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APCEL Newsletter

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025





Directors' Message

2025 has been a remarkable year for the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), marked by continued growth and collaboration in the ever-evolving field of environmental governance. This year, we were excited to build upon our previous successes, hosting high-profile events, welcoming esteemed fellows, and furthering our research on climate accountability, sustainable development and international environmental law.

Our commitment to advancing climate law research was further highlighted by the recognition of Professor Jolene Lin and Professor Tara Davenport, who were awarded prestigious book prizes for their contributions to the field. Professor Lin and her co-author Professor Jacqueline Peel (Melbourne Law School) received both the 2025 ESIL Collaborative Book Prize and the 2025 ANSIL Book Prize for their book *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* (Oxford University Press, 2024). Professor Davenport, along with Professor Neil Craik (University of Waterloo) and Professor Ruth Mackenzie (University of Westminster), was awarded the 2024 Scholarly Book Award by the Canadian Council on International Law for their important work on the *Liability for Environmental Harm to the Global Commons* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). In addition to these achievements, we are proud to continue producing high-quality publications and research that contribute meaningfully to the global discourse on climate change law and environmental governance.

Throughout the year, APCEL continued to engage with both local and global communities. From our youth outreach programs aimed at educating younger generations about environmental law and climate action, to high-level academic collaborations with international scholars and institutions, we remain dedicated to broadening the conversation on environmental law and ensuring that our work reaches a diverse audience. We hosted several significant events, including *the Just Transition in Southeast Asia*, *the Roundtable on COP29*, and *the Ocean Futures Symposium*, co-hosted with Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. These events brought together leading experts from law, policy, science, and industry to discuss urgent issues such as climate change, just transitions, and the future of environmental governance.

One of our significant achievements was our ongoing partnership with the Quadrature Climate Foundation (QCF), which enabled us to welcome Dr. Param Pandya as the inaugural QCF Fellow. His research promises to provide critical insights into corporate accountability for climate change.

As a small yet dynamic team, APCEL remains focused on the power of partnerships. We are deeply grateful for the support of our collaborators, fellows, and partners, whose contributions have made 2025 a year of meaningful progress. We look forward to continuing this important work and engaging with all of you in the years ahead as we collectively strive toward a more sustainable and equitable future.



Jolene Lin
Director



Tara Maria Davenport
Deputy Director

LEADERSHIP



Jolene Lin, Director of APCEL

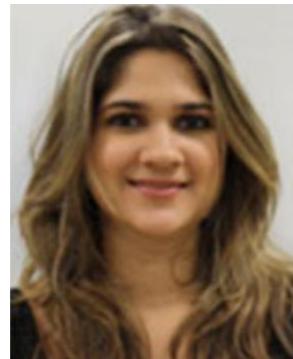
Jolene Lin is Associate Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Environmental Law. Her research focuses on climate change litigation and transnational climate change law. Her recent publications include *Governing Climate Change: Global Cities and Transnational Lawmaking* (Cambridge University Press 2018), *Climate Change Litigation in the Asia Pacific* (Cambridge University Press 2020) and *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* (Oxford University Press 2024) which won the 2025 European Society of International Law Collaborative Book Prize and the 2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of International Law Book Prize.

Jolene is on the editorial boards of *Journal of Environmental Law*, *Transnational Environmental Law* and the *Chinese Journal of Environmental Law*. Jolene is a member of the Academic Circle supporting the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development (2024-2026) and Vice-Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Global Environment and Energy Commission. Jolene has given talks on climate litigation for the Asia Development Bank, the Supreme People's Court (China), the Supreme Court of Singapore, Singapore's Attorney-General's Chambers and the Singapore Judicial College. She is also actively involved in global climate justice philanthropic initiatives.

Tara Davenport, Deputy Director of APCEL

Tara Davenport is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL) at NUS. She has an LLB from the London School of Economics, an LLM in Maritime Law from NUS, an LLM and JSD from Yale Law School

She received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2013 and the NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship in 2014. She is a qualified Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore. Her current research interests are public international law, law of the sea and international dispute settlement. She has written on the South China Sea disputes, submarine cables and deep seabed mining. She is a member of the Legal Working Group on Liability for Environmental Harm from Activities in the Area convened by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority. She is also the Rapporteur for the International Law Association Study Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines.



APCEL RESEARCHERS

Linda Yanti Sulistiawati is a Senior Research Fellow at APCEL and an Associate Professor of Law in Universitas Gadjah Mada. She is an internationally recognised scholar in Indonesian international environmental law, focusing on issues such as climate change and REDD+. Linda was a member of Indonesia's climate negotiation delegation for the Paris Agreement and also served as a lead author of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 2018 to 2022. She led APCEL's flagship research project in 2021 – a global study on Environmental Courts and Tribunals (ECTs) commissioned by the UNEP – and continues to develop APCEL's research agenda on ECTs in the Asia-Pacific.



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.

