

APCEL Newsletter

2023-24

Cover image:

A single frame from *softly* (2021), a short film by Aarti Meyappan Pillai.

Aarti is an artist and researcher whose interdisciplinary practice spans sculptural installation, sound, and new media, inviting tactile engagement and ecological reflection. Drawing on ancestral migrations to the Malayan Archipelago, *softly* embodies her exploration of oral histories, femininity, queerness, and pre-colonial folklore. Blending archival and found sounds with film negatives, the 2-minute 45-second work reflects her ethos of *ramuan* – ecological reciprocity and care – constructing a liminal utopia where memory and origin converge.

Aarti completed her thesis on contemporary art as legal mobilization for environmental justice under the mentorship of Dr Jolene Lin. She is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at the Royal College of Art.

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

2023-24 has been an exciting period for us at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL). We hosted several important events, including international conferences like *Towards Net Zero: Legal Aspects of Corporate Climate Action in Asia*, a conversation with Professor Tommy Koh and Laura Clarke OBE on *Using Law and Diplomacy to Address Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss*, and the APCEL-JEL Writing Workshop for Early Career Scholars from the Global South. APCEL researchers have published several books, book chapters and articles in high-impact journals (more details are in the newsletter itself). We were also pleased to welcome visitors from abroad including Professor Ellen Hey (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Dr Annika Frosch (European University Institute, Florence, now at University College, London) and Joseph Negrine (Australian National University). We look forward to welcoming and working with visitors in 2025.

This year, we expanded our efforts to engage with the community on environmental law and policy issues. We continued our programme to introduce pre-university students (13-18 years old) to concepts in international environmental law, the role of science in environmental law and policy, and Singapore's climate ambitions. We also co-organized with the World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ) a workshop on the advisory opinions sought from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on climate change, which aimed to engage with civil society and raise public awareness on these important international developments. Through these initiatives, we strive to ensure that capacity building and knowledge development are not just limited to academics, lawyers, and policymakers; our reach must also include the community, especially the younger generation, if we are to fulfil our mission to enhance environmental awareness and consciousness.

Despite being a small team of full-time researchers and staff, APCEL has accomplished much this year. In order to continue doing good work, we are cognizant that partnership is at the heart of our approach. We are immensely grateful for all the support we have received and the unwavering dedication of our members; without them, we would not have enjoyed the progress that we made together this year. We thank you all for being part of APCEL's journey with us and we anticipate 2025 with much hope.



Jolene Lin
Director



Tara Maria Davenport
Deputy Director

LEADERSHIP



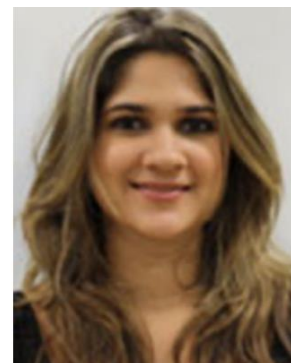
Jolene Lin, Director of APCEL

Jolene Lin is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS), and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL). An internationally recognized expert in climate change law, she has published extensively in leading journals such as the *Journal of Environmental Law* and the *American Journal of International Law*. Her works include *Governing Climate Change: Global Cities and Transnational Lawmaking* (Cambridge, 2018) and *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* (Oxford, 2024), co-authored with Jacqueline Peel, which provides a groundbreaking analysis of climate litigation trends in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Jolene serves on the editorial boards of multiple environmental law journals and is Vice-Chair of the ICC Global Environment and Energy Commission. She is a member of the global advisory board of the Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI) and the Academic Circle supporting the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development (2024–2026). A sought-after speaker, Jolene has delivered lectures at institutions such as the University of Amsterdam, University College London, and King's College London, further cementing her role as a thought leader in the intersection of law and climate action.

Tara Davenport, Deputy Director of APCEL

Tara Davenport is currently an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) where she teaches Principles of Property Law, Law of the Sea and International Regulation of Shipping. She is also co-head of the Oceans Law and Policy Team at the Centre for International Law (CIL) at NUS, Deputy Director of APCEL, member of the Executive Council of the Asian Society of International Law, member of the Editorial Board of the *Asian Journal of International Law* and *Ocean Development and International Law Journal*. Her research interests are in law of the sea, including the marine environment, deep seabed mining, and the interactions between climate change and law of the sea and the marine environment.



APCEL RESEARCHERS

Linda Yanti Sulistiawati is a Senior Research Fellow at APCEL and an Associate Professor of Law in Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. She received her doctorate in 2013 (honorary mentioned) from University of Washington School of Law, supported by the Fulbright PhD Presidential Program. She focuses on international environmental law issues, such as climate change, REDD+, marine plastic pollution, land issues and customary (adat) issues. Linda was a member of the delegation leading Indonesia's negotiations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. From 2018 to 2023, Linda is a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report. And in 2024 onwards, she is serving as a lead author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Cities and Climate Change.



