ILO Fundamental Labour Rights in China: Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic

Practical Information
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WELCOME!

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2nd research seminar organized by the Academy of Finland research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic”! The seminar will be held on 16-17 January 2014 in Helsinki, Finland.

Thank you for the interest you have shown for our seminar and research project. We wish that throughout the conference, as well as for the future, you will stay engaged. We hope that these two days of interesting, challenging and educational exchange will be a starting point for future collaborations which will shape the future of research on Labour Law in China.

Yours sincerely,

The Organizers

Contact Information

Alice Neffe
Coordinator
Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki
P.O. Box 4
FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland
Tel. +358-9-191 22820; Mobile: +358-5-03199620
alice.neffe@helsinki.fi
http://www.helsinki.fi/ilostandardsinchina/home.html
http://www.helsinki.fi/chinalawcenter
Academy of Finland research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic”

The “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” research project examines the implementation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions in China. The Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted by the member states of the ILO in 1998, provides for the prohibition of child labour, discrimination and forced labour as well as the freedom of association and collective bargaining as fundamental rights at work. China, an original member of the ILO since 1919, has ratified four out of eight ILO core conventions enshrining fundamental principles and rights at work.

China’s legal reforms have been closely related to its economic development. The first Labour Law, enacted in 1994, aimed to facilitate economic reform and transformation towards a market economy. More recent labour law reforms, leading to the adoption of three major labour laws in 2007, have reflected a growing concern with the social needs of workers as well as popular demands for the implementation of greater workplace democracy. At the same time, China’s labour law reforms stand in a dynamic relationship to international labor practices. While domestic reforms in China have facilitated the ratification of five ILO conventions since 2002, it remains a question to what extent the ILO Conventions have continued to influence the development of labour law in China and to what extent international labour standards are implemented in Chinese law and practice, especially considering China’s multi-layered administrative structure and the incentives for local governments to attract foreign investment.

The research project seeks to improve our understanding of the structural forces that influence the implementation of the ILO core conventions in China. The project analyzes the local cultural logics that inform the implementation of core labour standards and maps the roles of different actors in this process. Existing and emerging practices that can play a positive role in enforcement of law are also identified. The objective of the project is to sketch a blueprint for a Chinese legal architecture that will be able to implement the ILO core labour standards effectively. In addition to its substantive conclusion, the project will make an important contribution to comparative law methodology and theory, and to our understanding of how international legal standards are implemented at the national level.

The project is a collective effort that draws on the distinctive but complementary expertise of the team members of different fields. The project combines expertise from international law, labour law, comparative law, social anthropology and Chinese law. The project has strong international connections and cooperates with several partners in China, Europe and the US.

For more information, please visit the project website.
OUR PARTNERS

University of Helsinki

The University of Helsinki is one of the best multidisciplinary research universities in the world. The high-quality research carried out by the university creates new knowledge for educating diverse specialists in various fields, and for utilization in social decision-making and the business sector.

The university, with almost 4,000 researchers and teachers, operates on four campuses in Helsinki and at 17 other locations. There are 35,000 students, and a further 30,000 participate in adult education.

Founded in 1640, the University of Helsinki wants to strengthen its position among the world's leading multidisciplinary research universities and to actively promote the well-being of humanity and a fair society.

The University of Helsinki has the widest range of disciplines in Finland. It was established in Turku in 1640, but was transferred to Helsinki in 1828. The number of faculties is eleven. There are 37,000 degree students and 8,700 staff. The number of degrees taken each year is an average 5,000, of which about 500 are doctorates.

The University concentrates on high-level scientific research and researcher education. Scientific research is also the basis of the teaching provided by the University. The University operations support the development of society, as well as business and industry. University representatives offer their competencies for the benefit of society through a number of positions of trust and expertise.

The results produced by the research and teaching carried out at the University have been widely acclaimed. The University participates in more than half of the national Centres of Excellence in Research, elected by international scientific panels. The University of Helsinki has been invited to be a member of the League of European Research Universities, a co-operation body for the leading European research universities. According to international expert panels, also the teaching provided by the University of Helsinki is of a high European level.

The University has strong international connections. It has some 80 co-operation agreements with universities on different continents. The University researchers are in great demand as experts in international scientific communities, meetings and publications.

The University is bilingual, but in addition to Finnish and Swedish teaching is also provided in English. Besides Helsinki, the University has operations at 20 localities throughout Finland.

