

*Seminar***Globalisation, Regional Integration and Cooperation,
and the Hague Conference on Private International Law****Hans van Loon***Former Secretary General***Thursday, 5 September 2013****5:00 - 6:00 pm****Room A723, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower****The University of Hong Kong**

The talk will sketch the development of the Hague Conference into a global organisation, the effects of globalisation and regional integration and cooperation processes on the Conference, and the Conference's response to these developments. Particular reference will be made to the role of the Hague Conference in the Asia Pacific region today.

Hans van Loon has been the Hague Conference's Secretary General from 30 June 1996 until 30 June 2013 and steered the Organisation during a time of global expansion and transformation.

He studied law and sociology at the University of Utrecht, and international law and international relations at the University of Leiden and at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva (1966-1973). Following a traineeship with the Council of Europe (European Commission of Human Rights), he was admitted to the Bar in The Hague and practiced law with the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, acting also before the European Court of Human Rights (case of *Winterwerp v. The Netherlands*, 1979, 1981). He was an Honorary Secretary of the Executive Board of the Netherlands Branch of the International Law Association (1977-1986).

He joined the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on 15 September 1978, combining his international functions until 1996 with those of Executive Secretary of the Netherlands Standing Government Committee on Private International Law, where he initiated, and was responsible for, the scientific organisation of the Committee's work on the codification of private international law in the Netherlands (which would ultimately lead to Book 10 Civil Code). He also was a Substitute Judge in the Hague District Court (1984-1996).

He taught at the Hague Academy of International Law (Summer 1993, Seminar for Advanced Studies 2012), at its external programs in San José (Costa Rica, 1995) and Abu Dhabi (UAE, 2010), the XXXIIth Session of the OAS Course on International Law (Rio de Janeiro, 2005), and at the University of Florida (Fall 1988). He lectured on the Hague Conference and its work at universities and academic institutions worldwide, and (co-) organised numerous international symposia concerning subject matters of (private) international law with other intergovernmental organisations, governments, and academic institutions, including on subjects such as the outlook for private international law after the fall of the Berlin Wall, damage to the environment, human rights, Islamic law, transfrontier family relations across the Mediterranean and beyond, registered partnerships, Internet and E-commerce. He was elected an Associate Member of the Institut de Droit International (2009). He has been a Member of the European Group of Private International Law since its inception (1991), and is an honorary Member of the *Asociación Americana de Derecho Internacional Privado* (ASADIP, 2007). More details about the speaker could be found at http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=text.display&tid=176.

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