



Newsletter for Members May 2011

To All Members:

At the April, 2011 General Assembly meeting in Buenos Aires in accordance with our Charter, I assumed the responsibilities of the Presidency of our association. We all thank Monica Pinto for her tireless efforts over the past three years in advancing the cause of the IALS. We also extend our gratitude and appreciation to retiring board members, Dakas CJ Dakas, Reem Bahdi, Hariolf Wenzler for their significant efforts.

The International Association of Law Schools is a learned society made up of approximately 150 of the world's law schools. From Argentina to Zimbabwe, from Finland to South Africa, over these past 5 years a community has come together to learn from each other – to enjoy the benefits of active interaction with their colleagues on an international level. Established by charter in 2005 in Istanbul, our founding principles embrace diversity, scholarship and the basic rule that no one country or entity will dominate.

From the beginning we concentrated on hosting conferences. The conferences have been intellectually stimulating and exploratory of the core competence the association has engaged to develop – legal education in a globalizing world. We also realized that the needs of our membership are as diverse as the members themselves - some from the best endowed and most sophisticated teaching institutions of the developed world to some small institutions from very challenged developing countries. We have since our inception committed ourselves to building a bridge between these developed and developing institutions. We need to rededicate ourselves to this goal.

Many of our developed country members have active “internationalization” programs, staffed by talented faculties which have at their disposal a vast array of resources. They possess the relationships and the means to straddle the globe in ever more innovative and sophisticated programs. Joint degree programs with other elite schools, vigorous student and faculty exchange, off – site campuses, and summer programs are only a few of these accomplishments.

However, the gradation in our association is not binary – developed vs. developing. Our members come from all strata of legal education, and their country of origin is not the only determinate of their resources. Some of our members though from developing countries are state sponsored institutions which have access to more resources than some institutions from developed jurisdictions. Most important is that we are not an association of just the elites. We certainly welcome the elites who have much to offer all our members in modeling innovative approaches and techniques.

IALS Website

Francis S.L. Wang
President

**Aalt Willem Heringa &
Michael Coper**
Vice-Presidents

Carl C. Monk
*President Emeritus
Secretary/Treasurer*

Monica Pinto
President Emeritus

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Amy Shupikai Tsanga, Zimbabwe

A fundamental goal of our association is to encourage the spread of new approaches to legal education. This is to assist the world's law schools in improving their capacity to provide their students the necessary building blocks to be productive citizens of their country and the world through a deep understanding and commitment to the rule of law.

Supporting us throughout this effort has been the Association of American Law Schools. Were it not for the vision of Carl Monk, the tireless energies and dedication of Jane LaBarbera and her professional staff, the sensitivity and encouragement of Susan Prager, we would not be here today. A great debt of gratitude and heart felt appreciation is owed.

Over these past five years, we have imposed a great deal on our host. They have provided their financial and administrative support with grace and dignity. The time has now arrived that we explore taking the next step in our evolution – a separate Secretariat. Working together with the AALS, we will be defining the future parameters of our relationship during this coming year. It will be a challenging time, but one ripe with opportunity.

We have established a task force headed by Hariolf Wenzler of the Bucerius Law School to review all options as to possible structures for the new Secretariat – should it be permanently situated, should it rotate, how to staff it, what are its functions and responsibilities, these and other issues will be examined in depth. They will report to the Board and to you. We will decide together how we structure and govern ourselves.

At the April Board meeting, Michael Coper, Australian National University, Faculty of Law, Australia and Aalt Willem Heringa, Maastricht University, Faculty of Law, The Netherlands were elected as Vice Presidents. Carl Monk continued his position as General Secretary / Treasurer on an interim basis until the new Secretariat is formed and a new General Secretary/Treasurer is selected.

Also, at the General Assembly meeting on April 14, 2011, the following six persons were (re)appointed as members of the Board (for a three year term):

- Dean Jassim Ali Al'shamsi, United Emirates, University Faculty of Law, UAE. jassim.alshamsi@uaeu.ac.ae
- Dean Mary Anne Bobinski, University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, Canada. bobinski@law.ubc.ca
- Prof. Fatou Kiné Camara, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal. camarafatkine@yahoo.fr
- Director General Tahir Mamman, Nigerian Law School, Nigeria. tarmamman@yahoo.com
- Prof. Jukka Kekkonen, University of Helsinki, Finland. jukka.t.kekkonen@helsinki.fi
- Prof. Fernando Villarreal-Gonda, Free Faculty of Monterrey, Mexico. fvgonda@fldm.edu.mx
- Dean (Emeritus) Francis SL Wang, Kenneth Wang School of Law, Soochow University, China. fwang@wangff.org

The other Board members are:

- Prof. Nerina Boschiero, University of Milan. nerinaboschiero@unimi.it
- Prof. Lidia Casas, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile. lidia.casas@udp.cl
- Dean Michael Coper Australian National University, Australia. coperm@law.anu.edu.au
- Dean Akram Daoud, An-Najah National University, Palestine. akram@najah.edu
- Prof. V.S. Elizabeth, National Law School Of India University, India. vselizabeth@nls.ac.in
- Dean Claudio Grossmann, American University Washington College of Law, USA. grossmann@wcl.american.edu
- Dean Aalt W. Heringa, Maastricht University, Netherlands. aw.heringa@maastrichtuniversity.nl
- Dean Mohd Akram bin Shair Mohamed, International Islamic University Malaysia Ahmad Ibrahim, Malaysia. akram@iiium.edu.my
- Dean Monica Pinto, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. pinto@derecho.uba.ar
- Dean Valentina Smorgunova, Herzen State Pedagogical University, Russia, valentina_smorgunova@hotmail.com

- Dean Cheng Han Tan, National University of Singapore, Singapore. lawdean@nus.edu.sg
- Amy Shupikai Tsanga, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe. tsanga@law.uz.ac.zw

To move us forward, we will be putting together a package of charter reforms which you will have to review, discuss and decide upon. These will include a reduction of the terms of office to two years instead of three. The intention is to enable more candidates to sit on the Board and thereby to involve more member schools. We will also be reviewing our governance structure including voting procedures. We welcome input from our membership on this and any other issues.

Our next General Assembly meeting will take place during the IALS conference on "Human Rights and the Role of Law Schools" scheduled for October 24-26, 2012 which is being hosted by the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, India. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to welcoming many of you in Bangalore. Between now and the conference we will be launching several initiatives both in connection with the conference as well as strengthening membership services.

Our next newsletter will be devoted to the outcomes of our April 2011 annual conference in Buenos Aires about Legal Education.

The International Association of Law Schools is a volunteer service organization. We have a healthy reserve, a broad range of supporters and a committed Board of Governors. These are all necessary for us to build on the solid foundation which has now been passed to us. Our most important resource is you, our members. Our association and its mission are unique. It is global in scope. We all need to actively engage in its work. Together we will define its future.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me or any of our Board members. We are here to serve you in furthering our mission of engaging the world's law schools.

Francis SL Wang

President

International Association of Law Schools

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About International Association of Law Schools

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.