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## THE HAGUE, LEGAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

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The Röling Foundation, together with Webster University Leiden and in association with the Hague Academic Coalition, organized, at the occasion of the launch of this Volume a seminar at the Peace Palace, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Speakers included Schrijver, Fodha, van der Hout, van Kesteren, and Scott Spence. The seminar was co-chaired by Van Hoogstraten and Van Krieken and focused on the role of the Hague-based institutions and organizations, especially in light of plans and proposals to reform the UN.

The Volume concerned focuses on the many institutions and organizations based in The Hague, turning it into a real legal capital.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was the first to call The Hague the 'legal capital of the world'. *The Hague: Legal Capital of the World* guides the reader through the city that hosts the world's main legal bodies, such as:

- the International Court of Justice (the 'World Court')
- the International Criminal Court
- the Yugoslav Tribunal
- the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and many others.

Renowned experts (Askin, Judge Brower, Blokker, Combs, Dunworth, Eyffinger, Grosselfinger, Van Hoogstraten, Lagerwaard, Limburg, Van Loon, Shifman, Tabassi, Spence and – last but not least - Shabtai Rosenne) offer clear exposition and incisive analysis, supported by fact sheets and key documents. Alongside the cases that make the headlines, the reader will discover lesser-known but surprisingly influential organizations, such as the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. A rich introductory section adds historical context and legal essentials.

For those in search of information on international law, international organizations, arms control or dispute settlement, this volume is an indispensable introduction, reference work and textbook. But above all, it is a testament to the vital importance of the rule of law and the special role The Hague plays in promoting peace and justice.

*'The present book – The Hague: Legal Capital of the World – serves the purpose of explaining in clear and matter-of-fact terms the institutions present in The Hague and how one can make use of them. It should be a useful tool in capitals and at the diplomatic representations in The Hague. But it should also be of use in teaching and at non-governmental organizations.'*

Hans Corell, former Legal Counsel of the United Nations

*'By providing scholarly analysis of over a century of developments in The Hague, it forms a significant addition to the available literature on the subject. Naturally, the information in the book also provides a solid basis for understanding future developments, such as the work of the International Criminal Court.'*

Wim Deetman, Mayor of The Hague

*'We in the Netherlands are proud to be at the heart of international legal practice and theory. When you read the interesting contributions to this book, you will undoubtedly understand why.'*

Bernard Bot, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

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