



International Society for Labour and Social Security Law
Société internationale de droit du travail et de la sécurité sociale
Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la Seguridad Social

BULLETIN No. 135

January 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues and friends,

Two months after the beginning of our administration, we would like to inform you about what we are doing at this initial stage of our mandate and how we would like to proceed in our future work.

First of all, I am working closely and in tandem with the Secretary General and the Treasurer of the Society. The tasks ahead are large and complex, so we need to carry them out together. All of our decisions are the result of our deliberations and agreements.

Our main concern is to strengthen the rigour, seriousness and quality of all our activities. The ISLSSL is an entity of the highest international level and hence, our products must meet the highest academic standard. In this Bulletin there are a few ideas aimed at meeting these objectives and we will constantly work for their achievement - all our actions and projects are aligned with them. This fortifies our strong conviction that if an institution like ours does not evolve and progress, it will inevitably become irrelevant.

As I have said on previous occasions, I am looking forward to your reactions and suggestions. We are committed to listen, learn and implement your ideas with a view to achieving the Society's promise and potential.

To all of you, my warmest regards and best wishes for personal and professional success together in the new year.

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President / Président

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News from the Society

1. **STRENGTHENING THE RIGOUR AND QUALITY OF OUR CONGRESSES. IMPROVING THE RESEARCH OF ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION**

We are honoured to have been elected and stand ready to implement a full program of work as contained in the report of the working group coordinated by Jean Michel Servais, which was approved by the Executive Committee at its last meeting in Santiago on September 25, 2012.

We will pursue these objectives with the goal of expanding the quantity and quality of the Society's scientific work.

It is from this perspective that we submit for your consideration the following ideas for implementing such objectives.

- i. National reports shall be required if the organizing committees of the congress consider it convenient or necessary. If so, we would like the materials to be considered as part of the scientific congress. In this regard:
 - a. We recommend that national societies designate their most qualified academics for the preparation of these reports, so they can be of the highest quality. Designations for preparing such reports should be considered as a recognition of academic achievement;
 - b. Please note that national reports will be posted on our website and will be available to all researchers (a new website is currently under construction). These will be of use beyond the General Rapporteur and will be seen as a contribution of national societies, (that are members of our Society) to increasing knowledge of their respective national experiences and thereby adding to the international literature. In this regard, national societies are invited to make a self-assessment of the quality of the reports and decide whether to translate them into one or more official languages;

- c. We recommend that the questionnaires prepared by the General Rapporteurs not only enquire about legislation and case law on a topic, but also on the theoretical developments at the national level. These theoretical approaches can be taken into account by the General Rapporteur and made available to other scholars;
 - d. We recommend that General Rapporteurs not limit their comparative work to those countries that have produced national reports. If, in their opinion, such comparative knowledge is not enough, it is up to the General Rapporteurs to complete the information and seek information from other sources available to labour law researchers.
- ii. The conference should be designed in a way to promote discussions and debate, rather than simply a series of presentations. To that end, presentations, which should always be made as introductions to the theme, should provide sufficient time for comment and discussion. The way workshops are usually organised seems to best fit these objectives. Round tables, in turn, should be organized to promote and facilitate the exchange of opinions and discussion between the panellists, and not merely presentations.
 - iii. It is desirable that “unofficial” papers received during our Congresses be reviewed for approval and possible submission to academic journals. Therefore, the creation of reading committees with a view to providing such approval is of great significance and usefulness. For approval, the submission of an abstract is required. Approved articles would take precedence for presentation at the conference, and will be made available to researchers on the Society website.
 - iv. This should not discourage the submission of studies and presentations by practitioners and other professionals who are members of our national societies. Non-academic professionals, therefore, should be encouraged to submit papers that contribute to the discussion, and also participate in online discussion forums. Their contributions should also be considered part of the material produced by the congresses and posted on the Society’s website.

- v. It is important that ISLSSL Congresses generate knowledge on the latest legal research, multidisciplinary work or other products linked to labour law and social security. This should be the purpose of the calls for "*poster sessions*" in which it becomes possible to briefly present relevant research findings, although not covered by the Congress' themes. After attending these presentations, anyone interested in them will know who works on these subjects, what research materials have been published and where, how the research process continues, and so on. These "*poster sessions*" should be encouraged and the organizing committees should provide a meeting place, assist in organising the order and length of presentations, advertise and facilitate their dissemination, including through the Society website. In the same spirit of quality and rigour, the approved presentations by the reading committees should have precedence in the session. The "*poster sessions*" should not be a mere sideshow but a stimulating ISLSSL space that lends itself to rigorous research on a variety of issues, even from other disciplines that contribute to the study of labour law and social security).

