

## COMMUNICATION

### China

1. On December 6, China University of Political Science and Law held the Sixth Qian Duansheng Law Research Achievement Award Ceremony. The Director of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs put forward the idea of “Mutual Consultation, Construction, and Sharing” as a guiding principle to build the rule of law protection system for the “One Belt and One Road” Strategy.
2. On December 17, 2016, the Diplomatic Academy hosted the Second Symposium on Legal Diplomacy: Theory and Practice. The attendants discussed the issues on “Global Governance and International Rule of Law.”
3. On March 29, 2017, Vice-Premier Wang Yang was invited to attend the Fourth Artic-Dialogue Regional International Artic Forum. At the opening ceremony, he proposed to strengthen the Artic ecological environment protection and make efficient use of Artic resources.
4. On March 31, 2017, Rome International Unification and Private Law Association, University of International Business and Economics, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission decided to co-organize the International Conference of “International Business Contract General and China Arbitration and New Development.”
5. On April 20, 2017, China, Belarus, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland and Russia signed the Agreement on Deepening the Railway Cooperation between China and Europe. This was the first time that the Chinese railway sector signed a cooperation agreement on the opening of the China-EU flights with the national railway departments along the “One Belt and One Road.”
6. On April 29, 2017, Tsinghua University Law School organized the conference on International Arbitration to commemorate the 30th anniversary of China’s accession to the New York Convention.
7. On May 2, 2017, the Tokyo Trail Research Center of Shanghai Jiaotong University hosted the Starting Ceremony of the new published book titled, “Tokyo Trial for the World Peace” to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Full Anti-Japanese War.

8. On May 6-7, 2017, Wuhan University hosted the Chinese Society of International Law 2017 Academic Annual Meeting. It focused on “the Era of Change and the Development of International Law: China’s Contribution.”

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# Indonesia

## *1. Indonesia and Suriname*

Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno LP Marsudi said that the countries would cooperate closely with Suriname in developing the curriculum for a diplomatic training center. Suriname is keen to use Indonesian experts in the field of diplomacy. Suriname Foreign Affairs Minister Niermala Badrising praised Indonesia for its success in educating young, middle-aged, and senior diplomats.

## *2. Indonesia and Myanmar*

Indonesian Foreign Minister, Retno LP Marsudi called on Myanmar to hold an inter-faith dialog to put an end to conflict in Rakhine, northern Myanmar and recognized the plurality of both countries. She talked with Muslim and Buddhist organizations to promote inter-fair cooperation. Retno said: “The State Counselor (Aung San Suu Kyi) highly appreciates the role played by Indonesia to help solve problem in Rakhine.” Indonesia has also expressed its intentions to strengthen cooperation with Myanmar in capacity building for human right respect and democracy; especially in the context of Bali Democracy Forum. Indonesia also expressed its readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community in Rakhine. Retno met State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi with a commitment for continuation of cooperation in democracy, good governance and respect for human rights. Suu Kyi reportedly allowed humanitarian aid for Rakhine. According to Retno, Suu Kyi lauded the role of Indonesia to help resolve the problem in Rakhine.

## *3. Indonesia and the United States*

Indonesian House Speaker Setya Novanto hailed the result of the US presidential election and expressed the hope that the two countries would grow closer to benefit mutually under the leadership of President Donald Trump. Novanto added that the Trump administration could continue the Indonesia-US comprehensive partnership launched in 2010 and re-strengthened when Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited the US in October 2015.

The US is an important trade partner of Indonesia, with Indonesian exports to the US was USD 16.24 billion last year mostly comprising non-oil/non-gas commodities valued at around USD 15.03 billion. The US remains the main market for Indonesia’s

non-oil/non-gas exports. Novanto emphasized that the success of Indonesia as the world's largest Muslim country in creating a relatively stable democracy can be seen by the Trump administration as a 'soft power' which inspires the world.

#### *4. Indonesia and the Philippines*

After years of living in uncertainty, eventually about 3,000 residents without citizenship in the southern Philippines were given citizenship by the government of Manila this year. A total of 2,957 people, including 1,226 children receive the citizenship. They are part of a group as many as 9,000 people of Indonesian descent, who for generations lived in Mindanao, the southern Philippines. They were given citizenship as a step forward in an UNHCR attempt, to end stateless society groups ahead of 2024.

UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk praised the effort between Indonesia and the Philippines as a good example of how countries can work together to solve the global refugee problem. Many Indonesian descent without citizenship who live in southern Mindanao said they struggled with the challenges of everyday life, including access to employment, livelihood, education and clean water.

#### *5. Indonesia and Archandra Tahar*

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights under Yasonna Laloly, which publishes the decree on the ownership of Indonesian citizens decided for Archandra Tahar who had served as a Minister for approximately 20 days. The Indonesian Citizen Advocacy Team has filed suit over the decision alleging that it is "legally flawed and violated the law."

Nasrul S. Dongaran, the plaintiff said the decree violated Law No. 12 of 2006 on Citizenship. Archandra is deemed to not have met the conditions as a citizen. The crucial being, Archandra is required to stay in Indonesia for at least 5 years in a row. Archandra gained American citizenship in March 2012. This interrupted the status of Archandra's residence requirement. Archandra's later revocation of the US citizenship was followed by the a decree in dispute. Dongaran brought as evidence, a copy of the US passport to the Jakarta State Administrative Court, hoping for a revocation of the decree.

