

Emmanuel Tawil (Lyons), Richard Puza (Tübingen), Stefan Messmann, Andras Sajó and Balás Schanda (Budapest), Tore Lindholm (Oslo), Zoila Solis (Zaragoza), Murat Özsunay (Istanbul), and Mark Hill and Jon Heard (Cardiff).

The exchanges were lively and forcefully argued, informed to a large degree by the ramifications for the European Union were Turkey to be admitted to membership. There was widespread criticism of the approach of the European Court of Human Rights in *Leyla Sahin v Turkey* (Application 44774/98, Judgment 29 June 2004) which seems to afford an excessive margin of appreciation to the Turkish State in its prohibition on Muslim dress in universities. This decision is to be reconsidered by the Grand Chamber and it is hoped that a better judgment might emerge. The approach in Strasbourg is bound to inform the decision of the House of Lords in *R (Begum) v Headteacher and Governors of Denbigh High School* [2004] EWHC 1389, 8 Ecc LJ 113 (Muslim dress in schools), for which permission to appeal was recently granted.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN LAW AND RELIGION

SIENA, 28 AUGUST – 4 SEPTEMBER 2005

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The Law and Religion Programme at the University of Siena, designed to explore both the legal dimension of religion and the religious dimension of law with a multi-disciplinary interaction of methods and ideas, started in 2000 as an initiative of the Department of Public Law. Since then, the Programme has been holding a series of lectures, seminars and courses and five issues of *Daimon* (Yearbook of Comparative Religious Laws) have been published.

In 2005 the Law and Religion Programme launched a post-graduate Summer School in Law and Religion. Challenging the limitations of a single national and/or religious approach to the subject the School provided an open forum where students and teachers from various backgrounds (as a matter of geography, knowledge and ideas) met to dispute, discover differences and look for a common language. One of the main goals of the Summer School was to acquaint participants with the interaction between the social, religious, legal and ethical backgrounds of different topics. International law and public and private law, but also theological, social and political sciences were embraced, the Summer School being modelled on the classical ideal of *Universitas* as a 'community of scholars'. The role of religion in public policy, the reasons for a comparative law of religions,

the protection of religious freedom on the international level, Islam and democracy, and biological regulation were amongst the subjects covered. Linked to the Law and Religion Programme, the University of Siena has created a new centre with specific courses on the law of biotechnologies (see www.biola.w.it).

The aim of the Summer School was to contribute to the creation of a meaningful international community for the study of Law and Religion. We believe that intense dialogue between young researchers coming from different countries and working in the same field represents a first step in the building of cross-national research networks that will continue their co-operation beyond the end of the Summer School.

At the first convening of the School, which took place in Siena from 28 August to 4 September 2005, about thirty students coming from different countries worked together with several experts sharing experiences on the issue of law and religion around the globe. Full details can be obtained from the School's website at www.unisi.it/lawrel/school. The second Summer School will take place in Siena from 27 August to 2 September 2006.

CHURCH AND STATE TOWARDS PROTECTION OF FREEDOM AND BELIEF

TOKYO, 2–4 SEPTEMBER 2005

MARK HILL

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The Japanese Association of Comparative Constitutional Law, under the leadership of the distinguished Professor Hiroaki Kokayashi, ably assisted by Professor Eiichiro Takahata, both of Nihon University, devoted its Third International Conference to the subject of the differing approaches of Church and State to the protection of freedom and belief. In doing so they brought together distinguished scholars from throughout the world in the magnificent new auditorium at Waseda University. The conference, spread over three days, addressed three distinct subjects. The first session began with a stimulating commemorative speech by the Japanese Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, followed by papers by Professors Makoto Ohishi (Kyoto University) and Akira Momochi (Nihon University). The former touched on the renaissance of religion whereas the latter was a highly informative description of the relationship between the State and Religious Communities under the Constitution of Japan. This coincided with the culmination of five years work by the Research Commission of the Constitution, whose report was presented to the National Diet of Japan in April 2005.