HAGUE CONVENTIONS CONFERENCE CAPE TOWN 2019

2 TO 3 APRIL 2019

There will also be a conference on 2 and 3 April 2019 in Cape Town on the Hague Conventions and its application across Africa. The conventions that will *inter alia* be dealt with, will be reflections on the abduction convention of children, intercountry adoption convention, child protection convention, maintenance and other reciprocal conventions etc.

1. Various international speakers and interest groups are to be involved, for example, the idea is to involve the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the African Union, The African Court on Human and People's Rights, International Social Services (ISS), Law Societies across Africa, and so forth. For instance, Mikiko Otani who currently serves on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and who was instrumental in bringing the Hague Convention on the Abduction of Children into Japan, can come and tell of her experience.

2. The programme to be devised will include an exciting, varied and interactive mix of speeches by dignitaries and experts, discursive panels, workshops and country reports, role plays and exercises. All stakeholders (government functionaries, private sector and NGO) will have space to share best practice and expertise.

3. A preliminary list of topics programme is:-

- Opening Address and welcome speeches by and keynote dignitaries the hosts

- Reflections on the Abduction Convention in African Context (eg papers/discussions/panels on:

a) Habitual residence
b) Wrongful removal or retention
c) Child participation and legal representation
d) Defences to a prompt return applications)
e) Judicial education and liaison
f) Central Authorities
g) Non-convention countries
h) Implementation challenges

- Reflections on the Intercountry adoption Convention (eg workshops/panels/country reports on:-

a) Establishing adoptability and implementing the subsidiarity principle
b) Establishing suitability and the matching process

c) Private adoption and the orphanage link
d) Voluntourism in African context
e) Accredited bodies
f) Central Authorities and cooperation
g) Financial aspects of ICA: combatting unethical, coercive and illegal behaviour
h) Ensuring safeguards in adoption
i) Kafalah
j) post adoption monitoring

- Introduction to the Child Protection Convention
- Discussion/workshop on Children on the move in African context: what are the implications for private international law?
- Role of International Social Services to further child protection goals
- Ratification of the Hague Child Support Convention by African countries?
- Role of foreign affairs departments in Hague matters

- Other Conventions

Please let us know if you are interested in attending this conference. The costs will be reduced for African and South African attendees to USD100 per delegate.

Regards,

Zenobia du Toit and & Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen