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**Research and Practice of International Trade and Investment**

# **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW INSTITUTE (IELI)**

Xiamen University School of Law



## Genesis

Xiamen University School of Law (“XUSL”) is one of the first institutions in China to engage in teaching and research of international economic law. In 1980s, XUSL was authorized and began to enroll undergraduate students, master and doctoral candidates majoring in international economic law. To strengthen the research of international economic law, as well as to provide a major research platform for XUSL, the International Economic Law Institute (“IELI”) was founded in 1987 with the great dedication of Professor An Chen. As XUSL’s International Law Studies group, which ranks front row in China, was approved by the Ministry of Education as the State’s Key Discipline in 2002, IELI has become the supporting unit for the Discipline since then.



Professor An Chen

## Aims

IELI aims to build a key research base and an advisory body in the field of international law with distinct characteristics and influence home and abroad, as well as a training base for high-level talents in international law.

For these aims, IELI makes great efforts to:

- (1) maintain and consolidate its current research excellence in international economic law;
- (2) strengthen the studies of public international law and private international law, thus achieving the synergistic development of the three fields of International law;
- (3) build an academic environment with vibrant atmosphere that enables young researchers to develop successfully their professional career, and
- (4) enhance sustainable development and internationalization of IELI, and substantially increase its academic influence regionally and globally.

## **Pillars**

IELI's aims are pursued through three pillars: Research, Teaching and Collaboration.

### ***Research***

IELI's research field mainly covers theory of international law, international investment law, international trade law, international financial law, international tax law, international water law, foreign-related economic and trade laws and policies, etc. As IELI's achievements on international economic law studies take the lead in China, its international influence has been growing.

IELI has undertaken and completed many key projects sponsored by the National Social Science Fund, and the Ministries of Education, Justice, Commerce, Foreign Affairs, etc. Its research achievements have won international acknowledgement and multiple national awards.

IELI has also published a series of monographs, articles, and textbooks in the field of international law. Particularly, in recent years, our researchers have published several monographs by world famous publishing house, and numerous academic articles in highly prestigious international academic journals, including *JOURNAL OF WORLD INVESTMENT AND TRADE*, *JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW*, and *JOURNAL OF EAST ASIA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW*, which greatly contributed to the globalization progress of IELI.



Based on IELI’s outstanding teaching and research achievements in the field of international investment law, in 2010, XUSL became, as the only law school from mainland China, one of 15 law schools from around the globe that have been selected by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (“UNCTAD”) to join in the “G-15 Law School Pilot Project.”

### *Teaching*

IELI continues to enroll master and doctoral candidates (including overseas students) majoring in international law; more than 20 courses are offered in English or bilingually, covering international investment law, WTO law, case study of public international law, case study of international commercial arbitration, etc. Through decades of practice and exploration, IELI has developed a unique approach that combines teaching with research, thereby bringing a concurrent development in both talent-cultivation and research accomplishments.



IELI actively encourages and guides students to participate in various national and international moot court competitions, including the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, the Jessup C. Philip International Law Moot Court Competition, the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, the WTO Moot Court Competition, etc.

Through such teaching and practicing method, IELI has not only won numerous national/international awards, but also inspired and nurtured generations of young talents specializing in international law, who have also won high evaluation from government agencies, judicial organs, academic institutions and business circles, etc.

### *Collaboration*

IELI strives to develop relationships that promote understanding and collaboration with policymakers, practitioners, other institutions and the broader public.



It has long provided legal services to the Chinese government agencies and key enterprises in their international economic practice. A number of research results have been highly valued by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IELI also actively pursues joint programs with other institutions for cooperative research and academic visits. Additionally, IELI has established constant informational and academic exchanges with many international economic organizations and institutes, such as UNCTAD, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (“MIGA”) and International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes

(“ICSID”). Since the Secretariat of the Chinese Society of International Economic Law (“CSIEL”) was based in Xiamen University in 1993, IELI has become the main organizer of the annual symposiums of this nationwide society. Besides, IELI has also sponsored or co-organized numerous international academic symposiums focusing on international law issues.



(Chinese) JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW 国际经济法学刊, the only special journal for the field in China, started publication in 1998, edited by IELI as editorial office. The editor-in-chief of the Journal is Professor An Chen. Gradually, the Journal has developed as a key academic exchange platform for international economic law circle.



## Team

Since its inception, IELI has developed and maintained a vigorous, cooperative and promising academic team. Most members are middle-aged or young scholars with overseas education backgrounds or exchange experiences.



Currently, there are more than 30 researchers in IELI. Core members of IELI include: Professor An Chen, who is the former President of CSIEL and an arbitrator of ICSID; Professor Zeng Huaqun, who is the President of CSIEL, Member of Advisory Committee on International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC and Member of Panel of Conciliators, ICSID; Professor Liao Yixin, Professor Xu Chongli, Professor Li Guoan, and Professor Yu Fei, who have made remarkable achievements in international law. All of them have earned great academic influence. Also, many promising young scholars have emerged and come into prominence in the academic circles home and abroad.

## Vision

In recent years, IELI aspires to broaden and harness academic resources, and to build a more dynamic academic mechanism, so as to give full play to the overall advantages of the team. With the establishment of the “International Law Innovation team of Xiamen University,” IELI strengthens the training of young researchers and promotes their vibrant growth, and will continue to attract, support

and promote qualified international law researchers.

### **Contact Information**

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