Dear Sir or Madam,

The research project “ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic” (2012-2015), financed by the Academy of Finland, hosted by the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, and led by Professor Ulla Liukkunen, warmly welcomes you to participate in its second research seminar:

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

January 16th-17th 2014, Helsinki, Finland

In the field of labour law, legal reforms carried out in 2007 – the Labour Contract Law, the Employment Promotion Law and the Labour Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Law – have been seen by many observers as important steps in translating the broad outlines of labour protection established in China’s 1994 Labour Law into substantive and more enforceable provisions. Meanwhile, at the international level, China has also undertaken many international legal obligations, including ratification of four out of the eight core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) enshrining fundamental principles and rights at work. While China’s achievements in lawmaking have been notable, it has become increasingly clear that remarkable challenges remain in the implementation and enforcement of core labour standards. In light of these developments, this seminar will address from multiple methodological and comparative perspectives timely and important issues concerning the implementation and enforcement of national labour laws that enshrine fundamental principles and rights at work in China.

As last year, the seminar gathers eminent scholars and experts from the United States, China and Europe. Among our distinguished speakers are such experts as Professor Ronald C. Brown, Professor Ye Jingyi and Professor Alan C. Neal. For more details, please see the attached draft program.

The program of the seminar includes also a book launch reception held at the Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki, on Thursday, 16 January 2014. It is our great pleasure to celebrate with colleagues and friends the publication of a volume we have produced based on the papers presented at our first research seminar last year. During the reception, the book “China and ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work” will be available to buy at a discount rate.

We encourage you to share and circulate among your teams and colleges the attached draft program of our seminar.

The event is free of charge, we however kindly ask all interested persons to register by **Friday, 10 January 2014** by completing the electronic form available from the following link: https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/46754/lomake.html.

For further information, please contact Alice Neffe (alice.neffe@helsinki.fi) or visit the project website at http://www.helsinki.fi/ilostandardsinchina/home.html.
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
(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, Assistant Professor, Peking University Law School: “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. Comments by NATHAN LILLIE, University Lecturer, University of Jyväskylä.

Closing of the Seminar

11:45-12:30 Lunch