

SEASONS GREETINGS!



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SAVE THE DATES!

2014 Annual Meeting

9th Annual Meeting—October 16-18, 2014
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

2014 Regional Law Deans' Forums

European Regional Law Deans' Forum—April 10-11, 2014
University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Americas Regional Law Deans' Forum—April 24-25, 2014
Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, Oregon, United States of America

Asia-Pacific Regional Law Deans' Forum—May 15-16, 2014
University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

African Regional Law Deans' Forum—July 1-2, 2014
University of Nairobi & Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya

New! Visiting Professors' Program

The IALS International Visiting Professors' program serves to facilitate the exchange of legal scholars among our members. Our inaugural host institution is the St. John's University Law School in New York City, NY, USA. If you or any other faculty member in your school is interested, please fill out the questionnaire [online](#), and submit your CV to us at ials@ialsnet.org. **Deadline for submissions is on January 15th, 2014.** These will be forwarded to the Visiting Professors' Committee which will make its recommendations to the law school. St. John's Law School will, of course, make the final decision as to who to invite to join its faculty as a visitor.

Member Spotlight—University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Many of our colleagues have been following the recent news from Bangladesh where the rule of law is confronting serious challenges. Caught in the midst of this is one of IALS' member schools—the University of Dhaka, Law Faculty, Bangladesh. There is no dialogue between opposition and the ruling party. Thus, these are challenging times for the rule of law for their Dean, Dr. Taslima Monsoor. Dean Monsoor has been an active member of the IALS. She has brought a broadening perspective to our discussion. We are encouraging our members to do what they can to collaborate with University of Dhaka during these times.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Dhaka began its journey from the foundation of the University in 1921. From then onwards the Faculty has been contributing enormously to the teaching of law. Until 1973 it offered a two-year LL.B. programs in the evening. During the 1973-1974, it introduced a three-year LL.B. Honors course. The duration of this course was subsequently extended to four years since the 1977-1978. During the 1976-1977, a one-year LL.M. course was introduced. The Faculty offers two research degrees in Law: M.Phil. and Ph.D. [Please click here to visit the schools' website.](#)



Message from General Secretary/Treasurer

I am pleased to announce the results of our first full year of independent administration. The association's membership has increased by 44% from 2012. We now have 182 members, compared with last year's 126. The 182 members accurately represent a membership all-time high. Membership numbers before 2012 were inaccurate and unverifiable. Our 182 members come from 55 countries and represent a total of approximately 4,500 faculty members worldwide.

Financially, we have achieved our income budget; and, we are well below our expense budget for this fiscal year. This has enabled us to build a healthy reserve for the association of more than U.S.\$700,000. This is an increase of over 40% from the end of 2011 when the prior administration controlled the accounts.

We would like to thank all our new and renewing members for your continual support. Our association is only as successful as the strength and patronage of our member base. Looking forward to a great 2014!

Best,
Barbara Holden-Smith

Message from the President

Season's Greetings to all!

This has been a very eventful year for the Association. As Barbara has reported, the results of our first full year of independent operations has seen a dramatic rise in membership. What is also very encouraging has been the active engagement of our members in the work of the association. IALS has joined with our law school partners in hosting 6 conferences in 2013. In March of 2013, our annual meeting in Mysore, India explored human rights and its role in our law faculties and schools. Four regional law deans' forums which took us from Estonia, to Vietnam, Nigeria and finally Chile built on last year's four forums all of which advanced step by step the notion of seeking a commonality for global legal education. This effort culminated in September in Singapore at the Global Law Deans' Forum with the Association's Singapore Declaration of Principles of Outcomes and Standards for a Legal Education. This is the first time that the global legal education community has come together to agree upon a set of principles which will serve as a guide for all of us in further exploring the fundamental basis of legal education across systems, cultures and nation states.

With the formation of the first six committees, the work of the Association has now advanced to a new level. The committees are completing their charter, developing new and innovative programs, all to further engage and serve our membership. The first committee project is the Visiting Professors' Program. I encourage all of our global faculty to take a look at what the Association and the host institution is offering to attract potential applicants to the program. St. John's Law School is the first of what will be many such opportunities. Please see the committee reports in this newsletter.

As our results have shown, despite the continuing difficulties and challenges resulting from the transition from the prior administration, our Association has not only grown but has thrived with the robust involvement of all our global community of law teachers.

2014 promises to be a watershed year in the growth of the International Association of Law Schools.

All the Best,
Francis S.L. Wang

Committee Updates

Annual Meeting Committee

The Annual Meeting Committee received and reviewed proposals from nearly a dozen member schools offering to host an annual meeting between 2014 and 2017. The Committee has chosen Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada, as the host for the 2014 Annual Meeting, to take place from October 16-18, 2014. The Committee will be working with UBC in the coming months to plan the meeting. The Committee has decided to defer decision on the proposals for the years after 2014 for the present. [Continue reading...](#)

Collaborative Research Committee

The collaborative research by faculties from various member schools may be undertaken on the following subject areas in the first phase to identify the commonalities of legal principles and provisions towards the process of universalization of jurisdictions among different countries. IALS will select one faculty from each country to identify the assigned legal provisions which may be characterized as commonality and as part of internationalization of legal process and principles. [Continue reading...](#)

Faculty Innovative Curriculum Awards Committee

The Charter for the Committee proclaims its purpose as to support innovative teaching methods among faculty of member schools. This should be broadly interpreted to include reports of curriculum reform, developments in relation to examination, assessment and feedback, new approaches to learning law, etc. Part of the Committee's responsibilities is to incentivize innovation through the provision of awards. The committee will create a timeline for awards to be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting. [Continue reading...](#)

