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Brussels

ISMLLW 487 E 8

27-06-11

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

The *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* and the *Chinese Academy of Military Science, PLA*, are pleased to announce the joint organisation of an **international conference**, which will be hosted by *China's Society for Military Law* **in Beijing from 9 to 13 November 2011**.

The central theme of the conference will be "*The International Law of Peace Operations*".

Annex 3 offers the definition of *Peace Operations* applied for the purpose of this conference.

Participation in this Conference is open to academic/legal experts and military officers from all countries. The languages of the Conference will be Chinese and English; simultaneous translation will be provided.

An outline of the programme is attached. The detailed programme will be available at a later stage, and will include presentations and panel discussions by academic speakers and experienced professionals on:

- *The Legal Framework of Peace Operations*
- *The Threshold of Armed Conflict*
- *The Development of and Contemporary Challenges to International Humanitarian Law, in particular with respect to its Applicability and Application in the Context of Peace Operations*
- *Rules of Engagement, Self-Defence and Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations*
- *Restrictions on the Use of Weapons in Peace Operations*
- *Accountability of Peacekeepers.*

In order to enhance the opportunity for academic discussion the number of international participants to this Conference is limited to 70. The *International Society* reserves the option to limit the number of participants per country, in order to achieve a truly international composition of the audience. Travel arrangements should therefore only be made *after* written confirmation of participation has been received.

The venue for this International Conference will be the Empark Grand Hotel (www.empark.com.cn/bj01/). Room prices are 680 RMB (standard double bedroom) and 780 RMB (standard king size bedroom) per night. Room prices include breakfast for one person and VAT, but do not include additional room and hotel services. The room price is identical for single and double occupancy, but the breakfast for the second guest will be charged additionally. These prices are guaranteed for bookings no later than 1 October 2011.

The *Chinese Society for Military Law* has graciously offered to provide a programme for accompanying persons on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November 2011. On Saturday 12 November 2011 participants and accompanying persons may participate in a Host Nation cultural programme. A non-governmental company will take care of the aforementioned visits.

Foreign visitors to China will have to apply for a visa at the appropriate Embassy or Consulate of the People's Republic of China. Participants of the Conference will have to apply for a visa for a business visit; accompanying persons will have to apply for a tourist visa. Participants and accompanying persons are responsible for timely application for their visa.

The participation fee for this International Conference is € 350 for members of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War and € 375 for non-members. This fee also covers coffee/tea during seminar sessions for the participants and meals, as stipulated in the provisional programme. The participation fee for an accompanying person is € 75. This fee also covers participation in the general events and meals in the hotel.

The contribution for participation in the day programmes for an accompanying person will probably be € 75 (to be confirmed) per day. The contribution for participation in the Host Nation cultural programme will probably be € 75 per person (to be confirmed). Travel to Beijing is an individual responsibility; transportation between Beijing International Airport and the hotel will be provided.

Application forms have to be received by the General Secretariat of the *International Society* **not later than 1 September 2011**. Together with confirmation of participation, a specific hotel reservation form and payment details will be provided. Full payment of fees and contributions has to be received not later than 1 October 2011.

The *Academy of Military Science* and the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* very much look forward to your participation and contribution to the academic discussion.

Yours respectfully,

Brigadier General Jan Peter Spijk
Vice-President of the International Society
Director of Conferences and Seminars

Lieutenant General Liu Jixian
Chairman of China's Society for Military Law
Vice-President of the Academy of Military
Science, PLA



Attachments:

1. Provisional Conference Programme
2. Application Form
3. Definition of *Peace Operations*

ANNEX 3 – DEFINITION OF PEACE OPERATIONS

This annex offers the definition of Peace Operations applied for the purpose of this conference.

Peace Operations are defined as those military operations which legally require the consent of the Host State in order to be able to deploy and operate on that State's territory and which are additionally subject to the principles of impartiality and restricted to the use of force in self-defence. In addition to the legal requirement of Host State consent, peace operations are also dependent upon the consent, or at least acquiescence, of all the parties to the conflict or dispute, in order to function and carry out their mandate, and are not intended or usually organised or equipped to engage in protracted hostilities or impose a solution militarily. Their primary purpose is to act in support of efforts aimed at promoting disengagement of the parties to a particular conflict and of achieving a diplomatic solution. Traditionally, the role and function of such operations was to act as a buffer between opposing forces after a ceasefire agreement had been reached and oversee and facilitate the carrying out of the terms of such agreements through monitoring, interposition, and persuasion. Since the end of the Cold War, these traditional tasks have been progressively expanded to include in many cases the promotion of a stable environment, the maintenance of public order, the provision of humanitarian assistance in cooperation with civilian governmental and non-governmental agencies, and the protection of civilians from violations of Humanitarian and Human Rights Law to the extent possible within the terms of their mandate and their operational capabilities. Peace operations are sometimes provided with mandates under Chapter VII of the UN Charter as an additional means of inducing compliance of the parties and signalling the resolve of the international community¹.

Peace operations in the strict sense as described above imply that the military forces involved operate below the threshold of armed conflict, in the sense that the Law of Armed Conflict, including the Geneva Conventions, does not apply to them.

¹ T. GILL in *The Handbook of the International Law of Military Operations*, eds. T. GILL and D. FLECK, Oxford University Press, 2010, p. 135-137.