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International Association of Law Schools

IALS Conferences offer a unique opportunity to build:

- **Relationships:** with experts in your area of law from around the world
- **Resources:** from around the world about a particular substantive area of law or paths to legal reform
- **Strategies:** about teaching and research innovations in law
- **Support:** for your vision of law as an instrument of social change



Learning From Each Other: IALS Conferences (continued on page 2)

Legal scholars and educators at the IALS Constitutional law conference in September prepared over 90 working papers and shared them with their colleagues from Asia, Africa, North America, Europe and Australia. Participants from countries as diverse as Malaysia, the US, South Africa, Australia, the

Netherlands, the UK, Jordan, New Zealand, Belgium, Georgia, India, Portugal, Costa Rica, France, Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria, Mexico, Columbia and Senegal, among others, travelled to Washington to attend the IALS Constitutional Law Conference which was hosted by the American University College of Law

and Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC on September 11 and 12. Leading constitutional experts from around the world presented their analysis of issues including: methodological challenges in comparative constitutional law; religion, state and constitution; *continued on next page*

Learning From Each Other (continued from page 1)

adjudication and democracy; and contemporary challenges to executive power.

Dean Claudio Grossman co-hosted the Washington conference. Grossman, who is Dean of the Washington College of Law and Chair of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, emphasized that “we must always act as though truth and justice are possible while recognizing the limits on truth and justice in the world today. The IALS, by bringing together legal scholars and uniting people around the possibility of justice, reminds us that it is possible.”

Faisal Kutty of Valparaiso University School of Law echoed the sentiments of many who attended the Washington Conference. “It gave me the unique opportunity to explore ideas about constitutional law with experts from various legal traditions. It helped refocus my own thinking about Islamic constitutionalism. I am interested in exploring how John Rawls’ theories can help us theorize the development of a new Islamic Constitutional model” said Kutty.

Constitutionalism and globalization share a varied relationship around the world. “Some jurisdictions welcome international norms and are not threatened by the experiences of others while other jurisdictions prefer to insist on their own uniqueness. At the IALS, we work with the idea that learning and uniqueness support each other” noted Dean Grossman.

His sentiment was echoed in the various papers prepared for the Washington Conference. For example, Henk Botha of the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa

observed that “for constitutionalists in South Africa, acceptance of the role of foreign law in constitutional adjudication exists quite comfortably with a sense of the uniqueness of South Africa’s constitutional experiment.”

The Washington Conference was preceded by conferences in Canberra, Montreal, Hamburg and Suzhou.

The Montreal conference focused on “Effective Techniques for Teaching About Other Cultures and Legal Systems.” Chuma Himonga of the University of Southern Cape Town and chair of Montreal planning committee emphasized that the meeting was “premised on the belief that ordinary legal problems admit of many solutions, which may be equally functional and, in context, culturally appropriate.”

The same essential theme was struck in China in 2007 under the title “Enriching the Law School Curriculum in an Interrelated World.” Todd D. Rakoff of Harvard Law School and chair of the China planning committee also noted the importance of



“We must always act as though truth and justice are possible.”
Dean Claudio Grossman

“Our students need to understand that the particular solution that they are taught as applicable in their own legal system may well not be the solution which lies in the minds of lawyers around the world with whom they deal in the course of their working lives. Or, in other words, they will constantly need to—and therefore, we also need to—learn from each other.”

The papers presented at various IALS conferences illustrate why and how it is important for lawyers to learn from each other. For example, at the Montreal Conference, Francis Wang described an exchange programme which brings together American and Chinese law students. The students were presented with actual legal problems and told to come up with a solution.

“Before they could even take on the law, they had to take on their own presuppositions about how to think about law” explained Dr. Wang. “The Chinese students tended to regard the Americans as being too imprecise while the American students regarded their Chinese counterparts as being inflexible. Before they could begin their legal analysis, they had to understand the contingencies of their own way of doing things and then they had to look for common ground. There really is something tangible to be learned about learning across difference.”

Monica Pinto, IALS President, emphasizes the IALS’ institutional importance in this regard. “The lawyers and leaders of the future must be trained to learn from the structures and experiences of other legal systems and be ready to understand diverse ways of thinking. This demands an institution that is capable of building

“There is really something tangible to be learned about learning across difference”

Francis SL Wang



bridges between people and places and that offers access to up to date resources and innovative thinking.”

Learning From Each Other is the theme which unites all IALS conferences.

