Lunchtime Talk: International Human Rights

Brief Synopsis: Human rights lawyer, government official, researcher, programme manager, refugee rights advocate, humanitarian worker – these are just some of the many roles that law students and lawyers can play. Join the speaker as she speaks about her diverse experiences in the fields of human rights law, humanitarian law, refugee protection, rule of law and public policy - in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Phnom Penh, the Hague, Lyon, Melbourne and East Jerusalem and the West Bank - and humanitarian response in the Philippines, Nepal and the Rohingya crisis. In sharing her insights regarding her work in the international and non-profit fields, the speaker seeks to demonstrate that there is often no linear path in pursuing a career in international law, and that such uncertainty which leads to a wide range of experiences teaches many invaluable lessons.

Event Details

Date: 24 October 2018, Wednesday

Time: 1330H to 1530H (Please do not be late)
Light Refreshments will be provided.

Venue: Blk B, 5th Level, Seminar Room 5-2
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

Registration: https://tinyurl.com/ycuuxtpp

SPEAKER

Sangeetha Yogendran
ASEAN CSR Network

Sangeetha currently works for the ASEAN CSR Network, where she focuses on ACN’s Business and Human Rights pillar. In partnership with ASEAN, the UN and other partners, she supports the adoption and implementation of internationally accepted standards and norms on business and human rights, especially the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Prior to this, she was a researcher on rule of law with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on rule of law in Asia and on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief with Nanyang Technological University.

Sangeetha has worked in a range of international law fields. She delayed graduation and took a leave of absence to work at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia, and continued working as a litigation and transitional justice associate with a legal team representing victims before the Tribunal. After getting called to the Bar, she worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore on international boundary issues, focusing on negotiations with Indonesia on the now concluded maritime boundary on the eastern Strait of Singapore. Sangeetha also spent time working in the occupied Palestinian territories on violations of international humanitarian law, at the International Criminal Court and Interpol. She also worked with Rohingya refugee communities in Malaysia with the UNHCR and in Australia with various NGOs.
Sangeetha stepped out of her more legal roles to be a full-time humanitarian worker for 2 years with Save the Children International, where she supported humanitarian response and emergency preparedness throughout Asia and was deployed to the humanitarian responses for Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the Nepal earthquakes. She currently volunteers with Relief SG, a local humanitarian organization, and recently undertook a humanitarian mission to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh.

Sangeetha is a qualified Advocate & Solicitor in Singapore, and holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from the University of Melbourne, an LL.B from NUS, and a postgraduate diploma in poverty reduction policies and practices with SOAS. She is also pursuing an applied Masters programme in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Cambodia on a part-time basis.

MODERATOR

Matthew Seet
Lecturer, NUS Law

Matthew obtained a Master’s in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva on a Swiss Government Scholarship, and his LL.B from NUS Law School where he was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize and Law Society of Singapore Book Prize. His refugee law articles have been published in the International Journal of Refugee Law and UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal, and his evidence law case comments, in the Law Quarterly Review and Cambridge Law Journal. He won the DILA Prize for Young Scholars, awarded by the Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia in 2017. Matthew served the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a legal intern at both the headquarters in Geneva for over a year and the Kuala Lumpur field office, and represented Switzerland in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Matthew is currently working on a project on the deprivation of citizenship in the terrorism context, and, apart from teaching evidence law, Matthew will introduce to the NUS Law School curriculum two new electives on refugee law and forced migration next semester.