

**International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario**



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2008

**Presented by the Secretary-General
on behalf of the Council**

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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2008

INTRODUCTION

In 2008 the Institute enjoyed fresh impulse, clearly reflected in the data regarding the number of participants at its various activities, which almost doubled (+93%).

The financial statement for the year 2008 presents a surplus of 47.101 euro, also thanks to careful management.

The overall revenues increased from 1.500.000 euro to about 2.300.000 euro. This does not include more than 230.000 euro as deferred income for contributions already received at 31 December 2008, which were carried over for activities in 2009.

Such positive developments were made possible thanks to the organisation of new initiatives in addition to traditional events. Such initiatives included new Round Tables and Seminars which proved to be most successful and confirmed the interest of the scientific community, governments and international institutions in the work of the Institute.

The traditional September Round Table alone gathered together more than 400 qualified participants attracted by a topic of special interest, namely: *“International humanitarian law, human rights and peace operations”*.

Moreover, thanks to the contribution of a number of sponsors, such as the Italian and Swiss Governments, the financial situation in 2008 allowed for the updating of the technical systems at the headquarters of the Institute in Villa Ormond and the partial renovation of the offices and spaces at the disposal of participants. Work on the Villa would continue into 2009 with the aim of rendering it more functional and more in keeping with the activities of the Institute. Meanwhile, the Municipality of Sanremo gave the Institute exclusive and full use of the Villa for a period of ten years.

In 2009, the Institute expects a situation which will certainly be more difficult, also in light of the world wide economic and financial crisis. Therefore, its provisional budget is less ambitious than last year. However, the Institute has at this stage sufficient resources to approach its numerous commitments.

TRAINING AND TEACHING

MILITARY COURSES ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

After four years as Director of the Military Department, Mr. Juhani Loikkanen left his post in September to go back to his home in Finland. He was replaced by Col. James Stythe, who has been seconded to the Institute by the British Army Legal Service for three years.

In 2008, the following international courses were held, designated mainly for military staff members interested in international humanitarian law:

126 th Course (English)	29 participants from 12 countries
127 th Course (French)	31 participants from 7 countries
128 th Course (English)	45 participants from 19 countries
129 th Course (Spanish)	45 participants from 17 countries
130 th Course (English)	65 participants from 24 countries

7 th Competition on IHL for military academies (English)	119 participants from 19 countries
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5 th Course on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Peace Operations (English)	45 participants from 23 countries
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12 th Specialised Course (English)	51 participants from 28 countries
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13 th Specialised Course (French)	26 participants from 13 countries
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8 th Course for Planners, Executors & Controllers of Air Operations (English)	19 participants from 10 countries
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8 th Course for Planners, Executors of Naval Operations (English)	23 participants from 9 countries
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18 th Course for Directors of Training Programmes in LOAC (English)	16 participants from 11 countries
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19 th Course for Directors of Training Programmes in LOAC (French)	7 participants from 6 countries
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The Institute was able to count on the support of several Governments including those of : Italy, Norway, Sweden, as well as on the support of the *Organisation Internationale de Francophonie*, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross, for the granting of scholarships to participants from developing countries.

The revision and updating of the military courses on international humanitarian law continued through the work of the Advisory Board, established by the Council and chaired by Brig. Gen. Erwin Dahinden. The Advisory Board elaborated a detailed report which not only dealt with the revision of the programme of humanitarian law courses, but also offered suggestions to improve the selection, preparation and support of the external teaching staff. Moreover, it suggested adjustments to the infrastructure of the Institute to meet more modern standards. The Advisory Board convened in Winterthur from 16th to 18th April and in Sanremo from 22nd to 23rd May. The new course programme was successfully piloted as from the month of November.

The total number of participants at the courses amounted to 520 which reflected an increase compared to 2007. The growing number of civilians was significant, and was also influenced by the participation of those following the HUMANMED Diploma.

COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN IRAQ

At the request and with the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute organised a course on international humanitarian law in Iraq from 20th April to 1st May. The course was held at the training centre in Tallil in the Province of Dhi Qar, and was particularly geared to officers responsible for various tasks in the Iraqi Armed Forces, to civilian personnel at the Iraqi Ministry for Defence, and also to members of the police. Gen. Salvatore Lato, member of the Institute, was course co-ordinator. There were 20 participants in all. The initiative was a great success and the Iraqi Government, who had initially approached the Italian Government about the possibility of offering such a course, expressed its full appreciation.

COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW HELD AT THE NATO SCHOOL IN OBERAMMERGAU

The Institute organised a course on international humanitarian law and human rights in international peace operations in collaboration with the NATO School of Oberammergau. The course, directed by Mr. Juhani Loikkanen, was held from 3rd to 5th December at the NATO School and was part of the joint activities

referred to in the Memorandum signed with the School. 18 participants attended.

COURSES ON INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW

In 2008, the Institute organised the following courses on refugee law which were attended by a total of 236 participants:

46 th Course (French)	41 participants from 24 countries
46 th Course (French) HUMAN MED	19 participants
47 th Course (English)	51 participants from 35 countries
47 th Course (English) HUMANMED	9 participants
48 th Course (Spanish)	38 participants from 15 countries
49 th Course (English)	45 participants from 34 countries
4 th Thematic Course (English)	33 participants from 26 countries

As in past years, the courses were organised in close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and with the support of the European Union (Aeneas Project), the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, the State Department of the United States of America, and the Irish Government. Significant contributions to facilitate participation from Africa and Latin America were granted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (African Section) and by the Italo-Latin American Institute respectively.

The Working Group responsible for the organisation of the courses met on a regular basis and further revised the programme and methodology which had already been successfully piloted during the courses held in French and Spanish. Dr. Cynthia Petrih was Course Co-ordinator, dealing with organisational aspects and the smooth running of the courses. This position had been recently created not only to assure the quality of the courses but also to check their impact on the participants and their professional commitments, as had been requested by the sponsors.

8TH SUMMER COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The 8th Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law was held from 2nd to 14th July and was attended by 53 students from 32 countries. The course was directed by Prof. Michel Veuthey, Vice-President of the Institute. As is tradition, the programme was held partly in Sanremo and partly in Geneva. Topics covered included an introduction to human rights and their relationship with humanitarian law; humanitarian considerations and military necessity; limitation and prohibition of weapons in the conduct of hostilities; the

distinction between combatants and civilians. Other more specific topics of great current concern such as terrorism and humanitarian law; the protection of refugees; peacekeeping operations; non-international armed conflict; and the International Criminal Court were also addressed. During the two days spent in Geneva, participants visited the main international humanitarian organisations where they were welcomed by high-ranking officials including Dr. Andreas Wigger, Deputy-Director of ICRC operations, and His Excellency Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Under Secretary-General and Director of the United Nations Office in Geneva. Thanks to the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 18 officials from Asian countries participated at the course. The Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA) also sponsored the participation of 4 persons from Latin America.

3RD COURSE ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The Institute organised its 4th course on problems concerning internally displaced persons (IDPs) in co-operation with the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. The five-day course was led by Prof. Walter Kaelin, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. The course, which took place from 4th to 9th June, was held in French for the first time and was attended by 22 officials selected from amongst those who worked towards the improvement of relevant laws and the protection of those forced to leave their own homes to survive the effects of conflict, internal tensions and natural disasters.

COURSES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LAW

In 2008, the Institute increased its teaching activities in the field of migration law thanks to the close collaboration of the International Organization for Migration and the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The traditional English course was held from 29th September to 3rd October and was attended by 52 officials from all over the world. Ten of the participants were sponsored by the Italo-Latin American Institute (IILA). Two additional courses for governmental officials and experts in the field were organised: one was conducted in English from 3rd to 7th November, and another one conducted in French from 8th to 12th December. Each course was attended by 38 participants.

Lessons and work groups tackled such topics as international migration law instruments, State responsibility, rights and obligations of migrants, illegal human trafficking, migrant workers' rights.

3rd COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN OPERATORS (in collaboration with the Italian Red Cross)

The 3rd Course on International Humanitarian Law for International Humanitarian Operators was organised in close collaboration with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Department of the Central Committee of the Italian Red Cross. Counting both employees of the Italian Red Cross (IRC) and IRC volunteers 39 people attended the course. The course was held in Sanremo from 5th to 10th May and was directed by Maj. Fabio Strinati, Director of the IHL Office.

