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Newsletter editors

[Freya Baetens](#) and [José Caiado](#)

Should you wish to include an item in the next SIEL newsletter, please contact the editors.

The "President's Corner" text is of sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views of the WTO.

A. SIEL 2014 Call for Papers

SIEL has recently released the [Call for Papers](#) for our 2014 biannual Global Conference. The World Trade Institute (WTI) of the University of Bern will host the event on 10-12 July 2014. The Conference Theme will be "Regulatory Challenges in International Economic Law: Convergence or Divergence?" While this theme is used to provide an overarching conceptual framework for the conference, the SIEL Conference Committee nonetheless wishes to

encourage the submission of proposals for panels, papers and posters on all IEL subjects. Proposals must be submitted by 4 November 2013 by Noon GMT via [email](#). Please submit enquiries to the SIEL Co-Executive Vice Presidents, [Colin Picker](#) or [Meredith Kolsky Lewis](#). More information can be found at the [SIEL](#) and [WTI](#) conference. Co-Chairs are **Thomas Cottier**, **Holger Hestermeyer**, **Meredith Kolsky Lewis & Colin Picker**.

B. President's Corner

The challenge of the BRICS Development Bank - BRICS members, who considered the possibility of setting up a Development Bank during the New Delhi summit in 2012, agreed earlier this year at their Durban Summit to set up the Bank. Members also recently reached an agreement that the Bank would have an initial subscribed capital of 50 billion USD.

The creation of the BRICS Development Bank (BDB) may mark a historical point in international economic relations. The BDB wants to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries, and eventually in other emerging and developing economies. Its stated purpose is to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions. BRICS members also want to forestall short-term liquidity pressures, provide mutual support and strengthen financial stability. Besides the initial subscribed capital, no agreement seems to have been reached on the potentially divisive issues like location, governance structure, leadership and funding criteria. Nonetheless, the Bank could become operational by 2015.

The New York Times has observed that the disparate size of Member economies, economic rivalry, divergent foreign policies and limited investment in each other's economy remain challenges to their association. The Guardian strikes a more positive tone, asserting that their common experience and rejection of the neoliberal development model bind them together. The BDB may offer an alternative source for funding in developing economies in light of the conditional nature of loans from institutions like the World Bank.

While there is still no agreement on the institutional and legal features of the BB there are likely to be some difficult questions to answer. For example, what would be the relationship between the BDB and the IMF and other institutions, especially the other regional development banks? Could BRICS members gain consensus on the terms they set for financial assistance to non BRICS members or agree on institutional and monitoring mechanisms? Would BRICS members fund projects that could bring long-term benefits to the national economy of the host country, such as a dam for generating hydroelectricity, but that are likely to conflict with individuals' rights by, in this case, causing mass displacement of local inhabitants? This example raises the issue of whether to use and the content of terms of assistance. Some multilateral institutions set conditions for

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funding such as compliance with institutional reforms, or with environmental standards. Strict loan conditionings have long been viewed negatively by developing countries, as not being tailored to their economic and social reality. Could the BDB then "change the rules of the game" by offering loans without requiring compliance with such standards? Or would it develop its own "developing country tailored" standards? Irrespective of the answer, the limited budget of the BDB may nevertheless minimize its impact on the international system, at least for the present.

These difficult questions, potentially hampered by disagreements among BRICS members, may ultimately make the BDB impracticable and perhaps even threaten the cohesion of the BRICS itself. These difficult and novel questions involve multiple areas and dimensions of international economic law that deserve serious analysis, study and discussion... Hopefully, the expert views of SIEL members will lead this international debate.

Gabrielle Marceau
SIEL President

Regional & Networks Activities

- A. AIELN
- B. Red

IEL Activities

- A. Symposium on Perspectives on IEL
- B. Online Symposium on Investment Law
- C. Round Table on World Trade Law
- D. Investment Law Conference - Vienna
- E. ELSA WTO Moot Court
- F. ILA Regional Conference Report
- G. JWIT
- H. Frankfurt Investment Law Workshop

Job Openings

- A. CPL Programme
- B. Post-Doc in Brazil

Other Activities

- A. Thomas Waelde Team Fund
- B. IEL Publisher Discounts
- C. New Positions/Titles
- D. 2013 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize
- E. Other

Regional and networks activities

A. Asian International Economic Law Network (AIELN)

The deadline for submissions to the "Call for a venue/hosting institution(s) of the 4th Conference of the AIELN" has been extended to 31 October 2013. For more information, please contact [Junji Nakagawa](#), Chairman of the Steering Committee.

B. Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Económico Internacional

The preliminary programme of RED's 2013 biannual conference is out. The event will take place in Lima, Peru. The final programme can be found at [RED's blog](#).

IEL Activities

A. Symposium on Socio-Legal and Theoretical Perspectives on IEL

University College London and the University of New South Wales are co-hosting a Symposium on Socio-Legal and Theoretical Perspectives on International Economic Law. The event will take place at University College London from 14-15 November 2013. Further information, see the conference [website](#).

