

## Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration visits School of Law for possible institutional collaboration

30 March 2010



Mr Christiaan MJ Kröner, Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), visited School of Law (SLW) on 30 March 2010. The visit shed light to future collaboration opportunities among the two institutions.

The PCA was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference. It is an intergovernmental organization with over one hundred member states. It aims to facilitate

arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states. Today the PCA provides services for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties.

The Secretary-General joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1973 and has held several positions throughout his diplomatic career. He was appointed Ambassador-at-Large and Deputy Director-General Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague; Consul-General in Munich; and Deputy Head, Directorate Atlantic Cooperation and Security Affairs, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.

Mr Kröner appreciated the efforts made by the SLW in the arrangement of the Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges, LLM for Chinese Judges and the promotion of arbitration studies in HK. He expressed great interest to jointly providing diploma or certificate bearing short term courses by the PCA and SLW to interested parties in international arbitration.

The PCA also holds fellowship programme for graduates of Yale Law School and Faculty of Law of McGill University. The one-year fellowship programme allows high caliber law graduates to gain insight into both the practical and legal aspects of international arbitration by participating to the greatest extent possible in the regular functioning of the organization. Mr Kröner voiced his intention to extend the fellowship programme to SLW.

Further discussions on the above initiatives will be held when Mr Kröner visits SLW again in September 2010.

