INAUGURATION OF THE JINDAL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (JSIA)

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Keynote address by Professor Stephen P. Marks

O.P. Jindal Global University has embarked upon its third great adventure in building a world-class university, this time rising to the challenge of creating a school of international affairs, combining the fields of diplomacy, international relations, global security, international law and institutions, and international business and finance, and eventually, area studies.

There may be doubters about the need for one more school in this area. After all there are hundreds of schools of international affairs; according to gradschool.com, 435 degree granting graduate schools have been accredited and give masters (MS, MA) or PhD degrees in International Relations\(^1\). I counted 254 schools in 53 countries dedicated to the study of international relations.\(^2\)

The field is nearly 100 years old if we date it to the creation of the Chair in International Politics Aberystwyth University in Wales, and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service both in 1919, followed by the London School of Economics' department of International Relations in the early 1920s and the Graduate Institute of International Studies (now the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) in 1927 created to form diplomats associated to the League of Nations in Geneva. The Graduate Institute of International Studies offered one of the first Ph.D. degrees in international relations and was instrumental in creating The “International Relations Institute of Cameroon” (IRIC). The Institut des hautes études internationales (IHEI) (Graduate Institute of international Studies) was founded in 1921 at the University of Paris. That is where I obtained my masters in international relations before most of you were born. The Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago began offering a masters degree in IR in 1928, at the initiative of Professors Quincy Wright and Hans Morgenthau, the latter of whom happens to have been my first professor of international law and politics and in a real sense got me started in a career in the field with his course on Politics Among Nations. The field has grown in Europe and North America, while diplomacy training and international legal studies have meet much of the need in many other regions. I have also had the privilege of being on the faculty of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

The most recent example I know of is Oxford University, which announced on

\(^1\) http://www.gradschools.com/search-programs/international-relations.
\(^2\) Wikepedia’s List of International Relations schools,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_International_Relations_schools#India
September 20, 2010, that it is opening what it says is Europe's first school of government, with the backing of international leaders, such as Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan as well as Prime Minister David Cameron. Like Jindal, it is funded partly by a visionary philanthropist, in this case Leonard Blavatnik who gave £75m, while Oxford is contributing an extra £26m. According to Oxford, “The Blavatnik School of Government will develop leaders in both private and public sectors and aim to address complex global problems in new and practical ways.” The BBC quoted Professor Andrew Hamilton, vice-chancellor of Oxford University as saying, “the development of the school represented a ‘huge milestone’ in the university's history.” "It will give tomorrow's leaders the best of Oxford's traditional strengths alongside new and practical ways of understanding the challenges of good governance," he said.

So Jindal Global University is joining a long tradition of great institutions that have offered graduate degrees in international and public affairs.

The subject is not new to India either. Of course, the Indian Council for World Affairs was created in 1943 and the Indian School of International Studies (ISIS), in 1955, which became the School of International Studies of the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1970. According to one source, schools of international relations also exist at five other Indian Universities (Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, The Jadavpur Association of International Relations, Pondicherry University, and Manipal University).

Former ISIS director, Professor M.S. Rajan, sought “to ascertain from Indian scholars and retired diplomats why international/area studies have not spread adequately half a century after independence,” in a book called International and Area Studies in India, published in 1997. Other initiatives have addressed the problem. An international workshop on International Studies in India took place in March 2009 jointly sponsored by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of Singapore and the Centre for Policy Research in Delhi to recommend ways of strengthening the field. The workshop resulted in an article by Muthiah Alagappa called “Strengthening International Studies in India: Vision and Recommendations.” He remarks, “China has encouraged the study of International Studies by creating high-quality educational and research institutions and promoting professional development. Regrettably, India, which had an early start, has fallen behind.” Alagappa estimates “that IS courses are taught in about 150 universities, although the number of universities that offer graduate degree (M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D.) programmes in IS is much smaller.” He then “recommends a vision