Sroyon Mukherjee is a Research Fellow at APCEL. Sroyon has a BA LLB degree from the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), India; and an LLM and PhD (2020) from the London School of Economics (LSE). His research focuses on environmental law and economics, as well as climate change law and specialist environmental court. He was a guest lecturer at NUJS teaching Law and Economics, and a graduate teaching assistant at LSE. Sroyon is an Assistant Editor for Transnational Environmental Law, and his work has been published, among others, in Journal of Environmental Law, Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law and NUJS Law Review, and has also been cited by the Indian Supreme Court.

Justine Muller is a Research Fellow at the APCEL specializing in the nexus between trade and the environment. She earned her PhD (2024) from the European University Institute, Florence, with a thesis on integrating biodiversity into the EU's trade agreements. Her interdisciplinary research combines doctrinal analysis with linguistics and ecology. Justine has also assisted the EU delegation in international biodiversity negotiations under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). She holds Master's degrees in International Business Law, Law and Sustainable Development, and Biodiversity Geography from institutions including Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the University of Strathclyde.



Carol Yuen was a research assistant at APCEL. She is currently doing her LLM in Environmental Law and Policy at University College London (UCL). She obtained her LLB from National University of Singapore. Her research interests lie in transforming the financial system and commercial entities to achieve climate transition. As a Master's student, she is volunteering in environmental research clinics on law, finance and systems change with ClientEarth, and on access to justice in relation to the Aarhus Convention. She is also working with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and Environment at LSE to maintain the Climate Change Laws of the World database.

APCEL RESEARCHERS



Yang Huiwen is a Research Associate at the APCEL, where her research focuses on climate change law and international environmental law. She holds a Juris Doctor with Distinction from the National University of Singapore and a Master's in international public policy from Peking University's School of International Studies. She is also pursuing her PhD in Law at the University of Geneva. Before joining APCEL, she gained research experience with the International Law Association and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, contributing to research on dispute settlement and climate-related cases.

Sean Tseng serves as Adjunct Research Fellow at APCEL while practicing as a Legal Consultant at ClientEarth. His areas of research interests are the intersection between climate change and corporate law and uncovering the legal tools and mechanisms that can drive corporations to greater climate action and accountability. Sean's research also covers the legal infrastructures in the Global South that facilitate or encourage the adoption of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, particularly in climate technologies and capacity-building.



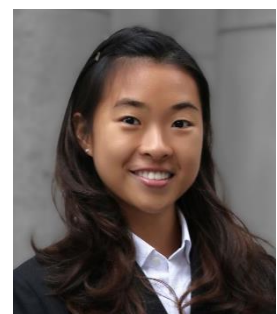
ACADEMIC FELLOWS

Mark Ortega holds an LL.M. in Environmental Law from Pace University, Elisabeth Haub School of Law (the top-ranked Environmental Law program in the U.S.), and graduated with a Summa Cum Laude in May 2023. He is a Sheridan Fellow at NUS Law and teaches Equity and Trusts. He has published in the areas of Sustainability and Directors' Duties, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Reporting and Private Environmental Governance, and Private Nuisance Law. He is interested in researching the workings of private governance frameworks and approaches, the institutions that promulgate and implement them, and the role that law plays in relation to them, with a particular focus on environmental and social concerns. Mark received his LL.B. from the National University of Singapore (1st Class Honours) and is admitted to the Singapore Bar. He has practiced law in a leading law firm and as in-house counsel to a financial institution and in the public service.



Justin Lim is an academic fellow at APCEL. Justin was appointed as a Sheridan Fellow in 2024 after completing his Bachelor of Civil Law the same year. He graduated with a BA of Jurisprudence (LLB) with First Class Honours from the University of Oxford in 2022, earning the Peter Carter Prize for top performance at Wadham College. His research focuses on using private law doctrines to address public environmental challenges, with publications in property law, climate litigation, and environmental regulation. Justin also serves as Academic Coordinator for the World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYJC) Asia Front, engaging states and building regional capacity in environmental law and human rights.

Selene Tanne is an academic fellow at APCEL. She read Law at King's College London (KCL) from 2018 to 2021. At KCL, Selene was an Undergraduate Research Fellow. She started working in the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) in 2020, first as a pro bono student intern and then as a full-time Research Assistant. Before pursuing an academic career, Selene volunteered with a foreign environmental NGO and trained in an international company under in-house legal counsels. As a researcher, Selene has been involved in projects on green finance, transnational advocacy networks, marine plastic pollution, climate change litigation, and the *UNEP Environmental Courts & Tribunals: A Guide for Policy Makers 2021*. Selene was appointed as a Sheridan Fellow in 2023 and teaches *Principles of Property Law*.