- vi. Multidisciplinary panels could be included in the Congresses and Seminars, as they have the potential to promote lateral thinking in labour law and social security through the studies of jurists and scholars from other disciplines, thereby making important contributions to knowledge and, at the same time, stimulating multidisciplinary work.

We aim to further promote comparative research and the establishment of groups or research networks at the international level. The ISLSSL should assist researchers and institutional members of the Society in organizing research and meetings among academics and practitioners with shared interests. With this goal, national societies and their members are asked to identify the researchers and the kind of research that is under way in their respective countries, so the Society can report it in our Bulletins and on the Society's website. The Report of the Working Group also suggested that the General Rapporteurs should be drawn from the leading researchers working on the Congress' themes.

2. THE SOCIETY AND THE YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

Article 1, par. 2 of the Statute of the Society says:

"The Society's activities include the promotion of the study of Labour Law and Social Security among young academics and lawyers, and support the delivery of international and comparative law courses and seminars, and other meetings in the mentioned areas".

Pursuant to this statutory mandate, our purpose is to encourage the participation of young lawyers in ISLSSL activities. We would like to encourage their attendance at conferences, *through reduced attendance fees. We would also like to create a section on our website* where they can share their research. We encourage the creation of awards for younger scholars (granted by the organizing committees and the ISLSSL), as well as the formation of teams of young lawyers to assist the General Rapporteurs in preparing their reports. There should also be seminars organized for young lawyers as part of their training and agreements negotiated with prestigious universities that offer more extensive programs on labour law and social security (for example, the ISLSSL should facilitate academic exchanges among its members for candidates nominated by national associations that meet the requirements established in each case). In this regard, we invite our members to provide ideas and proposals for achieving these objectives.

In particular, we would like to pursue the idea of the Report of the Working Group, to encourage the creation of a Section of young academics and lawyers in our Society. The creation of such a Section is extremely important though not simple. To make this possible, we thought it appropriate to encourage the establishment of regional "branches" that would facilitate the initial organization and that would enable their merger into a single international section. The first branch are being established in Latin America and Europe.

The Latin American branch

We have asked a number of young Latin American researchers to take the initiative of setting up a branch of young scholars/lawyers using their own list of contacts. In each of our Latin American countries young researchers have already

expressed interest in *participating*¹ with a view to organising at the regional level. Those who would like to join the branch are requested to contact Juan Pablo Mugnolo (jmugnolo@yahoo.com.ar), who is coordinating this initiative.

The members of the Latin American branch have expressed interest in holding their first meeting during the Regional Congress of Labour Law and Social Security to be held from 2 to 4 October 2013 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. On that occasion, they aim to produce research papers and discuss the degree of changes to the “employment relationship” over the last decade, characteristic of most economies of the region. This research will try to identify some trends (expansionary, contractionary) in the field of labour and social rights, and if possible, establish a link between these trends and future economic growth.

The European branch

The European dimension of labour law, as it is known, is characterized by strong integration among national legal cultures, supported significantly by the action of the European Union. Moreover, there are parallels in the development of various national laws despite sometimes significant legal differences.

A comparison of the realities of emerging EU countries is increasingly important and dynamic as is the need to meet the new requirements induced by the demands of competitiveness and sustainability due to the economic crisis that has characterized a number of European economies in recent years. These transforming factors suggest the need for continued reflection on the past, present and future of labour law in Europe.

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Scholars of all generations are needed for this phase of reorganization of our scientific discipline to develop initiatives that can best consider cross-cutting issues within Europe, such as the theoretical foundations of labour law, the role and powers of trade unions and collective bargaining, the form and degree of legislative protection afforded to workers, the very notion of "worker" as the mode for qualifying for protections provided by labour law, social security and welfare systems.

There are many instruments at our disposal to assist in these reflections: news of new legislation, publications, conferences and seminars, promoting the *call for papers* and collections of studies, organizations of congresses or congresses sections.