“The role of law in shaping social norms, promoting peace and developing prosperity cannot be overlooked” said Fernando Villarreal-Gonda, IALS board member and Dean of the Free Faculty of Law of Monterrey, Mexico. “As legal educators, we have an obligation to ensure that our thinking and teaching is informed by the insights of others and that we are constantly learning and challenging ourselves to become better teachers and better citizens of the world.”

For more information about IALS conferences, see www.ialsnet.org/meetings/index.html

Message From The IALS President

Hello ! It has been a while since we have last met. As many of you know, IALS was established in May 2005 in Istanbul while hosted by the Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi. That decision was the follow up of previous meetings in La Pietra and Hawaii that helped assembling legal educators in the mainstreaming of promoting better understanding among cultures and peoples and better educating lawyers for transnational challenges, those produced by a world with a globalized economy that has

succeeded in disseminating human rights but also poverty and transnational organized crime.

IALS offers a unique and vibrant meeting place for legal educators all over the world. Its seminars have dealt with possibilities of learning from each other in an interrelated world, to manage teaching about other cultures and legal systems. Global issues, like international business transactions, or common ones, like the role of law schools and their deans or con-

stitutional law themes are on our agenda.

IALS will better serve its goals having legal institutions from different parts of the world on board. Our diversity is our wealth. Be part of this project and help us enhance our diversity. You can make the difference.

It is my pleasure to welcome you at IALS.

Mónica PINTO, President IALS



“Our diversity is our wealth...”

Mónica Pinto, IALS President

Monica Pinto, IALS President



For more information about the International Association of Law Schools, visit www.ialsnet.org

Did You Know?

The idea for an international association of law schools emerged from several meetings of legal educators from around the world who recognized the growing inter-relationship of norms from transnational legal systems.

In May 2004, 130 legal educators from 47 different countries unanimously adopted a resolution to form a new international association of law schools.

In October 2005, the IALS was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia in the United States of America.

The IALS Charter sets out the Asso-

ciation's mission. Among its key objectives, the IALS aims to foster mutual understanding of and respect for the world's varied and changing legal systems.

The IALS also serves as a forum to share experiences and practices regarding legal education.

The organization hosts 2 conferences annually. Attendees at each IALS conference prepare brief papers on the conference theme. The papers are published and distributed by the IALS and serve as an invaluable research and teaching tool.

The IALS, as of January 2010

boasts 207 members from 50 different countries.

The IALS website receives an estimated 297 visits per day.

Upcoming conferences will be held in Milan (2010), Argentina (2011) and Bangalor (2012).

For more information about the IALS in general and our Charter in particular, visit our website at www.ialsnet.org.

To join the International Association of Law Schools, please complete and send the information form on the back page.

Membership is open to individuals and institutions. We use a differentiated fee scale. Contact us for more information.

The IALS serves as a forum to share experiences and practices regarding legal education

We regard the rule of law as an instrument of international peace and security and are committed to sharing ideas, experiences and resources to that end—past and current IALS Board members at Montreal Conference, May 2008.



For more information about the International Association of Law Schools, visit www.ialsnet.org

As a member of the IALS, you can use our website to reach a wide group of legal educators and institutions around the world.

- Post and review positions in law schools around the world on the Job Board;
- plan to attend or advertise your own conference on the International Conferences Calendar;
- obtain information about IALS conferences and view the working papers submitted at each conference through the Meetings section of the IALS site;
- and, connect to IALS member schools, board members or view the IALS Charter.

www.ialsnet.org

Labour Law and Labour Markets in the New World Economy

The IALS Milan conference will examine developments in labour law. Examples of topics explored included labour and global economics, labour and fundamental human rights, as well as the maintenance of family economics and the marketplace. Of course there will also be opportunities to discuss, as with all IALS conferences, teaching and learning strategies across different cultures. There are no numeric or geographic restrictions on attendance of IALS schools at the Milan conference.



*The IALS Milan
Conference Milan, Italy
May 20—May 22, 2010*

The IALS Canberra Conference brought together educators from around the world to examine the role of law school leadership in an era of globalization.



For more information about the International Association of Law Schools, visit www.ialsnet.org

Conference Notices From Member Institutions

Upcoming conferences organized by IALS member schools can be posted on the IALS website. Examples of current postings include:

13-14 April 2010

Jordan - Yarmouk University

Professional Ethics and Professional Liability

29-31 March 2010

The Association of Law Teachers' 45th Annual Conference:

Legal Education: Making a Difference

University of Cambridge, UK

February 25, 26 and 27, 2010

Global Legal Skills Conference V

Monterrey, Mexico

IALS member institutions are invited to submit notices of their upcoming conferences on the IALS website.

