



PRESS RELEASE

11 June 2012 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore to Host World-Class International Arbitration Academy

Singapore, Monday, 11 June 2012 - The National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for International Law (CIL) and the NUS Faculty of Law will host the inaugural *Singapore International Arbitration Academy* from 26 November to 14 December 2012.

The announcement was made today by Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K. Shanmugam SC at the 21st International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) Congress which was held at Marina Bay Sands Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Attorney-General of Singapore, Mr Sundaresh Menon SC, who is also participating at the ICCA Congress, commented, "The Academy is the culmination of the collaboration between one of the world's most respected arbitration practitioners and academics, Mr Christopher Thomas QC, who will be joining CIL this year, key personnel from CIL and other key stakeholders including Professor Michael Pryles, Chairman of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. I was delighted to play a part in conceptualising the Academy. In a region where arbitration is set to grow even more dramatically in the coming years, the Academy fills a gap in the training and formation of practitioners by giving them an insight into real life issues they will encounter with an emphasis on practical learning from a cross-cultural perspective".

The *Singapore International Arbitration Academy* is slated to become Asia's premier arbitration training programme. Targeted at private practitioners, in-house counsel and government officials who deal with international disputes and want to develop their arbitration knowledge and skills, the Academy will combine theory, skills training, and lectures on key issues of arbitral law and practice including State to State and Investor to State arbitration.

The 16-day Academy will have two tracks: (1) a Practising Counsel Track that focuses on the skills and issues relevant to counsel representing clients in an arbitral proceeding; and (2) a Government Advisor/Instructing Solicitor Track covering issues such as selection, instruction and management of hired counsel. To ensure effective participation and skills training, the Academy will only enroll 60 participants in its first year – 24 Practice Track Counsel and 36 Government Advisors/Instructing Solicitors.

Over 40 leading practitioners, arbitrators and public officials, including the President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, The Right Hon the Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, KG; the Attorney General of Singapore, Sundaresh Menon SC; and former Senior Minister and

Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Professor S Jayakumar, will share their expertise and insights during the Academy.

CIL's Director, Associate Professor Robert Beckman, noted, "The Academy brings together many of the world's leading dispute resolution professionals to Singapore to share their knowledge and experience in an intensive training programme with aspiring arbitrators and lawyers. The programme has been designed to deepen the participants' understanding of the substantive and practical aspects of complex international arbitrations. This is another part of CIL's drive to be a thought leader and capacity building hub on international law topics of importance to Asia".

For more information on the Singapore International Arbitration Academy, please visit <http://cil.nus.edu.sg/siaa-2012/>. Please refer to the Annex for the programme of Singapore International Arbitration Academy. For enquiries or to register for the Singapore International Arbitration Academy, please email Dr Navin Rajagopal, CIL Deputy Director at: cilnr@nus.edu.sg

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 36,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.edu.sg

About the NUS Law School

NUS Law is Asia's Global Law School. Widely regarded as the region's leading law school, it nonetheless sees itself as part of a global conversation about the study and practice of law. Its diverse faculty includes 60 full-time academics together with many adjuncts and visitors; its 1,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students include some of Singapore's top school leavers as well as outstanding scholars from all over the globe.

In addition to its teaching programme, the faculty is a major source of research on legal issues affecting Singapore, the region and beyond. NUS Law produces the leading publication on Singapore law as well as the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* and the *Asian Journal of International Law*. Faculty regularly publish in these and other leading journals, as well as producing their own monographs and engaging with the public through mass media.

The Law School's alumni are a who's who of Singapore's legal community. Graduates include leaders in the profession, government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, community leaders, social workers and many more. Other alumni go on to careers that take them to the heights of the profession around the world.

For more information, please visit www.law.nus.edu.sg

About the Centre for International Law (CIL)

The Centre for International Law (CIL) is a university-level research institute based at the National University of Singapore. CIL was established in 2009 in response to the growing need for international law expertise and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the short period since it was established, CIL has grown from strength to strength, organising 18 international conferences and workshops plus many more well-received seminars and training programmes. CIL has conceived ground-breaking research projects involving both international and Singapore-based scholars, and has forged close relationships with renowned overseas international law or international policy institutions. The Centre also offers to the public, free of charge, the *CIL Documents Database* and the *CIL Treaty Status Database*, both of which can be easily accessed and searched by way of the Centre's website.

CIL is presently considered to be the leading global centre on ASEAN law as well as the top regional centre on ocean law, WTO law, and investment law. The Centre, based at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus, hosts over 20 permanent and visiting researchers supported by a dedicated team of support staff.

For more information, please visit www.cil.nus.edu.sg