This initial phase, undertaken by a first group of scholars, will see the creation of an online forum open to all young European labour lawyers with the aim of defining the most effective initiatives for starting a program of common research and deeper reflection.

University students who are engaged in research fields of comparative labour law and who are interested in joining this European branch of young ISLSSL lawyers, at this early stage of discussion (which will continue until the end of next March) may contact Prof. Stefano Bellomo (stefanobellomo@mmba.it), who is gathering a list of initial participants (young scholars from Italy, France, Spain, UK, Poland, Russia, have expressed interest and others have been contacted)² and is organising the first phase of this collective reflection on the development of new tools for comparison and discussion.

In conclusion

All this is being conceived by young lawyers in an independent manner and they, for the moment, are responsible for the regional integration of these "branches". The

² The first group of young lawyers that has confirmed to be part of the European branch is composed of: Stefano Bellomo, Università di Perugia; Massimiliano Delfino, Università di Napoli; Matteo Corti, Università Cattolica di Milano; William Chiaromonte, Università di Firenze; Nicola Countouris, University College London; Josè Maria Miranda Boto, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela; Jose Antonio Fernandez Avilez, Universidad de Granada; Anna Musiala, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań; Daria Chernayeva, National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Moscow. Other members will join soon.

regional levels should eventually merge into an international one that will seek to achieve the full realization of this initiative. Its sustainability will depend on the enthusiasm and dedication of the young lawyers of each Section.

We invite our colleagues from other regions of the world to establish "branches" for subsequent merger into a single entity.

As expected, the "internationalization" of the academic activity of young lawyers will contribute to the enrichment and improve the quality of our Congresses while encouraging membership in the respective national societies.

3. ISLSSL WEBSITE

First of all, we would like to thank the Argentinian Association of Labour Law and Social Security for having hosted the ISLSSL website for so many years. Many thanks to them for their dedication and hard work.

The new web site will be characterised not only by its institutional approach, but also by a continuous interaction among the Society's members. Its aim is to become a genuine place of exchange of ideas, information and debate. Each national association should be able to post its current information and debates on labour law and social security issues with a view to increasing and promoting knowledge among all members and the public at large. As we all know, the website is a communication tool of great significance and hence we need to integrate its use into our work. We count on your initiative to contribute to the continuous update of our new website.

In this regard, we are pleased to announce that with the generous support of our friends in Canada (Jeffrey Sack) and the United States (Steve Willborn), a new website will soon be operational. We expect to launch it in early 2013.

4. ISLSSL SPONSORSHIP

In order to ensure that the ISLSSL lends its sponsorship only to academic activities of a high caliber, the use of its logo should be submitted to the Honorary Presidents and Vice Presidents for consultation and approval. Academic sponsorship

applications will be submitted according to the following procedure for consultation and decision.

1. Sponsorship applications for activities not organized by the ISLSSL will be granted or denied by the Officers of the Society, after consultation with the Honorary Presidents and Vice-Presidents.
2. To enable the consultation process, the applicant must submit the program of the activity for which sponsorship is sought, indicating the names and, where appropriate, the qualifications of the speakers, panellists, coordinators, authors of contributions and the themes to be addressed. Including all these elements will help in assessing the quality and rigour of the activity proposed.
3. When the proposed activity takes place in a country whose national association is a member of the ISLSSL, the academic sponsorship application must expressly have the national association's written endorsement.
4. To ensure greater international exposure, the application may be sent to the President and the Secretary-General of the ISLSSL in two official languages of the Society.

5. FUTURE CONFERENCES OF THE SOCIETY

1) IX Regional Congress of the Americas, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 2-4 October 2013

The themes of this conference and reporters will be:

Keynote-speech Prof. Arturo Bronstein, former Secretary-General and Honorary President of the ISLSSL on “International Human Rights Law and Labour Law”

Workshop “International Human Rights Law and Labour Law” chaired by Prof. A. Bronstein

First: "The role of jurisprudence in the fight against employment discrimination".

General Rapporteur: Prof. Fernando Bolaños (Costa Rica)

Second: "Collective representation of workers: evolution of legal regimes from a viewpoint of the collective autonomy and freedom of association".

General Rapporteur: Professeur Emilio Morgado (Chili)

Third: "The self-employed: the legal regime and the extension to the same of rules and institutions of labour law".

General Rapporteur: Prof. Mario Pasco (Pérou)

Round Tables

First: “Public and private pension systems: advantages and disadvantages for workers”.

