
Report to President of NUS (July – September 2003)

1. New Initiatives

A. ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC)*: Capacity Building Course for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation in ASEAN Region

- Brief description: APCEL is one of the partner organisations of the course. The purpose of this training programme is to provide appropriate skills for academic, regulatory and policy making and other trainers for use and development of legal and regulatory mechanisms to conserve biodiversity and sustainably use them in the ASEAN region. The scope of this task will be to make planners and practitioners understand the increasing role of legal and regulatory mechanisms in biodiversity conservation, environmental management and sustainable development. The training programme includes the international, regional, national and local dimensions of laws, regulatory processes and their impacts. The training will focus both on issues (eg, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management etc.) and processes (biodiversity impact assessment, socio-economic implication of new trade regimes etc.). The training will be multi-disciplinary, addressing a range of issues beginning from the implementation of multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs) to the development of right to information and public participation. The interface between environmental responsibility, sustainable development and social justice will be identified and approaches promoted.

* The ARCBC is a joint organisation based in the Philippines between ASEAN and the European Community.

- Start date: 24 - 28 November 2003, Singapore
- Target deliveries: Training 12 senior officials from ASEAN countries.
- Deliverables to date: Koh Kheng Lian has together with three other resource persons from IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia; and the Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law drafted the programme for the course. She is the main coordinator. Koh has with the assistance of Elizabeth Chua and Shirley Mak prepared the budget for the course and arranged the venue, etc. APCEL will charge ARCBC, S\$5000 organisation fee for the course. This amount will be for the APCEL account.

B. Collaboration with IUCN Academy of Environmental Law on its Launch cum Symposium, 4 -5 November, Shanghai

- Brief description: The Academy will initially comprise a core of members from some thirty-four well recognised universities throughout the world, as well as individual academics who are experts in environmental law.

- Start date: The Academy will be established with the launch on 4 November 2003 in Shanghai. The Symposium to mark the launch is on *The Law of Energy for Sustainable Development*. Thereafter, there will be a 'ribbon' launch in Singapore on 30 Nov 2003 to coincide with the APCEL/SAL/IPOS/IP Academy Conference on Intellectual Property Rights & Biodiversity, 1-3 Dec 2003.
- Target deliverables: APCEL is one of the co- sponsors of the Launch and Symposium and will make a number of contributions. To mark the launch, there will be a publication on *Towards the Second Generation of Environmental Laws in the Asian Pacific Region* edited by APCEL's Deputy Director, Lye Lin Heng. This is a collection of articles presented in Tokyo on the occasion of the launch of the ADB book, *Capacity Building for Environmental Law in the Asian and Pacific Region: Approaches and Resources*, Vols I & II (ADB: 2002). Koh Kheng Lian contributed two papers in the Tokyo Symposium which will be included in the book, and Lye chaired a panel discussion. Lye has also written an Introduction to the publication, which she is editor.

Koh Kheng Lian will chair one of the sessions and Lye Lin Heng will be one of the rapporteurs in the Symposium. Following the launch, Koh and Lye will be attending the first meeting of the Academy to discuss its future work.

- Deliverables to date: Koh Kheng Lian was in Shanghai with NA Robinson, Chair of IUCN Commission on Environmental law to finalise the planning of the launch with Prof Wang Xi, Director of the Environmental Law and Resources Institute of Shanghai Jiaotong University. Lye Lin Heng has edited the book for release at the launch.

C. Philippine Capacity Building Course for Lawyers, January 2004, Cebu

- Brief description: The course is modelled after the IUCN/APCEL/UNEP "Singapore training course" held in 1997 and 1998. APCEL, through Koh Kheng Lian, is collaborating with IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and some academics from the University of Philippines to organise a course for law professors in the Philippines on the teaching of environmental law. An IUCN-CEL team headed by Prof Nicholas Robinson, Chair of IUCN-CEL discussed with the Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Philippines and some law professors on the structure of the course when they visited the University in Manila on 4 August 2003. The draft programme is being prepared by the Philippine professors and will be sent to APCEL (as well as to IUCN CEL) for comments. Koh Kheng Lian will be one of the resource persons for the course.
- Start date: January 2004.
- Target deliverables: Training of Philippine lawyers in academia to upgrade their skills in teaching environmental law and to introduce the teaching of environmental law in universities.
- Deliverables to date: Not yet but expected to give input on syllabus, soon.

2. Ongoing projects

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

- Brief Description: APCEL is co-organising an international conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Resources with IP Academy, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and Singapore Academy of Law. In partnership with IUCN-CEL and its Academy of Environmental Law, the Japan Bio-industry Association, the Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law, United Nations University and Institute of Advanced Studies. Members of the APCEL team are Burton Ong, Koh Kheng Lian and Lye Lin Heng.
- Start date: 1-3 Dec 2003.
- Target deliverables: The conference, and the publication of the proceedings.
- Deliverables to date: 14 speakers have been confirmed for the conference.