Policy Notice Regarding IALS Conferences:

Members have asked the IALS to reconsider its numeric and geographic restrictions on attendance at IALS Conferences.

While remaining mindful of the need to ensure diversity and equal participation of schools and regions at IALS events, the Board has determined that it is time to consider a change in policy.

Accordingly, member schools can send as many

Message From IALS General Secretary, Carl Monk

The IALS is a remarkable organization. Perhaps one of the most memorable — and in many ways typical — moments came in Canberra during the conference which focused on Deans and Law School leadership in a changing world. Michael Coper, Dean of the Australian National University law faculty and our most congenial host, invited people to come to the microphone on our last evening together and give greetings in their native language. I recognized most, but not all of the languages. We heard good-byes in at least 20 different native tongues. The comradery and good-will that filled the room was truly remarkable.

People from different cultures, faiths, traditions, experience and aspirations had shared close to a week together. They come with open minds and open hearts, wanting to learn from each other. There was no doubt in my mind that night that the IALS conferences produce results. When we put all of our experiences from all conferences together, I know that we have shared knowledge and information. We have also updated and even challenged our understanding of the law. We have also forged new networks.

But, we often don't know the full complexity and depth of the changes that the conferences help produce in both people and in-

stitutions. So, at Canberra, we decided to survey participants. They confirmed for us the very thing we suspected all along. As I have said before on other occasions, the benefits received far outweigh the time and financial investments required to produce these conferences. We have provided you with a sampling of some of the responses we received from Canberra (see next page).

But, we know that we have challenges to overcome to grow our remarkable organization. We must determine how to better serve those whose first language is not English. Our board has deliberated on strategies but we are far from resolving this crucial matter. We need to ensure that we have the resource base to support the continued participation from individuals and institutions around the world. Without that, we lose our diversity and with our diversity goes our identity. We will continue to seek solutions. In the meantime, we invite your comments and contributions.

If your school has introduced an innovation that was inspired or helped along with the IALS, please let us know. See the back page for how to contact us.

And, thank you for your continuing support of IALS.



“the benefits received far outweigh the time and financial investments”

Expanding Horizons, Consolidating Relationships, Participant Comments From The Canberra Conference

"...after coming back, I addressed all my young colleagues and shared with them my experiences in the conference at Australia...We are in the process of bringing out various reforms in our system for which I give great credit to my attending a number of IALS international conferences."

"In Indonesia, we changed the local curriculum to be more responsive and adaptive to global changes."

"It forced me to see that some problems are more universal than I thought."

"I see the need to include International Law concepts in

the curriculum to give our law students a wider perspective with Globalization."

"As a result of the conference, we are working on getting a Fulbright scholar from a US University to come to Zimbabwe in 2010 with special interests in gender and the law."

"We introduced a new course about national security and human rights after discussions with colleagues at the conference."

"My law school is drafting agreements with universities in Spain, US and Latin America in the spirit of the meeting."

"We are in the process of entering into the memorandum of understanding with other national law schools working across the country."

"We exchanged and developed a few new ideas and strengthened existing ties."

"I learned so much from this conference that I cannot explain it in so short a space. It gave me a unique opportunity to be with colleagues from foreign universities."

"I very much valued meeting new people and learning how things are done at other law schools."



"I give great credit to my attending a number of IALS international conferences"

Participants at the Montreal conference focused on effective techniques for teaching other cultures and legal systems.



For more information about the International Association of Law Schools, visit www.ialsnet.org



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WHAT IS THE IALS?

The International Association of Law Schools (IALS) is a non-profit organization founded in 2005 with a membership of educational institutions, associations, and legal educators from throughout the world. Its members are committed to the proposition that the quality of legal education in any society is improved when students learn about other cultures and legal systems and the diverse approaches to solving legal problems employed in those legal systems.

HOW TO JOIN IALS

Applicants for membership should complete and return the application in this brochure or download it from www.ialsnet.org.

MEMBER APPLICATION



Name of Law School, Organization, or Individual _____

University Affiliation (if any) _____

Primary Contact Name (for schools and organizations) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Web site (for schools and organizations) _____

Please Complete _____

_____ submits this application for membership in the International Association of Law Schools (IALS).

By submitting this application _____ acknowledges that (it, he or she) is the legal educator or type of institution described in section 3 of the Charter and pledges commitment to the mission and goals of the IALS and agrees to pay annual dues in the amount determined by the Charter and Governing Board of the IALS.

Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

RETURN TO: International Association of Law Schools, 1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC, 20036-2717

FAX: 202.296.8869



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