

To: Students enrolled in The Hague Summer Program for 2014
From: Professor Anna Han, Program Director
Re: News Bulletin #1 for the 2014 Program.
Date: March 25, 2014

Welcome to the 2012 Summer Program at The Hague. The program provides a great combination of fun, excitement and learning in a very inspiring setting. We currently have 25 students enrolled from 17 different law schools. We will be observing trials and learning about international criminal prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL).

I am sending, along with this Bulletin, the tentative schedule for this year's program. The availability of scheduled lecturers will depend upon court schedules that have not yet been released. We may have to switch the speakers on some of the days, but the dates are firm, and you can make travel plans accordingly. The program orientation will take place on Monday, June 2, so you should plan to arrive no later than Sunday, June 1. I will be arriving on Sunday, June 1, and will be staying at the Hilton. Zeestraat 35, 2518 AA Den Haag, Netherlands. Phone is +31 70 710 7000. Our farewell banquet will be the evening of Thursday, June 12, but our last session will be on Friday, June 13 until the afternoon. You will be free to leave after that. The weekend of June 7 and 8 will be free.

Arrival:

You should fly into Amsterdam as that is the closest international airport. Transportation from the Amsterdam airport to The Hague is very easy. You can board a train for The Hague right at the airport, and it will take you to the Central Station in The Hague with one stop at Leiden. The trip takes about one hour, and the trains run quite often. Cost is around 10.70 euro one way.

When you get to the Central Station in The Hague, you will want to pick up a map of the tram lines and a ticket good for trams and buses. The public transportation is excellent, and very reasonable in cost. You buy a clip card and add money to it and you can top off. Both ICTY and the best available housing are on Tram Line 1.

The tram stop for ICTY is called World Forum, for the convention center located next to the ICTY.

Housing:

You are free to make whatever hotel or housing arrangements you think will be most comfortable and affordable for you. In past years, students were generally pleased with the following alternatives:

1. Aan de Zeekant. Family owned apartments on the beach at Scheveningen. One bedroom apartments with bathroom and a living/dining room area. Two twin sized beds, fully furnished. Small extra cost for linens. Four tram stops from ICTY. Website:

<http://www.aandezeekant.com>.

2. Stayokay Den Haag. A Hostel with dormitory and private rooms available. Clean and secure, internet access and laundry facilities.

3. Hotel Bor. A string of six apartment houses all close to Tram Line 1 in Scheveningen. Some are big enough to accommodate 3 or 4 sharing.

Website: <http://www.hotelbor.nl>, and email info@hotelbor.nl.

For additional housing suggestions go to <http://www.denhaag.com>. Follow the “Tourism and Conventions” hyperlink, then follow the “Look and Book” hyperlink to see other suggestions. Scheveningen is a beach resort area very close to the ICTY, and we are there very early in the season, so bargain rates are often available.

4. One student last year used airbnb and found it inexpensive.

Communication:

The law school has established a Facebook Group for our program, and we encourage you to add yourself if you have not already done so. It will provide a helpful tool for us to get to know each other better, even before we arrive at The Hague. I will be monitoring it on an occasional basis, but the only reliable way to communicate with me is directly through my email address, ahan@scu.edu. Feel free to contact me directly with any of your questions. I won't have a European cell phone there so email or calling my hotel is the best way. I will be getting a cell phone that works in The Hague but won't have that number until orientation. Please call the hotel or email me before that.

Reading:

I know this is a busy time in the semester for all of you, but if you have some time before you leave, there is lots you can do to prepare for the experience of observing the trials. First, both have excellent websites, which makes them some of the most transparent courts in the world. There is even a running video feed from the courtrooms available online. All documents relating to each of the cases is also available online. The ICC website is at <http://www.icc-cpi.int>. The ICTY website is at <http://www.un.org/icty/>. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon is at <http://www.stl-tsl.org/>. There are also some excellent books available for background reading about the war in the former Yugoslavia. I recommend *Blood and Vengeance: One Family's Story of the War in Bosnia*, by Chuck Sudetic (Penguin, 1999). It focuses on the massacre at Srebrenica, which is the focus of one of the trials we may be observing. Chuck Sudetic is also the co-author of *Madame Prosecutor*, Carla Del Ponte's account of her tenure directing the Prosecutor's Office at ICTY. Also highly recommended are *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation*, by Laura Silber and Allan Little (Penguin, 1996) and *The Key to My Neighbor's House*, by Elizabeth Neuffer (Picador, 2001).

Next month, you will be receiving a PDF of materials to bring with you to The Hague. It will include copies of the procedural rules governing ICTY trials, some information about the ICC, and, if possible, some information about the cases we will be observing.

One student from last year told me that the students who did not print it beforehand regretted it and ended up going to local print shops. It was very useful to be able to review documents even while in the court. Note your PDF won't do you much good in court since you won't be able to bring your laptops and phones (see below).

Packing Tips:

There will be no need for suits or ties. The dress for the program is business casual. No shorts or tee shirts, but slacks or skirts with shirts or blouses will be acceptable for all court visits and dinners. Be sure to pack sweatshirts and jackets. The breeze from the North Sea can be quite chilling at this time of year. Rain gear was suggested by a former student.

Conduct:

If you are bringing laptops, cameras or cell phones, you will not be permitted to bring them into the courtrooms, and they will need to be left with security, which really slows down our admission to the courts. This will not be a problem our first day, when we are meeting at the hotel. And you are welcome to bring cameras to the Peace Palace and our dinners, so there will be ample photo opportunities. But please do not bring any of this equipment to the courts so that our admission happens smoothly.

When in the courts, be respectful of the rules. We are there as guests and we want to be invited back. Our entry into each courtroom for observation is strictly timed and we can't wait for the late arrivals. We are required to enter as a group. Therefore, please take the time to figure out how to get to the courts. I will give you more guidance during orientation. For most days, after the court proceedings, we will have time to eat a lunch on the premises before we start our afternoon briefings.

I will have name tags available the first day, and I ask that you wear them throughout the program.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning, June 2, 2014 at 10:00 AM. at the conference room of the Bel Air Hotel, Johaan he Wittlaan 30, Den Haag (The Hague). I'll have plenty of hot coffee waiting for you to get you through your jet lag! Lunch also will be provided that day.

See you all at The Hague!

Professor Anna Han, Program Director