



The 74<sup>th</sup> Conference, 'ILA 2010' (the fourth to be held in The Hague), was hosted by the Netherlands Branch at The Hague University (Haagse Hogeschool) between 15 – 20 August 2010 (<http://www.ila2010.org/>).

At the closing session of the 73<sup>rd</sup> ILA Conference in Rio de Janeiro, **Professor Nico Schrijver**, President of the Netherlands Branch, and now President of the ILA, had extended a whole-hearted welcome to the 2010 Conference in The Hague, which he described as 'the city of peace and justice, but also of rain, culture and herring.'

In his welcome address to ILA participants, **Professor Nico Schrijver**, the Chair of the 'Board of Stichting' for the Conference, wrote:

'As Chair of the Netherlands Society of International Law, which also serves as the Dutch branch of the ILA, I am delighted to welcome you to ILA 2010, which takes place in the country of birth of Grotius, one of the founders of international law. This year, our Society celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we hope to share this joy with you as well. We are vigorously endeavouring to make ILA 2010 into a most memorable conference that will help to achieve the objective of the ILA of promoting the rule of law in international affairs and in doing so provide our contribution towards peace and justice through international law.'

The credentials of The Hague as a most fitting venue for this conference need no introduction. The city is the 'Legal Capital of the World' (the description applied by former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros Ghali). The Hague, with a population of almost 500,000, is often referred to as the international city of Peace and Justice. In this sense it is unique among all cities of the world. The city hosts many international organisations, mostly of a judicial nature. These include the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, both of which are housed at the magnificent Peace Palace. There are also the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where dozens of cases have been tried and a few are still pending, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, currently the venue of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where Charles Taylor is being tried, as well as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Although not the capital of The Netherlands, The Hague is the seat of the Dutch government as well as the Royal residence. The Hague has a beautiful historic city centre; where a maze of age-old narrow streets offers a lively atmosphere of culture, fine cafes and restaurants as well as surprising shops and boutiques.

Culture is an essential ingredient of The Hague. Apart from catering to a broad audience with its many annual festivals and its theatres, the city features excellent museums, such as the Municipal Museum (Gemeentemuseum), which houses the world's largest collection of works by Piet Mondriaan, alongside some of the finest works by artists of the Hague School and other contemporary artists. The Mauritshuis is famous for its paintings by Rembrandt and Vermeer, such as the Girl with a Pearl Earring. In the world of modern dance The Hague is known as the home base of the renowned Nederlands Dans Theater, one of today's most celebrated modern dance companies.

As the University website notes:

‘The city is the perfect place to witness the workings of international trade, law and diplomacy firsthand. They’re all based right here, in the historic city. The spirit, energy and ideals of these global institutions permeate life on and off campus.

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‘The campus is entirely surrounded by water, a kind of city within a city. Life on campus revolves around the magnificent oval atrium hall, with its soaring glass ceiling. 20,000 students of more than 80 different nationalities and 1,800 staff pass through here every day: that makes The Hague University the most international university in Holland. 57 % of the students is male, 43 % is female. There are works of art dotted all over the campus – paintings, sculpture and photography: it adds something quite special to the atmosphere on campus. In 2004, the campus became the backdrop for the Hollywood film *Mindhunters*.’

Just how successful The Hague Conference has been was manifest from the very first formal engagement in the Conference Programme. This was the Sunday evening Welcome Reception at the Provinciehuis, hosted by the Queen’s Commissioner for Zuid Holland. It was immediately obvious that the Conference had attracted many of the world’s most distinguished international jurists and that the number of registrants was very high (over 700 registered participants in all).