ACADEMIC FELLOWS



Danielle Yeow is an academic fellow at the APCEL. She also serves as a Council Member of the Singapore branch of the International Law Association and a member of the Singapore Domain Name Dispute Policy Panel, Singapore Mediation Centre. She is also an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Singapore Law (CIL NUS) and concurrently a senior advisor at a boutique consultancy. She was most recently the Deputy Director-General of the International Affairs Division of the Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore.

VISITING RESEARCHERS

Ellen Hey is Professor of Public International Law at Erasmus School of Law of Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She is also Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian Center for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS) at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway and Advisor to the Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP), Columbo University, Sri Lanka. Professor Ellen Hey received an Honorary Doctorate (2016) from Stockholm University, Sweden. She was a Visiting Professorial Fellow (2013-2015) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and a Visiting Scholar (2019) at K.G. Jebsen Center for the Law of the Sea at UiT (2019), now NCLOS. She was a member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (2008-2014) and a legal advisor to the government of the Netherlands (1986-1990). Her research interests include international environmental law, law of the sea and international institutional law.



Francesco Sindico is a Professor of International Environmental Law at the University of Strathclyde Law School. He is the Director of the Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI), the Co-Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Climate Change Specialist Group (where he leads the Islands, Nature and Renewable Energy Project (INREP) and the Co-Chair of the I International Water Resources Association (IWRA) Islands Water Congress. From September 2021 to April 2024, he was seconded to the Scottish Government where he led the Carbon Neutral Islands project. Francesco thrives in multidisciplinary and multipartner projects and environments. He brings passion and competence to his work on International Environmental Law and is always keen to learn more and develop new partnerships. Francesco is an academic who believes universities need to work with non-academic partners and share results from their research also in ways that will deliver real impact on the ground.

VISITING RESEARCHERS



Peter Barnett is Programme Lead at Quadrature Climate Foundation, where he helps direct science-led investments to unlock critical climate solutions, specifically focusing on the role that law and finance play in accelerating climate action. He is also a Visiting Researcher at APCEL and EW Barker Centre for Law and Business. Prior to joining Quadrature Climate Foundation, he was Associate Director, Japan and Southeast Asia at ClientEarth, leading a team of law and policy experts working collaboratively to address climate change, accelerate the transition to clean and accessible energy and protect nature in the region. In previous roles at ClientEarth, he led corporate climate litigation in Europe, with his work featured in the Financial Times, Economist and elsewhere.

Ghislaine Nadaud started her career as an attorney and practised corporate and employment law in The Hague and Amsterdam. In 2016, she moved to Asia to set up ABN AMRO's first ever regional sustainability department for its corporate and institutional banking business. After working as a sustainable financing consultant at the UN and leading the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation's (SMBC's) ESG ambitions in Asia-Pacific, Ghislaine is now a senior sustainable investing specialist at Robeco. She leads the firm's engagement programs on human rights, palm oil, the just transition in Asia-Pacific, and client engagement.



Elizabeth Wu Zhiqing is a Legal Consultant at international environmental NGO ClientEarth. ClientEarth uses the law, backed by science and economics, to protect people and the planet. Elizabeth works with the private sector, civil society and government regulators on climate-related risks and opportunities in Asia, and leads on initiatives that explore the role of corporate law and investment and trade law to facilitate the transition to a net zero carbon economy. Her research covers the intersection and alignment of international climate and environmental law with international investment and trade law, with a particular focus on ASEAN-relevant multilateral and bilateral treaties.

Nikhil Dutt Sundaraj graduated from the University of Cambridge with a BA (Hons) in Law in 2020. While a student, Nikhil held numerous leadership positions within his college. He was active in the performing arts space, intra-university debating and policy paper writing. In 2020, he co-authored a research paper published by European Horizons on climate resilience strategies in coastal European cities. Nikhil has maintained a fervent interest in environmental, conservation and sustainability related issues since his school years. Nikhil is a qualified Singapore lawyer with experience in transactional and disputes work.



VISITING RESEARCHERS



Annika Frosch was a visiting researcher during her PhD at the European University Institute, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service. She is currently a research fellow at the Shipping and Oceans Research Group of the Bartlett School of Environment, Energy, and Resources at University College, London. At UCL Annika's work focuses on ocean governance and policy. Currently, she is following the negotiations in relation to the decarbonization of the shipping industry at the International Maritime Organization. She is interested in the dynamics between different levels of governance, with a particular focus on specific country groups, such as the Caribbean. Annika also continues to work on OA, a topic she started to explore during her Master's degree and further developed throughout her PhD dissertation.

