

Pace Institute Co-organizes Conferences in Japan to Mark the Country's Recent Adoption of the CISG

In acknowledgment of Japan's recent adoption of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), in November 2008, the Institute of International Commercial Law (www.cisg.law.pace.edu) co-organized two conferences in Tokyo, Japan, with the Steering Committee for the CISG Tokyo Congress, University of Tokyo Law School. The Conferences were co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice of Japan, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and the UNCITRAL Secretariat.

The academic conference, "The Spirit and Interpretation of the CISG", was attended by over 200 persons from across several countries including, but not limited to, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and China. Introductory remarks were made by Prof. Yoshihisa Nomi (Gakushuin University), and the conference included presentations by Albert K. Kritzer, Executive Secretary of the IICL, Prof. Eric Bergsten, Emeritus Professor of Law at Pace Law School, and the Deputy Director of the IICL, and Mr. Renaud Sorieul, Secretary of UNICTRAL, as well as additional prominent members of the CISG community, including, Professor Pilar Perales Viscasilas (University of Rioja), Prof. Loukas Mistelis (Queen Mary College, University of London), Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Schwenzer (University of Basel), Prof. John Y. Gotanda (Villanova University), and Professor Alejandro Garro (Columbia University). The majority of the speakers are members of, or associated with, the CISG Advisory Council, an initiative co-sponsored by the IICL, and Queen Mary College at the University of London, aimed at promoting the uniform interpretation of the CISG (www.cisgac.com; the CISG-AC also held their annual meeting in Tokyo in conjunction with the conferences). The presentations were followed by a lively 90-minute question and answer session between audience members and the speakers.

The practitioner's seminar, "Practical Implications of the CISG", held on the following day, was attended by over 250 practitioners from across several countries. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Kei Kurayoshi of the Ministry of Justice of Japan. The speakers included members of the CISG Advisory Council, including Prof. Hiroo Sono (Hokkaido University), Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Schwenzer (University of Basel), Prof. Jan Ramberg (Stockholm University), Prof. Loukas Mistelis (Queen Mary College, University of London), and Prof. Claude Witz (Robert Shuman University). Closing remarks were also given at the final reception of the conference by Vikki Rogers, the recently appointed new Director of the IICL.

The Institute of International Commercial Law (IICL) at Pace Law School is dedicated to promoting and fostering the uniform application of international sales law and to promoting teaching and research in international arbitration. To this end, the IICL developed, and maintains, the award-winning, globally recognized CISG database (www.cisg.law.pace.edu), which currently receives an average of over 80,000 internet "hits" per day. The IICL additionally co-sponsors the CISG Advisory Council, sponsors the Queen Mary Case Translation Programme, and offers students the opportunity to compete in the Clive Schmithoff Essay Competition. The IICL also founded the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. For further information regarding the activities of the IICL, contact Vikki Rogers at vrogers@law.pace.edu.