As delegates approached the University entrance for the **Opening Ceremony** on Monday 16 August, the cheerful bell-like sounds of a Draaiorgel (Dutch pipe organ) were to be heard. The speakers each addressed the theme of this conference, ‘*De Iure Humanitatis: Peace, Justice and International Law*.’ The Platform Party were: **The Rt Hon The Lord Mance**, Chairman of the ILA Executive Council; **Professor Eduardo Grebler**, President of the Brazilian Branch and Outgoing President of the ILA; **Professor Nico Schrijver**, President of the Dutch Branch, and Incoming President of the ILA; **Mr Ernst Hirsch Ballin**, Minister of Justice of the Netherlands; **Professor Christine Chinkin**, ILA Director of Studies; and **Sarah Nouwen**, a member of the Programme Committee.

For the first time in its long history, the ILA conference host website has an ILA Blog. The following was posted on the first day of the conference.

‘The ILA 2010 conference has started off on an inspirational tone. The speakers at the formal opening panel had set out to emphasize the broader social context in which the conference is taking place and how this should shape one’s understanding of the goals of the conference.’

Also for the first time there was a Schedule of ‘Poster Sessions’ on a large number of international law topics – designed to give both an opportunity and a forum for young lawyers to make presentations and to become involved in the work of the conference.

**Professor Nico Schrijver** called the Conference to order. He was pleased to welcome participants to The Hague, the city of peace, justice and international law, as well as of culture (and rain!). He noted that since the last conference the much-respected Chairman of the ILA, Lord Slynn, had sadly passed away in April 2009. In May 2009 the Executive Council had paid tribute to his memory. He had been Chairman since 1988 and had served the ILA in a most excellent way for 21 years. He said what a great pleasure it was that Lady Slynn had agreed to attend the Conference and he warmly welcomed her.

During the November Executive Council meeting the Association had elected Lord Mance who had and continued to have a long and distinguished career. He is a judge of the English Supreme Court and has had a long involvement with European law. He is a member of the ILA Study Group on the practice and procedure of international tribunals.

Professor Schrijver then called upon Lord Mance to open the Conference.

**The Rt Hon Lord Mance (Chairman of the ILA)** thanked Professor Schrijver for his words and noted that it was a privilege to succeed Lord Slynn and before him Lord Wilberforce, both giants of international law. He expressed his appreciation for the support and advice he had received from members all over the world and for the tireless support from the secretariat: Juliet Fussell and Natalie Pryer, whom he especially thanked. He said that he was on a learning process by which he could learn to lead the ILA.

Lord Mance noted that the Association had sadly lost a number of distinguished members since the last conference. Lord Slynn was a giant of the British, international and European legal scene. It was delightful to see Lady Slynn at the conference. She is a warm, unassuming and engaged personality and she is particularly welcome at this conference. Lord Slynn had always been an eloquent advocate and played an important part in developing oral advocacy in the European Court. He noted that Lord Slynn had been justly honoured before his death by the Queen for his services to the ILA: he had been made Knight Grand Cross.

He also mentioned the tragic death by accident of Professor Sir Ian Brownlie, QC, the former Director of Studies of the ILA. He had made a great contribution to the ILA and had appeared in more than 40 cases before the ICJ. He was knighted in 2009 and it was very sad that he did not live to enjoy that status. His widow, Christine, had survived the accident. There were to be two memorial services in Oxford and London later in the year in his honour, and members are warmly invited to attend.

Lord Mance commented that the Association was in good heart with a worldwide spread and a good future. There was room for growth and expansion. Lord Mance was shortly to attend the forthcoming May 2011 regional conference in Taipei which would assist in highlighting the activities in the Far East. He paid tribute to the outgoing President Eduardo Grebler and Professor Susana Camargo Vieira for their organisation of the Rio Conference.

He noted that it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Netherlands Branch of the ILA and congratulated the Branch. He wished the branch Bonne Centenaire. There was no more appropriate place to hold the Conference than The Hague. He acknowledged the debt owed to the Netherlands Branch and Professor Schrijver and his team for their organisation and the programme they have put together outside the working sessions.

Lord Mance informed the Conference that the next biennial conference would be held in Bulgaria, and that the conference for 2014 was to be held in Japan. Preparations were well under way for both events.

