Dear Friends of the Centre,

I should start with thanks and a clarification. Thanks to all those who wrote following the announcement in FTD 18 that Professor Marc Weller is taking over as Director. It was gratifying to read so many kind messages to both of us. The clarification is, however, important – I am not leaving the Centre, still less Cambridge. I will go on working from Cranmer Rd, teaching and writing, and helping Marc with his ideas for further development of the Centre’s work and publications.

The highlight of the summer was the ESIL Conference, about which more within. It was superlatively organized – which I can happily say since all the hard work was done by others – notably Anita Rutherford, Jean-Baptiste Fourcade, Tara Grant, Sarah Nouwen and Karen Fachechi and a band of hat-wearing helpers. A highlight was the Tuesday evening reception, sponsored by CUP, when nearly 400 people gathered on the LCIL garden – as many people as can ever have been there at any time, outdoing the 25th Anniversary event of 2008. The weather, fortunately, was beautiful. Academically the conference was also a considerable success; the Conference theme, a reappraisal of international law since the end of the Cold War, worked well. The keynote address by Andrew Hurrell is available on the website, and the selected proceedings, published by Richard Hart, will follow.

Finally, my thanks to all who have helped in development of the Centre since 1995, above all to Eli Lauterpacht whose continued interest and involvement as Director Emeritus has been invaluable.

James Crawford
September 2010
ESIL 2010 Report

On 2-4 September 2010, the Lauterpacht Centre hosted the 4th Biennial Conference of the European Society of International Law. The three-day conference saw over 350 international law experts gather in Cambridge to appraise the performance and direction of international law and international institutions from the end of the cold war to 2010 and beyond. The conference theme of ‘International Law 1989-2010: A Performance Appraisal’ looked at how international law has evolved over the 20 years following the fall of the Berlin Wall and assessed the work of international lawyers over that period. To that effect, the conference was structured in two plenary sessions, twelve Agora sessions, for which speakers were selected following a competitive call for papers (ca. 450 abstracts received) and of nine Fora sessions for which speakers had been invited.

Andrew Hurrell, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at Oxford University gave the keynote speech and Judge Xue Hanqin (recently appointed Judge of the ICJ), Sir Daniel Bethlehem (recently knighted former Lauterpacht Centre Director) and Professor Jutta Brunnee commented on his address, which paved the way for a most successful event.

The Centre’s gardens lent themselves perfectly to the evening drinks reception while our close neighbour Selwyn College hosted the formal dinner. We were extremely grateful to Cambridge University Press who sponsored the Evening Drinks reception and conference bags and to Oxford University Press for their sponsorship of the Friday Buffet lunch and conference lanyards.

Recordings of both the opening and closing plenary sessions, along with selected papers will be made available on the conference website (www.esil.law.cam.ac.uk). The conference proceedings will be published by Hart Publishing, following the practice of previous ESIL conferences.

Legally Bound!

Two Lauterpacht Centre Fellows have recently married. Deputy Director Dr Roger O’Keefe married Aurora Mateos in Rome on 11 September and British Academy Research Fellow Dr Michael Waibel married Darshini Manraj in Mauritius on 16 July. Congratulations to them all!

FCO Course 2010

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office International Law Course was again hosted by the Centre on 19-24 September 2010.

The week-long intensive international law course was chaired by Dame Audrey Glover CMG and the majority of participants were FCO diplomats. Course presenters included a number of members of the Centre and, as in previous years, the participants were warm in their praise for the Centre and the Course. This year’s after dinner speech was given by Leverhulme visiting Professor Dan Saxon.