

FOREWORD

Each year, the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law is a marvelous mix of the comfortably familiar and the challenging new. On the one hand, the Meeting follows a consistent format and reliably convenes a core of usual suspects, giving it something of a class reunion feeling. Indeed, recent additions to the program of the “L Alumni Reception” and “Hague Alumni Reception” are just that for the “classes” of international lawyers who have cut their teeth at the Legal Advisers Office of the U.S. State Department or in the many international courts, tribunals, and institutions in the Hague. On the other hand, each year, our program committee brings its creativity to bear on the Meeting—injecting new formats and perspectives and pushing us to challenge our assumptions, tackle emerging problems, and think in new ways. I think that it is this give and take between tradition and novelty that is the special sauce of the ASIL Annual Meeting, and thanks to the tremendous efforts of Co-Chairs Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Kal Raustiala, and Stanimir Alexandrov, and the terrific program committee they assembled, the 2013 Meeting had it in spades.

For starters, the Co-Chairs chose a terrific theme—International Law in a Multipolar World—that invited us to contemplate the impact of “a new set of actors . . . moving onto center stage, . . . seeking to reshape international rules governing trade and finance, military force, the environment, and beyond.” Then they assembled a program committee that itself reflected our diverse and multipolar world, drawn from five different continents and every walk of international law practice and scholarship. They, in turn, developed a rich program probing the implications of multipolarity on topics ranging from climate change and trade to cyber-security, investor-state arbitration, and counterterrorism. Even as we basked in cherry blossom-festooned Washington, DC, panels such as “The G20 and Beyond—The Influence of Emerging Countries on the Architecture of International Economic Law,” “The EU as a Global Actor in a Multipolar World,” and “The Past and Future of African International Law Scholarship” shifted our perspective well beyond the Beltway. In what ASIL President Donald Donovan aptly cast as “our most international meeting to date,” speakers hailed from all corners of the globe and challenged us to grapple with the complexity that multipolarity injects into global governance in today’s world. Memorable moderated conversations with Alain Pellet and with Hudson Medal winner Bruno Simma offered a distinctly European perspective, while a moving posthumous tribute to Honorary Member Arthur Chaskalson reminded us of South Africa’s dramatic transformation and rise, and the closing plenary with ICJ Judge Hanqin Xue provided stimulating insights into China’s approach to international law. We gathered in Washington, as Society members have done for over a hundred years, but the topics for discussion and perspectives on offer were refreshingly new.

For this rich program, Meeting attendees and *Proceedings* readers owe a debt of gratitude to our 2013 Co-Chairs, whose tireless commitment and creativity was evidenced throughout. We are grateful, too, to Cara Smith who managed the editorial process for the *Proceedings* and to Sheila Ward, Veronica Onorevole, Lara Townzen, and the team at Voila Meetings, Inc, who managed the logistical aspects of the Meeting program.

I hope that *Proceedings* readers will enjoy this collection of essays and in them find the rich diversity that distinguished the 2013 Meeting. If it piques your interest, many sessions can be viewed in full on the Society’s website, at <http://www.asil.org/resources/2013-annual-meeting>, and there is more in store, at the upcoming 2014 Annual Meeting, to be convened around a theme of “The Effectiveness of International Law”—a challenge indeed in our multipolar world.

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