Lord Mance noted that there had been continuing growth in the relevance of both public and private international law recently. He made reference to the Kosovo decision of the ICJ and recent decisions of the ECJ which considered the relationship between European law and general public international law. He noted similar discussions in other tribunals and that it was his view that a more holistic approach to European law and its relationship with public international law was required.

He expressed thanks and congratulations for the outstanding programme, which had taken much skill and courage to put together in the face of the continuing global financial difficulties. The programme showed that there would be much to occupy the delegates during the Conference and he wished everyone a successful conference.

There was also much to look forward to in the future, with conferences in Bulgaria in 2012 and Japan in 2014 (in each case celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of those branches).

Lord Mance then invited Mr Eduardo Grebler to pass on the President's Badge of Office to Professor Schrijver as the incoming President and he presented Eduardo with the Vice-President's Badge as a small token of appreciation.

**Professor Eduardo Grebler** said that two years ago he had welcomed members to the 73<sup>rd</sup> conference in Rio. The 74<sup>th</sup> conference in the home town of Hugo Grotius would be no less rewarding. The work of Grotius should be used to guide the present discussions and status of international law. He noted that barely one month after the Rio conference the world was engulfed by economic turbulence which caused serious damage to countries throughout the world. Currencies were devalued, unemployment soared and there were private and public insolvencies. Tensions continued and developed in regions of the world including the Far East and South America. Intolerance rooted in religious traditions had created tensions. It was incongruous that since the advances made since the UN system's creation, international law now seemed ineffective in so many ways. He was sure that members of the ILA thought deeply about those issues and sought to create a more viable international legal and regulatory framework. More needed to be done to respect the laws of civilisation and of humanity.

He noted that the Rio conference was Lord Slynn's last conference as ILA Chairman. At that conference he had been as active and energetic as ever. We revere his memory and we would all miss him. He welcomed Lord Mance and noted that his experience in international law would benefit the ILA. Lord Mance could lead the ship on new journeys and expand and improve the ILA in different parts of the world, by encouraging new branches, supporting more regional conferences, making a closer relationship between HQ and branches and also allowing more opportunities for members to be involved in the work of the ILA.

He congratulated Professor Schrijver and wished him every success before inviting him to speak.

**Professor Schrijver** said that it was a great honour to serve as ILA President in his capacity as President of the Dutch Branch; 100 years young. He thanked Eduardo Grebler not only for his work in Rio in 2008 but also during his subsequent presidency, where he had been an effective bridge between academia and practice. He also thanked him for his assistance in the process of selecting a new Chairperson. That process led to the unanimous selection of Lord Mance. In Rio everyone had appreciated the wonderful team, including the talented Professor Susana Vieira and Professor Lauro Gama; and Professor Grebler's commitment, calm and integrity had been a source of inspiration.

The Netherlands Society of International Law was established as the first national branch of the ILA, officially in 1910, but in fact well before that time. One of the first ILA conferences took place in The Hague in 1875. In 1907 the first Peace Conference was held; and in 1913 the Peace Palace opened its doors. Plans for more conferences were overtaken by the outbreak of WWI. He recommended an article in the special issue of the Netherlands Journal of International Law, written by Arthur Eyffinger. The society had played a prominent role by increasing respect for private and public international law in the Netherlands. There were more than 140 publications and 500 members. International law was one of the significant features of the Netherlands. It hosted the ICJ, the ICC, and a number of other international tribunals. The Netherlands was traditionally attached to international law. The Netherlands Constitution expressly tasked the Government with promoting the development of international law and allowed Dutch armed forces to maintain and promote the international legal order. The Netherlands had often sought to strengthen the international legal order and the Rule of Law. That attachment to international law was also a matter of enlightened self interest.

He highlighted a number of particular developments in international law. For example, international law increasingly qualified domestic legal orders. It allowed people from different countries to live together and engage with each other. While certain subjects remained completely

within the jurisdiction of one state, international law was no longer a kind of menu from which one could pick and choose. Increasingly, responsibilities were incumbent upon a variety of actors for sustainability and international peace and security. This was a development towards an international law of humanity. But was international law up to it? That was the topic of the conference.