Chair: Professeur Humberto Villasmil Prieto, Président de la Section de l'OIT SIDTSS.

Second: “Forms of social protection of the workers in the coming decades from a legal and financial viewpoint and proposals for a solution”.

Chair: Prof. Jean Michel Servais, Honorary President of the ISLSSL.

Website: <http://www.congresolabouralguayaquil.com/>

2) XI European Congress, Dublin, Ireland, 2014

The Congress will take place from 17 to 19 September 2014 (tbc). The conference themes are:

1. Labour Rights and Human Rights;
2. The legal and extra legal remedies against discrimination;
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution;
4. Other themes to be determined.

3) IX Asian Regional Congress Seoul, Korea, 2014

The Congress will take place from 25 to 27 June 2014 (tbc). The following are the tentative themes for this congress:

1. Theme 1: The Future of Trade Unions: Right to Strike in Danger?
2. Theme 2: Indirect Employment: What are the limits of Labour Market Flexibility?
3. Theme 3: Social Security Law in an Aging Society
4. Round Table: Migrant Workers and Multiculturalism in Asia

4) XXI World Congress, Cape Town, South Africa, 14-17 September 2015

The Congress will take place at the state-of-the-art Cape Town International Convention Centre. It is a sign of this venue's popularity that, when we made inquiries late last year, only one week remained in September 2015 during which the Congress could be accommodated. Although the LOC realised that many of our members prefer the informality (and relatively low cost) of holding the event on university premises, we also discovered that ILERA (the former IIRA) is also holding its World Congress in Cape Town in September 2015, and had already taken steps to hold it on the campus of the University of Cape Town during the vacation week that month (more about this later). Given that there are few conference venues large enough to host up to 1000 delegates comfortably, the LOC decided to take the plunge and make the reservation at CTICC. The dates are therefore confirmed for the 14 to 17 September 2015.

A unique feature of the event will be the integration of the SASLAW Annual Congress with the World Congress, with a view to attracting the maximum number of South (and Southern) African delegates (this accounts for the large number of delegates we are preparing to accommodate). In essence, it will involve including a number of sessions with topics likely to appeal to local as well as international delegates as one of the Congress themes. A network of South African labour and social security law academics is being built up to assist the LOC as a 'think tank' in designing a programme which will address cutting-edge issues and, we believe, will attract lively interest from practitioners as well as researchers internationally.

That brings us back to the ILERA Congress which (as in Sydney in 2009) may well take place back-to-back with the ISLSSL Congress. While some would see this as 'competition', we prefer to see it as an opportunity. Discussion has already begun with our colleagues on the ILERA organising committee with a view to harmonising our programmes in such a way as to encourage the maximum number of delegates attend both events. Also, from a scientific point of view, in-depth analysis by leading scholars of similar or related issues from different disciplinary perspectives could lead to an exciting advance of knowledge.

Preparations are thus in full swing. Negotiations for the appointment of a professional congress organiser are well advanced and the plan is to have a congress website online in the first half of 2013. An intensive campaign to announce and build the event is planned for the next two and a half years, in which affiliated associations of the International Society will be asked to keep their members informed. The LOC is confident that the Congress has the potential to generate tremendous interest, both at a scientific level and as an experience, while enabling close networking between international delegates and their South African counterparts who have gone through some of the most exciting and challenging phases of transition in the labour field in modern times. Last but not least, Cape Town as host city will ensure a stimulating and beautiful environment. Voted the world's number one tourist destination by Tripadvisor in 2011 and the world's second-best city by Condé Nast Traveller in 2012 (the best was Charleston, USA in case you're wondering). Cape Town is located next to one of the world's seven natural wonders (Table Mountain) and two UNESCO world heritage sites (Robben Island and the Cape Floral Region), we are sure its

many attractions will encourage maximum attendance. Building on the traditions of many excellent world congresses held in beautiful and historic cities in past years, we believe that the XXI World Congress will be an experience that will long be remembered.

5) International and comparative seminar of labour law, labour relations and social security, Isla Margarita, Venezuela, April 21-29, 2013

The Postgraduate Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law of Isla Margarita has been on-going since 2011 under the organization of the *Fundación Universitas* and under the auspices of the Venezuelan chapter of the ISLSSL, which has awarded scholarships with a view to promoting the participation of young lawyers.