B. NEA/APCEL Training course: Understanding Environmental Laws: The Singapore and International Perspectives

Brief Description: To build capacity in environmental law for senior officers in the National Environmental Agency, Ministry of the Environment, and other ministries such as the Agri-Veterinary Authority (AVA), Attorney General's Chambers, etc.

- Start date: 21- 22 October 2003.
- Target deliverables: Teaching staff involved are Robert Beckman, Michael Ewing-Chow, Koh Kheng Lian, Lye Lin Heng, Victor Ramraj and Alan Tan Khee Jin. Lye Lin Heng is coordinator.
- Deliverables to date: On going.

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

- Brief Description: APCEL continues to play an active role in this graduate programme, now in its third year, hosted by the School of Design and the Environment. APCEL members teach in the compulsory core course, "Environmental Law", and Lye Lin Heng continues to chair the Executive Committee. Teaching staff involved are: Robert Beckman, Michael Ewing-Chow, Koh Kheng Lian, Lye Lin Heng, Burton Ong, LR Penna and Alan Tan Khee Jin.

Koh Kheng Lian together with George Ofori and Joseph Chun Hoe Kiat of the Department of Real Estate, NUS, prepared a simulation exercise on the "World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter" for MSc (Env Mgt) Induction Programme on Academic Year, 1 August 2003. Lye Lin Heng delivered a 'thank you' address.

APCEL also continues to offer an undergraduate course “Introduction to Environmental Law”, targeted at BSc (Env Eng) students, but open to all non-law undergraduates. There were 48 students last academic year, and 42 students this academic year.

- Start date: Semester I, 2003
- Target deliverables: Environmental Law Deliverables to date: MEM environmental Course in 1st semester, and Introduction to Environmental Law, for non-law undergraduate students, Semester I, 2003.

3. Milestones

The activities of APCEL have continued to receive widespread recognition and its members have been invited to teach at universities such as Harvard (Simon Tay is currently teaching environmental law). Lye Lin Heng has been invited as a Visiting Associate Professor to teach a course on Comparative Environmental Law in the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies from January - May 2004. She was invited to co-teach at the University of Sydney’s Law School from 30 August to 1st September, in the graduate course “Environmental Law in the Asia-Pacific Region”, for the Masters in Environmental Law programme. Koh Kheng Lian will serve as a resource person in the Philippine capacity building course.

The Singapore National Environment Agency has invited APCEL to be a co-partner in its training courses.

The recent publication in June 2003 of the special feature " Ten Years After Rio: Implementing Sustainable Development" in the Singapore Journal of Internatinal & Comparative Law (2002) has already received commendatory remarks from an academic in Columbia University. The joint article by Koh Kheng Lian and N. A. Robinson on " Strengthening Sustainable Development in Regional Inter-Governmental Governance: Lessons from the ASEAN Way" will be circulated in the forthcoming IUCN World Congress for Protected Areas in September 2003 in Durban It was also recently mentioned (orally) in the presentation of the former Foreign Minister of Thailand, Surin Pitsuwan at a conference on Regional Integration in Europe and Asia: Pasts, Presents and Futures, 7-8 July 2003 organised by INSEAD and Singapore International Foundation

Koh Kheng Lian has also been invited to be part of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre–CEL team to participate at the IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas 2003 from 8-17 September 2003 in Durban. She will be presenting 3 papers and will be in the Panel for one session on Globalisation and Decentralisation: The Role of Legal Frameworks in Durban, and also in charge of Synthesis Workshop Session on Improvement of Protected Area Governance: The Role of Durban Accord and Action Plan

APCEL members continue to be invited as consultants. Lye Lin Heng has undertaken consultancies for EQS (Asia) Pte Ltd and for the Regional Institute of Environmetal Technology (RIET). She will be the consultant on the drafting of the Convention International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Cambodia in late September 2003.

Koh Kheng Lian was invited to co-chair a meeting in Bonn (17-18 August 2003) on the draft IUCN Environmental Law Programme: Component Programme Plan for the Quadriennium 2004-2008. This Plan is the work plan for the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn as well as the Commission on Environmental Law which has a volunteer network of environmental law specialists of about 800

members from 130 countries. The Plan will be submitted to the IUCN Congress to be held in Bangkok in 2004.

Professor KOH Kheng-Lian
Faculty of Law
National University of Singapore;
Director, Asia- Pacific Centre for Environmental Law;
IUCN CEL Regional Vice Chair for East Asia, and
member of its Steering Committee
13 Law Link
Singapore 117590
Tel: (65) 6874 6246
Fax: (65) 68721937/ 67790979
E-mail: lawkohkl@nus.edu.sg