



PRESS RELEASE
Friday 22nd June, 2012

International Conference
**10th Anniversary of the International Criminal Court:
Achievements to Date and Prospects for the Future**

On 21 June the British Institute of International and Comparative Law held a conference on international criminal justice in co-operation with the University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Temple Garden Chambers.

The event brought together 25 distinguished speakers with expertise in international criminal law and more than 100 delegates to mark the 10th anniversary of the creation of the International Criminal Court on 1 July 2012. The program included theoretical and practical perspectives on the achievements of the court in its first decade and reflected on prospects for the future. Participants, including legal practitioners, ICC staff, NGOs, members of the academic community, and government representatives, engaged in constructive debates which provided many insights and suggestions for the Court on how to move forward.

This international conference occurred at a critical juncture in the Court's life when it is faced with many pertinent issues such as:

- criteria for referrals of cases by States Parties to the Rome Statute and by the UN Security Council to the Court;
- efficient functioning of the Office of the Prosecutor;
- the issue of complementarity between domestic criminal law systems and the ICC;
- participation of victims in the Court's proceedings and providing reparation for them.

The conference was opened by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Henry Bellingham MP in a speech which underlined the importance of the ICC for the rule of law in the international community. In a key-note speech, Professor William Schabas provided a comprehensive overview of topical questions ranging from the genesis of the ICC to its current functioning. The Attorney General, Dominic Grieve MP QC, then introduced Sir Adrian Fulford, a former judge at the ICC, who closed the conference with an address in which he shared his own experience as an international criminal judge and proposed a number of useful suggestions on how to improve the future functioning of the Court, in particular with relation to the role of the pre-trial chamber and more efficient ways of collecting evidence.

Link to an opening speech by Minister Bellingham: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=778932082>