S’pore magnet for Asia’s in-house lawyers

IT WANTS in-house lawyers from Asia to come to Singapore for their career development. And to achieve this, the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA) hopes to enlist the help of the two local law schools.

It has started talks with the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University to develop programmes useful for corporate counsel in Singapore and the region.

On Friday, at the SCCA’s fourth anniversary dinner, Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin encouraged association members to play a role in making Singapore a legal services hub — for example, by specifying the use of Singapore law as the governing law of their corporations’ contracts.

He also called on in-house lawyers to push for Singapore as the seat for arbitrating commercial disputes. The SCCA’s plan to organise a conference for corporate counsel from the region will be a platform to achieve this, according to SCCA president Angeline Lee.

AG Chao also called on in-house lawyers to promote good corporate governance. He identified new compliance areas, such as anti-spam law, to look out for. Even the Integrated Resorts should be on their radar, he said, suggesting that they familiarise themselves with gaming laws. — DERRICKA PAULO