

Dr. Michael C. van Walt van Praag

Current Positions

Council Member and Executive President of Kreddha: International Peace Council for States, Peoples and Minorities. Kreddha is an international non-governmental organisation of eminent persons created to help prevent and resolve violent intrastate conflicts. Activities include facilitation of dialogue and mediation between conflicting parties; provision of advice on intrastate conflict management and resolution world wide; missions to and quiet diplomacy in sensitive areas of (potential) conflict; training in conflict resolution.

Adjunct Professor of International Law, Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, California. Responsibilities include teaching a graduate course (for LLM and SJD students) on International Law, International Security and Globalization and supervising/mentoring doctoral (SJD) students engaged in writing their doctoral dissertation.

From 1984

Legal Advisor to the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and to the Tibetan government in exile. Tasks involve advice on all matters relating to public international law, constitutional law and human rights law as well as on international relations and strategic issues.

Past Positions

1997-2007

Member of the Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council (RAWOO). The Council is an advisory body of the government of the Netherlands. It reports to the Ministers of Development Cooperation, Education and Agriculture, respectively, and Council Members are appointed by them. The Council advises on issues related to academic research and development. Responsibilities have included chairing the committee on post armed conflict and peace consolidation, the preparation and chairing of international seminars on post armed conflict transformation and the conduct of fact-finding missions to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, and to Guatemala.

2001-2002

Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Second Transitional Government of East Timor, UNTAET Responsibilities included provision of legal advice on a wide variety of issues to the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Dr. José Ramos-Horta); the setting up of the Legal, Treaties and Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; preparation of recommendations for the Council of Ministers; review of the draft Constitution; selection, analysis and prioritisation of treaties for East Timor to accede to. Reported to the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and to the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations to East Timor (Sergio Veira de Melo).

1999

Visiting Scholar, Institute of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Activities included research and writing on intrastate conflict, statehood and self-

determination, organization of a seminar on good governance and the role of transnational corporations, and teaching on select topics of international law and political science.

1991-1998

General Secretary of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO). UNPO is an organisation of nations, peoples and minorities that are not represented in international forums such as the United Nations. With 52 member peoples and communities, UNPO represented well over 100 million people world-wide (today the number of members is 69, representing some 200 million people). Responsible for founding the organisation and leading its work. Responsibilities included conduct of sensitive negotiations with governments and international organisations, including the UN and the OSCE; on the spot assessment of and reporting on human rights situations and conflict situations in all parts of the world; provision of training in human rights law, diplomacy and negotiation skills; development of strategies for promotion of human rights and good governance and for the prevention or resolution of violent conflicts; provision of strategic advice and advice in negotiation processes; In this capacity I headed fact-finding, election monitoring, and diplomatic missions to Kosova (1992), Georgia and Abkhazia (1992 and 1993), Chuvash (1993), Crimea (1993), the FYR Macedonia, Albania and Greece (1994 and 1995), Rwanda (1994), Taiwan (1994), Ingushetia and Chechenia (1994, 1995 and 1996), the Lakota nation (1996), Hawaii (1996), Tanzania and Zanzibar (1997). Responsibilities also included the conduct of major international conferences and seminars as well as UNPO General Assemblies, fundraising, and the management of a secretariat and two foreign offices.

1995-1996

Consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) regarding the political, economic and human rights situation of indigenous peoples in the Sakha Republic of the Russian Federation. Responsibilities included conducting a UNDP Mission to the Sakha Republic.

1995-1996

Legal advisor to the All-Bougainville Leaders Peace Talks in Cairns, Australia, to lay the ground for a peace process between the leaders of Bougainville and the government of Papua New Guinea. The talks were hosted by the Government of Australia, and co-chaired by the UN and the British Commonwealth.

1995-1997

Advisor to the Chechen Government delegation in negotiations between the Chechen Republic and the Russian Federation in Grozny, Chechenya, facilitated by the OSCE.

1994-1996

Advisor to the Abkhazian Government delegation in peace talks between Georgia and Abkhazia. Negotiations were held at the UN in Geneva and in Moscow, under Chairmanship of the UN, with the Russian Federation facilitating and the OSCE observing.

1989-1990

Of Counsel, Pettit & Martin, Attorneys at Law, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Clients included national and multinational corporations and non governmental organisations. Activities included assistance in the establishment of joint ventures abroad, advice on environmental law, and negotiation of international contracts.

1985-1989

Associate, Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Attorneys at Law, Washington, D.C. and London. Clients included major airline companies; computer reservation systems companies; environmental organisations; banks and governments. Activities included provision of advice to and representation of clients in litigation and international arbitration; assistance in the establishment of new transnational corporations, joint ventures, and international organisations.

1983-1984

Adjunct Professor of International Policy Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California. Taught courses in International Law and in Central Asian Studies.

1983-1984

Research Associate, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California.

1982-1983

Visiting Scholar, Stanford University Law School, Stanford, California.

1982

Research Fellow, Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

1981

Fellow, Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

1979

Summer Associate, Dykhouse & Wise, Attorneys at Law, Detroit.

1973, 1979, 1986

Coordinator of H.H. the Dalai Lama's first visits to Europe (1973), the USA (1979) and Latin America (1986).

