Title of Talk: Regional Development and Integration: the Role of UNCITRAL

Brief Synopsis: The latest wave of globalisation has seen production increasingly organised along global supply chains, with boosting cross-border exchanges, increased interdependence and pervasive use of electronic means. Every step of the global supply chain calls for specific supporting legal provisions. And each State or entity with legislative-making authority wants to adopt its own rules.

However, experience has shown that national laws are not easy to learn and understand for foreigners meaning many times lack of predictability in the application of the law, additional transaction costs to ensure legal compliance and, at the end, barriers to foreign investments and higher costs for imported and exported goods.

Texts prepared by international organisations with the participation of experts from all regions of the world reflect global, regional and national needs and experiences, ensuring strong compatibility with all legal and economic systems.

UNCITRAL works to show the benefits of adopting uniform texts and the role of international trade law in development and regional integration.

Event Details

Date: 22 January 2016, Friday

Time: 1.00pm to 2.00pm (Please be seated by 12.55pm)
Refreshments will be provided.

Venue: Block B, 4th Level, Seminar Room 4-2
NUS Faculty of Law

Please head to the following link to register your attendance!
(http://tinyurl.com/LunchtimeTalk-22Jan2016)
Guest Speaker for the Workshop:

Mr. João Ribeiro  
Head, Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
UNCITRAL – United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

João Ribeiro is a Legal Officer of the International Trade Law Division (ITLD) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which functions as the substantive secretariat for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). He is the second Head of the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP), established in 2012. Since he joined the UNCITRAL secretariat in 2013 as Head of RCAP, he has been actively promoting UNCITRAL standards, providing technical assistance to States and coordinating with international and regional organizations active in trade law reform projects.

During his career he was Head of International Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Portugal, Deputy Secretary General of the Conferences of Ministers of Justice both of the Iberian-American countries and of the Portuguese Speaking countries, member of the Portuguese National Commission for Human Rights and member of the Portuguese Permanent Bilateral Cooperation Commissions with the USA and Macau. During that period, he was in charge of the Ministry’s development cooperation policies, namely several technical assistance projects for law reform in Africa, East Timor and Eastern Europe.

He led national delegations in several international organizations: European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and GRECO (Europe’s Groups of States against Corruption), Council of Europe; 36th Committee of the Council (CATS) of the European Union; OECD’s Working group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, being also a member of its Management Group in 2011.

He holds a Law Degree from the University of Coimbra and a Master’s Degree from the Universities of Coimbra and Macau.

During his first experience in Asia (2002-2008) he was legal adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region and a senior lecturer at the Faculties of Law, Management and of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Macau where he taught International Law, International Business Law, Business Law, Economic Integration Law, Constitutional Law and Chinese Political System.

He also has extensive experience in the organization of international multisport events, namely several coordination responsibilities in the 4th East Asian Games – Macau 2005 (Chief Operating Officer), the 2nd Asian Indoor Games – Macau 2007 (Adviser) and the 2nd Lusophone Games – Lisboa 2009 (Chief Executive Officer). He has published several articles on law and sociology.