

A letter from Beijing (4 August 2019)

Dear All,

The queue was very long and merry but disciplined, waiting in the heat of the day to enter the National Museum at Tiananmen Square in Beijing last Saturday. It is holiday time, and many families with small children from all over the country flock into the capital. Ancient China and its technological leadership at the time, witnessed in early printings long before Gutenberg, or beautiful and timeless ceramics, is part of identity and pride of the country. Children are proudly taught about it and spend the time with their parents in the cool halls of the huge museum. As everywhere, what they enjoy most is an ice-cream well deserved.

Dr Jianqiang Nie, Professor of international Economic Law at Wuhan University and a WTI PhD graduate, runs an annual training programme for some 40 Asian and African diplomats and lawyers in Beijing for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The topic was dispute settlement in international law, and I was asked to talk about the reform of the WTO dispute settlement system. The two week course is hosted in one of the most modern Business Schools with all facilities one can think of, located within a new science park where China is developing, this time again, its technological leadership. Impressive investments are being made from which we can learn.

On Saturday evening, we met a number of MILE and Wuhan alumni for dinner. It was a touching moment to see former students and to learn about their fond memories of MILE and Berne and what it meant and means for their lives. One particularly mentioned the ability acquired to think in context, taking into account law, economics and politics. And one fellow particularly recalled the first day when they were shown the city of Berne and felt a warm welcome. Today, they all work in the field of trade and are partners or associates in law firms or in Mofcom, or teach international economic law in Universities.

The trade war with the Trump Administration looms large in Beijing and keeps them all busy and on their toes, mainly in the field of trade remedies. It was interesting to learn that China no longer seems to be afraid, but resilient and facing up to the challenge. One colleague said that negotiations with the US now are even-handed, and it is assumed that the imposition of a new 10% tariff on consumer goods will help to inform the US public that they, and not the Chinese, are taxed and bear the burden of this war. Another strongly

argued that China now needs to develop leadership in the multilateral system, overcoming the more defensive attitude of the past.

I return home enriched and sent you all my best regards,
Thomas

A letter from Ottawa, Canada (16 January 2018)

Dear All,

I trust this finds you well back home.

After three and a half weeks, I leave Ottawa for Boston today; a bright sunny and cold North American winter day. The three weeks were dedicated to lectures at the University of Ottawa Law School on the law and theory of multilevel governance, further developing my Five Storey House approach: reshaping sovereignty, the relationship of domestic and international law and extending principles of federalism to the process of constitutionalising international law, in particular in trade and human rights.

The three weeks were quite intense with lectures and student presentations every day. The 17 students brought the Canadian perspective to the table which we compared with EU, Swiss and US law. Canada is a most interesting case for multilevel governance with strong provincial aspect, but weak local powers. Students were interested in learning about EU and Swiss federalism and the strong status of communes in our country and its remote mountain valleys. Europe is quite far away, here, and it is useful to recall European constitutional principles which in fact are closer to Canada than US law. The lectures very much helped me conceptualise the issues and to make progress towards a book on the subject. Working on the operating system, so the speak, upon which allocation of powers and tasks should be made, is helpful in understanding current transitions taking place with enhanced regulatory cooperation and convergence, as well as coming to grips with EU-Swiss relations or the challenges in regulating world trade within the WTO and regional integration.

During my stay, CIGI, the Centre of International Governance Initiative, ran three conferences: problems relating to the WTO Appellate Body and treaty interpretation, trade and climate change (following up my lectures 2 years ago) and IPR and global value chains. I am impressed how GICI as an Ontario funded NGO is able to bring together government, academia and the private sector. The Federal Government, in particular Foreign Affairs (other than in Switzerland) is interested in tapping into to the knowledge and expertise of academia, and vice versa. I am impressed how the Canadians prepare and argue in current NAFTA talks with the US, the latter without clear guidance and instructions.