Ipshita Chaturvedi is a partner and Head of Practice at Dentons Rodyk LLP in the firm's Environment and Natural Resources practice. Prior to this, she was the founding partner of C&C Advisors, an award-winning law firm that works exclusively on matters around sustainable development including international public environmental law, policy, clean-technology, green investments and supply chains, carbon finance, water and oceans. Ipshita is an alumna of the National University of Juridical Sciences, India (BA, LLB (Hons)) and the University of Melbourne (LLM in Environment and Energy Law). Ipshita has over 13 years of experience and has worked with businesses, governments (Indian, European, and the MENA region) and international organisations to build and move the environmental sector forward in policymaking and business.



Joseph Negrine was an BA & LLB graduate from the Australian National University. As a 2023 New Colombo Plan Scholar, he was studying and working in the Asia-Pacific region. At NUS under Associate Professor Jolene Lin, Joseph wrote a research paper on ClientEarth's derivative action against Shell, exploring directors' duties as a tool for climate litigation in common law countries and corporate responsibility in the low-carbon transition. His interests include complexity theory and access to justice, focusing on how sociopolitical and institutional factors shape climate action outcomes.

Ricardo Pereira's research interests lie primarily in environmental law, energy and natural resources law, environmental crime and law enforcement, and specific areas of public international law including human rights law, transnational criminal law, international economic law and the law of the sea. His monograph assesses legal, theoretical and practical questions concerning the harmonisation of environmental criminal law in Europe and internationally, and the constitutional dimensions and effectiveness of transnational legal mechanisms aimed at combatting environmental crime.



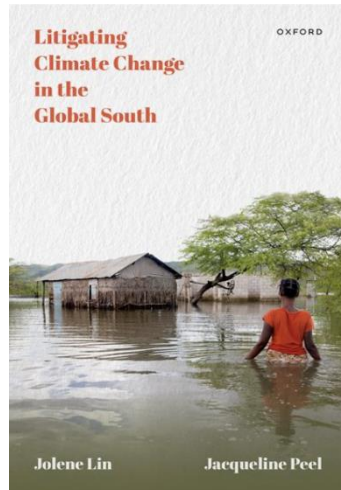
VISITING RESEARCHERS



Adithi Reddy is a graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill with a major in Global Studies and double minors in Public Policy and Sustainability Studies. She was on exchange at NUS College as a Phillips Ambassadors Scholar, she is passionate about international environmental law and corporate sustainability. Adithi has worked as a Teaching Assistant for UNC's Sustainable Business and Social Enterprise course, an Environmental Policy Intern at NC Collaboratory, and a Research Assistant at UNC's Environmental Finance Center, contributing to efforts addressing PFAS contamination in drinking water and assessing the viability of local government water utilities across the U.S.

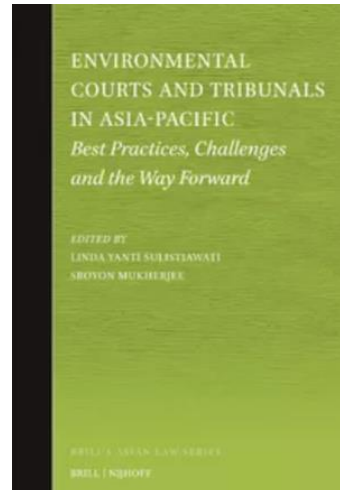
PUBLICATIONS

Books



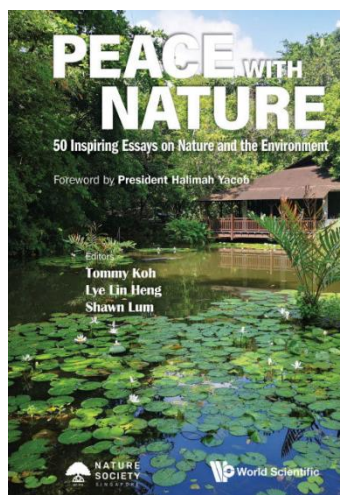
Litigating Climate Change in the Global South

Jolene Lin and Jacqueline Peel
(Oxford University Press, 2024)



Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia-Pacific: Best Practices, Challenges and the Way Forward

Edited by Linda Yanti
Sulistiawati and Sroyon
Mukherjee (Brill, 2024)