1976-1982

Director, Tibetan Affairs Coordination Office, and editor of the *TIBETAN MESSENGER* .

1975

Board Member, Utrecht City Development Council, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

1974-1975

Rector, Utrechtsch Studenten Corps, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

1973

Council Member, Utrecht State University Law Faculty Council, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

1970-1972

Ist Lieutenant, Royal Netherlands Army (military service), Militaire Inlichtingen Dienst.

1968-70

President, Wellington Tibetan Children Relief Society, and editor of *Tibetan Bulletin for New Zealand*, New Zealand.

Degrees and Education

1986

Doctor in de Rechtsgeleerdheid, Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht.

1980

Meester in de Rechten, Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht. Specialisation in Public International Law.

1979

Master of Laws (LLM), Wayne State University, Michigan, with credit courses at University of Michigan.

1969-1970

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Studied Political Science, History, Economics, Russian.

1957-1968

Primary education in Italy; secondary education in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Awards and academic honours

2008

Ramon Llull International Award, Barcelona, Spain

1995

World Gratitude Prize for Peace, New York

1978

Jessup International Moot Court Competition (Second Individual Prize, Third Team Prize).

1978-1979

D. J. Dykhouse Scholarship for the Advanced Study of Law.

Bar Membership

New York Bar

Languages:

English, French, Dutch, Italian, Russian

Selected publications

Books and reports

Mobilizing Knowledge for Post-Conflict Development and Development at the Local Level (RAWOO, The Hague, May 2000)

The Implementation of the Right to Self-Determination as a Contribution to Conflict Prevention, Report of the International Conference of Experts (21 to 27 November 1998), UNESCO Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace/UNESCO Centre of Catalonia (Barcelona, 1999)

RAWOO Report on *Local Approaches to Post Conflict Management* (RAWOO, The Hague, 1999)

The Status of Tibet: History, Rights and Prospects in International Law, Westview Press / Wisdom Press (Boulder / London, 1987; reprinted in 1992)

Population Transfer and the Survival of the Tibetan Identity, Special Report Series, U.S. Tibet Committee (New York, 1986; revised edition 1988)

Articles and Chapters

L'Iceberg Tibetá, *Avui*, Barcelona (15 April 2008)

'Self-Determination in a World of Conflict -- A Source of Instability or Instrument of Peace?' in *Festschrift: L. Bouchez*, Kluwer Law (London/The Hague, 1999)

'UNO, Zeit zum Handeln: Juristen liefern die Argumente,' *Tibet Forum* No.1/98 (Köln, July 1998)

'Verhandlungen mit Neu Delhi,' *Pogrom* No.195/196 (Göttingen, July-September 1997)

'Commentary to "The Bell Curve of Ethnic Politics: Rise and Decline of Self-Determination Movements in India" by Atul Kohli' in *Self Determination and Self Administration: A Sourcebook* (W. Danspeckgruber and A. Watts, eds) Lynne Rienner Publishers (London/Boulder, 1997)

'Europa scheiterte in Tschetschenien,' *Pogrom* No.192 (Göttingen, January 1997)

'The Right to Self-Determination and the De-Colonisation Process,' in *Tibetan People's Right of Self-Determination*, TPPRC and Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (New Delhi, 1996)

'I diritti politici dei popoli indigeni,' *Pogrom* Vol.2 No.2-3 (Firenze, May-December 1995)

'The War in Chechenia: The International Community's Betrayal,' *UNPO News* Vol.2 No.4 (The Hague, 1995)

'De Wereld als Lappendeken,' *Europa Periodiek* Vol.12 No.1 (Amsterdam, January 1995)

'East Timor and the International Legal Order: The Role of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization,' in *International Law and the Question of East Timor*, Catholic Institute of International Relations / IPJET (London, 1995)

'The Political Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Political Need for Change,' in *Voices Of The Earth*, (L. van der Vlist, ed.), International Books/NCIP (Amsterdam, 1994)

‘Zelfbeschikking en waarden,’ in *Ecocratie: Op Weg Naar Waarde-Vol Op-Organiseren*, (A. de Kruijf, ed.), Uniworld Organisatie Consult (Utrecht, 1994)

‘A Concept of Nation in International Law,’ book review, *Leiden Journal Of International Law* Vol.6 No.1 (Leiden, April 1993)

‘The Position of UNPO in the International Legal Order,’ in *Peoples and Minorities in International Law*, (C. Broelmann, R. Lefeber, M. Zieck, eds.), Martinus Nijhoff (Dordrecht/Boston/London, 1993)

‘Un changement d'optique dans le monde,’ in *La Voix Du Tibet*, (F. Goetghebeur ed.), Edifie L.L.N. (Bruxelles, 1992)

‘Earnest Negotiations: The Only Answer to Growing Unrest in Tibet,’ *International Relations* Vol.IX No.5 (London, 1989)

‘Whose Game? Records of the India Office Concerning Events Leading up to the Simla Conference,’ in *Soundings in Tibetan Civilization*, (B. Aziz and M. Kapstein eds.), Manohar Publications (New Delhi, 1985)

‘Tibet and the Right to Self-determination,’ *Wayne Law Review* Vol.26 No.1 (Detroit, 1979)