

The Hague (Netherlands), Residence of Justice and Peace: Co-operation Between Policy/Action Oriented and Academic Institutions

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The Hague presents itself as the Residence of Justice and Peace, or even as the "legal capital of the world." It is the home of a range of institutions for law and policy development and implementing institutions and of organizations with a peace oriented mission at the international, regional and national level. It also is the home of a number of academic institutions in those fields or adjacent ones. They have established the "The Hague Academic Coalition" with a very strong focus on international law, international relations and development. This coalition intends to contribute from an academic vantage point to the development of activities in the city of The Hague. The Institute of Social Studies is one of these academic institutions.

This paper is intended to sketch the backgrounds of these aspirations and why it is they are concentrated in the city of The Hague.

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I. Some Historical Background

The Hague

To Dutch standards The Hague is not a very old settlement. It is believed to date back some 750 years, when it was established by the then Count of Holland, William II (the designated emperor of the German Empire in these days, who died before he could be crowned). It was a hunting resort for the court of the Counts of Holland and they established facilities there to enable them to receive guests and do their business a medieval equivalent to today's American "Camp David" serving a somewhat smaller realm and less significant administration than that of the US Presidents today.

In those days cities such as Dordrecht, Delft and Haarlem were far more significant. In fact, The Hague only obtained the status of a "city" in Napoleon's days, the French emperor who ruled the Netherlands some time around 1800. The city housed the governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that was formed after the demise of Napoleon's empire, in 1813. It now also is the home own of the Dutch royal family. Formally, however, it is not the capital of the Netherlands: that status was and is Amsterdam's. Prior to the days of French domination, in the heydays of the then Republic of the Seven United Provinces of the Netherlands the first sovereign manifestation of what now is the Netherlands, it was the seat of the General Assembly (the "General States") of these united provinces, as well as the main administrative center of the most powerful of these provinces, Holland.

The Two Netherlands

For the purpose of this presentation in Korea, it may be of interest to go slightly deeper into the history of the Netherlands and The Hague. The counts of Holland established their domain in the Western part of the (now) Netherlands as an autonomous administrative unit shortly after the year 1000. Prior to that it had been a part of Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire and after his death it became part of the German Empire. It was located on the outposts or periphery of both, and had no real significance. After 1000 it became part of a set of Duchies, Bishoprics and Counties that

would later on, due to various circumstances and practices in feudal Europe, become a circle of mini-states and, in the 15th Century, a part of the Burgundian realm. Through marriage and succession that realm became part of the Habsburg Empire. The circle of mini-states in the North-West of Burgundy was referred to as the Low Countries, the Pays Bas, the Netherlands they were located downstream along the major rivers in or near Burgundy: Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt. The area more or less coincided with today's Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. By then they had become the economically most advanced part of Northwestern Europe, and one of the wealthiest parts of Europe as a whole.

The Northernmost of these countries liberated themselves from Habsburg rule in a war lasting 80 years, around the year 1600. This liberation struggle had many roots: a search for autonomy, freedom of taxation imposed for reasons beyond the interests of the Netherlands themselves, and religious conflicts then prevailing all over Europe. Ideologically, the struggle was presented as one in defense of liberties and privileges obtained earlier on, and as one in defense of religious tolerance. Already for about 100 years, there was a libertarian tendencies emerging in Northern Europe, critical of the hegemony of the Roman Catholic Church and its Rome-centered Papal hierarchy. The name of Erasmus is associated with that, to give one example. This tendency took on more radicalized forms in Chechia, France, Switzerland and parts of Germany, leading to the so-called Reformation which wished to establish in religious and intellectual independence of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. As said, this process got entangled with a search for political autonomy inspired by the economic position many of the Low Countries then had.