For more information, please visit the University Website.
Faculty of Law

Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki is the leading Finnish provider of education in law. The instruction offered by the faculty is based on topical research of the highest standards. Graduates are capable of carrying out demanding assignments that require national and international legal expertise. The Faculty of Law interacts closely with the rest of the society in producing versatile educational and expert services.

The Faculty of Law in Helsinki consists of 39 professors, 8 university lecturers and 21 research assistants. Since the faculty has national responsibility for legal education in Swedish, three professorships and a few other positions are reserved for Swedish-speaking personnel. The Institute of International Economic Law supervises ca 20 researchers and the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights ca 25 researchers. The faculty hosts also a Center of Excellence Foundations of European Law Polity Research as well as several Graduate Schools: Law in a Changing World (LCW), Foundations of European Law and Innovation Incentives and the Regulatory Infrastructure (INNOCENT).

There are more about 2,400 law students at the University of Helsinki. As law is one of the most popular fields of academic study, the annual intake is limited to approximately 16-18 per cent of the applicants. Admission is based on the results of the matriculation examinations and an entrance examination. On average, 240 students graduate each year.

Partly due to the growing importance of the international aspects of law, the number of postgraduate students has been increasing rapidly and presently exceeds 400. The faculty is also hosting an ever growing number of international students, mainly owing to the Erasmus exchange programmes.

The faculty consists of 25 disciplines: fiscal law, public international law, administrative law, constitutional law, legal theory, legal history, law and economics, sociology of law, legal informatics, private international law, comparative law, European law, criminal law, procedural law, medical and bio law, feminist jurisprudence, property law, commercial law, family and inheritance law, law of obligations, labour law, as well as land, water and environmental law.

For more information, please visit the Faculty Website.
The Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture, established by seven universities and the National Research Institute of Legal Policy, is an institution that promotes research and education in Chinese law and Chinese legal culture.

The academic strength of the Center is founded on the synergy of combining research and education conducted by its members and of their strong connections with Chinese universities and research institutions. The Center brings together the activities of the research projects on Chinese law and legal culture among its members and hosts an academic event series each semester. It also supports students’ education in the field by expanding the number of courses in Chinese law and legal culture; facilitating student exchange programs and hosting various academic activities and events under the auspices of the Center. In these ways, the Centre fosters mutual understanding between the Chinese and Finnish legal systems not only among students and academics, but also among legal practitioners and the wider community in the countries.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Center is to develop and coordinate research and education on Chinese law and legal culture in Finland. To that end the Center aims to provide and facilitate the circulation of high-quality research, education and expertise on Chinese law and legal culture among its members. In addition, the Center also strives to support the rule of law development in China through sharing Finnish, Nordic and European law and make it better known in China. This supportive exchange being however both ways, the purpose of maintaining comparative research with China is to learn from our Chinese partners more about their legal experience and solutions to the global and local challenges.

To promote its central objective, the Center maintains contact with various stake-holders in Finland and China, including business, as it conducts academic activities and carries out research in China. In addition, the Center networks China law studies in Nordic countries, the broader European academic community and on the international level.

A further objective of the Center is to actively support projects of students at the member universities who are interested in Chinese law. In order to achieve this goal, the Center designs educational cooperation that provides students with courses and study modules relevant to Chinese law and legal culture.

The Center aims to develop in the near future also practical and relevant working relationship with Finnish industry and business.

For more information, please visit the Center Website.
PROGRAM

ILO FUNDAMENTAL LABOUR RIGHTS IN CHINA: LEGAL IMPLEMENTATION AND CULTURAL LOGIC

2nd research seminar, University of Helsinki
16-17 January 2014
Unioninkatu 33, Helsinki, Finland

16 January 2014

8:45 – 9:15 Registration and coffee
9:15 – 9:30 Opening of the seminar

KIMMO NUOTIO, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki
ULLA LIUKKUNEN, Professor, University of Helsinki / Director of the Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture

9:30 – 11:15 Session I Setting the Scene

- XIE ZENGYI, Associate Professor, Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: “Legal Institutions and the Implementation of Labour Law in China”
- KARI TAPIOLA, Special Adviser to the Director-General, International Labour Organization: “How Far Can Transition Be Managed?”

Comments by DANIEL FUCHS, Doctoral Candidate, University of Vienna.