Peace with Nature: 50 Inspiring Essays on Nature and the Environment

Edited by Tommy Koh, Lye Lin-
Heng and Shawn Lum (World
Scientific, 2023)



Liability for Environmental Harm to the Global Commons

Tara Davenport, Neil Craik and
Ruth Mackenzie (Cambridge
University Press, 2023)



PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- **Jolene Lin.** "Cities and Climate Change." *Peace with Nature*, edited by Tommy Koh, Lye Lin-Heng, and Shawn Lum, World Scientific, 2023.
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia Pacific: The Way Forward." *Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia Pacific*, edited by Linda Yanti Sulistiawati and Sroyon Mukherjee, Brill, 2024.
- **Lye Lin-Heng.** "Restoring Singapore's Biodiversity: From A Garden City to A City in Nature – Laws, Policies and Environmental Governance." *The Singapore Red Data Book: Red Lists of Singapore Biodiversity*, edited by Geoffrey W. H. Davison et al, National Parks Board, 2024.
- **Sroyon Mukherjee.** "The Price of a Forest, and the Many Meanings of Environmental Value." *Environmental Ethics for Lawyers*, edited by Jochen Sohne and Christophe Bouriau, Mare & Martin, 2024.
- **Tara Davenport.** "The Role of Meetings of States Parties to UNCLOS." *UNCLOS at 40: Essays in Honour of Ambassador Tommy Koh*, edited by Tara Davenport and Nilufer Oral, NUS Press, 2024.
- **Tara Davenport.** "Southeast Asia and Seabed Mining." *Routledge Handbook of Seabed Mining and the Law of the Sea*, edited by Virginie Tassin, Routledge, 2024.

Journal Articles

- **Justin Lim.** "Friends of the Earth (No. 3): A Tale of Two Statutory Interpretations." *Journal of Environmental Law*, forthcoming
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Climate Change Litigation in Indonesia." *Communications Earth & Environment*, vol. 5, 2024, p. 522.
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Review of An Environmental Court in Action: Function, Doctrine and Process, edited by Elizabeth Fisher and Brian Preston." *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2023, pp. 235.
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati and Louie Buana.** "Legal Analysis on Presidential Regulation No. 98 Year 2021: Carbon Pricing in Indonesia." *Journal of Central Banking Law and Institutions*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2023, p. 179.
- **Mark Ortega.** "Finding a Core of Sustainability in Directors' and Officers' Fiduciary Duties." *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum*, vol. 34, 2024, p. 49.
- **Sroyon Mukherjee.** "How Much Should the Polluter Pay? Indian Courts and the Valuation of Environmental Damage." *Journal of Environmental Law*, vol. 35, no. 3, 2023, p. 331.

PUBLICATIONS

Blogs, Working Papers and Policy Papers

- **Carol Yuen.** "SB60 Bonn Climate Change Conference (June 2024) from an Observer's Perspective." 2024. Report number: [APCEL-REP-2402](#).
- **Jolene Lin.** "*Milieudefensie et al. v. Shell*: Analysis and Commentary of the Hague Court of Appeal's Decision." 2024. [CIL Dialogues](#).
- **Justin Lim** and Ekaterina Aristova (editors). "Climate Litigation in Europe Unleashed: Catalysing Action against States and Corporations." 2024. [Bonavero Reports 2/2024](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati** and Irene Amadea Rembeth. "NDCs in ASEAN Countries: Dreams or Reality? Assessing Case Studies from Indonesia and the Philippines." 2023. [NUS Law Working Paper No. 2023/022](#); [SSRN](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Climate Change Related Litigation in Indonesia: The Dawn of a New Beginning?" 2023. [NUS Law Working Paper No. 2023/009](#); [SSRN](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Net Zero, Just Transition, and the Hope for the New Administration: Superficial Environmentalism?" 2024. [Tempo.Co](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Environmental Rights as Human Rights in ASEAN: Why Not?" 2023. [Fulcrum](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati.** "Indonesia Climate Policy: Lost in Translation." 2024. [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#).
- **Nikhil Dutt Sundaraj.** "What are the Essential Qualities of a National Level Biodiversity Conservation Regime? – Lessons for Singapore and Other Countries." 2023. [APCEL Working Paper No. 2023/001](#); [SSRN](#).
- **Selene Tanne.** "2023 Updates to the Resource Sustainability Act 2019." 2023. [APCEL Policy Paper 23/01](#).
- Xiaopu Sun, Richard "Tad" Ferris, and Valerie Fajardo. "China's Ongoing Efforts to Address Methane Emissions and Opportunities to Further Raise China's Methane Mitigation Ambition." 2024. [APCEL-REP-2401](#).