The Northern Netherlands formed a union of like-minded regions, "Provinces" as the Habsburg rulers managed to maintain themselves in the Southern parts. Thus, the Netherlands (existing as a somewhat coherent set of countries since only a century and a half) was split in a Northern half and a Southern half, somewhere around 1600. The Northern part obtained recognition as a sovereign state in the 1648 Westphalia Congress, settling the territorial and administrative structures in Northwestern Europe and formalizing the concept of sovereignty for the first time in modern Europe. Meanwhile, the "Republic" (as the Republic of the Seven United Provinces or Netherlands was called

for short), had been a *de facto* sovereign entity since the late 16th Century, under the General Assembly and its Secretary for administrative matters, and the House of Orange as its military leaders. The latter initially had no formal hereditary status they were appointed by the General Assembly and referred to as Lieutenants (“Stadhouders”) a title originally referring to the fact that the Burgundian and Habsburg rulers managed their affairs from their own capitals, and appointed lieutenants or governors in the peripheral parts of their realms: the Oranges started as such with William the Silent, in the last years before the Revolt, as the liberation war was called. The interesting element here is, that the Netherlands were split in two parts, later to become two (or even three, if one includes Luxemburg) countries.

After the establishment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1813 these two parts were united for a few years (the intention of the Vienna Conference establishing a new political order in Europe after Napoleon) but they split again. Now of course they are part of the European Union, and even have organized themselves in a small sub-unit to arrange several common affairs, referred to as “Benelux.”

Tradition of Tolerance

But we should return to the Netherlands as existed in the 17th Century. It was, certainly in relative terms, a tolerant society at very high levels of wealth and economic power. It then played a key role in the development of international law and was one of the cradles of democratic ideas and institutions. To mention one example, Hugo de Groot, or Grotius, developed the idea of the free and open sea. No doubt he did that in order to justify and even legitimize the creation of hegemony of the Dutch merchant operations worldwide and especially in European seas, but whatever his motives or those of the powers that financed his work, he did contribute significantly to modern international law. The tolerance of the Republic was manifest in that large numbers of religious and ideological refugees from all over Europe settled in its cities. Amongst these were Portuguese Jews, French and Belgian Protestants, and the top of European dissident intellectual life, such as the French philosopher Descartes. Even though he (as was the case with De Spinoza) did not dare publish all their ideas when they were still alive (as these ideas were sometimes too much even for the allegedly so tolerant Dutch

authorities) they did get printed after their deaths, and were circulated from the Netherlands over the rest of Europe. It has been observed by critical historians, that this famous Dutch tolerance of the day was enabled as much (if not more) by the economic advantages it entailed as by conviction, but the fact remains that the Republic emerged and evolved as a relatively safe haven for critical thinkers. Much of the Enlightenment in its philosophical as well as its technological aspects has been attributed to this intellectual climate by non-Dutch historians such as Israel¹⁾. This tolerance, and the associated freedom of thought and freedom in general, may be regarded as one of the elements in Dutch culture that has become an element in the foundations on which the notion of The Hague as the seat of international institutions in the fields of law and peace was built, centuries later.

There are other elements, no doubt. And, to be frank and fair, no doubt one could also picture the history of the Netherlands in less rosy terms than appears to have been done above.

To begin with the latter, parallel to this enlightened development of ideas (and perhaps underlying that process as emanating from it) was the expansion of economic activity by Dutch entrepreneurs and merchants worldwide. This brought the Netherlands into various kinds of trade (including that of spices with Southern and Eastern Asia, and that of African slaves with the Americas). Part of that history is the coming to Korean shores of the Dutch Captain Hamel in 1653, and that in itself was one manifestation of Dutch interests in trade with this part of the world as is manifested by similar contemporary contacts with Vietnam, China and Japan. In this part of the world the Dutch encountered developed political and economic powers stinger than what they themselves could set afloat. Elsewhere, they established colonies (such as in Indonesia) or at least dominating trading posts (such as in India). It is the historical encounter between the Dutch merchants and the Koreans that actually have triggered this conference in recognition of 350 years of contact.

