

Media Briefing 3rd Nov- 2017

IALS Global Law Dean's Forum and Annual Meeting- 2017

Symbiosis Law School, Pune
&
International Association of Law Schools, USA

Background:

Higher education is considered as soft power and diplomacy of highest sophistication. Internationalization is the buzzword in higher education scenario in India, Pune and Symbiosis in particular.

SLS, Pune's long engagement since 2007 resulted in our key role in the 2013 Mysore meeting. Therefore, SLS P was selected venue for this global meeting among the many who bid. The reason is the visibility and the significant involvement with legal education community of more than thousand law schools, government, judiciary, lawyers & industry. This momentous occasion also witnesses the partnership of other two younger siblings of NOIDA and Hyderabad. The faculty of law under SIU represents top class interdisciplinary and research oriented professionalism.

Chancellor's Address: Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Hon'ble Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

As stated in the background, the synergy between symbiosis and IALS Mission is clear. Symbiosis was created with a passion for justice and structuring student community with unsaid rule of mutually beneficial relationship and coexistence. Symbiosis was born to give voice to the pain and tears of a foreign student in the 70's. Today it stands as a symbol of liberal thinking, diversity, quality and excellence. Innovation through internationalization is the mantra which vibrates in its sacred space.

Symbiosis law school was created in 1977 as the very first professional higher educational institute under the symbiosis banner. As a second law school in Pune, it was responding to the

felt need, and was greeted with 3000 applications in the very first year. In its rich history of more than 40 years, it has emerged as the top most private sector law school in the country accomplishing many milestones such as Gold Star Award of BCI, Pioneer to start five year interdisciplinary, integrated five year program. It has consistently been among the top 10 in India since 2000 coexisting with 1200 Law Schools including 18 National Law Schools.

Innovation seems to inspire the journey of this institute. Begun as an affiliate of Pune University later it was among first three constituents of SIU. By 2010 the huge demand through 10000 applications for its 200 seats made way for SLS, NOIDA. Further growth brought in SLS Hyderabad in 2014 and now SLS Nagpur is on the anvil.

It continues to play lead role in the faculty of Law through research excellence as well with 300 plus publications. In 2013 with the introduction of one year LLM, Advanced research centre SCALSAR was established. Today it houses 2000 students across Five year undergraduate program, three year undergraduate program, one year LLM, Diplomas and Certificate course. Combining corporate ethos and social agenda of community legal service this law school has served the prisoners, helped rape victims and mental health cases. It also provided training, advice and expertise to a variety of state and non state entities in policy, justice and governance.

I see my vision and voice in un-faded freshness in the work of this law school. Keeping the Symbiosis DNA of internationalization in full form, SLS, Pune has left remarkable footprints in the formidable field of law which is bound up with governance and nation. Such a crowning achievement has made the hosting of this event possible.

Fortunately IALS also is a unique voice. In the words of Prof. Francis SL Wang, Dean Emeritus, Soochow University, Kenneth Wang School of Law, China, President/Chairman of IALS and I quote, "IALS is the voice of global legal educator community to give voice to the desire of inculcating Rule of Law as a cherished value among students, judiciary and legal community. The Symbiosis Pune conference is about moving forward in terms of bringing new awareness with involvement of Carnegie Foundation which is known for advanced research on education from interdisciplinary perspective. This also indicates departure from the information acquisition model of education to the innovative participatory and personally engaging model. This meeting

would reflect on refining and operationalizing this model based on building consensus across the global diversity.”

I request the media friends gathered here to reach this voice to the public as far as possible.

Vice Chancellor’s Address: Dr. Rajani Gupte, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

Taking the cue of internationalization from chancellor Sir, I would like to highlight how internationalization as one of the hallmarks of excellence and quality in SIU has enabled it to be placed in top 200 in Asia very recently in QS Ranking and among Top Universities in India. As a private university we are among the Top three in India and Top most in the Western Region. I hail the contribution of faculty of law in this accomplishment. Some of the quality initiatives in this law school include its comprehensive curriculum, competent faculty, versatile legal careers pursued by students and its strong engagement in policy and legal education reforms. At SLS, P internationalization is in its profound shape with global legal writing program, home grown International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, significant faculty and student exchange, comparative law curriculum, joint research collaboration and scholars in residence to mention a few. Their list of laurels range from Herbert Smith Free Hills Pro Bono Awards to Coveted Moot Premier League top Position including top wins in National SAARC & Global level. In moot events its younger siblings from NOIDA & Hyderabad have recorded significant achievements at SAARC Level.