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Environmental Courts and Tribunals

In 2021, APCEL was commissioned by UNEP to undertake a global study on environmental courts and tribunals (ECTs), the findings of which were officially published as a Guide in 2022.

Building on this foundational work, APCEL continued to focus on ECTs in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2022, we hosted a webinar in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law, bringing together experts and stakeholders to discuss trends, best practices, and challenges. This webinar served as the precursor to APCEL's next major initiative: the publication of an edited volume on ECTs in the Asia-Pacific.

We are pleased to announce that this edited collection, *Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia-Pacific: Best Practices, Challenges and the Way Forward*, has now been published by Brill in 2024. Edited by Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati (Senior Research Fellow, APCEL) and Dr. Sroyon Mukherjee (Research Fellow, APCEL), the book explores the unique features of ECTs in the region, their challenges, and their future potential for improving environmental justice.

To celebrate the publication and share its findings, APCEL will host a web-launch in February 2025. This event will feature presentations by the editors and contributing authors, alongside discussions with regional experts and stakeholders. It promises to be an engaging platform for dialogue on the critical role of ECTs in addressing environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific.

APCEL Student Outreach Programme



The APCEL Student Outreach Programme is designed to inspire young minds and raise awareness about environmental law and sustainability. This initiative introduces pre-tertiary students to international and national environmental legal frameworks, climate change mitigation strategies, and the importance of individual actions in tackling global environmental challenges. By incorporating interactive activities like

carbon footprint calculations, group discussions, and online quizzes, the program makes complex topics relatable and engaging.

From 2023 to 2024, the programme engaged students from 10 institutions, including secondary schools, junior colleges, and polytechnics. Participating schools included St. Joseph's Institution, Raffles Institution, CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School, Cedar Girls' Secondary School, Punggol Secondary School, St. Andrew's Junior College, Nan Chiau High School, and Republic Polytechnic. These sessions received enthusiastic feedback from students and teachers, emphasizing the program's effectiveness in fostering environmental stewardship.

By aligning with Singapore's sustainability goals and empowering students to champion environmental causes, the Student Outreach Programme reinforces APCEL's commitment to nurturing the next generation of environmental advocates. This initiative has become a key part of APCEL's mission to expand the understanding of environmental law and its practical implications.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY- MARCH, 2023

- Islands and Climate Change: Going Beyond Adaptation
- The Silala Case between Chile and Bolivia before the International Court of Justice: Future Implications for International Water Law (CIL-APCEL Event)
- APCEL Student Outreach Pilot: Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

AUGUST-OCTOBER, 2023

- APCEL Student Outreach: Cedar Girls' Secondary School
- APCEL Student Outreach: St. Joseph's Institution
- APCEL Student Outreach: Raffles Institution

FEBRUARY, 2024

- Distinguished Visitor Lecture: Climate change before the ITLOS and the ICJ

APRIL, 2024

- Climate Change and the Courts – in collaboration with CIL
- APCEL Student Outreach: Punggol Secondary School
- APCEL Student Outreach: St Andrew's Junior College

MAY, 2023

- In Conversation with Professor Tommy Koh and Laura Clarke OBE

JANUARY, 2024

- Liability for Environmental Harm to the Global Commons – Panel Discussion and Book Launch
- APCEL Fireside Chat: COP28 the key takeaways
- Workshop on Seeking an Advisory Opinion on Climate Change Obligations

MARCH, 2024

- APCEL Student Outreach: St Joseph's Institution
- APCEL Webinar Series: Energy, Climate and Environmental Issues in Indonesia – Indonesia's Dilemma Toward Net Zero
- APCEL Student Outreach – CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights Online Consortium – Webinar
- The ECHR Climate Change Rulings and their Global Significance – Webinar

JUNE, 2024

- APCEL Webinar Series: Energy, Climate and Environmental Issues in Indonesia – Indonesian State-Owned Companies and GHG Reduction Targets
- APCEL Student Outreach: Republic Polytechnic
- Putting Words into (Climate) Action: Ushering in Corporate Transition Plans

AUGUST, 2024

- APCEL Student Outreach: Nan Chiau High School

OCTOBER, 2024

- The Allen & Gledhill Law and Sustainable Finance Distinguished Lecture: “Law and Sustainable Finance – More Regulation or Better Relationships?” by Professor Megan Bowman
- Towards Net Zero Conference: Legal Aspects of Corporate Climate Action in Asia

MAY, 2024

- APCEL-JEL Writing Workshop for Early Career Scholars from the Global South
- Executive Programme: Navigating the Legal and Regulatory Landscape of Getting to Net-Zero
- Research Workshop on Paris Rulebook Negotiators Guide
- APCEL Student Outreach: Raffles Institution

JULY, 2024

- APCEL Good Stories Movement Celebratory Event

SEPTEMBER, 2024

- APCEL Book Seminar: Energy Dependence and Supply Security: Energy Law in the New Geopolitical Reality
- APCEL Seminar: Climate Litigation – European Court Injunction

NOVEMBER, 2024

- APCEL Indonesia Series: Preparing for Just Transition in a Developing World

Visit our website for more information on our [events](#) and [engagements](#).