B. Online Symposium on Investment Law

The blog [Opinio Juris](#) held a Symposium on the latest book of Dr. Freya Baetens: *Investment Law within International Law: Integrationist Perspectives* (CUP 2013). The records of the discussion will be soon made available online on the blog.

C. Round Table on World Trade Law

The [Brussels Round Table on World Trade Law](#) has just organized its first meeting and invites all those interested in IEL to join the future discussions.

D. International Investment Law Conference - Vienna

The second Vienna conference on the European Union and international investment law will take place on 25-26 November 2013, discussing the (invisible) EU Model Investment Treaty. For further information, see the conference [website](#).

E. ELSA WTO Moot Court

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) launched the 12th edition of the ELSA Moot Competition on WTO law on 15 September 2013. The registration deadline is 10 December 2013, Regional Rounds will take place during February and March 2014. The first ever African Regional Round for the WTO ELSA Moot competition will take place in Johannesburg, Wits University, Mandela Institute during the first week of April 2014. The Final Round will take place in Geneva on 13-18 May 2014. You can find information about timeline and participation, and register [here](#). For questions, please, contact [ELSA](#).

F. ILA Regional Conference Report

The 2013 International Law Association (ILA) Regional Conference, hosted by the [Hellenic Branch](#) of the International Law Association, took place in Greece on 29-31 August 2013. The theme of the conference was *Imperium Juris: Governance, Trade, Resources*. The event featured three Plenary Sessions with several distinguished guests. The Conference also included panels discussing the issues related with Governance, Trade and Resources, two Round Tables on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and legal issues on sovereign debt, as well as Poster Presentations. The 2013 ILA Regional Conference had over 80 speakers/poster presenters representing institutions from all continents and 200 attendees. More on the conference can be found [here](#).

G. Journal of World Investment and Trade

The Journal of World Investment and Trade has seen a major restructure and is calling for quality submissions on investment law, trade law, and related fields for its next issues. More information can be found [here](#).

H. Frankfurt Investment Law Workshop

A call for papers has been issued for the 2014 Frankfurt Investment Law Workshop, which will take place 14-15 March 2014. The theme is: "International Investment Law and the Global Financial Architecture: Sovereign Debt, Taxation and Financial Market Regulation." The deadline for submitting abstracts is 10 November 2013. The full Call is available [here](#).

Job openings

A. CPL Programme for Chinese Lawyers

For the development of a new education programme for Chinese lawyers, the Centre for Professional Learning of Faculty Campus Den Haag (CPL) is looking for a Programme Assistant and a Coordinator with a background in IEL and fluent English and Chinese (Mandarin). For more information contact [Ms. Hopman](#).

B. Post-Doc in Brazil

DIREITO GV's Post-doctoral Program is open to Brazilian and Foreign candidates who hold a Ph.D. degree issued by Brazilian or Foreign institutions. Research areas include topics in IEL. The selection process comprises research project, curriculum, motivational letter and academic production evaluation. The post-doctoral internship shall last for 12 (twelve) months and may be renewed up to 60 (sixty) months. More information can be found [here](#).

Other activities

A. Thomas Waelde Team Fund

SIEL is proud to have made a generous contribution to the Thomas Waelde Team Fund. The fund was established to support the participation of developing world students in the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot, whose next edition will take place next October in Frankfurt. More information can be found [here](#).

B. IEL Publisher Discounts

Since its inception, the SIEL has negotiated SIEL member discounts with a wide variety of publishers, all of whom have been very supportive of the SIEL. More information on discounts available from individual publishers can be found [here](#).

C. New Positions/Titles

We announce SIEL members' job changes, visiting positions, and other comings/goings which you may like to share. If you have any upcoming changes, be they temporary or permanent, that you would like us to list, please email either [José](#) or [Freya](#) with the details.

D. 2013 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize

Thank you for all the submissions to the SIEL and Cambridge University Press (CUP) prize for the best essay on international economic law. The prize will be awarded by the SIEL Executive Council on the recommendation of a Prize Committee drawn from its members and the Editorial Board of the World Trade Review. Decisions of the Prize Committee on the winning essay will be made available [here](#).

E. Other

SIEL seeks to publicize IEL events – be they conferences, "calls for papers", IEL competitions, IEL programmes and so on. Please send us such information for posting. To view a list of past SIEL posts, please visit the [SIEL website](#). As members of a member-run organization, please consider getting in touch with Meredith Lewis and Colin Picker, SIEL Executive Vice-Presidents, with specific ideas for SIEL projects and services. We are committed to expanding SIEL activities and services wherever appropriate - be it alone or in partnership with other IEL organizations around the world. Indeed, at the moment we are in the process of developing new projects and services and once they are finalized we will let you know.

Thanks for your support and interest.

Freya Baetens & José Caiado
Executive Council Members
SIEL Newsletter Editors