



5 February 2018

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

VENUE FOR THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL SIEL CONFERENCE, 2020

The Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) is seeking a suitable venue and institutional host for the Seventh Biennial SIEL Conference, to be held in 2020. This Call for Proposals (CfP) is open to all institutions (or consortia of institutions) active in the field of International Economic Law (IEL). Proposals from interested institutions should be submitted by **1 April 2018** to sielconference2020@gmail.com. Early expressions of interest or any queries are welcome and should be sent to the same email address.

SIEL was established in 2008 as a global organization aimed at academics and academically-minded practitioners and officials in IEL, in all parts of the world. More information may be found at www.sielnet.org.

SIEL's first five conferences were hosted by: the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2008; the University of Barcelona and its IELPO Programme at the premises of the University of Barcelona, Spain in July 2010; the Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore in July 2012; by the World Trade Institute of the University of Bern, Switzerland in July 2014; and the Oliver Schreiner School of Law and its Mandela Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in July 2016. The sixth conference will be hosted by American University Washington College of Law, Washington D.C., United States of America in July 2018.

The Venue Search Committee will review all proposals received within the deadline, and will likely have additional queries before selecting the venue from among the proposals, with the goal of announcing the 2020 conference host in time for the SIEL conference in Washington D.C. in July 2018.

Proposals should address the issues listed below (please organize your proposal in direct reference to these items). Should you have any questions while considering the CfP, please do not hesitate to contact us. The programs of the last two conferences are available on our website and should give you a first idea of the scope of the conference.

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- 1. Physical Infrastructure:** Please detail the availability (that would be provided at no cost to SIEL), of: (a) a large lecture facility able to accommodate up to 350 people for plenary sessions; (b) medium and large size lecture and seminar rooms that are suitable for panel sessions (up to four concurrent sessions in rooms seating 30-40 participants); and (c) public areas for networking during breaks, poster sessions as well as for exhibits by publishers and other sponsors. Please include photographs and/or floor plans or weblinks with this information, if possible, to your proposal.
- 2. Organization:** Please provide details regarding the key contact people who would be involved in organizing the conference, including one academic coordinator and one senior administrator. Also, detail the availability of organizational assistance on-site, such as students, ushers, etc. (that would be provided at no cost to SIEL).
- 3. Financial contribution:** SIEL expects hosts to provide the venue and organizational support at no cost. This is to ensure that conference fees can be kept to a minimum in order to facilitate our goal of achieving a maximum participation of younger scholars and scholars from the developing world.

Thus, proposals will be evaluated with reference to the proposed financial contribution of the host, and the host's ability to raise additional funds, relating to the costs of running the conference, including coverage of catering costs, extracurricular activities, and possibly participation in providing travel and accommodation funding for keynote speakers and/or speakers in need of support. Please detail what financial contribution your institution would be able to make (in addition to the venue itself and organizational support), and explain to what extent you would be able to raise additional funds and sponsorships (e.g., national government, local government, local law firms, grants, etc.). Discussion of fundraising is especially critical for those proposals from institutions that anticipate difficulties for their own ability to provide financial support to the conference as discussed above.

Furthermore, we realize that institutions in the developing world or otherwise may find it difficult to obtain the financing necessary to organize an event of this scale. In such circumstances SIEL encourages the cooperation of several institutions located in the same city / region to overcome such difficulties. Thus, proposals that represent a consortium of law schools would also be welcome, but the proposal should explain the governance or processes that would be in place between or among the Institutions to ensure an efficient development and operation of the conference.

- 4. Technology:** Please confirm that all rooms in which the conference would be held have full audio-visual facilities (screens, projectors with PC hook-up) and indicate whether these rooms have internet access. Please also indicate whether conference participants would have wireless or other internet access in any common areas at the venue. In addition, indicate whether the host institution would be able to host and manage a conference website that would be provided at no cost to SIEL.
- 5. Accommodation:** Please detail the range of accommodation options that would be available for conference participants (at their own expense), ranging from student dorms or youth hostels to high-end hotels, either on-site or in the nearby vicinity (please provide details as to the distances and availability / accessibility / safety of public transportation) of the venue. Please also indicate whether you would be able to negotiate discounts for conference attendees.

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6. **Catering**: Please provide a detailed overview of the catering you would expect to provide during the duration of the conference (approximately 2.5 days), i.e., how many meals and coffee breaks, costs per participant, and to what extent the catering costs would be covered by the host institution as part of its direct financial contribution.
7. **Location and Transportation**: SIEL strives to achieve regional diversity. Over time this will be reflected in the choice of conference venues, which ideally will shift between different regions. A critical issue for consideration, however, is the accessibility of the venue from around the world. Please provide a brief description of accessibility to your city from the following hubs, in terms of (a) number of weekly direct flights; and (b) current round-trip costs including taxes from: New York, Frankfurt, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, New Delhi, Cape Town, Addis Ababa, Sao Paulo, Mexico City and Sydney.
8. **Timing**: Please suggest the dates in which your institution would be able to host the conference, during 2020, taking into account global academic calendars and competing events (both academic and cultural/sporting). Based on experience of our global membership, there is a strong preference for one of the weekends (Thursday to Saturday) during the first two weeks in July, but we are open to suggestions in this regard.
9. **Experience**: Please briefly describe the prior experience of both your institution and staff in hosting academic conferences of this type and scale.
10. **Miscellaneous**: Please briefly describe other issues that may be relevant, including e.g., security and safety issues; visa/entry requirements and costs; and extracurricular activities that could be offered to participants, including costs for such activities.



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