
Report to President of NUS (April – June 2003)

1. New Initiatives

A. IUCN Academy of Law Meeting

- Description: Launch of IUCN International Academy of Law in Shanghai, from 5-7, November 2003, also in Singapore on 30 November 2003, followed by Colloquium on 4 December 2003.
- Objectives: This new International Academy of Environmental Law is a direct response to the call of the United Nations at three world conferences on the environment at Stockholm (1972), Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002) for Sustainable Development. Through the Academy, universities will cooperate together to strengthen the field of environmental law as one of the sustaining pillars of sustainable development.
- Deliveries to date:

A preparatory meeting of university environmental law professors was held from 13-16 April 2003 at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Pocantico Hills Conference Center in New York's Hudson River Valley to finalize the launch of the Academy, attended by APCEL's Director, Prof Koh Kheng Lian.

B. Collaboration with Agri-Veterinary Authority (AVA)

- APCEL is working with AVA to conduct courses on Environmental Law (1) for the Customs officers and (2) for police officers. Customs and police officers need to know the laws that protect endangered species of wild flora and fauna, which are imported into Singapore. Additionally, the police need to know the laws that protect our own indigenous wildlife.

C. Collaboration with the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Jurong Bird Park and Night Safari

- APCEL will also be conducting classes on Nature Conservation laws for staff of the Singapore Zoo, the Jurong Bird Park and the Night Safari.. These will be held later in the year.

2. Ongoing Projects

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

APCEL has secured the following partner organisations for the Intellectual Property Conference on Biological Resources to sponsor 5 out of 12 speakers. These are:

- Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University
- IUCN Commission on Environmental Law
- IUCN Academy of Environmental Law
- Japan Bioindustry Association
- Division of Law, Macquarie University

B. 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, “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 were 48 students last academic year.

3. Assessment

- A. APCEL played a significant role in the establishment of the IUCN Academy of Law. Associate Professor Lye Lin Heng chaired the Working Group on Environmental Education and Koh Kheng Lian was a member of the Group.
- B. 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. With the formation of the National Environment Agency (NEA), APCEL will resume its training programmes for NEA Division I officers, after having taught 10 such courses. The 11th course is scheduled for October this year.

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