11:15 – 11:30 Tea and Coffee

11:30 – 13:30 Session II Gender Questions in the Implementation of Labour Standards

- YE JINGYI, Professor and Director of Labour Law and Social Security Law Institute, Peking University Law School: “The Development of Chinese Anti-discrimination Principles in Employment Law: From the Perspective of Gender Equality”
- XUE NINGLAN, Professor and Director for the Social Laws Department, Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: “Chinese Legislation on Sexual Harassment at Work and Its Implementation”

Comments by JOHANNA NIEMI, Professor, University of Helsinki.
Comments by WEI QIAN, Post-doctoral Researcher, Peking University.
13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30 –16:15 **Session III**  *Economy, Legal Implementation and the Workplace*

- RONALD C. BROWN, Professor, University of Hawaii: “China: Implementing ILO Standards by BITs and Pieces (within FTAs)”

Comments by VIRGINIA B. GOMES, Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Senior Social Policy Adviser, Ministry for Social Security and Solidarity, Portugal

17:00 – 19:00 **Reception: Book launch**
Roger Blanpain (general ed.), Ulla Liukkunen and Yifeng Chen (volume eds.), *China and ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights in Work*, 86 Bulletin of Comparative Labour Relations, Kluwer, 2014. (Lehtisali; Porthania Building, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki; 2nd floor)

### 17 January 2014

9:00 – 9:15 **Coffee**

9:15 – 11:45 **Session IV**  *Cultural Logic: Past and Present*

- ALAN C. NEAL, Professor, University of Warrick School of Law: “Cross-Currents in Modern Chinese Labour Law”
- CHEN YIFENG, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki: “ILO, Extraterritoriality and Implementing Labour Laws in Republican Shanghai”
- TEEMU RUSKOLA, Professor, Emory Law School: “Political and Moral Economies of Workplace Regulation”

Comments by JARNA PETMAN, Senior Lecturer (professor ad interim) in International Law, University of Helsinki / Member of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe.

Closing of the Seminar

11:45-12:30 Lunch
VENUE

The venue of the research seminar “ILO Fundamental Labour Rights in China: Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic” are the Banquet Hall on Unioninkatu, situated in the city center of Helsinki, Finland.

In 1848, the building has been designed by E.B. Lohrmann, a student of C.L. Engel student. Originally, the building was accommodating a new clinic that would formed a medical complex together with the old clinic and the internal medicine clinic built on the opposite side of the street.

Once completed, the clinic counted only 30 patient places, but during the 1900s, about a hundred. The clinic marked the starting point of free health care in Finland.

In 1980, the ownership was transferred to the Bank of Finland, which renovated the building to its current form in cooperation with the National Board of Antiquities. The venue has been used as Bank of Finland’s facilities until 2005. The facilities are currently owned by the University of Helsinki.

Getting there:

The Banquet Hall is situated in Helsinki city center at the address Unioninkatu 33.

The venue is located within a walking distance from the recommended hotels as well as from other accommodation alternatives and places of tourist interest.

Book Launch Reception

Please note that the book launch reception will take place at a different location. The reception on Thursday 16 January 2014 will be held at the Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki. Please refer to the map below indicating the route from the conference venue (A) to the reception venue (B).
ACCOMMODATION

Conference participants are kindly asked to make their own arrangements for accommodation. We recommend that all accommodation be chosen within the area of Helsinki city centre.

The recommended hotels are situated within walking distance from the conference venue and the railway station (where the airport buses arrive).

Information about other accommodation alternatives is available here.

Recommended Hotels

Sokos Hotel Helsinki ****

Honest, easy-going and a favourite with staying power, Original Sokos Hotel Helsinki is located on the pulse of the city, between Ateneum Art Museum and Senate Square in the centre of the capital with its busy shopping area. All hotel rooms have a youthful Scandinavian theme. Its cosy Fransmanni and Memphis restaurants serve a versatile menu in a relaxed atmosphere. Customers can use the newly opened EasyFit gym, for a low-price charge. On the highest storey, above the rooftops of Helsinki, you'll find cosy sauna facilities for the enjoyment of business travellers and holidaymakers alike. You can't get any closer to the heart of Helsinki than this.

Contact details:
Kluuvikatu 8, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 (0)20 1234 601
Fax: +358 (0)9 176 014
E-mail: hotelhelsinki.helsinki@sokoshotels.fi
WWW: https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/helsinki/sokos-hotel-helsinki?
Sokos Hotel Presidentti ****

Recently completely refurbished, the Sokos Hotel Presidentti is located next to the Kamppi shopping mall, in the heart of Helsinki, next to a wealth of culture attractions and the best shopping in town. The extensive refurbishing of rooms and restaurant facilities was completed in the spring of 2007. The hotel houses 12 meeting rooms accommodating 10–370 persons in varying configurations. Most meeting rooms boast individual air conditioning. The meeting equipment varies according to the needs of the respective meeting; besides the basic equipment a multimedia projector is available.