In the week to come he hoped to achieve the objectives of the ILA – the promotion of the rule of law in international affairs. He hoped to provide a contribution towards peace and justice through international law. He wished participants an inspiring conference and an enjoyable stay in The Hague.

There was then a musical interlude by **Mr Vincent van Amsterdam**. He gave a virtuosic and much appreciated performance of two startlingly beautiful pieces on piano accordion.

**Professor Schrijver** then welcomed the Netherlands Minister of Justice, Ernst Hirsch Ballin. The Minister had been a long time member of the ILA and a former professor of Constitutional and International Law. He was a beacon of trust, a man who maintained the Rule of Law, tolerance, equality of treatment and human rights for all; and as such it was particularly appropriate to welcome him to speak at the Conference.

**Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin (Minister for Justice, Netherlands)** officially welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands. He noted that the range of topics was very impressive and he was sure that the topics and discussions would advance our understanding of how international law could advance the cause of peace and justice. However, it was naïve to think that books and conferences could guarantee peace and security. There were signs that more was needed to protect and advance international law.

There had been a shifting balance of global economic power which meant that the systems of global governance needed adjusting. It could no longer be taken for granted that western models would serve as models for the rest of the world. Of course, countries such as Russia had long supported international law and India was one of the world's great democracies. The links between international law, the rule of law, human rights and the shifting balance of power were interesting academic questions; however Ministers also needed to interact with their counterparts in other countries and promote those discussions in their own domestic arenas. Protecting international law was a moral (and in the Netherlands a constitutional) duty. It was in the Netherlands' interests to be surrounded by well functioning states protected by international law.

The battle for the rule of law was not only being fought abroad. One front line was right here in the Netherlands. Even in a country such as this one could see currents that threatened the rule of law. Populist and nationalist movements opposed international law: they were intolerant and threatened to undermine or even destroy democracy and justice, freedom of expression and of religion. Governments needed to oppose such movements and explain that democracy and human rights were fundamental and went hand in hand. Individual freedoms were connected with respect for freedoms of others and the rule of law meant the rule of law for everyone. International law must not become a dead hand in politics. Human rights for instance were key values of European societies. They were a product of lessons from the past for which a heavy price had been paid. International law was not static, but was dynamic, and it needed feeding and nurturing. These things needed to be explained even if they seemed obvious to practitioners. Rules of human rights were our own rules, not rules imposed from above. We should strive to establish laws which favoured humanity and human dignity. The Minister asked that participants bear these issues in mind during the work of the Conference.

**Lord Mance** thanked the Minister for his stimulating address and then invited the Director of Studies and Sarah Nouwen on behalf of the organisers to speak.

**Professor Christine Chinkin (Director of Studies)** noted that many participants intended to attend the excellent sessions arranged so well by the Organising Committee. However the heart of the ILA was the committee structure and the work of the Committees which was to be conducted at the Conference. The Conference was the culmination of work since Rio and looking ahead to Bulgaria. There were 18 substantive reports which had been placed on the ILA web site. At the working sessions the reports were discussed and the future work of the Committee was considered. Resolutions made practical contributions as to how international law in specific areas could be implemented and enforced. There were 25 international committees and 6 study groups. They covered a very broad range, including new, unexplored and topical areas of international law, such as sovereign insolvency. Participants were warmly invited to attend all working sessions and contribute to the debate. The Report of the conference includes both the report prepared in advance and a record of the discussions so everyone can contribute to the progressive development of international law. The work of the ILA was fluid. She was always interested in suggestions for new areas of work.