From the forthcoming edition, and as announced during the last meetings of our Executive Committee and the General Assembly (Santiago, Chile), we would like to deepen our relationship with the aforementioned seminar. This renewed relationship will be based on the creation of an International Advisory Committee, composed of representatives designated by each of the Latin American national associations of our society. Its role will be to act as a consultative body at the time of organising each seminar and when deciding on the granting of ISLSSL fellowships.

As far as the design of each seminar is concerned, the organizers should consult the Committee before the elaboration of the program - topics, speakers, activities, etc. - or to submit the draft programme to the Committee, for evaluation and suggestions as well as the request for fellowships.

The invitation to be part of the International Advisory Committee for this Seminar has received a large response from our Latin American societies and its composition is the following:

Carlos Ayala Montero (Academia Panameña de DT)/Juan Manuel Charría Segura (Colegio de Abogados del Trabajo de Colombia)/Flor Espinoza Huacón (Sociedad Ecuatoriana de DTySS)/ Cesar Landelino Franco López (Asociación Guatemalteca de DTySS Mario López Larrave)/Graciela González (Asociación Argentina de DT ySS)/Patricia Kurczyn Villalobos (Asociación Mexicana de

DTySS)/ Héctor A. Jaime Martínez (Asociación Venezolana de Profesores de DT)/Rafael Pereira Lagos (Sociedad Chilena de DTySS)/Luiz Carlos Amorim Robortella (Instituto Cesarino Junior)/Jorge Rosenbaum Rímolo (Asociación Uruguaya de DTySS)

Having agreed on this occasion to assign fellowships of U.S. \$ 1,000 each, we will proceed to the establishment of a fellowships subcommittee with a maximum of five persons to be selected from Committee members (as far as possible) and among those national societies which have not submitted candidates for fellowships, with a view to ensuring maximum transparency and integrity for the selection of candidates.

The submission of applications for scholarships should be carried out by the respective national association, accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the applicant and certifying compliance with the ISLSSL rules for the granting of fellowships.

The application process is now open and the deadline is January 31, 2013. Information on the seminar is available at

http://www.universitatisfundacion.com/v2.0/eventos_detalle.php?codigo=MTcy

News from our Members

ARGENTINA

The new authorities of the Argentinian Association of Labour Law and Social Security are as follows:

President: Graciela GONZALEZ

Vice-president: José RODRIGUEZ PONTE

Secretary: Ana A. BARILARO

Treasurer: Leonardo AMBESI

Vocal Titular: Liliana RODRIGUEZ FERNANDEZ, José TRIBUZIO, Laura CHAHER, Jorge GARCÍA RAPP, Héctor David RODRÍGUEZ, Gustavo FERRANTE.

Vocal Suplente: Esteban CARCAVALLO, Miguel A. GORLA.

Revisor de Cuentas: Juan P. MUGNOLO Silvia GUTIERREZ GARAY, María Teresa ALONSO PARDO.

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Society for Labour Law and Social Security has held a conference every year on labour and social security law in Zell am See, Austria. This conference is a significant event in the German-speaking world on labour legislation and social security. The conference is attended regularly by over 400 people.

FRANCE

The *Thesis Prize* 2012 of the French Association of Labour and Social Security Law aims to recognize the best thesis in labour and social security law and is open to doctors who defended their dissertation between **1 January and 31 December 2012**.

The candidates need to send their application before 1 March 2013 to the following address:

Maître Hélène MASSE-DESSEN
Avocate au Conseil d'Etat et à la Cour de cassation
13 rue du Cherche-Midi
75006 Paris

Applications must include a curriculum vitae, the attestation of the degree of Doctor of Laws with the date of the defence, the topic presented and the grade obtained, the report of the final defence and five copies of the doctoral thesis (three copies will be returned to the candidate after the jury's decision).

The *Thesis Prize* is worth € 5,000 Euro towards the publication of the winning candidate's thesis.

The 2011 Prize was given to Ms. Delfine Ronet-Yague's dissertation entitled: "Social security credits and the failing firm. Towards the contribution of collection agencies to sustainable economic activity", prepared at the University Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III.