1) See J.I. Israel: "The Dutch Republic: its Rise, Greatness, and Fall, 1477-1806", Clarendon Press, Oxford 1995, and especially J.I. Israel: "Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650-1750", Oxford University Press, Oxford 2000.

Tradition of Neutrality

To go back to the other, more positive elements I alluded to and that may help explain why The Hague is regarded as a city of peace and justice, I would like to dwell on some developments in Dutch international politics. Going back once again to Republican days in Dutch history, the period so extensively studied by the historian Israel, the Republic emerged as a significant economic power. On the continent it had worries in relation to some of the other major powers, such as France, and it needed to maintain an army or a system of alliances that would protect it from territorial aspirations abroad. On the seas it had hardly any competition but from the English. A series of wars evolved with Britain, and that required a large navy. Rich though the Republic was, its powers were limited by the size of the country, its economy and its population. It factually bled itself to bankruptcy in the 150 years after its Independence in 1648. On pragmatic grounds more than on any other, it developed an international policy based on the premises of non-intervention and neutrality in international conflicts, largely to save its own position and skin. In terms of its domestic policies it was torn by factional strife between the grass roots and elitist) Orangists (with, traditionally, an orientation on England) and the bourgeois "patriots" or Republicans (often oriented towards France, and more in with modern, Enlightenment-based thinking), which accounts for the fact that part of the population followed the French revolutionary developments at the end of the 18th Century. That, then, led to the establishment of the Batavian Republic in the Netherlands, in 1795, with the help of the French, and later to the establishment of the Kingdom of Holland, with a brother of Napoleon as king. And that subsequently led to the effective overtaking of the country by Napoleon I referred to above. This position of neutrality in international affairs was maintained after the creation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the House of Orange, in 1813. The country maintained that position through the first so-called World War and wanted to do so even when the Second World War started, in 1939/40. It was then occupied by Nazi-Germany, and only during and after that war it turned into an active contributor to the new North Atlantic Alliance with the US and Britain, and into one of the even pro-active constitutors of the new European Community. It did these things on a basis of firm internationalism, or multilateralism, focused on global institutions such as the United Nations and the economic multilateral institutions such as World Bank, IMF and GATT (now WTO).

The relatively long tradition of neutrality, coupled with the fact that in recent history (say, since 1800) the country did not have any claims to international status (nor could it have), and with some historical coincidence (such as links through marriage and otherwise between the Oranges and the Romanovs that ruled in Russia until the 1917 Revolution there), form the immediate backgrounds to the historical Conference of The Hague in 1899. And that event is now hailed as the birth of The Hague as the legal international "center" of the world.

II. The Hague Peace Conferences, 1899 and 1907²⁾

Peace conferences up till the 1899 one had been to end wars and establish agreed new post-war structures. The Westphalia Conference of 648 and the Vienna Conference of 1815 are examples of that. Toward the end of the 19th century Europe had a relatively peaceful period, but it had been a period of heavily armed peace: military budgets had been high and effectively stood in the way of the undertaking of other large scale development projects. The Russian Czar, Nicholas II felt it was time to see whether new agreements could be reached on customs of war and conflict prevention and resolution in order to release resources for other purposes, such as his plans for a Trans-Siberian rail link. The Czar wanted to have the conference in The Hague for reasons outlined above. One hundred diplomats from 24 countries (including China and Japan) met. Three Commissions were created: one on disarmament issues, one on rules and customs of war, one on peaceful dispute settlement (especially arbitration). The latter one of these was to make most of an impact: the former was not effective and hence the hopes of the organizer of the conference did not materialize.

But something did. A permanent Court of Arbitration was created in The Hague and established there in 1900. This can be regarded as the predecessor of the International Court of Justice (see below). The idea of a peace palace was launched in 1899, by one of the Russian delegates and the American millionaire Carnegie funded it. It was to become the residence of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and to house the Carnegie Library

2) This section and those that follow draw heavily on A. Eyffinger: "The Hague. International Centre of Justice and Peace" Jongbloed Law Booksellers, The Hague 2003.

of International Law.

Another important step was to call for a Second Hague Peace Conference to be held soon after the first. In reality this was postponed, due to the Anglo-Boer Wars in South Africa, and the Russo-Japanese War closer to where we are today. US President Roosevelt, who negotiated a peace between the Russians and Japan in 1905, was to call the second Peace Conference. It was held in The Hague in 1907. Interestingly, Korea demanded access to this second Peace Conference, but it was not admitted.

This second peace conference did not discuss disarmament. And it failed to make arbitration an obligatory process. On the whole there now was realism instead of the idealism that prevailed in the 1899 conference.

The legacy of these two conferences can be presented under 4 headings:

- Peaceful Dispute Settlement.
- International Humanitarian Law
- Disarmament, Peace Keeping, Conflict Prevention and Monitoring
- Academic Institution Building

I will briefly explore each of these fields.

1: Peaceful Dispute Settlement

Peaceful settlement of inter-state disputes began with the *Permanent Court of Arbitration* mentioned above. Now UN Charters and institutions have been constructed (vulnerable and imperfect though they still are, as witnessed by recent events in Western Asia) on their basis. The notion of arbitration was accepted for the first time (in modern history, that is) in 1899, at the first Hague Peace Conference. Conflicts it dealt with include one between the USA and Mexico over property in California and an Argentina-Chile boundary dispute. The PCA did not get to handle the Anglo-Boer conflict. It went into near-hibernation but rose again in the context of the Iran-USA claims following the occupation by Iran of the US embassy, in 1981.

The First World War was an experience that triggered the creation of the League of

Nations, the first multilateral institution of sorts. It was to be a "bulwark of peace" as the Covenant creating it stated in 1919. Even though it was President Wilson's child, the UA never became a member (and other big states like Russia/USSR did likewise). Yet, under the League, a *Permanent Court of International Justice* was established in 1922 the "World Court." During the period it operated (1922-1939) it dealt with a number of serious issues and developed into significant generator of case law.

After the Second World War, in 1945, the United Nations was established, and under it, as its principal judicial organ, the *International Court of Justice*. In 1946 it succeeded the previous Permanent Court, and was also located in The Hague. It settles disputes between states and gives advice on issues of law at the request of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN (and, under the authority of the General Assembly, of other organs of the UN). States are bound to accept verdicts of the Court. However, there is no instrument to enforce its rulings, as is the case with national courts. It has dealt with some 60 cases including boundary disputes and issues to do with the law of the sea.

2: *International Humanitarian Law*

The notion of an international penal court dates back to 1919 (Versailles Treaty) or 1920 (the preparation for PCIJ), and even to 1899 (with earlier suggestions as far back as the end of the 15th century). It has now come about (see below) and is established also in The Hague, but it had a series of predecessors, such as the *ad hoc* Nuremberg and Tokyo *Tribunals* of war criminals, and similar tribunals for genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The latter are based in The Hague and still in operation.

Since 1998 serious efforts were made to establish an *International Criminal Court*, also at The Hague. Finally, in 2002, the ICC came into formal existence and it became operational this year. It can deal with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and (eventually) crimes of aggression, to the extent that these will not be adequately dealt with in domestic courts. Not all countries accept ICC: the USA, China, Pakistan and several Arab countries refuse to co-operate. Despite its shortcomings and its being curtailed e.g. by bilateral agreements between the US and a number (23) of countries

precluding the transfer on American citizens to ICC, it must be regarded as potentially a major step forward in the formalization of the rule of law in the international arena.

These mechanisms have been regarded as the counterparts of regulation on human rights. Here reference can be made to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and the discussion on social economic and cultural rights, etc. Much of that discussion is a global phenomenon but in The Hague contributions towards it do not only emanate from the tribunals and courts mentioned, but also from the academic institutions to be discussed below. It is to be expected that in the years to come institutes such as ISS, Asser and others will develop a focus on that and call for dialogue to be undertaken on the platform for the development of international law that has been established in The Hague.