**Dr Sarah Nouwen** on behalf of the Programme Chairs, then spoke to the complementary programme of the conference. The complementary programme was intended to be truly complementary to, and not a substitute for the working sessions. The working sessions would be the primary focus of the intellectual work, but they would be facilitated by the complementary programme. The conference theme reflected international lawyers' shared interest in peace, justice and, ultimately, humanity. That was reflected in the conference theme. But she also warned about injustices committed in the name of 'humanity'. She noted that the organisation must become more inclusive. The organisation is accessible to everyone, but more in theory than in practice. She called on participants to address that issue during the conference and wished participants an inspired Conference.

**Lord Mance** then officially declared open the 74<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Law Association.

Following the Formal Opening Session **Professor Nico Schrijver** chaired a **General Opening Session** which addressed:

*'Urgent global issues: The Role of International Law.'*

All the panelists agreed that the key issues were summarised in the following passage:

*'Everything changes, but global challenges remain. Among today's are conflicts about access to natural resources, the consequences of climate change, the ongoing threat of nuclear arms, structural worldwide poverty, and manifold (other) human rights violations. What role can and should international law play in addressing such issues? Is it able to do so? If not, how should international law be reformed? How should international law interact with other disciplines? How desirable is further 'juridification' of the international order and what are the limits?'*

As noted above the Chair was:

**Professor Nico Schrijver:** President Netherlands Society of International Law

The Panellists were:

**David Caron:** President of the American Society of International Law

**Jean-Pierre Cot:** Président de la Société Française pour le droit international

**Marcelo Kohen:** Director-General of the Latin American Society of International Law

**Edward Kwakwa:** Vice-President of the African Foundation for International Law

**Hélène Ruiz-Fabri:** President of the European Society of International Law

**Hanqin Xue:** President of the Asian Society of International law, and a judge of the International Court of Justice.

Running parallel to the Committee and Study Group meetings was a rich complementary programme, correlative to the work of the ILA:

1. The ICC: Court of last Resort or a New “Gentle Civiliser of Nations”;
2. Islamic Finance and Influence of Religion on Law;
3. The Impact of International Legal Standards on International Commercial Arbitration;
4. Integrating Human Rights in Civil Cases: From a plaintiff’s perspective;
5. Climate Change: Challenges on the Road from Copenhagen to Mexico;
6. Peace and Justice: Friends or Foes?
7. The Organisation against Biological Weapons: The Missing Piece of the Jigsaw?
8. The Bottom of International Law: Access to Justice;
9. R2P Revisited: Responsibility to Protect or to Protectorate?
10. Too high a Wave? Legal Grounds for the Fight against Piracy;
11. International Law Arbitration as Conflict Prevention: The Sudanese Abyei Area Case as Example?
12. Out of Concern for the Child: Transnational Co-operation in Cases of Child Protection, Maintenance and Abduction;
13. Financial Crisis: Lessons for Future Global Economic Governance and Financial Supervision;
14. Kosovo as Precedent: on the Potential Impact of the ICJ Opinion in Other Struggles for Self-Determination;
15. The Arctic Paradox: Global Warming causing a New Cold War?
16. Implementing Utopia: Human Rights, Sustainability & the Millennium Development Goals;
17. ASIL/ILA Panel 1: The influence of International Law on Domestic Legal Orders;
18. The UN in a Diverse World: Views from a Variety of Geographical Backgrounds;
19. ‘The Lady Doth Protest Too Much’: The Responsibility of the International Lawyer;
20. Water: A Universal Human Right.

The daily structure of the Committee and Study Group sessions is set out below. The formal Committee Reports are available at <http://www.ila-hq.org>.

On **Monday, 16 August**, there were the following working and study group sessions:

1. International Human Rights Law;
2. Islamic Law & International Law;
3. International Commercial Arbitration;
4. Recognition/Non-Recognition in International Law;
5. Cultural Heritage Law;
6. Responsibility of International Organisations.

In the evening of Monday, 16 August there was a reception at The Hague University.

On **Tuesday, 17 August**, there were the following working and study group sessions:

1. International Protection of Consumers;
2. Space Law;
3. Reparation for Victims of Armed Conflict;
4. UN Reform;
5. The Legal Principles Relating to Climate Change;
6. International Criminal Court;
7. International Law on Biotechnology;
8. Teaching of International Law;
9. The Use of Private Law Principles for the Development of International Law.

