

COMMUNICATION

China

1. On June 23, 2015, the international workshop named “the global commons and Maritime Law” took place in Zhejiang University Guanghua Law School.
2. The founding members of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed the Articles of Agreement (AOA) in Beijing on June 29, 2015.
3. On July 1, 2015, the launching ceremony of China-AALCO Research and Exchange Program on International Law was held in Xiamen University. This program is funded and set up by the Chinese government in order to promote international rule of law.
4. On 3-4 of July 2015, Tsinghua University organized the international conference in July 2015 entitled “WTO at 20: The Multilateral Trading System, Dispute Settlement and Developing Countries,” to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of and in collaboration with the WTO.
5. On September 1, 2015, the international workshop on the Oceanic Silk Road and Maritime strategy, was held in Shanghai Institute of Political Science and Law.
6. On September 21, 2015, the workshop on “the decisions of Hague Conference on Private International Law,” hosted by the Foreign Ministry Department of Treaty and Law, was held in Northwest University of Political Science and Law.
7. On September 21 2015, the third Forum on Space Law and Policy of The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), was held in Beijing Institute of Technology. The attendants discussed the international law applicable to security activities in outer space.
8. The Chief Negotiator Conference of the 8th Round of Negotiations of China-Japan-Korea Free Trade Area was held in Beijing on September 24

9. On October 9, the Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Gao Fucheng responded to the hot issue of TPP and said that, China will take a comprehensive, systematic assessment of the impact of TPP and believe that the WTO members will not abandon the existing multilateral trading system.

Japan

The New Guidelines for Japan-US Defense Cooperation was signed on April 27, 2015; a bilateral arrangement between Japan and the U.S. to enhance bilateral security and defense cooperation in an effort to promote enhanced regional cooperation. This replaces the 1997 Guidelines, thereby updating the framework and policy direction for the roles and missions of the two countries, thereby manifesting a strategic vision for a stronger Alliance. The fundamental basic of the new guidelines continues to be the steadfast commitment to Japan's peace and security.

Further, the New Guidelines expand the bilateral cooperation across a range of areas that covers – (1) 'Alliance Control Mechanism'; (2) 'Regional and Global Cooperation'; (3) 'New Strategic Cooperation'; (4) 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief'; and (5) 'A Strong Foundation.'

Apart from the arrangement of various military capabilities with Japan, the new Guidelines also speak of the realignment of US forces in Japan that also include training capability, throughout the process. Trilateral cooperation with Japan's key partners, like South Korea and Australia was also sought to be improved with special focus laid on the Trilateral Information Sharing Agreement. The Japanese Ministers reaffirmed that the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands (currently in dispute with China) are Japanese territories, in that the commitments made under the Japan-US Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security will be made applicable to such islands. Japan also reaffirmed that this alliance is to continue to serve as the cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Korea

A. General

On October 31, President Park Geun-Hye and Prime Minister Li Keqiang (PRC)

agreed to work toward parliament ratification of the Korea-China FTA signed within this year.

The Human Rights Committee (III) of the UN General Assembly, adopted a resolution that condemned the human rights situation in North Korea and called for reference of the communist country to the International Criminal Court on November 19. 112 countries voted for the resolution in the ballot organized by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, with 19 voting against and 50 abstaining.

On November 20, North and South Korea agreed to hold working level talks on November 26, following up on the six point deal for mutual military confidence adopted on August 25.

B. The YIJUN Institute of International Law

On September 1, Volume 1, Number 2 of CHINA AND WTO REVIEW was published. The latest issue contains five papers and two reports regarding the current trade and investment regarding China.

On October 26, President Eric Yong Joong Lee delivered a lecture on Trans-Pacific Partnership at Macquarie University School of Law, Australia.

On November 11, 2015, the YIJUN Forum was held. Mr. Joong Hyun Jough made a presentation on the Korean trade system and the law.

C. KSIL

On October 23-24, the Korean Society of International Law held the 2015 annual conference. The thematic issue was ‘Innovation in International Legal System: Illusion or Reality?’

D. International Law Association – Korean Branch

The Korean Yearbook of International Law (2015) was published in November.

E. Personal News

Mr. Woongjee Song from Tufts University (US) and Ms. Ramya Ramachanderan from Christ University (India) carried out internship programs at the YIJUN Institute

of International Law.

Prof. Sun-young Oh (Soongsil University)

Singapore

The Singapore Branch of the International Law Association was officially launched in the presence of the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and the Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Jonathan Mance. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Supreme Court Auditorium on August 27, 2015 with nearly two hundred people signing up to attend the event.

Mr. Sundaresh Menon, the Chief Justice gave the Welcome Address while Justice Mance, who is also the Chairman of the Executive Council of the International Law Association, delivered the Keynote Address. A panel discussion on the topic “Why Does Singapore Need International Law? What’s Singapore’s Role in International Law?” was also held. Full text of the speeches and further information can be accessed on the official ILA website, *available at* <http://www.ila-hq.org/en/events/index.cfm/eid/482F89C6-7DBE-427A-97D38ED203A72E88>.

The President of the Singapore Branch of the ILA is Mr Khang Chau Pang with Mr. Paul Tan as the Treasurer and Ms. Daphne Hong as the Secretary. The Singapore Branch of the ILA may be contacted via email: ila.singapore.branch@gmail.com; or alternately at their location:

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