



REPORT ON VISIT TO THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

As a law student, visiting The Hague in the Netherlands has been a dream come true, particularly because it is the home of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This experience was a profound opportunity to witness global legal institutions in action and to understand their historical, cultural, and socio-political significance. The visit included a comprehensive tour of the ICJ, the Carnegie Foundation, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as well as an enriching experience in Amsterdam.

The first half of the day was spent at the International Court of Justice, located in the iconic Peace Palace. The guided tour provided a deep dive into the rich history behind the UN's establishment of this international judicial body. I was captivated by the Peace Palace, which symbolizes global efforts toward peaceful conflict resolution. The guide explained how the ICJ has evolved as a cornerstone of international law and diplomacy. During the visit, I had the privilege of interacting with professionals working at the court. They shared insights into their work culture, the responsibilities of their roles, and how the ICJ contributes to global peace and justice.





One of the most significant moments was seeing the first Nobel Peace Agreement, which is preserved at the ICJ. This historical artifact demonstrates the socio-political climate and the aspirations of nations at the time of its creation. It was inspiring to reflect on how this institution continues to serve as a beacon for international justice.

The next stop was the Carnegie Foundation, named after Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-American philanthropist. The foundation was established to maintain the "Temple of Peace," now known as the Peace Palace. Andrew Carnegie's vision was to not only house the Permanent Court of Arbitration but also to create a world-class public legal library.


The foundation was established in 1903 to manage the funds and oversee the construction of the Peace Palace, which remains a national monument and an emblem of international law and cooperation. The experience was a remarkable testament to Carnegie's legacy and the enduring importance of philanthropy in fostering peace.

Following the Carnegie Foundation, I had the opportunity to observe proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration. This experience was irreplaceable as it provided a firsthand understanding of how international arbitration is conducted. It was an unparalleled learning moment for me as a law student, as it bridged theoretical knowledge with real-world applications in resolving international disputes.





After the enriching experiences in The Hague, I visited Amsterdam and explored the legacy of the Dutch East India Company. Now part of the University of Amsterdam, this institution is a hub for business studies. Learning about the trade policies and the establishment of Dutch companies during the colonial period was fascinating. The history of the Dutch East India Company highlighted the economic and geopolitical strategies of the past, providing valuable insights into the evolution of international trade and commerce.



This visit to The Hague and Amsterdam was a transformative experience for me as a law student. It offered a unique opportunity to engage with institutions that shape international law and to explore historical and cultural landmarks. From understanding the ICJ's pivotal role to experiencing the operational dynamics of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and reflecting on the legacy of the Carnegie Foundation, every moment was enriching. The exposure to the history of the Dutch East India Company further broadened my perspective on global commerce and its legal implications.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Queen Mary University of London for supporting me on this remarkable journey. This experience has enriched my understanding of international law, diplomacy, and history, fuelling my passion for pursuing a career in this field.

This trip was not only an academic milestone but also a deeply personal one. It underscored the importance of law as a tool for fostering peace, resolving conflicts, and shaping a better world.