Tuesday evening was the traditional Embassy evening when many delegates attended their national embassies in The Hague.

On **Wednesday, 18 August**, there were the following working and study group sessions:

1. International Family Law;
2. International Securities Regulation;
3. International Civil Litigation & the Interest of the Public;
4. International Trade Law;
5. Non-State Actors;
6. Use of Force;
7. Feminism & International Law;
8. International Monetary Law;
9. Outer Continental Shelf;
10. Practice and Procedure of International Tribunals.

On Wednesday evening there was a glittering Conference Dinner at 'de Ridderzaal' (Hall of Knights) located on the magnificent Binnenhof in the heart of the city. Every year, in the mediaeval Ridderzaal, the Queen opens parliament by reading the government's plans for the next twelve months. **Ernst Hirsh Ballin**, Minister of Justice of the Netherlands and **Lord Mance**, Chair of the Executive Council, both addressed the assembled company.

On **Thursday, 19 August**, there were the following working and study group sessions:

1. International Law on Sustainable Development;
2. Baselines under the International Law of the Sea;
3. Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
4. Role of Soft Law Instruments in International Investment Law;
5. Sovereign Insolvency.

The Closing Ceremony was held on Thursday afternoon. It was well attended. **Lord Mance** said that the conference had been a great success. He congratulated the Dutch Branch on the organisation of the conference and thanked the Branch for the many admirable and interesting reports, which were of the highest standard and for the receptions that had been provided in the evenings – we had enjoyed hospitality at the Provinciehuis; the glory and splendour of the Ridderzhaal; and tonight we would visit the Peace Palace. He said that the Resolutions would be voted on: these had been scrutinised carefully by the Steering Committee.

The Director of Studies, **Professor Christine Chinkin**, reported on the academic work of the conference. 24 committees had held working sessions. The only committee that was not report was the committee on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. 18 reports had been tabled (either interim or final reports). The Family Law committee had been revived. Seven committees had finished their work under their existing mandates. This represented the culmination of many years of work, for which the committees were to be congratulated. Eight resolutions were to be proposed. The Committee on Teaching International Law was to be terminated as a formal committee and was to be converted into an interest group. The Committee on Islamic Law had presented an excellent report. Most committees, in addition to the open working sessions, held closed working sessions where they discussed their future work. There had been six study groups working in open or closed sessions. The work on the practice and procedure of international organisations had been finalised. The Hague principles on ethical standards for counsel appearing before international courts and tribunals had been drafted. The ILA committees had been very active and had generated lively debates and discussions. Various ideas for future mandates of committees had been put forward. Professor Chinkin had held meetings with all the officers of all the committees. She was very encouraged by what she had learnt. She was also delighted by the numbers of younger people who had participated in the conference.

Eight substantive resolutions were formally adopted at the Closing Session. They will all be posted on the ILA website. They were presented as follows:

**Dr Ralph Wilde**, who had chaired the working session of the Committee on *Teaching International Law*, introduced the resolution put forward by that Committee. The committee and its work comes to an end. It is hoped that a new initiative will be developed for a successor interest group on this subject;

**Lord Mance** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *International Commercial Arbitration* on the subject of confidentiality in arbitrations. Recommendations were made on the assumption that confidentiality could not be regarded as safe. The committee will continue under a new mandate;

**Professor Manuel de Almeida Ribeiro** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *Reparation of Victims of Armed Conflict*. The Resolution incorporated a Declaration of International Law Principles of Reparation for Victims of Armed Conflict;

**Professor Mary-Ellen O'Connell** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *International Criminal Court*;

**Professor Andreas Ziegler** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *International Law on Biotechnology* - a substantial document containing 36 recommendations ;

**Professor Torsten Stein** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *Use of Force*, which distinguished between situations of armed conflict as defined in international law and situations of peace;

**Professor Charlotte Ku** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *Feminism and International Law*, which covered the issues of Women Labour Migration; Trafficking in Women; and Women Refugees and Asylum-seekers

**Dr Christopher Pinto** introduced the resolution of the Committee on *The Outer Continental Shelf*, a committee established in 2002 at the New Delhi conference. There had been a detailed study of the Continental Shelf beyond the 200nm line. The mandate of the committee had been completed.

