

WTO Forum

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**INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
WUHAN UNIVERSITY**



**武汉大学** 国际法研究所  
WUHAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

## 1. Introduction

Founded in 1980, Wuhan University's Institute of International Law (IIL) is China's first collegiate academic organization focused on research and education in this area. It is widely regarded as the nation's leading academic institution of international law. The Institute deploys research, teaching, and consulting activities and applies its excellent scholarship to government policy and real-world legal practice. In 2000, the Chinese Ministry of Education designated the IIL as a National Key Research Institute for the humanities and social sciences.

## 2. Academic Activities

The research and teaching of international law at Wuhan University have a long tradition. Over the decades, the university has employed many preeminent scholars, judges, and arbitrators. Notable figures include Gengsheng Zhou (founding father of public international law in China), Ru'ao Mei (former judge for the International Military Tribunal for the Far East), Shijie Wang (former arbitrator for the Permanent Court of Arbitration), Haopei Li (former judge for the Appeals Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia), Lihai Zhao (former judge for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea), and Tieya Wang (former judge for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia). The IIL is committed to interdisciplinary scholarship in international law. Its investigations cover a breadth of topics, including laws concerning the United Nations, the EU, global cyberspace, and international air and space development. Currently, its research comprises four thematic clusters: national security and the international rule of law, sustainable development, the new global economic order, and transnational business and global governance.

## 3. Publications

The IIL strives to provide a forum and platform for the critical and constructive inquiry of international law. It routinely organizes conferences, seminars, symposiums, and workshops to foster intellectual exchange and dialogue. The Institute publishes the Chinese Journal of International Law, Wuhan University

International Law Review, and Chinese Yearbook of Private International Law and Comparative Law. In 2014, the IIL began to publish annual reports on China's practice of international law.



Annual Report on China's Practice in Promoting the International Rule of Law



Chinese Yearbook of Private International Law and Comparative Law



Wuhan University International Law Review

#### 4. Research Projects

Since 2008, it has undertaken more than 140 funded-research projects at the national and provincial level and published more than a thousand articles and around a hundred of academic books. Some of these references have been quoted by many international tribunals and Chinese national courts.

#### 5. International Cooperation

The IIL works closely with governments throughout China and advises on drafting legislation, international negotiation, and implementation of treaties to promote sound and efficient governance and the rule of law. The Supreme People's Court of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce appoint many staff members to serve as legal counsels, policy advisors, and consultants. In 2015, the IIL was selected as one of China Top Think Tanks.



The Fourth Training Session of China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law.(This program is held once a year from 2015, the IIL have hosted the forum three times since 2017, and will host the forum in the future.)

The Institute is keen to promote global collaboration and exchange. It is connected with leading scholars, research institutions, and organizations worldwide and has established long-term partnerships with academic institutes and think tanks in

the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, South Korea, and other countries. Its staff members participate in the work of global organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and International Institute for the Unification of Private Laws.



East Lake Forum on International Law  
(This forum is held once a year from 2016)



Global Forum on Private International Law and China Society of Private International Law Annual Conference 2017. The forum's theme was Cooperation for Common Progress the Evolving Role of Private International Law

## 6. Achievements

The IIL has been praised as “the cradle of talents in international law in China” for its remarkable achievements in training academics and practitioners. For example, its moot court teams have performed skillfully in worldwide competitions in recent years, ranked in the top 32 of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in 2011 and the top 16 of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2014.



Wuhan University Team at Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in 2011

Many graduates of the institute have achieved successful careers and made outstanding contributions to the domestic and international society. Its distinguished alumni include E’xiang Wan (the deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress), and Kaiyuan Tao (the vice president of China’s Supreme People’s Court), Karim Massimov (the former prime minister of Kazakhstan).

The Institute, with stable financial support, provides its researchers and students with a superb infrastructure of world-class research facilities, including offices, seminar rooms, conference facilities, and a library. Its main library offers a rich collection of books as well as electronic research tools, including Westlaw Next, HeinOnline, and Lexis Advance.

## 7. Vision

The IIL is keen to promote international collaboration and exchange for the future including but not limited to the following three aspects. Firstly, the IIL continue to publish publications, such as Wuhan University International Law Review (Chinese & English version), Chinese Yearbook of Private International Law and Comparative Law, and Annual Report on China's Practice in Promoting the International Rule of Law (Chinese & English version).

Secondly, the IIL continue to hold international law forums and training, such as East Lake Forum on International Law, Training Session of China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law, China Society of Private International Law Annual Conference and so on.

Thirdly, the IIL continue to invite overseas talents, support students to participate in international competitions of international law by provide funding and coaching.

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