I wish the WTI could do the same as CIGI in assisting to overcome blockages in Swiss-EU relations and possible initiatives in the WTO. There is so much to do to overcome misunderstandings and prejudice which need to be cleared in a process of dialogue and discussion. At any rate, I shall try to do my best within the Association *La Suisse en Europe*, pushing for a necessary framework agreement. I am much encouraged to take up this task of ours.

Ottawa in winter is a somewhat hibernating place. People tend to stay at home during cold periods, in particular when it snows and arctic winds produce temperatures around minus 30 degree. I was glad to stay in a cosy bed and breakfast Victorian House with a large room close to the University. Not much time outside except for walking downtown for meals and to classes. Yet, the deeply frozen Rideau channel is a particular attraction. When open, it allows to skate 15 kilometres in a row. Families, friends and children are all out enjoying the day and hot chocolates to warm up. Canada is a multicultural place, and Ottawa multicultural town. You see faces from all over the world who found a new home in this beautiful and optimistic country.

I shall be back in Bern mid of February, after a few days in Boston visiting my son and giving a talk at Harvard University and then skiing with the grandchildren in Grindelwald, to which I very much look forward.

All the best and so long,
Thomas

A letter from Chile (4 November 2017)

Dear All,

Upon crossing the vast deserts of central Argentina, the Andes announce Chile and the west coast of the Pacific. Approaching the airport of Santiago is spectacular, and worth the long flights from the other part of the globe. Invited by the Heidelberg Centre of Latin American studies and Dr Andrea Lucas Garin, I spent a week, giving lectures on PPMs, climate change and common concern. Andrea, who visited WTI twice in completing her PhD on climate change and regional trade agreements (Cambio Climático y acuerdos comerciales regionales, ediciones Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago de Chile 2017) was an excellent and charming host working hard in research at terra finis University and coordinating the Heidelberg Master programme. I also met Alicia Froh Frohmann on a panel who visited WTI twice and produced a study for CEPAL on defining environmental standards in international trade law. It was nice to hear that both had enjoyed their time in Berne; but we still can learn from them in terms of hospitality. I know that Rodrigo was involved in planning the trip, and I very much would like to thank him for all the contacts. He must miss his city!

It might be interesting for WTI to increase cooperation beyond the Institute of International Studies and extend it to the Heidelberg Centre, the more so that the MPI Heidelberg and Anne Peters have lost interest and international economic law no longer is strongly represented. The part time students of the programme made an excellent impression.

Returning to Santiago after many years was exciting. A vibrant city, with new and modern business areas and impressive modern architecture, in particular le Golf, emerged since I was here in the 1990s. I wish we would have the courage in Switzerland to do similar projects. On the other time scale of history, visiting the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino was a special and impressive experience, and as much as listening to a street orchestra of young violinists, violas and celli intoning familiar operas and symphonies with smiles on their faces, just enjoying the play and life. Chile today ranks third in terms of HDI in the Americas, and is hardly any longer a developing country as long as you stay downtown. Traveling to Valparaiso at the coast showed stark discrepancy with the countryside, except for the Casa Blanca Valley with its vast vineyards producing Cabernet Sauvignon (Reminded me the important

role of Chile in negotiating GIs in the TRIPs negotiations). The country faces a divide which may amount to an incurring time-bomb.

Valparaiso was an experience on its own. It hardly could be further away from Europe, but it has essentially remained European. The fire engines are still called Feuerwehr. The houses with all their murals, the narrow streets up and down the hill are part of the UNESCO world heritage with all their murals, and beautiful roses splendidly blooming in ocean winds. Catholic, Anglican, protestant churches next to each other, a cosmopolitan melting pot in the 19th Century. What can we learn from it for today's challenges in migration? I leave that with you.

Have a good week-end,
Thomas

A letter from Nankai University, Tianjin, China (15 May 2017)

Dear All,

Some 40 kilometres outside of Tianjin, China, a new green-field campus, prepared to host thousands of students, offers the venue of a conference on the future landscape of intellectual property law, organised by Nankai Law School on May 13-14, 2017 in generous and kind hospitality. The buildings all are in red brick, taking up the tradition of European buildings in Tianjin, which – next to Shanghai – was the financial centre of European powers in the North of China following the Opium Wars, and before Beijing, some 100 miles north, emerged as the capital of China.

It is hard to imagine the size and overall design of the campus without visiting. In some 20 years, its trees will be grown, and the atmosphere will be comparable to the old down-town campus of the University of Nankai, founded in 1919. The investment made by China in education and the projection of learned traditions into the future is just impressive. There is little doubt that they will become globally relevant centres of excellence, hosting self-confident and assertive scholars and faculties.

Indeed, what was striking is the number of young scholars from all over the country attending the conference. Knowledge and sophistication in the field has tremendously increased, and the discipline is in good hands with the young generation. Hard working, these scholars truly prepare for globalization; international economic law is a mandatory subject in Nankai for undergraduate students; something unheard of in Europe. They are mainly interested in US legal developments. Faculty structures and curriculum today are modelled after the US system; I was the only European among a number of key note speakers (speaking myself on embedding IP into public international law); three from the US and one from Australia. While civil (German and French) law, and EU law, are occasionally referred to, there is no perception of Europe as a single unit and Union, and its intellectual influence has been waning. Perhaps something to think about in the process of further fragmentation under way, and the local predominance of Swiss exceptionalism in particular. Europe needs to make an effort.

I thus hope that WTI and the University of Bern will build further links with Nankai. They enjoyed the visit and teaching by Ilaria Espa, an excellent ambassador! A number of students and PhD students indicated a strong

interest in our programmes and to learn about life in Europe and Switzerland. They all were active in servicing the conference in a most welcoming and friendly manner, as well as very engaging. We would benefit from having them. And we need to prepare for the future when the new campus will be full of grown trees and ponds in the winds of the northern plains of China.

Today, as I fly home over the silk road, Beijing hosts an international conference on the One Belt one Road Initiative (OBOR), to invest in the land and sea corridors to Europe and beyond. The effort clearly projects future power in the region and globally. Some 100 countries are involved and some 23.8 billion € China money at stake (Le Monde, 15.5.17). A huge investment project, absorbing China's overcapacities with doubtful prospects of returns in unstable central Asian countries. Yet, it clearly is a means to install a lead in 21st Century globalization and to secure the place of China as the world's manufacturing and exporting house. What I personally experienced from OBOR were heavy traffic jams and waiting the night on the highway due to police controls. We are reminded that the new globalization is possibly led by authoritarian rule. And Europeans will be picked apart if they fail to form a unity able to countervail and safeguard democracy and open society in 21st Century Globalization. One always returns ambivalent from China, and with the conviction to work harder on our side of the equation. Another reason to make the effort in building human and professional relations.

Have a good week,
Thomas

A letter from Moscow (7 April 2017)

Dear All,

Born and raised in the Cold War, it took me 67 years to visit Moscow for the first time, together with Silvia. Invited by Professor Alexey Portansky and the Higher School of Economics, I taught classes this week on the challenges of regulatory convergence, preferential trade, climate change and structural reform of the WTO. Students and attending government officials were interested and patient, and some of the topics seemed quite new to the audience. Climate change and trade is not an issue discussed, and I put an emphasis on the need of climate change communication.

Five years upon joining the WTO, trade policy in Russia is far from a high priority, given the political priorities of the Government. There is a feeling of disappointment as fruits are not reaped – except for access to an incredible amount of Western consumer goods dominating this town. Re-establishing Russian power projection of an Empire lost enjoys priority, much to the dismay of liberal academics we met and a former minister of economics over lunch. Instead of fostering cooperation with the EU and the US in a framework of industrial policy, the divide has been increasing ever since the struggle with Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea, and support of the Assad regime in Syria.

Given the impending decline of oil consumption in the West, Russia is in need to develop its industrial and service sectors on export markets. No strategy, I am told, is in place to this effect. Russia has a long way to go. Things may need to get worse before economics and international trade become a priority. The protests of the youth may be a beginning, imploring corruption and cronyism. Little of these shortcomings can be felt in the busy streets and prospects of the Russian capital of more than 11 million people – the largest town in Europe. Arriving from one of the four airports, and traveling along broad but constantly congested roads, you pass hundreds of huge flats with housing becoming more expensive and often unaffordable as you reach the city centre. The centre of the city is amazingly clean with remarkable buildings and squares quite apart from the Kremlin and Red Square, flanked by GUM, a symbol of Russian capitalism and modern inequality, next to an excessive amount of black Mercedes and BMWs on busy streets and aggressive traffic. Yet, in its neighbourhoods you also find cosy restaurants with lively young people, and walking down the pedestrian zone of Arbat outside the tourist season invokes a lively city life and folks busy with iPhones as elsewhere around the globe.

The Metro stations are most impressive, both for their size and space left to people to travel. You do not feel at all in a tub. Rather, the stations are centres of art and culture deploying history and a common identity. I shall not forget watching people with all different complexions traveling on the stairs up or down, composed, dignified, but hardly ever smiling. You bow your head before the people who lost 40 million humans in fighting Nazism also for us, whatever the failures of communism.

Perhaps the best part of this trip with Silvia were discussions and conversations with professors and our guide, Ms Veronika Charugina a student in history. She showed us around in a town where we neither read or speak the language, and yet we felt the common European cultural heritage and linkages, visiting the graves of the cellist Rostropovich, the composer Sostakovich, of the writer Bulgakov, next to the Soviet and Russian Republic elite buried in a strange and packed cemetery. We visited the Bolschoi Ballet and enjoyed very much its creative perfection and classical tradition. The Tretjakow Museum is most impressive with its beautiful spiritual icons and 19th Century paintings yet little know in Western Europe.

The revival of religion – next to consumerism – is a remarkable trait in modern Russia – the epitome being the newly reconstructed Cathedral of the Saviour, the main church (where Pussy Riots took the courage to perform and provoke). It was only built in 1920, completely destroyed in 1931 and rebuilt as an exact replica few years ago. You would not see the difference, and the question remains what kind of society would address the future this way as shows by the 21st Century sky scrapers of the financial district.

We return from this trip reinforced that dialogue on the basis of a common cultural heritage is essential in light of widely shared problems (including combatting climate change, IS and terrorism virulent this week in St Petersburg), and that in human interaction, the cosmopolitan theory proves right: Where ever and who we are, essential human problems of life and interaction are shared and provide the basis of understanding and friendship among individual human beings. This is where I hope you and the WTI will continue to make a difference.

Have a good week-end,
Thomas

A letter from Vilnius (24 June 2016)

Dear All,

This letter is to thank wholeheartedly Karolis Gudas and his team. His conference “Energy Reform ‘16” brought together in the venue of ISM University of Economics and Management in picturesque downtown Vilnius the private sector, government, researchers of WTI, Oxford and Cambridge, Bocconi, CIGI Waterloo, and participants from other countries, perhaps some 150, maybe less, maybe more. We learnt a great deal about the challenges and achievements of the private and public energy sector after a rapid transition in the Baltics, mainly focusing on Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) pipelines and marine transportation. We discussed the impact of WTO law and international investment protection, also with a focus on EU law.

Karolis succeeded to invite the minister of energy, Rokas Masiulis, and all the very young CEOs and General Counsels of the energy companies as well as leading attorneys in the field. Other than in Switzerland, they are interested in a dialogue with researchers, and they were the main sponsors next to WTI and NCCR to whom we are most grateful. From the WTI, we had presentations by Ilaria Espa, Simona Weber, Tetyana Payosova and Tilman Dralle, now back in Dresden. Sascha was active in communications and support. My key note focused on the prospects of an energy agreement in the WTO and a presentation on the global grid. Bits and pieces of what was WP 5. We met former MILE student Nikolay Mizulin, partner at Mayer Brown, Brussels, and acting lawyer in the EU-Russia energy dispute.

Upon returning to Vilnius, Karolis took up the position of General Legal Counsel of one of the leading energy companies – at his young age of 28! A different world. Lithuania must be today, what Switzerland was in the 1860s - led by young generation after a revolution - and after joining the EU. It is here that we see the achievements of the Union, and that all talk of stagnation for the new countries is misleading. This is completely ignored in the Swiss and UK debate on the EU. The town has so dramatically changed since I last visited in 1993 advising the new government at the time. And so have the people. The town looks much different, and I have never seen a more lively and youthful Friday night elsewhere; it was a wonderfully warm summer evening. The new generation is full of energy and I am very happy for Karolis that he has the chance to take up work in such an environment.

This morning, a walk with Ilaria and Karolina through the town, to the black Madonna, the oldest church (13th Century) and to the former Jewish ghetto which recalled yet another dramatic period of Lithuanian history.

Thank you, Karolis for all this and what you did for WTI.

With best wishes,

Thomas

A Letter from Canada (15 November 2014)

Dear All,

Ottawa sees its first snow flurries these days, announcing the cold season. Inside the Law School, you do not feel this. The atmosphere is friendly, and I was warmly welcomed by Debra Steger and the faculty and students for the guest lectures on the prospects of law in monetary affairs – a new subject in international economic law met with interest. Discussions further corroborated possibilities to cooperate with the University of Ottawa Law School, and the joint programme on Investment Policy is most welcome, also on the part of the Swiss Embassy present at the event. Thanks to Stephen again for all the work!

The following three days are dedicated to discussion with the Canadian legal service in trade law and the proceedings of the Canadian Council on International Law – Canada's national society of international law. Some 125 officials, academics, students and practitioners will attend. The focus this year was on Energy, Resources and Environmental Issues (see program attached). My key note discussing the prospects of a global electricity grid and its legal ramifications – a spin-off of the World Trade Forum 2014 – was very well received, in particular the suggestion of wind farms on Greenland, serving both North America and Europe.

The annual meeting in Canada is an excellent occasion for post docs and doctoral students to present work, and I encourage participation in the coming years on the part of WTI staff. This year, Jonas Attenhofer presents a paper on resource management and territorial disputes. Many of you would have fit in well! It also is an excellent forum to meet likeminded and interesting folks. I also discussed the prospects of closer cooperation with the Waterloo based CIGI (Centre for International Governance Innovation's) which is strongly interested in closer cooperation and amounts to an interesting partner to disseminate NCCR research results, shorter visits by PhD students and staff. They work in related areas of economic law, environment and intellectual property.

I was proud to draw attention to the fact that we have so many Canadians at WTI and that close relations will come about naturally.

I return Sunday and wish you a very good weekend!

Best, Thomas

A letter from Onati, Spain (18 July 2014)

Dear All,

Onati is a lovely small town in the heart of the Basque Country. It hosts the oldest University in the region, and today the International Institute for the Sociology of Law. The region is very different from what I expected. How green this part of Spain is! And mountains comparable to much what we find in Switzerland's *Voralpen*, on this side of the Pyrenees. It is tempting to return back for a holiday, I certainly would like to recommend the region to you and to visit its rich cultural heritage and the contours of the Atlantic coast. Tomorrow, on my way home, I hope to visit the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

The conference organised by the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and Duke University in Toronto dealt with Multilevel Governance and identity building on the international level, and the relationship of trade and human rights. The increasing influx and importance of empirical work and social science consideration is important to follow and a true opportunity for WTI as we have the disciplines in house and are best suited for cooperation. Some of the participants travelled from the SIEL conference, and I again was happy to receive very good feedback. I was particularly glad to make the acquaintance of Jurgen Kurtz from Melbourne University whom we should keep in touch in trade and investment, and of Moshe Hirsch from Jerusalem who works on European identity, human rights and trade measures.

