

The AfIELN and AfronomicsLaw Experiences

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AfIELN Background

Established in 2008 as the African Society of International Economic Law (AfSIEL)

2012 First conference in South Africa and the adoption of the name **African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN)**

Objective: “to serve as a forum for the **research, study and exchange of ideas** in the field of international economic law in Africa and beyond”

Vision of the founders

To establish African leadership and ownership of a regional network distinct from the newly created SIEL – the global network

- The organisation of conferences and knowledge production & dissemination

Creation of an educational network to distribute law books to African law schools

- This initiative lost momentum after one year

Why book donations as part of the vision?

To make scholarship on international economic law broadly accessible to scholars, students on the continent

Many African universities are poorly financed

Faculty members, inspiring undergraduate and postgraduate students often lack access to the material they require

Book distribution and address part of the problems without solving them altogether

Successful hosting of AfIELN conferences

1. Inaugural AfIELN Conference, 5-6 May 2011, Mandela Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa; Theme: Africa and the Global Economy: Trade, Investment and Development
2. 2nd AfIELN Conference, 7-8 March 2013, Johannesburg, South Africa; Theme: “Trade Governance: Integrating Africa into the World Economy through International Economic Law”
3. 3rd AfIELN Conference, 29-30 April 2015, Lagos, Nigeria; Theme: “The Role of International Economic Law in African Development”
4. 4th AfIELN Conference, 18-20 July 2019, Strathmore University, Kenya; Theme: “Africa’s Participation in International Economic Law in the 21st Century
5. 5th AfIELN Conference, 23-24 July 2021 (Virtual Colloquium); Theme: “COVID-19 and International Economic Law: Africa’s Experiences and Responses”
6. 6th AfIELN Conference, 21-24 June 2023, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) Accra, Ghana; Theme: “International Economic Law in an Era of Multiple Crises: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa”
7. 7th AfIELN (Bridge) Conference, 18-20 July 2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Hosted by: Tanzania Trade and Investment Coalition (TATIC); Theme: “A Critical Appraisal of the Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and its Protocols”

Output and Dissemination



Special issues of journals

2 published (under this model)



Edited collections

2 so far



But there are/were problems with this model



Reliance on the classical publication stream

Resulting in the marginalisation of African IEL scholarship

Either because of gatekeeping or a paywall of journal subscriptions



→ There was a need to reinvent the dissemination of African IEL knowledge



AfronomicsLAW | as a Response

- Afronomicslaw focuses on international economic law and public international law themes as they relate to Africa and the Global South
- A major goal of Afronomicslaw is to **amplify the voices and issues** that are not often part of the conversation in the scholarship and practice in these areas
- It offers scholars, policymakers, practitioners and others interested in these issues a forum to reflect on these insightfully

Dissemination model

Open access as the model

Blogging

- A faster way of getting research/ideas available/published without waiting for the (sometimes) lengthy peer-review process
- Stand-alone analyses
- Book symposia
- Thematic symposia

African Journal of International Economic Law (AfJIEL) – a peer-reviewed journal
(www.afronomicslaw.org/journal)

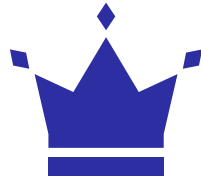
Useful links

- www.afieln.org
- www.afronomicslaw.org
- www.afronomicslaw.org/journal
- www.afronomicslaw.org/category/afsdjn (African Sovereign Debt Justice Network)

Thank you



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