Symposium in Honour of Prof. Dr. Horst Fischer

"The Future of International Humanitarian Law and the Role of (Young) IHL Professionals in Disseminating, Practicing and Ensuring Respect for IHL"

Date & Location

24 May 2023, 16:00-19:00 hrs., Campus Wijnhaven Den Haag, Lecture Hall 3.46, Leiden University

Tentative Program

Opening address by Prof. Carsten Stahn
On behalf of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden Law School

Panel A: Current Developments of IHL Against the Background of Modern Conflicts

Intervention A.1: The Return of International Armed Conflicts and the Implications for IHL Ms. Mireille Hector, LL.M., Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Intervention A.2 & A.3: New Technologies and IHL

Prof. Terry Gill, & Prof. Marten Zwanenburg, University of Amsterdam & Netherlands Defense Academy

Intervention A.4: The Role of IHL in the Ukraine/Russia Conflict

Dr. Jeroen van den Boogaard, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Intervention A.5: Recent Trends in Armed Conflict and a Seemingly Lost Belief in the Purpose of IHL: Does IHL Still Have Impact on the Battlefield?

Asst. Prof. Arjen Vermeer, LL.M., Netherlands Defence Academy

Comments by Expert Panel and Q & A Coffee Break (20 min)

Panel B: Perspectives for the Dissemination, Implementation and Enforcement of IHL

Intervention B.1: The Role of Customary International Law for the Development of IHL Dr. Heike Spieker, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance & German Red Cross

Intervention B.2: The Role of the ICRC Commentaries and the Development of IHL since 1949 Prof. Liesbeth Lijnzaad, Judge at ITLOS & Endowed Professor at Maastricht University

Intervention B.3: The Role of International Criminal Justice Regarding the Enforcement of IHL Assoc. Prof. Robert Heinsch, Leiden University

Intervention B.4: The Importance of IHL Dissemination to Civilians, Especially for University Students Mr. Bernard Dougherty, LL.M, Lecturer, European-University Viadrina & German Red Cross

Intervention B.5: The Role IHL Clinics Could Play in the Development of IHL Prof. Giulio Bartolini, Roma Tre University & Prof. Pierre Thielboerger, IFHV, Bochum University

Comments by Expert Panel and Q & A
Concluding Remarks by Assoc. Prof. Robert Heinsch & Prof. Horst Fischer