I wish you a very good weekend. See you next week. And for those on deserved holidays, I wish you a good time off-line (should you inadvertently read these lines).

Kind regards
Thomas

A letter from New Delhi (30 June 2014)

Dear All,

Waiting for my flight out, I look back to five active days in New Delhi, with temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius outdoors. Summer is in full swing, hot and prone to occasional storms. Yet, New Delhi is a green city, with lots of trees, and shade over its generous roads and streets, different from other Asian towns dominated by concrete and tar. The city with its 20 million inhabitants witnesses a bristling life and traffic despite the heat, and impressive differences and inequalities meet the eye and remain formidable. With a new government impending, the mood is hopeful, and people are hoping for, and expecting changes and improvements in their lives.

Before this backdrop, the first joint summer academy of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the Center for WTO Studies (a branch of the IIFT, directed by Professor Abhijit Das) and the WTI had a good start. A group of some 25 talented law students from different law schools of the country were selected and it was a pleasure to interact. The courses on WTO law and investment law provided by Krista Nadakavukaren and on non-discrimination by Shalilja Singh and myself were well received. I gave a talk on India and the Future of Multilateralism stressing the changes from liberalization to regulation of trade, harnessing globalization. The work was excellently prepared by Corinne, and supported by Anirudh and Pallavi and Santanu. We enjoyed the support of Swiss Embassy and an invitation Monday evening, glad to meet MILE alumni in town, Harsh, Bhat and Arpit.

I also gave lecture at Amity University, the vice-chancellor of which expressed strong interest in cooperation. Pierre talked in parallel at the Jindal Law School. The two of us today spoke at Assocham, the Indian association of chambers of commerce, on trade facilitation. Contacts with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) showed considerable interest for capacity building on trade policy with the private sector. We met again with the Ministry of Education in order to get MILE on the list of eligible programs for government officials. We look forward to follow up on all these plans. With Anirudh in Berne, a strong alumni network and Corinne being in India, we will succeed. The joint academy is scheduled to run for five years, and WTI could not hope for a better a base in this impressive and important country.

There is a sense that India has to play a more proactive role in trade policy and international diplomacy given that it is the third largest market and also enjoys democratic legitimacy and a free press. The west should appreciate this much more and the Swiss should stop haggling over issues such as extended patent protection in EFTA-India negotiations.

Anirudh and Santanu showed me around on Sunday in Delhi, and I was struck by the visit of ancient monuments, learning how often Delhi and India was conquered, civilised and colonised even before the Brits arrived. How much migration there was in this part of the world over centuries! The massive Qutb Minaret and the Moguls tombs in Delhi (less known than Taj Mahal but equally impressive and elegantly using the constant breeze to cool the rooms) are silent witnesses, and well worthwhile a trip.

I particularly should like to thank Corinne for all her work (even during the current baby pause) and to Anirudh for his care and hospitality of his family in his New Delhi home.

With kind regards,
Thomas

A letter from Addis Ababa (4 July 2013)

Dear All,

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) integrates science, including social sciences and law, in debate and policy formulation relating to climate change. Informed by science and physics, the methodology of working with peer reviewed literature (but also allowing for grey literature in social sciences) preparing the reports also applies to economics, social science and law. WTI's contribution relates to the role and the potential of preferential trade agreements in climate change mitigation: a process still at its beginning, but promising. Thanks to Kateryna for all her work on the topic! The review process is elaborated with comments to be dealt with systematically, and subject to further review. Contributing to chapter 14 on the role of regions on climate change, I was impressed by the work done, and the methods applied may also be inspiring in the trade field where policy and research in no way are formally linked. Compare IPCC with the WTO Public Forum, and you see the difference. The conference was attended by some 300 experts of Working Group III, organised in different chapters for the report. The conference was held at the UN quarters in the centre of the town (1-5 July 2013). I attended from 2-4 July.

