



THE ONLY GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS

First Annual Tax Conference Paris

The first AIJA Annual Tax Conference will be held in Paris from Friday, November 16 through Saturday, November 17 2007. Michiel Groenland, Chairman of the Tax Law Commission, is one of the organizers.

Why starting an Annual AIJA Tax Conference?

Groenland: “There is a clear need for an event specifically geared towards tax lawyers. Until now the TLC has participated primarily in joint meetings for both civil and tax lawyers. Certainly very beneficial and something we will continue to do, but through the introduction of a 100% tax conference we are confident that we can attract more internationally-orientated young tax lawyers to AIJA This will then enable us to enhance the standard of the content of the seminars, whereby law firms will be more readily inclined to allow their young lawyers to attend.”

What does the TLC hope to achieve with the Annual Tax Conference?

“A conference such as this offers not only an excellent scientific program, but also a multitude of networking opportunities. We aim to reinforce the AIJA spirit and the network of young tax lawyers, but in order to do this it is essential to meet one another in person at least once a year. Our ultimate goal is to have several active TLC members in every country throughout the world.”

What does the program have to offer?

“We already have a number of guest speakers, including Peter Schonewille of the European Commission, who will be speaking on infringement procedures, and Caroline Silberztein of the OESO, speaking on the subject of transfer pricing. There is also a separate session planned, during which the participants will briefly outline significant tax developments in their home country that are of particular interest on an international scale.”

But the only focus is tax law?

“No, the conference is also clearly designed for networking. Careful thought has been given to the social program, very much in keeping with the AIJA tradition. Having access to a network of international contacts can be a tremendous asset. If stuck with a particular problem you can just pick up the phone or email fellow tax lawyers, who can probably come up with the answer in no time at all. A conference like this is the ideal occasion to renew old contacts and to make new ones. Your firm also reaps the benefit.”

And what is the benefit for AIJA?

“Firstly we anticipate that we will be able to actively involve more tax lawyers with AIJA, for example tax law colleagues of existing AIJA members. It will be easier to find tax lawyers willing to contribute to the various seminars and working sessions within AIJA. An added advantage is that the organizing committee can also use the opportunity to generate enthusiasm amongst the participants for the AIJA Conference in Paris in August 2008.”

Why Paris?

“Primarily because of its accessibility. We want to hold the conferences at locations that involve only a relatively short journey for the participants, in particular European participants. That is why we plan to start at midday on Friday, so that the morning can be used for travel. And naturally, Paris is a city with much to offer. The conference ends on Saturday after lunch, so those participants planning to stay for the weekend have plenty of time to visit a museum, shop or enjoy the sights of Paris. We have a list prepared with tips for the most interesting places to visit.”

But the conference location does not necessarily have to be in Europe?

“We have already had considerable interest from North and South America, so it is very likely we will be going there in the future. New York, for example.”

What will a tax lawyer miss if he is not in Paris on 16 November?

“A number of extremely interesting speakers on topics of significant appeal to international legal practices, and the perfect opportunity to make many new contacts.”

More information on: <http://www.aija.org/modules/events/index.php?id=204>

