The book by Professor M. Sornarajah, 'Resistance and Change in the International Law on Foreign Investment', was launched on 29 April 2015 at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus.

Professor Sornarajah shared his inspiration and insights of the book, after Professor Simon Chesterman gave an introduction at the start of the launch. Visiting Professor Tony Anghie shared his friendship journey with Professor Sornarajah with the guests and his modest view on the book, sprinkled with jokes and humour. The Dean of Faculty of Law, Professor Chesterman, presented a poster with the guests’ penned congratulatory notes to Professor Sornarajah in commemoration of the launch. Professor Sornarajah also thanked the institution by giving the Faculty a signed copy of his book.

Professor Sornarajah shared that he is a fortunate man, given every support by his family, friends, students and colleagues. He wrote the book for Thanga, who has shared so much of life with him.

Abstract:

Since the 1990s, conflicts within international law on foreign investment have arisen as a result of several competing interests. The neoliberal philosophy ensured inflexible investment protection given by a network of investment treaties interpreted in an expansive manner, which led to states creating regulatory space over foreign investment. However, NGOs committed to single causes such as human rights and the environment protested against inflexible investment protection. The rise to prominence of arguments against the fragmentation of international law also affected the development of investment law as an autonomous regime. These factors have resulted in some states renouncing the system of arbitration and other states creating new treaties which undermine inflexible investment protection. The treaty-based system of investment protection has therefore become tenuous, and change has become inevitable. Emphasizing the changes resulting from resistance to a system based on neoliberal foundations, this study looks at recent developments in the area.
The Author