More information is available at: <http://afdt-asso.fr/index.html>

GREECE

New authorities of the Greek Association of Labour and Social Security Law:

President: Prof. Costas PAPADIMITRIOU
E-mail: [k.papadimitriou @ parliament.gr](mailto:k.papadimitriou@parliament.gr)
Vice-President: Prof. George LEVENTIS
Secretary: Deta PETROGLOU
Treasurer: Eleni DIONISSOPOULOU
Public Relations: Costis BAKOPOULOS
Members: Prof. Ioannis KOUKIADIS
Wizard. Prof. Patrina PAPARRIGOPOULOU

In 2012, several activities were organised under the auspices of the Greek Association of Labour Law and Social Security (EDEKA). Among others, mention should be made of the following:

- On May 25-26, 2012 the 12th National Conference was organized in Karpenisi, Greece under the title “The deterioration of working conditions”. The speeches of prominent university professors and labour law lawyers were followed by a lively debate.
- On October 2, 2012 an international conference under the title “Labour law on the edge between the protection of workers and the support of entrepreneurship” was organized in honour of Professor G. Leventis with the participation of Prof. Ulrich Preis, Cologne University, Martin Franzen, Munich University and Robert Rebhahn, Vienna University. All the speeches were published electronically.
- On November 2, 2012 EDEKA invited Prof. Lyon Caen, University Paris Ouest Nanterre to give a speech on “Labour Law and Economy” in the Athens Bar Association.

ISRAEL

The Institute for Comparative Legal Studies of the Hebrew University Law Faculty has just published a book of essays in honour of the former Deputy President of the Israeli National Labour Court, Judge Erika Barak-Ussoskin, who has participated in many activities of the International Society. The book is in Hebrew and some articles will be available in English.

ITALY

New authorities of the Italian Association of Labour Law and Social Security (AIDLASS) include:

President: Prof. Giuseppe SANTORO PASSERELLI

E-mail: pinosp@libero.it

pino46@gmail.com

Secretary

Prof. Maurizio RICCI

E-mail: m.ricci@unifg.it

Other members are:

Prof. Emilio Balletti (Seconda Università di Napoli), Prof. Francesco Baseghi (Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia), Prof. Alessandro Bellavista (Università di Palermo), Prof. Riccardo Del Punta (Università di Firenze), Prof. Madia D'Onghia (Università di Foggia), Prof. Domenico Garofalo (Università di Bari), Prof. Sandro Mainardi (Università di Bologna), Prof. Angelo Pandolfo (Università di Roma Sapienza), Prof. Rosario Santucci (Università del Sannio di Benevento).

The Italian Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. A national conference will be held in Bologna on 16-17 May 2013 on the theme: "The economic crisis and the fundamentals of labour law".

There will be the participation of Italian professors as well as European ones such as Miguel Rodriguez Pinero, Antoine Jeammaud, Alan Neal and Maximilian Fuchs. More information is available at www.aidlass.it

MALAYSIA

The Malaysian Chapter of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law was officially registered on 25th October 2011.

They held the inaugural AGM on 30th March 2012. The offices elected are: Dato Dr Cyrus Das - President, Dato Roy Rajasingham - Deputy President, Ms Carolyn Danker - Treasurer, Ms Catherine Eu - General Secretary Were Elected among members present at the meeting.

A one day Conference on the theme "Challenges in Employment Law: Proposals for Reform" was held on 2nd July 2012 organised by the Malaysian Chapter and the CLJ, a publishing house. About 200 participants attended the Conference.

NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Labour Law Society held its inaugural conference in December 2011 in Wellington. A selection of conference papers was recently published in a special labour law issue of the New Zealand Journal of Employment Relations

(NZJER, 2012, 37(1)] . A second conference will be held in Auckland in November 2013.

SOUTH AFRICA

Membership of the SA Society for Labour Law (SASLAW) increased by 206 members (19%) this year and currently stands at an all-time high of 1240. The increase in membership is attributable in the main to members gained as a consequence of our pro bono project, described below.

Main activities undertaken by the Society during the year

(i) Pro bono project

The Society now has pro bono advisory offices up and running at all four Labour Courts around South Africa. In total, 247 members logged 3,274 hours while assisting 4,125 clients during the year.

More than 40 of our senior members acted as judges of the Labour Court in Johannesburg on a pro bono basis for a week during the recess in December / January 2011/12 and July 2012 to assist the court in addressing the backlog of cases.