I found Addis Abada in the rainy season, quite misty and gloomy. The town does not make a prosperous impression. Riding to town in an old and dilapidated Lada taxi, the driver unclear about destinations, I pass many young unemployed men sadly idle and hanging out early in the morning. At the same time, many building sites are uncompleted without work being done. Services do not seem to work well. I was not really prepared for this reality, travelling overnight (with an emergency landing in Belgium), and finding myself in a different world in the morning. After three days I leave the country with mixed feelings. What clearly stays in mind is the very beauty of the people, their complexion, their smile, in a country which gave birth to civilization a long time ago.

Kind regards, on my way home,
Thomas

Letter from Johannesburg (4 November 2012)

Dear All:

Visiting the Mandela Institute and participating in the “First Annual International Economic Law Update” on November 1, 2012, sponsored by WTI and the SECO Project, I was pleased to note an increasing interest in IEL in the RSA community, both academic and in government. The conference, planned to be held annually, is a good format in building the field. It showed the many areas in which RSA is involved as an increasingly important member of the BRICs group and predominant regional power.

I was pleased to meet former MILE students, in particular Methabo le Roux who is now with the EU mission in Pretoria, and Maggie working with the competition authority. I met Pamela who sends all her best regards back to Bern. I had a very interesting seminar based upon a well-received draft paper on compulsory licensing (Use it or lose, it NCCR Working paper 2012/11) and feedback in particular from IP and anti-trust lawyers present was most useful for further work on this with Shaheezah and Michelangelo. The main challenge is bringing about knowledge transfer, and we further explored the role which CSR responsibility could play in that respect.

The visit also allowed me to have good discussions with Professor Stephan Gelb who will join WTI succeeding Roberto in investment research and the investment programme in January (immigration permits still pending). He is an economist and well-established specialist in investment research, and will greatly reinforce WTI staff. I will inform you at the staff meeting on coming Tuesday. Stephen drove me around Johannesburg in a spare moment. I was impressed by continued disparities and contrasts in this fascinating country. The recent shadow of the shooting of miners opened old wounds, and also strongly affects the international reputation of the country. (Recommend reading the Economists’ extensive country report on October 20th, 2012.) But what is most impressive is the potential of the country, and meeting so many people highly motivated in building a new society within the Wits University, following a long-standing tradition in the fight against apartheid.

Kind regards,
Thomas

Letter from Lima, Peru (20 July 2012)

Dear All:

Lima is a bristling city, stretching endlessly from the shores to the hills ascending the Andes. Former boroughs grew together, leaving no boundaries behind in a web of endless streets and traffic. The old centre no longer is the real centre despite impressive buildings; it moved on, including to Miraflores – a preferred residential area where I am staying. The Universita Catolica is distant, and the trip follows the Pacific shore peppered with winterly surfers on the waves. The University is modern and beautifully located in a campus where all courses are held in the evening. The new Master Programme has started well with interested and interesting students, many working in government. It is an excellent example of good cooperation of which we can be proud.

I very much enjoyed seeing former MILE students in government and also teaching in the programme. Training the trainers gradually takes effect. More is needed in building research capacity which is not part of the tradition in this country. We can do more in linking it up with NCCR work.

Apart of teaching, I gave three public lectures on the future of the multilateralism, on digital trade and on protecting traditional knowledge. It was impressive to see how Peru leads off in this debate and has started to document TK and interact with communities. These events allowed getting in touch with people of government, law and business. It was impressed how friendly and open they are.

Just about leaving. Have a good week-end,
Thomas