3: Disarmament, Peace Keeping, Conflict Prevention and Monitoring

Disarmament as a topic was what gave rise to the first The Hague conference on peace. It did not take off neither there and then, nor later. After 1945 in the UN-setting, it was effectively abandoned and replaced by the notion of "collective security" which more recently led to UN Peace Keeping operations.

Disarmament in a way came back on the agenda in the form of attempts to ban certain types of weapons or particular forms of use, such as in the case of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons etc. As one manifestation of this, one can see the *Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*, established in 1997, in The Hague. It is to monitor compliance by member states of the Chemical Weapons Convention to the stipulations of that convention. The organization now has approximately 150 member states, but that is far from the constituency it aims at having is it is to achieve its objective of eliminating this class of weapons of mass destruction.

A number of organizations relevant for peace keeping and conflict prevention must be mentioned here that have a regional (i.e. European) focus. Amongst these are:

- the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*: this organization itself is not based in The Hague, but one of its organs is: the *High*

Commissioner on National Minorities (see below):

- *Europol* (since 1998), the European support organization for law enforcement activities in its member states, with a focus on: terrorism, illegal immigration, trafficking in e.g. nuclear substances and drugs, etc:

- *Eurojust* (since 2000), an organization complementing Europol in the field of judicial co-operation.

OSCE³⁾ is the only pan-European peace organization and actually even more than just European. OSCE, operational since 1995, is the more permanent successor to the Conference on Security and Co-operation, often referred to as the Helsinki Process which was set in motion in 1975. Apart from European countries (including the Russian Federation) members include the USA, Canada and the Central Asian republics (55 countries in total). Its functions are to realize: (i) agreements in the area of international security, (ii) co-operation in economic, ecological, and technological aspects, (iii) realization of human rights. It now has the status of a regional organization of the UN. This organization, it is worth noting here in Korea, has played a major role in dialogue between socialist countries and the rest of the world before 1989, and the Helsinki process may be said to have had a large impact on the dynamics inside the formerly socialist parts of Europe before that year. Currently OSCE has some 18 activities throughout its region, especially in the Balkan.

The The Hague based office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities was created in 1992, in order to have a mechanism for monitoring developments related to the interests and rights of minorities in Europe (and with other member states) and to play a role primarily in the prevention of (ethnic) conflict. Despite the fact there are clear limitations to the powers of the HCNM, (s)he has an important role to play in contributing to the securing of human rights. So far the HCNM has been involved in issues emerging in the Ukraine, some of the Baltic republics, Hungary, Romania and other Central European countries, several Balkan countries and some of the Central Asian republics.

3) The sections that follow draw on a report to Dutch Government: "Nederland en de Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa in 2003: Rol en Richting" (The Netherlands and OSCE in 2003: Mission and Perspective). Advisory Council on International Affairs. The Hague 2003. Report Nr 26.

4: Academic Institution Building on International Law, Peace and Development

Activities such as those mentioned above are crucial in furthering the chances of peace and security, and the consolidation of the rule of law both domestically and internationally. They are necessary through not sufficient steps in these directions.

In order to: (1) monitor their operations and the impacts thereof, (2) to study their *modi operandi* and to develop more effective alternatives within the mandates of these mechanisms, and (3) develop proposals for appropriate step forward on the road towards full achievement of the objectives mentioned, a number of research functions can be specified.

In addition to that, in order to train and develop human resources capable of working in and through the institutions reviewed above, and to develop institutional capacities nationally and regionally to provide governance and management towards security, peace and the realization of human rights and sustainable development, educational facilities must be in place.

Neither of these activities (research, 'think tanking' and training) would have to take place at The Hague, but for various reasons (not elaborated upon here) it is fortuitous that in The Hague a capacity has developed to cater for at least part of these needs.

