



Asia Programme, final report for projects 2015-2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR PUBLICATION

Name of the project

The Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights and Peking University Institute of International Law Collaboration Project ('ECI-PUIIL Project')

Coordinating Institution

Erik Castrén Institute of International Law (ECI), Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki

Objectives of the project (as indicated in the project proposal)

The 'ECI-PUIIL Collaboration Project' aimed at increasing the depth of cooperation between Peking University Law School and the Faculty of Law of the University of Helsinki, to cover international law, and to launch new forms of educational cooperation. The new forms include joint doctoral courses, joint research seminars, visits for the purpose of researching and teaching, exchange of teachers, joint research projects, and overseas internship programmes.

The 'ECI-PUIIL Collaboration Project' intended to facilitate the collaboration between the two leading institutes in international law in both countries in order to enhance cooperation in the field of education which have an impact on both China and Finland and be of relevance to international legal practices in both countries.

Achieved results and outcomes

The project achieved both its primary objectives. This was demonstrated by the successful addressing of the needs identified in the original application and project plan. As outlined in the original project proposal, the first need was the social need for collaboration in international law. This was achieved through joint doctoral courses and seminars on international law, and through strengthening institutional and person-to-person links between Peking University and the University of Helsinki. An educational need for collaboration in international law was the second main need identified in the project proposal. This was achieved through joint events, visits for the purposes of research and teaching, as well as student and teacher exchanges. A need for obtaining practical experience in a foreign country was the third need identified in the original project proposal. This was achieved through short-term visiting lectures, an internship by a Finnish student in a law firm in China, travel by Finnish researchers and students to China, and travel by Chinese researchers and students to Finland.

Activities carried out during the project

The main activities carried out during the project were:

1. Visiting Research and Teaching, including: PUIIL researcher HE Chi was based at ECI for 4 months;

TAN Yan, a student/researcher from Peking University spent 4 months at ECI. Jarna Petman of ECI gave guest lectures in Peking University (June, September, October, November 2016 and October/November 2017); Sanna Villikka visited Peking University to build research funding relationships; Post-Doctoral Research Harriet Lonka (University of Eastern Finland) travelled to Peking University (October – November 2017); Li Ming (Professor and Director, Peking University Institute of International Law), travelled to Finland in June 2016 to enhance collaboration and participate in a doctoral seminar at University of Helsinki. In addition, PKU legal scholar Chen Yifeng, a critical figure in the collaboration, travelled to Finland (July – September 2017) to meet with senior scholars from the University of Helsinki and join for a comparative law conference held in the University of Helsinki and University of Tampere (August 2017).

2. Doctoral Courses and Seminars for Junior Academics on International Law, including joint 'Enforcement in International Law' (Peking University, June 2016) and 'International Law in a Dark Time' directed by Prof. Anne Orford (University of Melbourne) and Prof. Martti Koskeniemi (University of Helsinki) (University of Helsinki, May 2017).

3. Student exchange/participation including travel to China by Finnish students for the 2016 doctoral seminar; travel to Finland by Chinese students for the 2017 doctoral seminar; funding for students from Peking University to attend the 8th Sino-Finnish Bilateral Seminar on Comparative Law (August 2017).

4. Internship program, including a month-long internship by a Finnish student in a Beijing law firm (July 2016).

Future developments, resulting from the project

The Project has created a strong basis for ongoing collaboration between Peking University and the University of Helsinki. The two institutions, having strengthened their institutional and people-to-people links, look forward to continuing cooperation in the future. This cooperation will likely include joint conferences, seminars and doctoral courses; joint publications (books and journal articles); visits for the purpose of researching and teaching, exchange of teachers, joint research projects, and international internship programmes.

In addition, cooperation at the faculty level between the Finnish and Chinese partners has been strengthened. Furthermore, this programme has made the University of Helsinki a more attractive destination for doctoral study by PKU students. In addition, by involving and collaborating with other Nordic institutions, such as Stockholm and Bergen, the collaboration included a broader Nordic dimension.