TRAINING COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR LAWYERS, Sanremo, 24th to 25th October

On the request of the Council of the Bar of Lawyers of Sanremo, the Institute organised a training course on the International Law of Human Rights. Although the course was specifically for lawyers it was also open to other operators and law scholars as well as volunteers and members of civil society. Over 100 lawyers, not only from the Bar of Sanremo, followed the course which was co-ordinated by Dr. Marina Gori. The initiative contributed to reaffirming the visibility of the Institute on the territory, offering its skills and experience to the lawyers of the region. Lecturers included Dr. Mario Lana, President of the *Forense* Union for the Protection of Human Rights, and Prof. Valerio Onida, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Milan and Emeritus President of the Constitutional Court in Rome.

HUMANMED PROJECT – TRANS-BORDER DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

“HUMANMED”, the trans-border programme of international humanitarian law that associates the Institute with the Training and Research Unit of *Institut du Droit de la Paix et du Développement* of the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis, was renewed for a further 2-year period.

In the framework of the INTERREG III Project, financed by the European Union, the General Council of the Maritime Alps, and the Region of Liguria, the two Institutes, which both specialise in the teaching of international humanitarian law, offered their experience towards providing a complete, theoretical and practical training in international humanitarian law, culminating in the awarding of a University Diploma from the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis.

In 2008, about 40 students who were registered for the Diploma followed courses on humanitarian law and refugee law organised by the Institute.

The purposely made website: www.droit-international-humanitaire.org provides an important instrument of communication for the HUMANMED Programme, which is aimed at facilitating the promotion of the teaching of international humanitarian law and the exchange of ideas on topics concerning humanitarian law as well as encouraging research and the professional integration of its students.

ROUND TABLES AND SEMINARS OF EXPERTS

SEMINAR ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

“The Chemical Weapons Convention between Disarmament and International Humanitarian Law”, Sanremo, 15th February 2008

Under the auspices of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute organised a seminar on “The Chemical Weapons Convention between Disarmament and International Humanitarian Law”, which took place in Villa Nobel on 15th February. The seminar attracted a considerable number of experts from various countries including: Amb. Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; Amb. Sergey Batsanov, Director of the Geneva Office for the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs and co-ordinator for the preparation of the Second Conference on the Review of the Convention on chemical weapons; Dr. Ian Anthony, Co-ordinator of international research at the Peace Research Institute of Stockholm; Amb. Andrea Negrotto Cambiaso, former Permanent Representative of Italy at the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament. The acts of the seminar have been published by the Institute.

SEMINAR “INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW” Rome, CASD, 27th March 2008

The seminar, organised in collaboration with the Centre of Advanced Defence Studies (CASD) and the Italian Society for International Organisations (SIOI), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NATO, took place in Rome at the CASD. The proceedings opened with the interventions of Hon. Lorenzo Forcieri, Secretary of State for Defence; Gen. CC Sergio Sorbino, Director of IASD; Ambassador Maurizio Moreno, President of the Institute;

and Ambassador Umberto La Rocca, President of SIOI. Prof. Giovanni Barberini from the University of Perugia, co-ordinated the seminar which contributed to the preparation of the XXXIst Round Table held in September on the same topic. There were more than 300 participants at the seminar including numerous diplomats, military officers, individual experts and students following courses run by CASD (Institute for Advanced Defence Studies) and SIOI respectively. The proceedings of the seminar have been published by the Institute.

**XXXIst ROUND TABLE ON CURRENT PROBLEMS OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
“INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
PEACE OPERATIONS”**

The international community is increasingly involved in peace operations in various parts of the world. Such operations – whether they be geared to “peacekeeping”, “peace enforcement”, or “peace-building – draw fresh attention to the problem of the applicability of international humanitarian law and the respect of human rights in the widest sense of the term. The Round Table on “**International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and Peace Operations**”, was held in Sanremo from 4th to 6th September under the high patronage of Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and co-ordinated by Prof. Michel Veuthey, Vice-President of the Institute. The event provided an important opportunity for Governments, international Organisations, experts from military, legal and scientific circles to reflect on that issue. Considering the relevance of the topic, numerous qualified people adhered bringing the total number of participants to 400. The opening session of the Round Table was held at the Casinò Theatre of Sanremo with the participation of Hon. Stefania Craxi, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Dr. Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Gen. Vincenzo Camporini, Chief of Defence General Staff; Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, NATO Deputy Secretary General; Dr. Massimo Barra, President of the Italian Red Cross. Without doubt, the Round Table was a particularly important event for Sanremo and had a strong impact on the international media.

The Round Table was made possible thanks to the financial support of a number of Governments and international Organisations as well as private sponsors.

ROUND TABLE ON “LAW AND POLITICS OF MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA”, Sanremo, 15th-16th December 2008.