This conference builds on earlier strengthens of SLS, Pune as the only Indian Core partner in Erasmus Mundus Program of European Union since 2006 and contribution to IALS as member since 2007. The institute is also a prominent member in ASLI, Asian Law Institute of Singapore. The faculty of Law has inculcated global competencies in students through robust internationalization by internships in US and International Criminal Court, summer and Winter Schools, International Conferences and around 54 collaborations.

Curricular internationalization in the form of area study is achieved in the seven year old pioneer certificate program in European legal Studies. Innovations multiply in our university which includes multilevel assessments, cutting edge curriculum, law theatre, ADR and Moot Culture, Rich Diversity of students and Faculty.

The major research accomplishment is the recent three year Erasmus+ capacity building in higher education project on European Studies Revitalized Across Asian Universities, which carries a Grant of 7,69,239 Euros to partner universities from India, China, Poland, France, Italy, UK and Bulgaria which they have received in partnership with Sofia University, Bulgaria.

International conferences of SIU have been key differentiators as the learning and idea exchange platforms. This conference has put it on a new pedestal. While focusing on the single discipline agenda it also focuses on interdisciplinary and quality issues.

I request the media friends to cover this momentous occasion capturing the passion of symbiosis for excellence and human development.

Director's Address: Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Symbiosis International University, Convener, GLDF & AM-2017 and IALS, International Law Study Group Chair

Internationalization is reflected in the content, proceeding and expected results of this conference. SLS, P is a rare blend of equity, social agenda and excellence which are honoured by GOI Top class institutions, SC/ST DA scholarships. Parent and student trust is visible galloping demand ratio (From 1:13 in 2010 to 1:72 in 2017).

Rightfully IALS has chosen SLS, P as the host for this historical event. This is a highly prestigious and unique event. For the first time in India, a private law school is bringing together and partnering with eight national Law Universities of Bangalore, Delhi, Calcutta, Orissa, Patiala, Mumbai, Nagpur, Aurangabad, and six private law schools including Nirma University Law School, Ahmadabad, Galgotia's Law School, NOIDA, GD Goenka NOIDA, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, SLS, NOIDA and SLS, Hyderabad to welcome international Law Deans

to deliberate on the crucial issue of global standards in legal education exhibiting a rare model of solidarity.

About International Association of Law Schools

- First of its kind, established in the year 2000, the International Association of Law Schools is a private, non-political, non-profit, volunteer, cooperative society working towards the betterment of the global legal education community. Over 170 law schools and departments from over 55 countries representing more than 7,500 law faculty members from all over the world are connected with the IALS for improving legal education.
- Recently it is working on an ambitious and innovative agenda of developing a global consensus on the fundamental principles, guidelines and outcomes of a legal education through 2013 Singapore Declaration, 2015 Madrid Principles of legal education and 2017 Judicial Standards of legal education.

IALS Global Law Deans' Forum & AM- 2017:

This four day event is designed around building daily 2 plenaries and 2 breakout sessions in 8 to 10 rooms where every participant gets heard. There are two parts: first two days on GLDF and next two days on Annual Meeting. The current meeting will see 100 Delegates including deans, law experts, and legal luminaries from 40 different countries with maximum Indian presence.

IALS Global Law Deans' Forum (GLDF):

It will take place on 8th and 9th November. **The common theme is ‘Continuation of IALS exploration of the principles and specific strategies on improving legal education globally’.**

In the first Plenary Dr. N R Madhva Menon, Father of Indian National Law School Movement will share his experiences on 21st Century legal education among others.