In order to carry out these activities fruitfully, there has to be a knowledge system providing the services and functions mentioned, in a multi- and sometimes interdisciplinary perspective broad enough to capture the most relevant dimensions of the driving forces underlying changes in security, human rights recognition, etc. That is, apart from capabilities to analyze (and feed into) the development of international law and the articulation of international agreements and the implementation thereof, there has to be a capability in adjacent academic fields such as International Political Economy, International Relations, and Social Science in general with a focus on transformation and change related to peace and the rule of law. This is unlikely to being provided by (international) law based faculties or institutions alone.

The Hague has no university of its own, but several important ones are very near by: Leiden University (with relevant expertise in law, social science (anthropology), public

administration and area studies (Asia, Latin America, Africa)); Utrecht University (human rights, conflict studies, anthropology); Amsterdam (both the University of Amsterdam and the Free University (international law, economics, political sciences); Rotterdam (Erasmus University) (law, economics). In fact, one of these universities (i.e. Leiden University) has a base in The Hague as well from where it provides education in law. Moreover, Leiden University maintains special links with one of the Hague based think tanks on international relations: the *Clingendael Institute* (see below). Utrecht University is indirectly represented through its partner in The Hague: the *Institute of Social Studies*. And all universities assembled form the board of one of the best known institutions in international law, the *Asser Institute* (see below). In addition, the Peace Palace developed its own facility for documentation and training, i.e. the *Hague Academy of International Law*.

In 2002 these institutes plus the Law Centre of Leiden University have established the *Hague Academic Coalition*; they, as well as the coalition itself will be presented below. I will take a chronological approach.

The Hague Academy of International Law

Suggested at the Second Peace Conference by a Swiss delegate, the Academy of International Law was established in The Hague in 1914, enabled by a donation out of the Nobel Prize by laureate Asser, a Hague based lawyer who had previously taken the initiative for the first international conference on Private International Law in 1893 and whose name would later become attached to the Asser Institute, the inter-university institute for doctoral studies in international law at The Hague.

Yet the operations of the Hague Academy could not start until years later as, later in 1914, the so-called First World War broke out.

The Academy began its work in 1923. Every summer hundreds of young lawyers and diplomats from all over the world receive training on Peace Palace premises; incidentally, many of them are accommodated in the accommodation available from the Institute of Social Studies.

The Institute of Social Studies

Founded in 1952 in a response (by Dutch Government and the universities) to the UN call for an effort in "development assistance" by industrialized countries to those in the South, the Institute of Social Studies has offered training, education, research, and consultation in social science based approaches to (understanding, stimulating and orientating) development and change (including, more recently, transition). It has done so in a multidisciplinary, issue-oriented, poly-paradigmatic and comparative way, from bases in economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences including international law. It educates at the postgraduate level and offers diploma, Masters and PhD training and supervision to students almost all from non-OECD countries (especially Africa and Asia). Some Koreans have studied at ISS as well. Other students from OECD countries originate from Japan, North America (including Mexico), Scandinavia. Its research and policy advice (and its contribution to the on-going international discourse on societal transformation and development) is done with an international staff experienced in policy relevant work *in situ*. Some of its strengths relevant to this presentation are in economic approaches to poverty eradication, the economics of peace and conflict, human rights (political as well as social, economic and cultural), international law and international organizations, international political economy and international relations.

The T.M.C. Asser Institute

Starting as a centre for research and documentation feeding the organizations mentioned above, as well as professional organizations' representations based in The Hague as well as practitioners of international law related disciplines, the Asser Institute was founded in 1965. It was the initiative of the combined law faculties at all Dutch universities and now is a focal point for (post-graduate) fundamental and applied research in public as well as private international law, European law and commercial arbitration.

Clingendael Institute

In 1983 the Clingendael Institute was established as a merger of several predecessors in the field of international relations. It now reorients itself to developing an interest in the

socio-economic challenges that are facing societies, from a global perspective. Clingendael tries to bridge the gap between academic research and application by practitioners, and it is involved in training diplomats. It also organizes seminars in international negotiation and provides training in negotiation skills.

