun, SC
Vice-President, Expert Witness Institute Singapore



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