One of the highlights at GLDF is to operationalize through tool of logic map devised by Patricia, a medical Professor of University of California, US, under the aegis of Carnegie Foundation for

the Advancement of Teaching. The tool was developed based on the findings from the pre-event survey conducted amongst students and faculty on teaching quality and student engagement.

This also indicates departure from the information acquisition model of education to the innovative participatory and personally engaging model. The meeting would reflect on refining and operationalizing this model based on building consensus across the global diversity towards certification.

Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India will join the third plenary on Judicial standards of legal education through video welcome address. This panel will include Daqun Liu, Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former **Yugoslavia, China and Netherlands**, Georgina Theodora Wood, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Ghana, **Ghana**, Diarmuid O'Scannlain, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth District, **United States**, JohnHedigan, Justice, The High Court of Ireland, **Ireland**, Mohan Pieris, Chief Justice, Former Chief Justice & Attorney General Sri Lanka, **Sri Lanka**, Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Honorable Justice, President of the Court, East African Court of Justice Tanzania, **Tanzania**, EnqianYang, Senior Judge, Civil Trial Section of Suzhou Intermediate Court, **China**, Esther Kitimbo Kisaakye, Justice, Supreme Court of Uganda, **Uganda**

2017 Annual Meetings (AM):

This part of the event would build on the ongoing work of 10 different core areas of specialization based study groups since 2013. These specializations includes international law, human rights, family law, constitutional law, commercial law, procedural law, property law, contracts, legal entities and judicial standards where all SLS, Pune Faculty, partners and invitees would also participate.

The study pivots around the three themes:

- Innovative Pedagogy
- Harmonized Curriculum
- Global Networking for Implementing Change

Other highlights:

These components will help break the monotony, to inspire, innovate and relieve brain fatigue.

- a. Exquisite lunches and dinners
- b. Traditional Indian reception
 - Chancellor's reception on 8th November 2017: Formal inauguration commences at 5:15 pm will have Adv. Ram Jethmalani, Member of Parliament, Senior Advocate (Supreme Court of India) and Professor Emeritus, SIU will be the Chief Guest, Mr. M. Veerappa Moily, Member of the 16th Lok Sabha, former Chief Minister, Karnataka and former Law Minister will be the Guest of Honour and Hon'ble Justice Dipak Misra, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, will deliver the inaugural address (via video).
- c. Further, Indian values carrying unique Symbiosis stamp will be showcased in:
 - Guruvandana (saluting teachers) with Conferment of 'Symbiosis- IALS Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to legal and justice education' acknowledging the life and work of 9 legal education luminaries. 50 % of whom are involved in the law reforms and more than 60 % of these have contributed towards education, judiciary, and public service. 50% of them have rendered time and expertise to excellence at SLS as Board of studies members or as visiting faculty or as experts.
 - Dr. Madhva Menon & Advocate Ram Jethmalani epitomize maximum part. Mr Jethmalani, our Professor Emeritus and prominent patron of this event also holds additional feathers in his hat with representation in the parliament.
 - Their Life is a living monument of the path in the evolution of legal education and symbol of possibilities for a life dedicated to the rule of law and cause of justice.
- d. A cultural tour of Pune and historical walk are added attraction
- e. Law Carnival on all days featuring cultural programs, film screenings, pottery sessions, games, cultural exhibition by artisans, NGOs, prison inmates and self-help groups along with many other interactive activities.

Expected Results

As a global platform for knowledge leaders & opinion-makers, this conference is expected to:

- Create Certification standards for law schools across the globe while respecting diversity

- Strengthen networking and explore operationalisation of themes including global standards, curriculum standards, innovation in pedagogy and outcome.
- A strong interdisciplinary component in building link among all law systems around the world with the ongoing engagement of top class interdisciplinary educational research body the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Overall, it will contribute to celebration of diversity and protection of rule of law upholding justice among legal educators at global level. Addressing unmet diverse legal needs, it will create a model for changing law which structures human enterprise. Such standards are expected to align with the millennial generation learning needs and learning science in legal education.

According to President Francis Wang, 'Through global conversation, this model will accommodate differences and unify diversity of rule of law and justice'.