Contact details:
Eteläinen Rautatiekatu 4, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 (0)20 1234 600
Fax: +358 (0)20 1234 640
E-mail: sokos.hotels@sok.fi
WWW: www.sokoshotels.fi/en/hotels/helsinki/presidentti/

Hotel Seurahuone Helsinki ****

The Hotel Seurahuone Helsinki is a high class hotel in the heart of Helsinki. Historically over 170 years old Seurahuone is one of the most traditional hotels in Finland. The hotel's 118 stylishly decorated rooms feature individual alternatives; Standard Single, Standard Double and Seurahuone Club classes as well as four Junior Suites. The hotel's Banquet Floor offers an exceptional venue with traditional setting coupled with high-quality and modern service.

Contact details:
Kaivokatu 12, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 69 141
Fax: +358 9 691 4010
E-mail: helsinki.seurahuone@restel.fi
WWW: www.hotelliseurahuone.fi

Cumulus Kaisaniemi ***

The cosy Cumulus Kaisaniemi is located in the heart of Helsinki. There is an underground station right next to the hotel giving you easy access to other parts of the city.

Contact details:
Kaisaniemenkatu 7, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 (0)9 172 881
Fax:+358 (0)9 605 379
E-mail: kaisaniemi.cumulus@restel.fi
WWW: cumulus.fi/hotellit/kaisaniemi/en_GB/kaisaniemi/

Hotel Helka ***

The Helka Hotel is a theme hotel of Finnish Design and Nature. The bright and spacious rooms are furnished with products from Artek and Finnish top designers. Themes from design and nature are present everywhere: in furnishing, service, food and music. Helka has served its guests in the heart
of Helsinki since 1928. Renovated in 2006 and located in the heart of Helsinki, the Helka Hotel is conveniently close to the main railway station the airport bus terminal and the long distance coach terminal, but equally important it is very near the shopping district and other attractions for the visitor.

Contact details:
Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 23 A, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 (0)9-613580
Fax: +358 (0)9-441087
E-mail: reservations@helka.fi
WWW:http://www.helka.fi/en

TRAVEL VISA

In case you need a supporting letter for the issuance of a visa for Finland, please contact the conference secretary Ms Alice Neffe (alice.neffe@helsinki.fi). In order to be able to prepare a supporting letter, we need your arrival and departure dates and a copy of the page of your passport containing personal information (name, date of birth, passport number, date of issue and date of expiry) and the exact address where the letter should be sent.

HEALTH INSURANCE

It is the responsibility of the participants to have a valid health and accident insurance for the duration of their stay in Finland. EU nationals need a photocopy of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by their national social security institution. The Card entitles you to reduced-cost and sometimes free medical treatment anywhere in the EU. Participants from countries that do not issue this card will need to request an E-111 form from their national social security authority. Non-EU students will need a photocopy of their private health and accident insurance covering their period of duration of the programme.

Emergency telephone numbers

General emergencies 112
Police 112
Ambulance and fire 112

Hospitals

24-hour service
Haartman Hospital
Haartmaninkatu 4
tel. +358 (0)9 310 63231/emergency duty or +358 (0)9 310 5018/exchange

Mehiläinen Töölö (private hospital)
ARRIVAL IN HELSINKI

Helsinki can easily be reached from anywhere in the world. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport is the main airport of Finland. The airport is situated 19 kilometers from the centre of Helsinki. Helsinki can also be reached by train (daily trains from Moscow and Saint Petersburg), bus or ferry (from Estonia, Sweden, Russia, Germany).

Airport transport

The public transportation operator serves the route Airport – Helsinki City Centre with bus number 615. The bus departs from the International Flights Terminal bay 21. The journey takes about 35 minutes and costs 4.50 € (regional ticket). The terminus is Helsinki Central Railway Station. The timetable can be found [here](#).

Helsinki-Vantaa Airport is also served by Finnair City buses with connections to the centre of Helsinki every 20 minutes. The bus departs from the International Flights Terminal bay 10. The journey takes about 30 minutes and costs 6,20 €. The schedule can be find [here](#).

Taxis are always available at the airport. The fare to the city will vary depending on time of day, number of passengers and distance, but the minimum price is 20 to 30 €. It is also possible to order special Airport Taxis (yellow minibuses), which are shared by several passengers and are therefore considerably cheaper than regular taxis. The price depends on the total number of passengers going to the same destination. Taxis can be ordered at the company’s service point at the airport.