(ii) Chapter seminars

SASLAW has four provincial chapters based in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth. A total of 36 chapter seminars were conducted during the year, attracting a total of 2,009 delegates (an average of 55 per seminar).

(iii) Public comments and nominations

Important amendments to three of South Africa's main labour statutes have been debated since 2010 and are expected to be enacted in 2013. The Society submitted detailed public comments on the Labour Relations Amendment Bill and Basic Conditions of Amendment Bill in June 2012.

This led to the Society being invited to make a presentation on its comments to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Labour.

(iv) *SASLAW Annual Conference*

SASLAW's annual conference was held on 18 and 19 October 2012 in Johannesburg. The star attraction was a debate between Advocate Martin Brassey SC and Zwelinzima Vavi, general secretary of COSATU (the largest trade union federation in South Africa) about contemporary labour issues which were chaired by Judge Dennis Davis of the Cape High Court. A record 403 people attended the conference. SASLAW is most grateful to the delegates, speakers and sponsors for making the conference an enormous success.

(v) *The 2015 ISLSSL World Congress*

Following the Society being awarded the right to host the XXI ISLSSL World Congress in Cape Town in 2015, a local organising committee (LOC) was appointed under the chairmanship of Judge Andre van Niekerk of the Labour Court. Planning for the congress is well advanced. In September 2012, Prof Darcy du Toit and Prof Marylyn Christianson (both members of the LOC) attended the 2012 ISLSSL World Congress held in Santiago, Chile, with a view to gaining insight and experience in preparation for the 2015 World Congress.

SPAIN

Following the nomination of the former President of the Spanish Association of Labour Law and Social Security, Prof. Fernando Valdés Dal-Ré, to the Spanish Constitutional Court, the new President a.i. of the Spanish Association is:

President a.i.

Prof. Jesús Cruz VILLALÓN

E-mail: jesuscruz@us.es

UNITED KINGDOM

New ISLSSL Executive Committee's representative:

Prof. Catherine BARNARD

E-mail: csb24@cam.ac.uk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

New president of the U.S. Branch of the ISLSSL

Prof. Steve Befort

Chair

ISLSSL, U.S. section

E-Mail: befor001@umn.edu

May 31-June 1, 2013, Los Angeles, California

An international multi-disciplinary conference on "How Global Workforce Diversity Migration Changes the Equation" will be Conducted under the sponsorship of the UCLA Institute for Research on Labour and Employment in partnership with ADAPT (the consortium of groups interested in new Approaches to Comparative and International work based studies at the Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia).

Abstracts for Proposed papers should be submitted by January 15, 2013 to:

<http://moodle.adaptland.it/course/view.php?id=22>.

Inquiries can be sent to: info@adapt.it

URUGUAY

New authorities of the Association of Labour Law and Social Security of Uruguay

Directorate Commission

Incumbents: Hugo Fernandez (President), Gustavo Gauthier (Vice President), Carolina Panizza (Secretary), Alejandro Castello, Leonardo Slinger, Hector and Alvaro Rodriguez Babace Azcue.

Substitutes: Hugo Barretto, Sandra Goldflus, Fernando Delgado, Giuzio Graciela, Liliana Dono, Natalia and Laura Zuñiga Colutuzzo

Fiscal Commission

Incumbents: Mario Garmendia, Cristina Mangarelli, Rosina Rossi

Substitutes: Jorge Sere, Carlos and Rosario Russo Casalas

Electoral Commission

Incumbents: Daniel Rivas, Eduardo and Carolina Ameglio Feola

Substitutes: John Raso, Cristina Martinez and Beatriz Duran

ILO

Section of the ISLSSL, Geneva

The following are the new authorities of the ILO Section of the ISLSSL:

President Humberto VILLASMIL PRIETO

E-mail: villasmil@ilo.org

Vice-President: Angelika MULLER

E-mail: mullera@ilo.org

Secretary-Treasurer: René ROBERT

E-mail: robertr@ilo.org

In November 2012, the ILO Section of the ISLSSL organised a meeting in Geneva with the participation of Prof. A. Goldin, President of the ISLSSL, Dr. G. Casale, Secretary-General, and Prof. S. Bellomo, Treasurer. During the meeting Prof. Goldin presented the new agenda of the Society to ILO colleagues and invited the young scholars to be active in the forthcoming events organised by the Society.

Best regards,

Adrián GOLDIN
President

Giuseppe CASALE
Secretary-General