The Institute, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and with the support of both the General Directorate for Development Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of Interior, organised the Round Table to encourage further discussion on the most current problems of migration, with particular emphasis on legal regime and policies regulating the migratory flows in the Mediterranean. The Round Table consisted of 2 days of study and the following highly-qualified persons were among the participants: Dr. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General of IOM; Senator Gabriele Boschetto, Member of the Permanent Commission for Constitutional Affairs and Commission for European Politics; Dr. Giustino Sciacchitano, National Deputy Anti-Mafia Prosecutor; Dr. Massimo Barra, Vice-President of the Permanent Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. More than 50 experts from all Mediterranean countries and organisations involved in problems concerning the management of migratory flows, such as Caritas and the Community of St. Egidio, attended the Round Table.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

“HANDBOOK” ON THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

During the year, the Institute hosted a group of experts who were working on the compilation of a “Handbook” on multinational Rules of Engagement. The group of experts, led by Prof. Dennis Mandsager from Newport Naval College and member of the Institute, would continue their work during 2009. Their findings would be evaluated by the Council with a view to possible publication.

PUBLICATIONS

- **NEWSLETTERS**

- N° 27 January-March
- N°28 April-June
- N°29 July-September
- N°30 Special XXXIst Round Table Edition
- N°31 October-December

- **PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROUND TABLES**

- *“The Chemical Weapons Convention between Disarmament and International Humanitarian Law, Sanremo, 15th February 2008*

- *“International Peace Operations and International Humanitarian Law, Rome, CASD, 27th March 2008*
- *“Rélígions et Droit International Humanitaire”, Colloquium, Nice, 18-19th June 2007*
- *XXXIst Round Table “International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and Peace Operations”, Sanremo, 4th -6th September 2008*

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

In accordance with the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council, the Institute intensified its contacts and relations with international Organisations and Governments interested in collaborating. The President visited the ICRC, UNHCR, IOM, EU, NATO, OIF, UNICRI, UN Staff College and IILA, and went to Bern, Paris, Rabat and London. Moreover, contacts with international and Italian Institutions involved in the fields of IHL, refugee law, migration law and human rights were also developed.

In 2008, Switzerland, together with Italy, proved to be the biggest contributor to the budget of the Institute. While funds from Italy, particularly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Sanremo, allowed for further development in the teaching activities of the Institute, contributions from the Swiss Confederation (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Civil Protection and Sport) were fundamental in carrying out work on the restructuring and re-modernising of the offices at the Institute as well as on the updating of didactic equipment.

Contacts with ICRC led to the definition of a framework of increased collaboration and confirmed the prestige the Institute enjoys at the Geneva Organisation.

Ad hoc contributions from the Directorate General for Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards the teaching activities of the Institute were decisive in consolidating co-operation with IOM in Geneva and IILA in Rome.

During the year, the Institute intensified its contacts with the Municipality of Sanremo, the Province of Imperia and the Region of Liguria with the aim of further strengthening collaboration.

Special mention should be made of the constant collaboration existing between the Institute and the Italian Red Cross, and the increased contribution the latter assigned to the Institute for 2009.

AGREEMENTS OF CO-OPERATION

- On 10th March, Ambassador Maurizio Moreno, President of the Institute, signed an agreement of co-operation with the University of Nice, underlining the fruitful collaboration already existing between the two Institutions also thanks to the HUMANMED Project which had been confirmed for the following two years.
- On 14th March the President of the Institute signed an agreement of co-operation with the Law Faculty of the University of Imperia. Both Institutions agree to promote a wider dissemination, through common teaching and training activities in the field of international humanitarian law, human rights, refugee law and migration law. Such activities would be mainly geared to university students, lawyers and operators in relevant sectors.
- On 23rd July the Institute formalised an agreement of co-operation with the NATO School of Oberammergau. The President of the Institute and Col. James Tabak, Commander from the School, signed a document in the presence of high-ranking national representatives and heads of departments at the School. According to the agreement of co-operation, representatives of the Institute would participate as teachers at the courses and activities organised by the NATO School of Oberammergau.
- On 3rd September, the President of the Institute and Admiral Marcantonio Trevisani, in the presence of Gen. Vincenzo Camporini, Head of the Defence General Staff, signed an agreement of co-operation with the Centre for Advanced Defence Studies (CASD). According to the agreement the Institute would collaborate with CASD in the organisation of activities aimed at encouraging the promotion of international humanitarian law.
- On 18th September the President of the Institute signed an agreement of co-operation with Ambassador Paolo Bruni, Secretary-General of the Italo-Latin American Institute at the IILA office in Rome. Among other points, the agreement stipulated that a number of scholarships would be granted to encourage the participation of citizens from Latin American countries at various courses organised by the Institute.
- On 2nd October at the CoESPU (Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units) in Vicenza, the President of the Institute signed an agreement of

co-operation with Gen. Emilio Borghini, Director of CoESPU, providing for the exchange of studies, research, teachers and documentation, as well as the development of training activities in the field of international humanitarian law.