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3 “Mr Blavatnik set up US industrial group Access Industries after emigrating to the US in 1978, and has had long-standing involvement in educational projects including a number of prominent universities”.
4 Supra, note 2.
6 Id., p. 9.
7 Id., p. 10.
and measures to strengthen the field and make it equal to those in leading institutions and programmes around the world.\footnote{The ultimate goals of the measures recommended in the report are to:
\begin{enumerate}
  \item make India a leading centre of knowledge and education in international studies;
  \item produce a substantive pool of Indian scholars doing cutting-edge work that contributes to the production and accumulation of knowledge;
  \item produce first-rate graduates to meet the demands and opportunities arising from the modernization and rise of India in a changing world; and
  \item ensure that Indian IS scholarship contributes to increasing the knowledge base on India’s international role as a responsible power fostering peace, security, good governance, economic development and resolution of a wide range of problems in its immediate region and the world.
\end{enumerate}

The vision, measures and strategies here would reform and build on existing institutions as well as create new ones by drawing on the best practices in leading institutions in India and other countries.}

This brings us to the remarkable vision paper by Dr. Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, which was the basis on which the Governing Body agreed yesterday (29 September) on the establishment of the JSIA. This is truly a brilliant articulation of the why, what and how of JSIA.

He emphasizes what I think are the two strongest justifications for this undertaking. First “it strikes a balance between [theoretical research and professional coursework and internships] and requires students to be versed in both domains”.

Second, it aims at both preparing India for leadership as a great power economically and strategically as “a responsible member of the international community with its own trademark vision for global governance and stable world order”, while at the same time instilling a “‘Global Policy’ approach”. The vision paper is not very explicit about the latter mission of JSIA except to say that it should impart an understanding of “concepts like rule of law and stable political and economic environments as ends to be pursued by the international community”. I would respectfully urge Sreeram and his colleagues to consider a place in the School’s mission for the values of global citizenship, whether peace and security, human rights protection and humanitarian assistance, corporate social responsibility, stewardship of the planet’s natural and cultural resources, or inter-ethnic identity and understanding. JSIA graduates will no doubt be instrumental in sustaining these values as part of India’s foreign policy; but it is not at all excessively ambitious to expect them to exercise similar leadership in global settings not in the exclusive pursuit of national interest, whether in international institutions (where such values are honoured in rhetoric but not always in practice) and business and finance (where the challenge begins with gaining acknowledgement of the principles involved especially where return on investment may appear in jeopardy unless certain ethical shortcuts are taken).

JSIA is resolutely combining the public and private spheres. The following statement in the vision paper merits reflection: “The increasing influence of the business community on legislation and foreign policymaking and the simultaneous pressures to...
regulate and monitor the actions of multinational corporations through multilateral political and legal interventions necessitate a new paradigm in social science that JSIA can seed.” It is more than social science. Since I am not part of Harvard Business School I can use it as a reference without bragging. I can also cynically observe, as others have, that what HBS has taught its graduates has had its share of responsibility in the global financial crisis of the past two years. In an article in The Times, an alumnus of the Harvard Business School, says a procession of Harvard–trained MBAs played starring roles in the economic collapse and calls them Harvard's "masters of the apocalypse." Of course HBS tells a different story. Be that as it may, the School proudly and accurately proclaims, “At Harvard Business School we believe that leadership and values are inseparable.” This is certainly true of O.P. Jindal Global University and I have no doubt will also be the case with JSIA.

In conclusion, let me share with you a few lessons I learned from my experience in other schools of international affairs. As a young student at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Paris I learned how important it is to see the world through the eyes of others, regardless of how fully stocked the library and how qualified the intellectuals of your home country. JSIA’s internships, international faculty and students and global perspective should contribute to this dimension of global learning. From my time teaching at Princeton I learnt that the very best students (and Princeton offered full fellowship to all admitted in the programme, thus guaranteeing that it could cream off the very best of the candidates admitted to the top schools) will meet the most challenging learning tasks and bring surprising insights to an interactive learning process. JSIA will not doubt follow JGLS and JGBS in attracting the best and the brightest whose intellectual curiosity must be given full freedom to develop. I must say the description of many of the courses in the vision paper is quite exciting form that perspective. From SIPA I learned how valuable social networking is in international affairs as I find former students now in senior positions all over the world and knowing where their fellow SIPA graduates are. JSIA can be a pioneer in this regard by becoming the highest reference point so that major corporations and institutions brag about the percentage of their senior management who are JSIA graduates.

JIA is uniquely positioned to provide all these benefits and with the inspired leadership we have heard from today I have no doubt that it will rise to the challenge.

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10 http://www.hbs.edu/mba/studentlife/leadership_values.html