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Towards Net Zero Conference: Legal Aspects of Corporate Climate Action in Asia



On 17 October 2024, APCEL and the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business (EWBCLB) at NUS Law hosted the *Towards Net Zero Conference: Legal Aspects of Corporate Climate Action in Asia* at the Westin Singapore. Supported by the Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative (CCLI), the conference was the first in Asia to convene over 130 participants, including legal practitioners, regulators, investors, academics, and students, to examine the legal dimensions of corporate climate action.

The event commenced with a keynote by Justice Philip Jeyaretnam, who highlighted the judiciary's role in climate accountability, referencing landmark cases such as *Milieudefensie v. Shell* and *The Great Indian Bustard Case*. He emphasized the importance of combating greenwashing and disinformation, and the critical need for courts and regulators to align on addressing climate challenges.

Three panels followed, focusing on Directors' Duties, Climate Litigation, and Investors' Duties. The Directors' Duties panel, moderated by Professor Umakanth Varottil, explored climate change as a systemic financial risk and the regulatory approaches in India and Singapore. Panelists also addressed governance issues like greenwashing and the necessity of providing material information to investors.

The Climate Litigation panel, moderated by Dr. Jolene Lin, examined global trends in climate lawsuits, with panelists analyzing significant cases such as *ClientEarth v. Shell* and the implications of litigation for corporate boards. Discussions also covered climate litigation trends in Southeast Asia and strategies to address greenwashing in corporate disclosures.

The Investors' Duties panel, moderated by Professor Ernest Lim, explored fiduciary responsibilities in addressing climate risks. Panelists shared insights on sustainable investment strategies, Temasek's long-term approach to mitigating stranded asset risks, and the role of minority shareholders in influencing corporate strategies.

The conference provided a platform for cross-sector dialogue on balancing climate risks and opportunities, offering insights into how legal, regulatory, and corporate frameworks can drive Asia's transition toward net-zero goals.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Other key events



[Dr. Jolene Lin Presents at SG Courts – Conversations with the Community](#)

On 26 July 2024, Dr. Jolene Lin, Director of APCEL and Associate Professor at NUS Law, spoke at the sixth SG Courts – Conversations with the Community session, *Advancing the Environmental Rule of Law – Roles and Responsibilities of the Community*. The event featured a keynote by Justice Philip Jeyaretnam and presentations by Dr. Lin, Ms. Michelle Chng from the Centre for Climate Research Singapore, and Mr. Koh Min Ee from the Ministry of Sustainability and Environment. Dr. Lin discussed global climate litigation and APCEL's contributions to promoting the environmental rule of law through research, teaching, and outreach.



[Distinguished Visitor Lecture: Climate Change before ITLOS and the ICJ](#)

On 20 February 2024, APCEL hosted a lecture by Professor Ellen Hey, Visiting Professor at NUS Law and Professor of Public International Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam, on advisory opinion requests submitted to ITLOS and the ICJ regarding states' climate obligations. Moderated by APCEL Director Associate Professor Jolene Lin, the lecture highlighted state responsibilities under UNCLOS, obligations toward future generations, and Pacific Island States' strategic use of these requests. Professor Hey discussed the potential impact of advisory opinions on harmonizing international law and clarifying due diligence standards, addressing human rights, state responsibility, and COP29 implications during a lively Q&A session.



[Dr. Tara Davenport's Participation in ITLOS Proceedings on Climate Obligations](#)

In September 2023, Tara Davenport was part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) team that made oral submissions before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). The proceedings related to a request for an advisory opinion on states' obligations under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concerning climate change. This request was submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) and took place in Hamburg, Germany.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



[In Conversation with Professor Tommy Koh and Laura Clarke OBE: Using Law and Diplomacy to Address Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss](#)

On 17 May 2023, APCEL hosted a dialogue at Temasek Shophouse featuring Professor Tommy Koh (Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Ms. Laura Clarke OBE (CEO of ClientEarth). Moderated by APCEL's Director, Jolene Lin, the discussion addressed law and diplomacy in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting sustainable finance, regulatory development, and stakeholder roles in decarbonization. Professor Koh discussed uniting diverse international interests, while Laura Clarke shared ClientEarth's Asia-Pacific approach and her experiences as Governor of the Pitcairn Islands.