- The agreement of co-operation with the American Naval College, Newport, whereby a teacher from the Newport College would attend the five military courses of the Institute, was renewed for the fifth consecutive year.
- On 23rd October, the President of the Institute signed an agreement of co-operation with the Italian Ministry of Defence, whereby the Ministry would second two officers to the Institute. The agreement also stipulated the employment conditions of the officers at the Institute.

RELATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Through a decree dated 28th July, Hon. Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, included the Institute in a restricted list of organisations and international bodies that would benefit from contributions from the Italian Government for initiatives in the humanitarian field and for those aimed at protecting human rights. Such list showed the Institute alongside prestigious international Organisations including UN, OSCE, ICRC, IOM, and EU.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) invited the Institute to participate in discussions concerning the proposals the Italian Government, as Presidency of G8, would present in 2009 at the summit of the Maddalena to strengthen the capacities of African countries in the field of peacekeeping and peace-building, with particular attention to international humanitarian law and human rights. The initiative, co-ordinated by Hon. Mario Raffaelli, former Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, got underway with a meeting of experts held from 11th to 12th December at CoESPU, Vicenza. The President and representatives of the Institute participated. The second meeting of experts would be held in Sanremo at the beginning of 2009.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the President of the Institute to join the “Strategic Forum”, a “think tank”, chaired by Hon. Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, to examine in depth the medium and long-term international scenarios.

PROGRAMME OF INTERNSHIPS

In 2008, the Institute welcomed the following interns for periods varying from one to three months, either in Sanremo or Geneva: Matteo ANDRACCO (Italy); Francesca CENTOCCHI (Italy), Sandra FROIDEVAUX (Switzerland/Canada); Sarah LEIWANT (USA); Claire LUTUN (France); Emilia JEDAMSKA (Poland); Martina MARANGON (Italy); Jackie McARTHUR (Australia); Sara ROSSI (Italy); Emanuele SCHIBOTTO (Italy); Gildas TCHIBOZO (France); Pauline VANSEYMORTER (France); Agatha CHI LAI WONG (China).

CONTACTS WITH THE PRESS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Contacts with the Press and external relations in general grew considerably in 2008. At a local level, contacts with the various newspapers were extended and intensified. In particular, the column on the daily “Sanremo News” website, the most consulted in Liguria, regularly dedicated generous space to the activities of the Institute. On a national level, new contacts were made which promoted several of the more important events organised by the Institute in 2008. In addition, on an international level, attempts were also made to establish new contacts with daily newspapers and journals willing to promote the various activities of the Institute.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE

In 2008, the following persons became members of the Institute:

Ambassador Benoit d’ABOVILLE (France); Prof. J. Holmes ARMSTEAD Jr. (USA); Dr. Giulio BARTOLINI (Italy); Dr. Denis CAILLAUX (France); Dr. Sandro CALVANI (Italy); Prof. Emmanuel DECAUX (France); Hon. Cristina DE LUCA (Italy); Dr. Teresa DE MONTE (Italy); Dr. Emanuele DI LORENZO BADIA (Italy); Dr. Vincenzo FERRANTE (Italy); Ms Malin GREENHILL (Sweden); Dr. Mad HALEM (Norway); Dr. Peter HOSTETTLER (Switzerland); Ambassador Ugo LEONE (Italy); Dr. Liesbeth LIJNZAAD (The Netherlands); Dr. Richard KAPLAN (USA); Judge Abdul G. KOROMA (Sierra Leone); Prof. Sergio MARCHISIO (Italy); Prof. Roberto Augusto MORENO (Argentina); Dr. Janet MUNRO-NELSON (USA); Dr. Andrea ORIZIO (Italy); Dr. Rosalia PANARELLO (Canada/Italy); Col. John T. PHELPS (USA); Dr. Claudio RIVELLO (Italy); Prof. Natalino RONZITTI (Italy); Admiral of the Navy Ferdinando SANFELICE DI MONTEFORTE (Italy); Dr. Massimo SCALIOTTI (Italy); Dr. Daphna SHRAGA (Israel); Dr. James STEWART (USA); Dr. Dumitru TOMA (Romania); Dr. Tamar (Taluna)

TOMASHVILI (Georgia); Dr. Luisa VIERUCCI (Italy); Dr. Mark VLASIC (USA); Mr. Sayed Fazlullah WAHIDI (Afghanistan).

