



PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 JULY 2012, 6 PM

NUS is First University in Asia-Pacific region to host Biennial Conference on International Economic Law

Singapore, 12 July 2012 – The National University of Singapore (NUS) becomes the first university in the Asia-Pacific region to host the biennial conference of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). Hosted by the Centre for International Law (CIL) at NUS and the NUS Faculty of Law (NUS Law), the third biennial conference will be held at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus from 12 to 14 July 2012.

SIEL is the leading global association of international economic lawyers. SIEL's membership includes academics and practitioners from all over the world in fields such as world trade law, investment law, international intellectual property (IP) law and international financial regulation. SIEL's members, both distinguished experts and a growing number of young and emerging scholars, hail from both developed and developing countries in all the six inhabited continents.

The London-based SIEL selected NUS and Singapore to host its biennial conference for the first time. SIEL's Executive Vice President, Associate Professor Colin Picker, explained why NUS was chosen, "While CIL is a new centre, it has quickly established itself as one of the leading global centres for trade and investment law, while NUS Law is one of the best law schools in the world and brings to the table a level of professionalism and depth almost unmatched in the world. In addition, Singapore's vital role in the development of the region, bridging the divide between the West and the East, also offers members unparalleled exposure to that critical interaction."

Past SIEL host cities were Barcelona in Spain (University of Barcelona, 2010) and Geneva in Switzerland (Institute of International and Development Studies, 2008).

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, who delivered the welcome message at the opening of the Conference, noted, "Singapore has always been a hub for the trade of goods; this conference shows that it is now also a hub for trading in ideas. Around 250 participants have come from all corners of the globe, representing over 150 different institutions from over 50 countries. We have significant contingents from Africa, the Americas, and Europe, as well as from all over Asia and Oceania. Their deliberations will shape future research and policy innovations in international economic law."

Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow, Head of Trade and Investment Law & Policy, CIL and the WTO Chair for Singapore, added, "With the gravitational shift in global trade and investments towards Asia over the last decade, it is timely that one of the major forums for thought leadership in international economic law is now held in Singapore. This allows more Asian voices to participate in the debates. At the same time, it provides an opportunity for some who may be visiting Asia for the first time to better appreciate the context of Asian developing countries, which is often different than that of Europe or the US."

The three-day gathering in Singapore will focus on international economic law issues ranging from trade to investment, financial regulation to intellectual property, including focused examinations of regional issues in China, Latin America and Africa.

For the programme and other information on the SIEL Conference 2012, please visit <http://cil.nus.edu.sg/siel2012/>.

For more information on the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), please visit <http://www.sielnet.org/>

For more information, please contact:

Travis Lee (Mr)
Manager, Media Relations
Office of Corporate Relations
National University of Singapore
DID: (65) 6516 6391
Email: travislee@nus.edu.sg

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