## Japan

1. The 2016 Annual Conference of the International Law Association (ILA) -Japan Branch was held at the University of Tokyo (Hongō Campus) on April 23, 2016. It focused on “Intellectual Property and International Law/International Private Law.” In its Morning Session, Professor Emeritus Dr. Takane Sugihara (Kyoto University) gave a presentation on the history and theories of international law ([http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/english\\_top.htm](http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/english_top.htm)). The 2017 Annual Conference was held on April 22, 2017.
2. The 2016 Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of World Law was held at Senshū University (Kanda Campus, Tokyo) on May 14, 2016. The chosen theme of this conference was “War and Peace in the 21st Century.” Six Japanese professors from various domestic universities delivered reports on topics on theories of international law and international humanitarian law, as well as emerging technologies in the area of “lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS),” etc. (<http://www.jawl.jp>)
3. The 119th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of International Law (JSIL) was held at the Shizuoka Convention and Arts Center in Shizuoka Prefecture on September 9-11, 2016. On the second day of the conference, under the theme “Development of International Human Rights Law: On the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights,” three distinguished scholars such as Professor Andrew Byrnes (University of New South Wales), Professor Hae-Bong Shin (Aoyama Gakuin University) and Professor Naoko Maeda (MAEDA Naoko, Kyoto Women’s University) gave presentations designated as “Honourable Shigeru Oda Commemorative Lectures.” ([http://www.jsil.jp/annual\\_documents/2016/2016.html](http://www.jsil.jp/annual_documents/2016/2016.html))
4. Professor Shigeki Miyazaki and Professor Yoshio Hirose, honorary members of the JSIL, passed away on April 10, 2016, and October 10, 2016, respectively.
5. A conference celebrating Professor Yasuaki Onuma’s book, <International Law in a Trans-civilizational World> from Cambridge University Press was held in Tokyo on March 19, 2017.

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## Korea

### *A. General*

Newly elected President Moon Jae-In took his office on May 10, 2017. President Moon won 19th presidential election of South Korea by a considerable margin with 41.1 percent of the vote. He is expected to design and implement new foreign policies more progressive than those of former conservative government.

A US anti-missile defense system, THAAD, was suddenly deployed in Sungju, South Korea on April 26, 2017 earlier than expected. US President Donald Trump asked South Korea to pay one billion dollars for THAAD.

Center for International Law at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security the Korea National Diplomatic Academy hosted the “International Conference on the 50th Anniversary of the Adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Progress and Challenges Ahead” on November 24, 2016.

### *B. The YIJUN Institute of International Law*

Dr. Byung-Sun OH began his term as the Chairman of YIJUN Institute of International Law from January 2017. Dr. OH is an eminent legal scholar who was teaching public international law and legal philosophy (Jurisprudence) at Sogang University (currently emeritus professor) for about thirty years. Professor OH went to Seoul National University and Columbia University where he was awarded LL.B. and LL.M. Then, he continued to study international law at the University of Edinburgh for his Ph.D. As a highly reputed international lawyer and legal philosopher, he served as the Presidents of the Korean Society of International Law and the Korean Society of Legal Philosophy. Currently, Dr. OH is Vice-President of Internationale Vereinigung der Rechts (IVR).

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President Eric Y.J. Lee was invited to Cornell International Law Journal Symposium held in Ithaca, NY on February 17, 2017. He presented a paper titled, *The Peace Treaty*

*as a US Doctrinal Option and Its Application to the DPRK.*

*C. Korean Society of International Law*

The Society organized the Conference of Current Trends and Issues in the Law of the Sea, on December 9, 2016.

*E. Personal News*

Professor Hyun-Soo Kim at Inha University School of Law was appointed Dean of Student Affairs from 2017.

Professor Andrew Wolman was awarded Doctoral Degree from the University of Antwerp in May 3, 2017.

## Malaysia

1. The Faculty of Law of University of Malaya together with the Bangor University's Institute for Competition & Procurement Studies (ICPS), Bangor, Wales, UK hosted the Procurement Week 2016: The ASEAN Laboratory, an International Conference on Public Procurement Regulation and Smart Cities Procurement on November 16-17, 2016.
2. The Government of Malaysia is committed to develop the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), a guide to preserving human rights in the country. In November 2015, during the biennial meeting of the NHRAP Steering Committee, it was announced that Hazizah & Co., an external consulting firm was commissioned by the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department to complete the draft of NHRAP by April 2017. This 18 months' initiative, led by Professor Abu Bakar Munir of the University of Malaya, will be treated as a milestone in the history of the country once it is successfully completed.
3. The Malaysian Bar Council has received the Inaugural Rule of Law Award 2016 of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) for its strong and unfailing commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights and rule of law. The award was presented during UIA's 60th Congress in Budap
4. Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) serves as the official secretariat of the newly formed International Malaysian Society of Maritime Law. KLRCA also provides the Society with arbitration related guidance on maritime disputes.
5. The International Malaysia Law Conference 2016 (IMLC 2016), the flagship event of the Malaysian Bar was held at The Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur from 21 to 23 September 21-23, 2016. The main theme was "Challenges of an ASEAN Community: Rule of Law, Business and Being People Oriented."
6. The Faculty of Law of the University of Malaya (UM Law Faculty) has taken initiative to establish the ASEAN Legal Information Center (ASEAN LIC), aiming to: (1) support effective doing of business, particularly cross-border trade



and commerce, with and within the Region; (2) encourage legal research and scholarship, comparative legal thought, and harmonization of laws; (3) assist the ASEAN countries and their agencies to effectively publicize legal information, help them educate their people on rights and responsibilities, and thus contribute to the promotion of Rule of Law and Access to Justice throughout the Region; and (4) empower legal, tax and other professionals to keep their respective outputs current, relevant and value-effective. Dean of the UM Law Faculty, Dr. Johan Shamsuddin chaired the Governing Council of the ASEAN LIC.

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