Constitutional Change in Singapore: Reforming the Elected Presidency

On 10 January 2018, Assistant Professor Jaclyn L. Neo and Assistant Professor Swati Jhaveri convened a workshop on ‘Constitutional Change in Singapore: Reforming the Elected Presidency’. The workshop was funded by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS), and was held at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (Bukit Timah Campus). The workshop brought together leading constitutional law scholars in Singapore to examine key changes to the elected presidency. Papers at the workshop considered the recent reform exercise, the nature of changes made to the Constitution, as well as the impact of those on the nature and function of the office of the elected Presidency and related bodies, such as the Council of Presidential Advisors. The papers presented at this workshop will be published as part of an edited volume to be edited by the convenors. The volume is currently on contract with Routledge.
Workshop Convenors, Assistant Professors Swati Jhaveri (left) and Jaclyn Neo (right) giving the Opening Remarks.

Dr Lam Peng Er, Senior Research Fellow from East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore and Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan presenting their paper on ‘Looking Back at the Elected Presidency: Design Choices’. Dr Lam and Professor Tan were the editors of the first multidisciplinary volume on the elected Presidency titled ‘Managing Political Change in Singapore: The Elected Presidency’ (Routledge, 1997).
Professor Thio Li-ann sharing insights on ‘Past Imperfect, Future Tense: The Elected Presidency and the Constitutional Development of an ‘Ever Evolving Hybrid’.

Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan presenting his paper on ‘Electing the Selected President or Selecting the Elected President: Majorities, Mandates and Missions’. 
Dr Jack Lee from Singapore Academy of Law (right) presenting on ‘The Mechanics of the Presidential Poll’.

Associate Professor Eugene Tan (left) from Singapore Management University presenting his paper on ‘A Few Good & Wise (Wo)Men: Raising the Bar in Qualifying Presidential Hopefuls and in Advising the President’.
Participants engaging in discussions.
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10 January 2018, Wednesday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Lee Sheridan Conference Room, Eu Tong Sen Building, Level 1
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (Bukit Timah Campus)

(Participation in the workshop is by invitation only.)

Abstract
This workshop, convened by Assistant Professors Jaclyn Neo & Swati Jhaveri, brings together scholars to examine key changes to the elected presidency. The workshop will consider the recent reform exercise, the nature of changes made to the Constitution, as well as the impact of those on the nature and function of the office of the elected Presidency and related bodies, such as the Council of Presidential Advisors.

Workshop Speakers
Assistant Professor Swati JHAVERI (Workshop Co-Convener), Faculty of Law, NUS
Assistant Professor Jaclyn NEO (Workshop Co-Convener), Faculty of Law, NUS
Dr LAM Peng-Er, East Asia Institute, NUS
Dr Jack LEE, Singapore Academy of Law
Associate Professor Eugene TAN, School of Law, SMU
Adjunct Professor Kevin TAN, Faculty of Law, NUS
Professor THIO Li-ann, Faculty of Law, NUS

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