THREE VISIONS OF TRANSNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW

By Professor Robert Wai
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DATE & TIME: 18 NOVEMBER 2009, WEDNESDAY, 2.00PM
VENUE: LEE SHERIDAN CONFERENCE ROOM, EU TONG SEN BUILDING

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Robert Wai has been a professor at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, Toronto, since 1998, and has served there as associate dean and as director of the Centre for Public Law and Public Policy. He teaches International Business Transactions, International Trade Regulation, Contracts, and Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community. He previously clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada, and practiced with law firms in British Columbia and New York. He completed his graduate work for an M.Phil. in international relations at Oxford and an S.J.D. in international law at Harvard Law School. His research focuses on the transnational law and governance of international economic transactions, and has been published in a number of books and journals including the Harvard International Law Journal, the European Journal of International Law, the Canadian Yearbook of International Law, the Canadian Yearbook of International Law, and Law and Contemporary Problems.

ABSTRACT
Transnational economic law brings together the plural, complex law related to cross-border economic transactions and relations. The presentation describes and contrasts three distinct visions for transnational economic law, each of which is taken from an important legal regime in the field: public international law, international contract, and private international law. Each regime constitutes one of the legal orders for international business transactions, but each also suggests an overall policy understanding for the existing state, as well as future reform, of transnational economic law. It will be argued that a realist-pragmatic understanding of private international law view provides the best way for framing the plural nature of transnational economic law, including the sometimes conflictual relationship among different normative orders.

Examples to be discussed will be drawn from the jurisprudence of the WTO, international investment law, transnational private litigation, and joint venture contracts.

REGISTRATION
If you wish to attend this seminar, please email to cemail@nus.edu.sg. There is no registration fee for this seminar but seats are limited. Registration commences at 1.45pm. For enquiries, please contact Ms Khai at Tel: 6516 3102. Directions to the law school may be found at http://law.nus.edu.sg/faculty/Location.htm.