Journal of International Legal Education Committee

The Committee met via teleconference on December 3, 2013 to consider revisions to its draft charter and terms of reference. The Committee also reviewed options for establishing a high quality, peer reviewed, and electronic journal. The Committee is pleased to announce that the IALS will establish the International Journal of Legal Education in conjunction with one or more partner law schools that will "host" the journal on a rotating basis with the assistance of distinguished faculty editors. [Continue Reading...](#)

Student Engagement Committee

The goal of the Student Engagement Committee is to get students interested in global issues and writing projects. The committee will pick four winners from each of the IALS regions. These winners will be invited to IALS meeting to interact with each other and member schools. The Committee will encourage co-authorship of papers by students from different law faculties, even across regions. The learning outcomes of the program are to encourage research skills, legal reasoning and writing. [Continue reading...](#)

Visiting Professor Committee

The IALS' Visiting Professor Committee serves to facilitate the exchange of legal scholars among our members. In addition to conference sessions, our participants also took advantage of experiencing the local culture by seeing the city-state of Singapore after the meeting sessions and during our visit to the Night Safari on the last night. We were delighted to see firsthand the unique creatures in their nocturnal habitat.

2013 Meetings' Survey Results

2013 Annual Meeting—Mysore, India

"This was the most diverse and open meeting I have ever attended. Congratulations!"

The IALS held its 8th Annual Meeting in Mysore, India at the Infosys Global Education Center on March 6th – 8th, 2013. The topic for this year's meeting was "The Role of Law Schools and Human Rights." After the meeting a short survey was emailed to all 103 participants and 56 participants responded. The final results indicated that overall the meeting was well-organized. Out of a 5-point scale, 5 = Excellent and 1 = Needs Improvement, 75% of the respondents rated the meeting Very Good (4) to Excellent (5).

Question: What did you enjoy or value the most about this event? Overall, attendees enjoyed the presentations, campus and infrastructure. They valued the ability to interact and create new networks with a diverse set of attendees from all over the world and the organization of the entire meeting. There was positive feedback about the sessions and engaging speakers.

Question: Do you have any suggestions for improving our meetings? Small Group Discussions was the most popular matter of improving. Some said that there needed to be more sessions, with guidance, a facilitator, a theme and better organization. Attendees stated that after the plenary sessions there should have been a longer question and answer session. Student participation was also suggested and not just as interns, but as attendees and to interact with professors and deans as well.

[Click here to view more about the IALS 2013 Annual Meeting in Mysore, India](#)

2013 Global Law Deans' Forum

"I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with other Law Deans; also being part of the making of Singapore Declarations both at regional and global levels."

This year was the 2nd round of Regional Law Deans' Forums which led up to the Global Law Deans' Forum at the National University of Singapore on September 25th – 27th, 2013. We had an over 40% response rate to the survey. Out of a 5-point scale, 5 = Excellent and 1 = Needs Improvement, over 80% of the respondents rated the meeting Very Good (4) to Excellent (5).

We had very positive responses in the open-ended questions. The majority stated they enjoyed the opportunity to share their ideas and interact with a wide range of international law school deans. Furthermore, they appreciated learning about various the regional issues law schools are facing. Areas of improvement for future forums included a longer forum with more time for discussions. On the logistical side, an interpreter and advance copy of the program to get to know the participants and their schools was suggested.

[Click here to view more about the IALS 2013 Global Law Deans' Forum](#)



2013 Global Law Deans' Forum

Fresh from the success of the regional law deans' forums held over the summer, the 2013 Global Law Deans' Forum, co-sponsored at the National University of Singapore was the first-ever such gathering of law school deans and leaders from around the world to discuss principles of a legal education. These leaders met over two days discussing various issues confronting law school leadership in the 21st century, global legal education, and institutional advancement among others.

History was made upon the culmination of the forum with the "Singapore Declaration of Principles for a Legal Education: Outcomes and Standards," which has been thoroughly discussed over two years. In this amount of time, approximately 117 law school deans were involved in drafting this document. The association now has a platform on which it can continue its work on international standards.

Participants were also brought up-to-date with the various programs that the IALS has ongoing and in the works. In addition to conference sessions, our participants also took advantage of experiencing the local culture by seeing the city-state of Singapore after the meeting sessions and during our visit to the Night Safari on the last night. We were delighted to see firsthand the unique creatures in their nocturnal habitat.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful host, the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law for so generously opening up its facilities to us. Their support of our association has enabled us to ensure that the different perspectives of legal education from all over the world would be represented at this conference. Please [click on this link](#) to direct you to the Singapore Declaration and for more photos of the Global Law Deans' Forum.

A Special Thanks!

The association is very thankful for the many supporters, donors, sustaining members and hosts that have made the 2013 year a successful one! Thank you for your support!

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- University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- Valparaiso University, USA

Membership

The association keeps growing! We have over 180 members!
Thank you for all your support and we look forward to working with your schools.
Visit our [website](#) to be sent live.
Invoices for the January-December 2014 year will be complete via email in January 2014.

Members Only Site

Thank you for those who have sent their requests for the Members Only Site. This portion of our website is under construction. It is planned to go live early 2014. We have saved your requests and will contact you as soon as the members only website is ready. For those who have yet to do so, you are free to send in your requests.