

Tribute to Prof Koh Kheng Lian

Introductory remarks (prior to PowerPoint presentation)

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Today, we pay tribute to a remarkable academic specialist in environmental law. Prof Koh Kheng Lian is professor emerita at the National University of Singapore. She has been and continues to be a friend, colleague and mentor to many people around the Asian and Pacific region, as well as across the world. She has travelled extensively, studying and working in Europe such as the secretariat of the UN Commission on International Trade Law in Vienna and elsewhere. Through her writings and her conference papers and courses, it is fair to say the professor Koh she is one of the most influential academics in the ASEAN region, who began researching, teaching and writing on ASEAN environmental law in 1996.

As stated in the citation, Prof Koh is being recognised for her many years of commitment to the environmental rule of law, as it has become known, and for the promotion in particular of ASEAN environmental law. She was instrumental in introducing the subject at the National University of Singapore in 1994. She is one of the founders of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), one of the first in the region, and she was the first woman appointed as professor emerita at the NUS Faculty of Law in 1997.

I have had the privilege of knowing Prof Koh since the mid-90s, working with her and her colleagues, along with Prof Nick Robinson, Prof Donna Craig and others, in the ADB-NUS Environmental Law Professors Training Programs and as member of the Advisory Board of APCEL. Incidentally, Justice Ali Shah (who has just addressed us with respect to our other awardee, Ms Irum Ahsan) was one of the trainees in the Singapore at that time.)

Like many others, I am in regular communication with Prof Koh on a variety of subjects, including the recent re-establishment of the International Council of Environmental Law.

Prof Koh is online today. Prof Koh, on behalf of all of us, I send you our warm greetings.

In my brief PowerPoint talk, I will summarize some of Prof Koh's many achievements as well as touching upon some of her lighter sides.