



South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights & International Law

NEWSLETTER *December 2007*

1. NEW STAFF & POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Redson Kapindu began work as the first Deputy Director of SAIFAC in November 2007. Redson joined SAIFAC from the Malawi Human Rights Commission, where he had been the Director of Legal Services. In addition to deputising for the Director, he will be pursuing a doctoral research project on the socio-economic rights of refugees.

In the same month, Sebastian Seedorf began a one-year contract at SAIFAC as Senior Researcher. Dr Seedorf's position is co-funded by the Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung, an agency of the German government that facilitates the placement of technical experts in developing countries. During his time at SAIFAC, Dr Seedorf will research current developments in German constitutional law of relevance to South Africa.

The vacant place on SAIFAC's LLM Studentship Programme for 2008 has been awarded to Ngwako Raboshakga, an LLB graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand. Ngwako has spent the last year clerking for Justice Bess Nkabinde of the Constitutional Court. He will commence his coursework LLM in constitutional and administrative law at Wits in February 2008.

2. PUBLIC SEMINARS

A number of visiting academics presented public seminars at SAIFAC during the second half of 2007:

In August, Professor Heidi Puttler of the Ruhr University, Bochum, presented a seminar on 'The Future of the European Constitution'.

In September, Dr Liora Lazarus, a Lecturer in Human Rights and Fellow of St. Anne's College, Oxford, presented a seminar on the right to security in international and comparative constitutional law. The seminar was based on her book, *Security and Human Rights* (co-edited with Benjamin J. Goold). For more about this book, visit www.hartpub.co.uk/books/details.asp?isbn=9781841136080.

In November, Iain Benson, Executive Director, Centre for Cultural Renewal, Ottawa, presented a seminar on 'Re-understanding the Secular and Secularism: A New Paradigm Shift for Beliefs and Culture – Reflections from Canada'. [Download copy of paper here.](#)

Also in November, Professor Kenneth Norrie of Strathclyde University Law School presented a seminar on 'South Africa's Civil Union Act 2006: Reflections of a Bemused Outsider'.

3. PUBLIC EVENTS

July 2007 was the occasion for two public events in which SAIFAC staff and Board members were centrally involved.



Sebastian Seedorf

ON THE SAIFAC SITE:

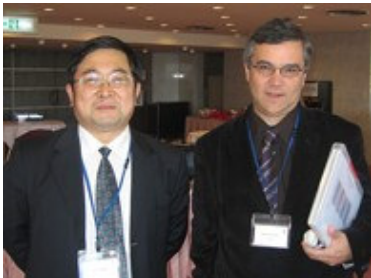
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APPLICATIONS:

SAIFAC's
Sabbatical Programme.



Justice Mzikamanda and Theunis Roux



Professors Mo Jihong (China)
and Javier Couso (Chile)
Yokohama Roundtable



Yokohama skyline



Yokohama skyline



Yokohama skyline

The first was a conference in honour of Emeritus Justice Laurie Ackermann, founder and Chairman of SAIFAC, which was organized by the University of Cape Town. [Download copy of conference programme here.](#) As part of the conference, SAIFAC's Director, Theunis Roux, presented a paper on 'The Dignity of Comparative Law'. [Download copy of paper here.](#)

Shortly thereafter, SAIFAC Senior Researcher David Bilchitz's book on ***Poverty and Fundamental Rights*** was launched at a function held in the Constitutional Court foyer. Published by Oxford University Press, the book focuses on the moral justification for, and judicial enforcement of, socio-economic rights, with particular reference to South Africa. Guest speakers at the event included Justice Edwin Cameron of the Supreme Court of Appeal and Theunis Roux. [Download copies of their speeches here](#) and [here](#). To order the book, visit www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199204915.

4. RESEARCH SABBATICAL PROGRAMME FOR JUDGES & ACADEMICS

In July, Sabbatical Fellow Professor Loretta Feris of the University of Pretoria completed her research paper on 'Constitutional Environmental Rights: An Underutilised Resource'. [Download copy of paper here.](#)

Justice Rizine Mzikamanda of the Malawi High Court completed his research paper on 'The Place of the Independence of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Democratic Sub-Saharan Africa' in November. [Download copy of paper here.](#)

5. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

In November, Theunis Roux attended an IACL Round table conference on ***Writing and Reading Constitutions: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Japanese Constitution***, in Yokohama. As part of the conference, he presented a paper on 'Principle and Pragmatism on the Constitutional Court of South Africa'. [Download copy of paper here.](#)

6. CONSTITUTIONAL COURT REVIEW

In conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, SAIFAC is pleased to announce the launch of a new, once-a-year journal, the ***Constitutional Court Review***. Published by the Pretoria University of Law Press, the journal will be devoted to analysing the judgments of the Constitutional Court in the year preceding publication. The inaugural issue, devoted to the Court's 2007 term, will appear in the second half of 2008.

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