

# IALS

## Buenos Aires Conference Follow-Up

The IALS association's 7<sup>th</sup> conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on April 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of 2011. Afterwards, members were asked to take a poll and evaluate the program; as a result, we received 20 responses out of the 133 people who attended, the following is a report based on the respondent poll. The poll taken focused on 9 areas, which were: Event Location & Venue; Overall Agenda; Plenary Sessions; Speakers; Small Group Sessions; Short Paper; Opportunities to Interact with Others; Food Served; and Hotel Accommodations. The top two areas that received the highest amount of "excellent" ratings were in: (1) Event Location and Venue, and (2) Opportunity to Interact with Others.

Overall, as was deduced from the polls, as well as was verified in the comment section, the overwhelming majority most enjoyed and valued from this conference the opportunity of meeting and interacting with likeminded professional's from all around the world to share ideas and information. The Small Group Session's was a great success, and there is request for future conferences to focus more time on this area of interest, as well as to explore furthermore into a wider arrangement of topics to discuss. The Plenary Session and Speaker section overall was rated "Above Average" to "Excellent"; although, there is a demand for a more systemized and intriguing approach, including having less speakers that allows for more time for interaction and in-depth remarks. There was also a request for including a more diverse array of speakers, which suggested having a "high profile plenary academic speaker from outside of the IALS".

The comments on how to improve the conference in the future suggested a little more break time, as well as the possibility of permitting virtual access due to rising expenses. Future topics of discussions ranged from gender and law, alternative dispute resolutions, social to environmental concerns and jurisprudence, legal education including global approaches for transnational practice, and the ability to share common practices, resources (i.e. lectures and presentations), and research through partnership, and perhaps digitally through the construction of a "performance index to share data banks". When asked if respondents would attend the next annual meeting held in Bangalore, India on October 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> of this year, more than 50% ranged within the field of Yes to Maybe, and only 22% said No. Across the board the meeting was an overall success, with most ratings ranging from "Above Average" to "Excellent".