Visit our website for more information on our [events](#) and [engagements](#).

FEATURED ARTICLE

Honouring Emeritus Professor Lye Lin Heng

by Mark Ortega

I first met Emeritus Professor [Lye Lin Heng](#) in 2023, at the book launch of [Peace with Nature](#), a collection of essays she edited with Emeritus Professor Tommy Koh (Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore) and Dr Shawn Lum (Nature Society Singapore). We spoke briefly as she signed my freshly purchased copy, and Prof. Lye warmly invited me to lunch at the Tanglin Club, where we could speak more about our shared interests around the environment, nature, and the law.

At lunch, and across various subsequent meetings, Prof. Lye shared with me the great stories of her illustrious and pioneering career. It is not possible to do justice to Prof. Lye's many achievements and contributions in a short article like this, but it may be possible to tell a little bit of her story, in this little attempt to honour her and inspire budding environmental lawyers and advocates.



Prof. Lye graduated from the then-University of Singapore with a degree in law. She started her career as a conveyancing lawyer. She then joined the University and started teaching Property Law and Trusts. She was, and remains, the lead author of Lye Lin Heng's [Landlord and Tenant Law](#) in Singapore.

Later on, Prof. Lye started to research and teach Environmental Law. In this role, she was very much a pioneer in taking comparative and cross-border approaches towards Environmental Law in Singapore, the Asia-Pacific region, and in the United States. She has taught courses in Pace University (renowned for its leading Environmental Law program) and the Yale School of Forestry, teaching alongside [Professor Nicholas Robinson](#), himself a towering and pioneering figure of Environmental Law in the United States and internationally. Prof. Lye spoke frequently and fondly of her friendship with Prof. Nicholas Robinson, particularly of the courses they taught together on Comparative Environmental Law, and on Environmental Law and world religions. The religious perspective in environmental law is particularly relevant to a multi-religious city state like Singapore and was a unique perspective Prof. Lye and Prof. Robinson brought to the legal communities of Singapore, the United States, and many other countries.

Prof. Lye was also a former director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), and helmed APCEL from 2013 to 2018, contributing significantly to APCEL's role in convening and capacity building. She was also foundational in establishing National University of Singapore's interdisciplinary programme, the M.Sc. (Environmental Management) (MEM). This was a creative and pioneering feat, requiring the coordination with up to (as I understand) nine different faculties and departments, and bringing together students from around the world. Prof. Lye herself taught Environmental Law in this program and, in this role, brought together many communities of students and former students interested in environmental and nature conservation. Many of these communities and networks remain in touch to this day, and Prof. Lye often speaks very fondly of them. I met some of these MEM alumni at a donor's event held by the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), including ACRES's wonderful and dedicated co-Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Anbarasi Boopal (Anbu).



FEATURED ARTICLE

Prof. Lye was a legal advisor to the Nature Society of Singapore for many years and has served in many other roles which relate to environmental advocacy and capacity building. These include as a director of the Worldwide Fund for Nature Singapore, a board member of the International Union for the Conservation of

Nature's Academy of Environmental Law, and a resource person for capacity building in programs conducted by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and Singapore's then-Ministry of the Environment, among other roles.

Prof. Lye has also made many contributions to Singapore's public service, including as a member of the Land Titles (Strata) Board, and a former board member of the Housing Development Board and the Tenants' Compensation Board. Prof. Lye also served as a member of the then-Ministry of the Environment's committees on environmental education, waste minimization, and resource conservation. Prof. Lye was also a Vice-Dean to the Faculty of Law from 1995 to 1998. In 2016, Prof. Lye was awarded with the Public Service Medal (PBM).

For all her contributions, Prof. Lye was awarded in 2024 the title of Emeritus Professor of the National University of Singapore (NUS). NUS Law's Dean Professor Andrew Simester described this as 'a much-deserved honour, in recognition of the leadership Lin Heng has given to the faculty and university over many years of service, especially in Environmental Law.'

Although she is now retired, Prof. Lye continues to work tirelessly in bringing together people and communities with a shared passion in environmental and nature conservation. She has connected me with many of the colleagues and friends she has made over the years, including – and most memorably – with the great attorney, environmental litigator, and environmental activist, Mr Antonio Tony Oposa Jr. Prof. Lye has always been warm, kind, generous, and open. This aspect – forging and making connections with humans and with nature – will, I think, be her great legacy and contribution to environmental law in Singapore and in the world. And we are all better off for it.



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