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**INTERNATIONAL FINANCE LAW PROF G A WALKER**

The international finance markets are the largest markets in the world. International finance has enjoyed massive growth and expansion in recent decades following an earlier period of post-War recovery and reconstruction. The largest companies in the world and governments use these markets on a daily basis to fund their capital and investment and working capital programmes. Over US$5.3tn is moved each day in the international currency markets with the total global financial system being worth in excess of US$200tn.

The international finance markets are made up of a number of separate markets. These principally consist of the Euro syndicated loan and Euro-bond markets with an underlying Euro-dollar interbank market. The international capital markets include global equity issues and depository receipts as well as international debentures and shorter Medium Term Note, Euronote and less than one year Commercial Paper programmes. The financial derivatives markets have expanded substantially since the early 1970s and are now made up of the international Swap and over-the-counter (OTC) and exchange traded Futures and Options markets and Credit Derivatives and other new product markets such as in the energy and environmental areas. A separate structured finance market had also exploded in size just before the financial crisis in 2008-2009, which included such instruments as Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDOs) and Credit Linked Notes (CLNs), as well as Credit Default Swaps (CDSs) in the credit derivatives area.

The operation of these markets raises a number of difficult issues especially in terms of structure and documentation, pricing and disclosure and payment, clearing and settlement. An enormous number of transactions are carried out on a daily basis between a large number of market counterparties and end-users. All of these interests have to be respected and protected and the stable operation of the markets ensured for all users and beneficiaries. International finance markets are, in practice, principally managed on an internal market or self-regulatory basis. This is necessary in light of their size and the absence of any global authority capable of overseeing them. While the main market participants will be regulated at the domestic level, international contracts themselves are dealt with on a private law basis using standard documentation prepared by various trade bodies or associations. These include the Loan Market Association (LMA) in the loan area, the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA) in the bond area and International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) in the derivatives areas. Each of these have produced master documents and agreements which govern the rights and interests of parties in these markets.

The purpose of this course is to examine the structure and operation of each of the key markets involved. This includes the international loan and bond market, project finance and securitisation markets and derivatives market. The standard documentation used is identified. The duties and obligations of each of the parties involved are considered and rights and remedies explained. Relevant regulatory provisions are referred to to the extent relevant. National practices are referred to where appropriate. Recent developments in the markets are also noted where this may be of interest.

We very much hope that you enjoy the course.