Grotius Centre, Leiden University (at The Hague)

The *Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies* is a The Hague based centre of Leiden University, focussing on international law, established in 1999. It houses a variety of academic activities and programs. The purpose of the centre is the dissemination of knowledge through seminars and courses for professionals, the LL.M-program Public International Law, a pan-European Moot Court Competition, and yearly conferences and expert-meetings.

The Hague Academic Coalition (HAC)

HAC is the recently created network or platform of the academic institutions introduced above. Even though these institutions differ in terms of their missions (research, training, documentation) and target groups (professionals seeking to study new skills, students and practitioners in need of further basic education at the postgraduate level or as researchers, clients from the Netherlands, Europe or worldwide; etc) they operate in complementary ways on fields that are adjacent to one another and sometimes even overlap a bit. Each of them is relatively small the ISS being the biggest, with an academic staff of about 75. Together they represent a significant collection of human resources and information that the application and policy oriented institutions in the Hague can capitalise on. They do so increasingly. ISS, for instance, offers a series of public lectures attracting substantial numbers of interested staff from the other, academic and non-academic organisations and the international community in Holland at large. It also offers workshop/thinktank facilities.

HAC also wishes to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of its work in the areas relevant to the notion of The Hague as a city of peace and justice, by engaging in a number of joint activities:

1) HAC operates a broad website as a portal to developments and events related to issues in its fields, to be found at www.thehaguelegalcapital, which also provides links to the websites of the members of the consortium and to those of all organizations mentioned above⁴).

2) HAC is scheduling a series of annual conferences (beginning in 2004) under the overall heading of: "From Peace to Justice." The series is targeted at the international community of practitioners and academics in the fields of international law, international relations and social transformation, with reference to the concept of The Hague as legal capital, with a focus on the on-going peace and justice related activities in The Hague. HAC does so with an open attitude towards involving other organisations in these conferences, such as the United Nations University (Tokyo) and the University for Peace (Costa Rica), and other European institutions and organisations.

3) staff from the institutions in the HAC network contribute to the research and teaching of the other member organisations.

III. Some Concluding Observations

The city of The Hague is achieving international status as the home of many organizations in the fields of peace, justice, international law and relations. The origins of that date back to the The Hague Peace Conferences around the year 1900.

In fact, the city of The Hague was chosen to be the venue of these first real peace and justice oriented conferences for a combination of reasons, some rather incidental. But key features in the background of this choice were the traditions of The Netherlands as a

4) For convenience's sake, some of the more important ones are mentioned here: www.iss.nl (the Institute of Social Studies), www.hagueacademy.nl (Hague Academy for International Law), www.asser.nl (Asser Institute), www.clingendael.nl (Clingendael Institute), www.europol.eu.int, www.hcch.net (Hague Conference on Private International Law), www.osce.org (High Commissioner on National Minorities), www.icj-cij.org (International Court of Justice), www.un.org/icty (International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia), www.opcw.nl (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), www.pca-cpa.org (Permanent Court of Arbitration).

country with a profound interest in international law and a tradition of tolerance in the intellectual domain and neutrality in the political arena.

Out of these two conferences grew a number of activities in several fields, and in the process a number of institutions and organizations materialized many of them indeed based in The Hague. These fields were:

- Peaceful Dispute Settlement,
- International Humanitarian Law
- Disarmament, Peace Keeping, Conflict Prevention and Monitoring
- Academic work on international law, international relations and social change.

The organizations emerging in The Hague on each of these fields have been reviewed above.

There is much to be said for bringing together action and policy oriented institutions in any domain and academics reflecting on events and processes operative in those domains. This is true in particular for fields with such regional and international significance as international peace and justice.

The Hague is moving towards becoming the stage on which this is happening, and where one can see actors from both backgrounds (policy and academia) work out their own roles, *and* inter-act. The Hague also is a city where one can see how academics in the social sciences and humanities are actually beginning to get their act(s) together and play a more effective role accordingly.