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

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

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, (SLS-P) a constituent of Symbiosis International University, Pune (SIU) in association with the International Association of Law Schools (IALS), is hosting **IALS Global Law Deans' Forum and Annual Meeting-2017** from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at SLS, Pune Campus. This is a platform where law school leaders from across the world will gather to discuss and formulate new strategies to improve legal education globally.

This is a highly prestigious and unique event as for the first time in India, a private law school is bringing together eight national and five private law schools to co-host and to welcome international Law Deans to deliberate on the crucial issue of global standards in legal education exhibiting a rare model of solidarity. The Forum takes forward the exploration of essential elements of legal education with a focus on building the framework for developing standards and evaluations of them from a law school leader's perspective, especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Established in 2000, IALS a private, non-political, non-profit, volunteer cooperative society working towards the betterment of the global legal education community; it provides travel and accommodation subsidies for members from developing countries. The association comprises of more than 170 law schools and departments from over 55 countries representing more than 7,500 law faculty members.

According to Prof. Francis SL Wang, Dean Emeritus, Soochow University, Kenneth Wang School of Law, China, President/Chairman of IALS, "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. The meeting would reflect on refining and operationalizing this model based on building consensus across the global diversity.”

Since its transition in 2014 to a new charter and a truly independent Board of Governors, the Association has embarked upon 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 on Global Standards & Outcomes of a Legal Education and 2015 Madrid Principles.

The theme of the upcoming event is ‘Continuation of IALS Exploration of the Principles and Specific Strategies on Improving Legal Education Globally’. It will help boost educational tourism and serve as a forum for sharing ideas and best practices among participants with huge implication for legal education reform, justice standards and quality enhancement in higher education.

The four-day event officially opens on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, at Symbiosis Law School, Pune with the welcome address by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, SLS-P, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, (Convener, GLDF & AM-2017 and IALS, International Study Group Chair). Prof. Francis SL Wang, Dean Emeritus, Soochow University, Kenneth Wang School of Law, China, President/Chairman, IALS will deliver the keynote address.

The SIU Chancellor’s Grand Reception to be held in the SVC Auditorium at 5 pm on the same day, will mark ‘*Guruvandana*’ and the conferment of ‘Symbiosis Lifetime Achievement Awards for Excellence in Legal and Justice Education in India’ to 9 distinguished law teachers. 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. Hon’ble Justice Dipak Misra, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, will deliver the inaugural address (via video).

The event will be graced by the presence of Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis International University (SIU), Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor, SIU, and Dr. Rajani

Gupte, Vice Chancellor, SIU. The evening will draw to a close with a cultural programme followed by dinner.

Highlight of the Global Law Dean's Forum is the three plenary sessions on the themes 'Strategizing Towards a 21st Century Globalized Legal Education', 'Mapping towards a Certification Program' and 'Judicial Standards for a Legal Education' followed by Small Group Breakout Discussions.

The plenary sessions will be chaired by Prof. Barbara Holden-Smith, Vice-Dean, Cornell Law School, United States, IALS General Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Kay Kane, Chancellor & Dean Emeritus, UC Hastings College of the Law, United States, IALS Board Member and Chair of the Emeritus Council and Diarmuid O'Scannlain, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth District, United States respectively.

Hon'ble Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India will join the third plenary through video welcome address.

IALS Annual Meeting, 2017 commencing on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 will have 'Innovative Pedagogy, Harmonized Curriculum and Global Networking for Implementing Change' as its theme. It will witness a Leadership Meeting on Doctrinal Study Group Chairs at Hotel Hyatt, Pune.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 Honorable Justice H. L. Gokhale, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, will grace the occasion as a speaker during dinner at *The Westin Pune Koregaon Park*.

The next two days (10 & 11 November) will witness three plenary sessions followed by small group breakout discussions. The first plenary session, centred on the theme 'Innovative Pedagogy in Doctrinal Fields' will be chaired by Patricia O'Sullivan, Director of Medical Education, University of California, San Francisco Medical School, United States.

The second plenary session, centred on the theme 'Doctrinal study Groups: Towards a Harmonized Subject Matter Curriculum Which Respects the Diversity of Approaches' will be chaired by Luis Gabriel Franceschi, Dean, Strathmore University, Strathmore Law School, Kenya and IALS Board Member.

The final plenary session has ‘Implementing Change – IALS as a Networked Improvement Community’ as its theme which will be chaired by Prof. Francis SL Wang, Dean Emeritus, Soochow University, Kenneth Wang School of Law, China, President/Chairman, IALS.

The meeting concludes with the General Assembly that has as its highlight addresses by Prof. Francis SL Wang and Prof. Barbara Holden-Smith.

The event will also showcase ‘Law Carnival’, an ensemble of curios, crafts and cultural exhibition by artisans, NGOs, prison inmates and self-help groups. The event will draw to close on 11<sup>th</sup> November with a cultural tour and farewell dinner for delegates and invited members only.