

PRESS RELEASE



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GLOBAL LEGAL EXPERTS TO MEET IN SINGAPORE

NUS Faculty of Law to host largest annual conference on Asian Law

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is pleased to announce that the 5th Annual Conference of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) will be hosted by its Faculty of Law. **The conference, which will be held on 22 and 23 May 2008 at the University's Bukit Timah Campus, is expected to be attended by about 210 international legal academics and experts from countries which include Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.**

Launched in 2003 by a group of leading law schools in the Asia-Pacific region, the Asian Law Institute was set up to facilitate academic exchanges, as well as research and teaching collaboration among law schools in Asia. ASLI offers Asian legal scholars the opportunity to learn from one another and to help each other adapt to the rapid changes in the legal and social landscape. **It is today one of the leading law institutes in the region, and is physically situated at the NUS Faculty of Law.**

About the Conference

The inaugural ASLI annual conference was held in Singapore in March 2004, and since then a conference has been held in May each year. The main goal of the ASLI Conference is to give an opportunity for legal academics from Asia to present papers in Asia at a conference on Asia. Each conference examines contemporary legal issues of interest to Asian countries, and gathers scholars and experts from member institutions as well as from other institutions from Asia and beyond.

Due to the large number of legal academics and experts presenting papers over the two days of the conference, there will be many parallel sessions. The subject-areas to be discussed will include Human Rights, Constitutional and Administrative Law; International Business Law; Corporate Law and Governance; Environmental Law; Intellectual Property Rights and Criminal Law.

The annual ASLI Conference is the largest conference on Asian Law. The guest of honour at this year's Opening Dinner will be Singapore's Solicitor-General, Koh Juat Jong.

Noteworthy Activities of ASLI

As part of ASLI's Fellowship Programme, each founding member institution is entitled to send one faculty member to ASLI's physical base in the Faculty of Law at NUS as a Visiting Fellow on an annual basis. While at NUS, ASLI Fellows conduct research on legal issues of interest to their respective countries and to Asia in general.

A few fellowship places are also offered to full-time academic members of institutions which are non-founding members.

The Founding Institutions of ASLI include:-

- Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai
- Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia, Jakarta
- Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia, KL
- Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
- Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore
- Faculty of Law, NUS, Singapore
- College of Law, National Taiwan University, Taipei
- Peking University Law School, Peking University, Beijing
- College of Law, University of the Philippines, Manila
- College of Law, Seoul National University, Seoul

The Institute is also noted for its *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, a journal with the aim of providing a forum for discussion of the law and legal systems of Asia. **An initiative of ASLI, this Journal is one of the few English-language law journals based in Asia that focuses on Asian law generally.** It is freely available to researchers throughout the world and the print version is published once a year.

The task of hosting the annual ASLI conference is rotated amongst its 13 founding member institutions. NUS had the privilege of hosting the inaugural annual conference in 2004, and the Conference returns to NUS every fourth year. Other universities which have hosted the conferences are Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai and the University of Indonesia. The 2009 Conference will be held in Hong Kong.

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