

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 June 2003

The Maritime and Port Authority Endows \$4m Professorship in Maritime Law

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has donated \$4 million to the National University of Singapore to enable the Faculty of Law to establish an MPA Professorship in Maritime Law. The donation is part of MPA's plan to promote Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC) by developing a pool of skilled manpower to serve the maritime sector.

Says NUS Law Faculty Dean Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han '87 "The Faculty of Law is extremely grateful to MPA for its strong and generous support. We plan to use the funds to bring MPA Visiting Professors and Distinguished Visitors to NUS to conduct courses in maritime law for the undergraduate and postgraduate law programmes of the Faculty, as well as seminars and intensive courses in maritime law for the maritime community and practising lawyers in Singapore."

The Faculty has expanded its programmes in maritime law in the past two years. It currently has three regular staff members and three adjunct staff members teaching maritime law subjects. The regular staff members are Associate Professors Robert Beckman, Stephen Girvin and Alan Tan. Prof Girvin taught maritime law at the University of Nottingham before joining NUS in 2002-3. The three adjunct Associate Professors are Lee Kiat Seng '89 of Wee Swee Teow & Co., Neale Gregson of Watson, Farley & Williams, and Winston Kwek '92 of Rajah & Tann. Mr Kwek and Mr Gregson will be joining the Faculty as adjuncts in the 2003-4 academic year.

These six staff members offer five subjects in the maritime field: Carriage of Goods by Sea; Admiralty Law & Practice; International Maritime Law; The Law of Marine Insurance; and Ocean Law & Policy. In addition, the Faculty offers a course in International Commercial Arbitration, which is very important as Singapore strives to become a leading maritime arbitration centre.

The MPA Professorship will enable the Faculty to offer additional advanced subjects. It will also enable the Faculty to offer an intensive two to three-week course in Maritime Law during the university holidays for members of the maritime legal community in Singapore.

NUS Law Faculty Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) Associate Professor Robert Beckman says "The Faculty plans to bring in the first MPA Distinguished Visitor in December, 2003. He is Professor Robert Force, the Director of the Maritime Law Center at Tulane Law School, the leading maritime law center in the United States. Prof Force will be advising the Faculty on the feasibility of offering a specialised LL.M. degree in Maritime Law. He will also be assisting the Faculty in the planning of an Intensive Course in Maritime Law. Funds from the MPA grant will enable the Faculty to bring out several MPA Distinguished Visitors in Maritime Law to teach in the first Intensive Course in Maritime Law, which the Faculty plans to offer in June/July 2004."

MPA also donated another \$12 million to local universities including the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, to establish another three maritime-related professorships. For more information, please see [MPA's online press release](#).