

PRESS RELEASE

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NUS Co-Organises Seminars Relating To Consumer Protection For Businesses And Lawyers

The Centre for Commercial Law Studies, NUS Faculty of Law, in collaboration with various partners, is putting together a series of seminars to support the introduction of the proposed Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Bill.

The proposed Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Bill is slated to be passed into law in the latter part of this year and has been the result of the government recognising the need to arm consumers with more protection against unscrupulous businesses. The Bill envisages a self-help regime between consumers and businesses with little direct or no dedicated infrastructure support. Whilst the Bill gives new rights and power to consumers, businesses would need to evaluate their operations from management operational and marketing perspectives.

Details on the seminars are as follows:

A) SEMINAR FOR BUSINESSES JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH LEXISNEXIS BUTTERWORTHS, 21 April 2003 from 9.00am to 5.00pm at the Mandarin Court, Fourth Floor – Main Tower, Meritus Mandarin Singapore

This seminar will put together global and local experts with relevant but diverse expertise to help businesses understand the impact and ramifications of the prospective law. It will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to illustrate good business practices and business excellence and the extent to which they not only comply with the proposed law but also would raise industry standards. The interactive approach would allow delegates to have in-depth focused discussions with specialists in different areas of interest. The seminar will also introduce participants to the latest developments in corporate social responsibility (CSR), a standard requirement that is rapidly being adopted by leading global businesses.

The seminar brings together a panel of experts involved in International Standards, in formulating dispute avoidance measures as part of a public relations strategy, advocates for the proposed legislation and a crown counsel from Saskatchewan, Canada who has legal expertise on laws and developments similar to the proposed legislation.

B) SEMINAR FOR LAWYERS, 23 April 2003 from 9.00am to 1.00pm at City Hall Chamber, Third Level, City Hall Building

This seminar targets mainly the legal community. The speakers in this half-day seminar will bring lawyers through a background and historical account of the proposed Act as well as the contents of the bill and the relevant legal developments elsewhere that may impact on the interpretation of the contents of the Bill. The anticipated law has broad ramifications on commerce and the panel will seek to equip lawyers with the knowledge to advise their clients.

The panel of experts includes a representative from the Attorney General's Chambers who will give participants an understanding of the contents of the bill and a crown counsel from Saskatchewan, Canada who has legal expertise on laws similar to our proposed legislation. Another expert from Canada will share his successful experiences on how businesses could be advised to utilise codes of conduct to avoid or deal with disputes.

A similar business seminar is also being planned in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 April 2003. More details on these seminars may be obtained from <http://law.nus.edu.sg/ccls/news.htm>.

Interested participants may also contact:

- Ms Sonja Boon [sonja@keymedia.com.sg] at 64234631 for the legal seminar;
- Ms Verona Huang [Verona.huang@lexisnexis.com] at 63490136 for the Business Seminar

For more information, please contact:

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