

PRESS RELEASE

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NUS To Host Top legal Scholars On Asian Legal Issues

More than 100 leading scholars of law from around the world will meet at a conference on 27 and 28 May 2004 at the National University of Singapore (NUS) to discuss legal issues of contemporary relevance to Asia. The inaugural conference, one of the flagship events of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI), bears the theme *"The Role of Law in a Developing Asia"* and is hosted by the NUS Faculty of Law. The conference will be one of the largest gatherings of Asian legal scholars ever to be convened in Singapore.

It is hoped that the annual ASLI conference will become a definitive forum for exploring legal issues of relevance to an emerging Asia, and will provide opportunities for scholars and experts from the member institutions as well as from Asia and beyond to conduct joint research into topics of common interest. The inaugural conference will feature speakers and participants from nearly 70 law schools and research institutes from Asia, Europe, North America and Australasia, including ASLI member institutions. In addition, 15 Deans and Heads of law schools will be in attendance.

Almost 100 papers on topics of relevance to Asia, including constitutional law, criminal justice, information technology law, intellectual property rights, corporate law, world trade law, natural resources and indigenous peoples, and comparative competition law will be presented at the conference. There will also be four specialist panels exploring legal issues confronting China and Indonesia, two of Asia's largest and most important developing economies. Panel titles include *Foundations of Commercial Law in Asia, China and Taiwan in the 21st Century, Criminal Law and Justice in Asia, The Role and Rule of Law in Indonesia, Asia in the Era of Rapid Technological Change, The WTO and Economic Integration in Asia, The Rights of Women, and Corporate and Financial Law in Asia.*

Some of the speakers at the conference and their topics include:

- **Professor Jacques de Lisle from the University of Pennsylvania**
"Law and the Question of Taiwan's Status"
- **Professor Vitit Muntharbhorn from Chulalongkorn University**
"The Role of Law in a Developing Asia: A Constructive Engagement with the International Human Rights System?"
- **Associate Professor Tim Charles Lindsey from the University of Melbourne**
"Syariah Reform in Aceh: New born or Stillborn? New Islamic Qa'nun and Codes in Indonesia"

The conference will be rotated annually among the ASLI founding institutions, with the conference returning to NUS every four years.

NUS Faculty of Law's ASLI Deputy Director, Associate Professor Alan Tan said, "The ASLI member institutions hope to establish the conference as the leading forum for scholars of Asian law to meet in Asia every year to update themselves on recent developments and to renew ties with their fellow scholars. As Asia becomes ever prominent on the world stage, there is a need for greater understanding of the diverse legal systems that make up Asia, and the common challenges faced by the different countries as they pursue modernisation. In this regard, it is hoped that the annual

conference can play a part in bolstering scholarship in Asian law and promoting greater understanding of the continent as a whole. ”

About ASLI

ASLI, an alliance between the NUS Faculty of Law and 10 other leading law schools in Asia , was established in March 2003 to strengthen academic exchanges and research collaboration among its members. Its Secretariat, which provides financial and administrative support for its activities, is located at the NUS Faculty of Law.

ASLI comprises the law schools of the following top Asian universities:

- Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok , Thailand)
- East China University of Politics and Law (Shanghai , People's Republic of China)
- University of Indonesia (Jakarta , Indonesia)
- International Islamic University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- Kyushu University (Fukuoka , Japan)
- National Law School of India University (Bangalore , India)
- National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- National Taiwan University (Taipei , Chinese Taipei)
- Peking University (Beijing , People's Republic of China)
- Seoul National University (Seoul , Republic of Korea)
- University of the Philippines (Manila , the Philippines)