**Professor Nico Schrijver** thanked all those who had participated in and contributed towards the success of the conference. He hoped that it had been an inspiring week for all those involved. He reminded delegates that the Second Hague Peace Conference had taken place in the Hall of Knights in 1907. At that time the Temple for Peace (the Peace Palace) was under construction.

He thanked the ILA leadership, Lord Mance, the outgoing President, the Officers and staff (particularly Juliet Fussell and Natalie Pryer) for their hard work and their trust in the Netherlands Branch. He thanked all his colleagues and associates in the Dutch Branch, all those on the Organising Committee, the conference sponsors, and the many volunteers who had helped so enthusiastically.

There was then a virtuoso performance on the harp by Rémy van Kesteren.

**Lord Mance** said that there had been an excellent series of conferences in the ILA's recent past – in the UK, India, Toronto, Rio and now The Hague. The future programme included conferences in Sofia, Kyoto, the USA and South Africa.

Lord Mance then declared this extremely successful conference closed.

On the Thursday evening there was a splendid reception at the Peace Palace ('het Vredespaleis').

On **Friday, 20 August**, delegates had the opportunity to go Kröller Müller and Loevestein – a wonderful day excursion, described in the Conference Brochure in these terms:

*We drive through the green heart of Holland to Holland's largest National Park "De Hoge Veluwe". A visit will be paid to the Kröller Müller museum, which offers a collection of fine art, mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries. World famous is the extensive range of works by Van Gogh. The museum is surrounded by an open air exhibition of modern sculptures, showing some exceptional pieces.*

*Lunch en route.*

*Slot Loevestein is a sturdy 14th century fortress, strategically located in a region of rivers and surrounded by much scenic beauty. The castle has an eventful past as a toll castle, a defensive post, and a prison. The castle has a double moat, a munitions tower, soldiers' barracks, an arsenal and the Loevestein street, which housed families of soldiers and workers.*

*Loevestein owes its fame to the involuntary stay of Hugo Grotius at this fortress and in particular to his miraculous escape.*

*Towards the end of the Dutch Revolt, during the Twelve Year Truce (1609-1621), due to a religious dispute moderate members of the States of Holland were imprisoned. One of them was Hugo de Groot or Grotius, who at the time was Pensionary of Rotterdam.*

*Grotius was incarcerated at Loevestein. He read extensively in prison. His books were delivered to him in a large book chest, and after he had finished with them collected in the same chest, which was thoroughly inspected by the guards each time. Only books were allowed in the chest, but since the chest never contained anything other than books, eventually the guards became less careful. It was time for Hugo's wife, Maria van Reigers-berg, and servant girl Elsje to devise a plan.*

*On 22 March 1621, Hugo Grotius escaped from Loevestein in the chest. At the Daetselaar family's house in nearby Gorcum, he disguised himself as a bricklayer and from there fled to Paris. Backed by the King of France, Grotius sent a request to the States of Holland asking for his wife and children to be allowed to go to France. This request was granted on condition that Hugo Grotius never return to The Netherlands.*

So concluded one of the most successful conferences of recent times. We are all enormously grateful for the hard work, efficiency, good nature and generosity of our hosts, Nico Schrijver, Marcel Brus, Elske van Praag, Peter van Krieken, Katharina Boele-Woelki, Willem van Genugten, Sarah Nouwen, René Smits and their whole team.

Bruce Mauleverer (Vice-Chair, ILA)

*With thanks and acknowledgment to Dr Christopher Ward (Australia) for his helpful contribution to the text*