
Report to President of NUS (Jan – Mar 2003)

1. New Initiatives

A. Proposal: Exhibition on the Conservation of Wetlands at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

APCEL together with the Nature Society Singapore and the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) is proposing the above exhibition.

- Start date – to be determined by National Parks
- Target deliverables - APCEL to provide write-ups on applicable laws for wetlands conservation, endangered species & eco-systems etc, to be displayed at exhibition.
- Deliveries to date - to be determined

B. International Conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources, 1 – 3 Dec 2003, Singapore

APCEL is co-organising an international conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources, to be held from 1-3 Dec 2003, Singapore. The Singapore Academy of Law, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, IP Academy and other international organizations are working in partnership with APCEL on this project. Justice Lai Kew Chai is heading the Steering Committee

- Start date - preparation from October 2002
- Target deliverables – process of drafting programme, etc.
- Deliverables to date – International Conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources, 1-3 Dec 2003, Singapore

2. Ongoing Projects

A. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)/, Kushiro Wetlands International Centre (KWIC), 15 –21 March 2003

Organisers: UNITAR and KWIC

This is the third training course that UNITAR and KWIC invited APCEL to assist. Prof Koh Kheng Lian will be presenting two seminars - 1) Protection of Marine Biological Diversity: Biodiversity Conventions' Response in the Asia – Pacific region; (2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Case Study of Island States (including small island states). She will also assist participants in the preparation of an output of the course. There are 18 participants from the developing countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brazil, Lithuania, Philippines and Vietnam.

- Start date - 15 - 21 March 2003
- Target deliveries – The two papers above
- Deliveries to date – Submitted materials and synopsis for the above two seminars

B. Conference on Energy Security, 22-24 March 2003, Oxford University, UK

Organisers: Academic Advisory Group, Section on Energy and Natural Resources Law, International Bar Association. A/P Lye Lin Heng will be presenting a paper entitled “Energy Security in Singapore” Conference proceedings will be published by Oxford University Press

- Start date - 22 – 24 March 2003
- Target deliveries – 23 March 2003
- Deliveries to date – see above

C. Teaching in MSc (Env Mgt) & other NUS Programmes

APCEL continues to play an active role in this graduate programme, now in its second year, hosted by the School of Design and the Environment. APCEL members teach in the compulsory core course, “Introduction to Environmental Law”, and A/P Lye Lin Heng continues to chair the Executive Committee.

APCEL also continues to offer an undergraduate course in Environmental Law, targetted at BSc (Env Eng) students, but open to all non-law undergraduates. There are 48 students this year.

3. Assessment

APCEL has continued its activities in various areas all of which have contributed significantly to the development of sustainability in the context of the environment. It has made significant contributions both in Singapore, in the region and globally. In the recent launch of the Singapore Environment Institute, the Minister of the Environment , Mr Lim Swee Say, mentioned APCEL as a partner of the Institute in its training courses. There are many other projects in the pipeline.

Koh Kheng Lian
Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law
12 March 2003