The total number of members rose to 200.

MEETINGS OF STATUTORY BODIES

The General Assembly of the Institute met in Sanremo on 24th May. The Council of the Institute met on 31st March, 24th May and 6th September.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND VARIOUS MATTERS

THE “SEA AWARD”

At a ceremony that took place on the *Vespucci*, the famous Italian tall ship, in the presence of Hon. Claudio Scajola, Minister for Economic Development, Admiral Paolo La Rosa, Navy Chief of Staff, presented Ambassador Maurizio Moreno, President of the Institute, the “Sea Award” in acknowledgement of the Institute’s contribution to the dissemination of the application of International Humanitarian Law through its publication: the *“San Remo Manual on International Law applicable to Armed Conflict at Sea”*.

OPEN DAYS

The Institute contributed to the “October of Peace”, an initiative of the Municipality of Sanremo, by organising a cycle of “Open Days” to make the City more aware of the activities of the Institute and humanitarian issues. An “Open Day” on the law of migration was held at Villa Ormond on 4th October. Dr. Carmela Godeau, Deputy Director of the IOM Regional Office in Rome, gave a speech. An “Open Day” on refugee law was held on 25th October and on that occasion Prof. Marcello Di Filippo from the University of Pisa gave a speech. On both occasions participants were introduced to the activities of the Institute, videos were shown and informative material was distributed.

GLOBAL EDUCATION FORUM

At the *Festival of Creativity for Schools*, which was organised under the patronage of the Municipality of Sanremo from 9th to 11th May, the Institute was part of the jury that presented the prizes to the best graphic work and newspaper-style article on *“Conflicts in the World: Child Soldiers”*.

REFRESHER SEMINAR FOR THE MILITARY HEALTH SERVICE

The Institute collaborated in the organisation of a refresher seminar on international humanitarian law for medical personnel of the Armed Forces. Admiral Vincenzo Martines, Director General and Head Inspector, opened the proceedings. The Italian Red Cross was among the participants.

WORK ON VILLA ORMOND

In keeping with the expectations of the General Assembly and in agreement with the Municipality of Sanremo, the new Council gave the go ahead for work to begin on the re-structuring of the premises of the Institute at Villa Ormond, aimed at maximizing its functionality. Works were co-ordinated by two Architects from Sanremo, Ms Milena Preziuso and Ms Silvia Pirrottina.

CONTRIBUTORS AND SPONSORS

The significant growth in the activities of the Institute registered in 2008 was made possible due to the generous financial contribution of numerous sponsors including: the Italian Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior); Swiss Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, Federal Office for Migration); Swedish Government (Ministry for Foreign Affairs); Norwegian Government (NORAD); the Government of the USA (State Department, Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration); the Irish Government (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs); the European Commission; NATO; International Committee of the Red Cross; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; International Organization for Migration; the Italo-Latin American Institute; the *Organisation internationale de francophonie*; the Municipality of Sanremo; the Province of Imperia; the Region of Liguria; the British Red Cross; the Italian Red Cross; the Red Cross of Monaco; *Compagnia di San Paolo*, Brookings-Bern Foundation Project; Artisans' Union of Imperia.

The Institute would particularly like to thank the British Army Legal Service that decided to finance the secondment of Col. James Stythe to Sanremo as Director of the Military Department.

The Institute is grateful to the Italian Ministry of Defence for the assignment of Navy Captain Giuseppe Siragusa as Special Advisor to the President at the Institute.

The Institute would also like to thank the Geneva Centre for Security Policy for the rooms it allocates to the IIHL Liaison Office in Geneva.

The new burst of activities at the Institute, which will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2010, would not have been possible without the exceptional commitment of its Vice-Presidents and all members of the Council, as well as the Secretary-General and the new Treasurer.

The intelligent work and extraordinary commitment of all members of the staff deserve a special note of thanks.

Sanremo, 21st May 2009