Public transportation in Helsinki

The conference takes place in the city center. Public transport is easy to use in Helsinki, even if you are not familiar with the city. Public transportation includes buses, trams and metro as well as commuter trains and the ferry to Suomenlinna. The journey planner is a helpful tool to find the shortest and/or the most convenient route while moving around the city of Helsinki.

In the public transport system you can travel with single tickets (Helsinki internal or regional) or with a tourist ticket (Helsinki internal or regional). Single tickets can be purchased from the driver and from ticket machines. A Helsinki internal ticket costs 2.70 € from the driver and 2.20 € from a machine. The Tourist Ticket is available for unlimited use on public transport (metro, train, tram, bus, ferry service) for 1, 3, or 5 days and costs from 7 to 21 €. Paper Tourist tickets (valid from the moment of purchase) can be purchased from various places e.g. ticket machines, drivers and
conductors. Prepaid Tourist Tickets (valid from the time they are first used) are sold e.g. Helsinki City Transport service point at the Central Railway Station. For more information, please read here.

**Taxis**

Taxis are easy to hail in the city centre except during the busiest periods. Taxi stands are conveniently located throughout the centre.

*Taksi-Helsinki*

Tel. +358 (0)100 0700 (1,15€/call +0,08€/10 seconds + local call charge)

*Airport Taxi Yellow Line*

Tel. +358 (0)600 555 555 (1,25 €/call+local call charge) From airport to city centre with special price.

*Seaport Express*

Tel. +358 (0)9 2316 5070 (local call charge). From harbours to city centre with special price.

*Lähitaksi*

Tel. +358 (0)100 7300 (0,984€/call+0,082€ /10 seconds +local call charge)

**CULTURAL INFORMATION**

*Helsinki*

Finland, a member of the European Union since 1995, has about 5.2 million inhabitants and is one of the largest countries in Europe by area. Approximately two-thirds of the country's surface area is forest, and there are nearly 200 000 lakes. The capital city is Helsinki.

The town of Helsinki was founded in 1550 by King Gustav Vasa of Sweden and has been the capital of Finland since 1812. The architecture and the culture of the city were both influenced by the East and the West.

More than one-fifth of the country's population lives in the Helsinki area. It is easy and safe to get around the capital. Helsinki is located by the sea, and the nature is near, even in the middle of Helsinki, as over thirty per cent of the city is devoted to landscaped parks.

Read more...


**Attractions**

Helsinki offers lots to see, do and experience. Here are just a few examples:

Helsinki Cathedral and Senate Square

Suomenlinna Sea Fortress – UNESCO World Heritage Site

Temppeliaukio Church
Helsinki is a city with four distinct seasons. The moderate weather is influenced by both maritime and continental climate patterns. In winter, the mean temperature remains below 0°C, but warm airflows can raise the daily high above 0°C at times. Winter usually begins in mid-October in Lapland, though not until December in the southwestern archipelago. The sea and large lakes slow down the progress of winter. Winter is the longest season in Finland, lasting for about 100 days in southwestern Finland and 200 days in Lapland.

All official congress prices are indicated in Euro (€), which is also the official currency in Finland. All major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

You can withdraw cash using your credit or bankcard at ATMs marked “Otto”. The following cards are accepted: VISA, VISAplus, VISAelectron, Eurocard, Mastercard, Cirrus and Eurocheque.

The mother tongue of nearly ninety per cent of the city’s inhabitants is Finnish. Some seven per cent are native speakers of the country’s other official language, Swedish. A high percentage of the population speak excellent English as their second language.

Helsinki boasts many excellent restaurants where Russian and Scandinavian flavours mix with local ingredients including salmon, Baltic herring, reindeer and Arctic cloudberries. Finnish cuisine is characterized by simplicity and purity of taste.
**Shopping**

The main shopping streets in the centre are Mannerheimintie, Aleksanterinkatu, Kaisaniemenkatu, Pohjois (North) and Etelä (South) Esplanadi, Bulevardi and Fredrikinkatu. Nearly all of the major malls, department stores and little boutiques are within walking distance of each other. Shops are generally open 9.00 – 18.00 on weekdays and 9.00 – 14.00 on Saturdays; department stores and shopping centres are open 9.00 – 21.00 on weekdays and 9.00–18.00 on Saturdays.

Read more…
Discover the Design District [here](#).

**Telephone calls**

In a country of mobile phones it is difficult today to find phone booths. Hotels and hostels have usually public phones that can be used with phone cards. Finland country code from calls abroad is +358 and Helsinki area code from calls abroad: 9 (09 in Finland).