Param Pandya is the Quadrature Climate Foundation (QCF) Fellow in Climate Change and Corporate Law at the APCEL, focusing on corporate climate accountability. He obtained his PhD (2025) from the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, on the President's Graduate Fellowship. His doctoral thesis adopted a comparative lens to envisage an enforcement mechanism to remedy breaches of directors' duties to consider stakeholders' interests. Param has advised the Government of India on various reforms pertaining to company law, insolvency law, and business and human rights. He has also worked as a Consultant with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on corporate climate disclosures in Asia. He holds an MSc in Law and Finance from the University of Oxford (2020), where he was the JN Tata Scholar.



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 (NUS) and a master's in international public policy from Peking University (PKU)'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.

APCEL RESEARCHERS

Sean Tseng is an Adjunct Research Fellow at APCEL. Sean is also Senior Legal Counsel for Sustainability at SHEIN, a global online retailer, advising and supporting the company on legal, ethical, and compliance matters related to sustainability. Prior to that, Sean spent more than 2 years as a Legal Consultant with ClientEarth, focusing on the use of corporate and financial laws to enable and promote environmental action within the private and public sectors in Asia. Sean was also previously Adjunct Assistant Professor at the NUS Faculty of Law where he convened the Environmental Law course (AY2023 – 2025). Sean graduated from NUS with a Bachelor of Laws degree and is admitted to the Singapore bar. He also holds a Master of Laws in Environmental Law & Policy from University College London (Distinction). Sean's interested areas of research focus on 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. This includes the emerging legal developments in directors' fiduciary duties, shareholder engagement, and prudential law and regulation. Sean has released several award-winning essays and has undertaken projects for the UN Environment Programme and UN Global Compact.



The Quadrature Climate Foundation (QCF) Fellowship

APCEL's strategic collaboration with the Quadrature Climate Foundation (QCF) strengthens its leadership in climate change, corporate governance, and transnational environmental law. A key part of this partnership is the QCF Fellow in Climate Change and Corporate Law, a post-doctoral position focused on advancing policy-relevant research on corporate climate accountability.

In September 2025, APCEL welcomed Dr Param Pandya as the inaugural QCF Fellow. Dr Pandya completed his PhD at NUS Law as a President's Graduate Fellow, during which he examined comparative enforcement mechanisms for directors' duties to consider stakeholder interests. He brings substantial policy experience through advisory work with the Government of India on company law, insolvency law, and business and human rights. He also served as a consultant with the OECD on corporate climate disclosure frameworks in Asia.

The QCF Fellowship is uniquely positioned to support rigorous research on the legal pathways for strengthening corporate accountability for climate mitigation and adaptation. Dr Pandya works under the mentorship of Dr Jolene Lin and Professor Ernest Lim—internationally recognised experts in climate law and corporate law. A central focus of the QCF Fellowship will be the role of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), given their economic dominance in key sectors, which makes their climate governance practices pivotal for regional climate outcomes. Dr Pandya aims to examine how domestic and international legal frameworks can be reformed to better align SOE operations with long-term climate objectives, including through strengthened accountability and disclosure mechanisms.

Through this collaboration with QCF, APCEL continues to foster cutting-edge scholarship that informs effective climate governance and supports the development of legally robust, future-ready pathways for global corporate climate responsibility.

ACADEMIC FELLOWS

Joseph Chun is an Adjunct Associate Professor at NUS and an Academic Fellow at the APCEL. He graduated with an LLB (Hons) from NUS in 1991, and a PhD from University College London in 2003. He has written widely on environmental law and ESG and is the lead author of Singapore's only environmental law textbook. Joseph volunteers as a member of the Singapore Venture Capital and Private Equity Association's (SVCA) ESG and Impact Committee, member of the Global Alliance of Impact Lawyers (GAIL), the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Mandai Wildlife Group's Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee. He also regularly works with green civil society groups on advocacy projects and reports. He is an environmental lawyer leading the Environmental, Social and Governance practice at Shook Lin & Bok.



Arjuna Dibley is an Assistant Professor of Law at NUS and an Academic Fellow at APCEL, with honorary appointments at the Universities of Oxford and Melbourne. He earned his J.S.D. from Stanford University as a General Sir John Monash Scholar. Dibley's research is primarily at the intersection of law, economics and sustainability. He has published both traditional legal scholarship—such as work in the Harvard Environmental Law Review—and leading interdisciplinary research, including Nature articles on equity and justice in sustainable finance. He received the Paul Bourke Award from the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia as the leading Early Career Researcher in Law. Dibley contributes actively to international policy processes, serving as a lead author on UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report and presenting to senior policymakers at organisations such as the Asian Development Bank and OECD. He also sits on the board of CarbonPlan, a U.S. think tank advancing transparency and scientific integrity in climate solutions. Before joining NUS, Dibley headed the Sustainable Finance Hub at the University of Melbourne, was a Senior Research Fellow at Melbourne Law School, practiced law at Baker McKenzie, and worked as a strategy adviser at Pollination across Australia, Asia, and the U.S.

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.



ACADEMIC FELLOWS



Mark Ortega is an Academic Fellow at the APCEL. He 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. Mark has published in the areas of Sustainability and Directors' Duties, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Reporting and Private Environmental Governance, and Private Nuisance Law. His current research interests centre around how transnational rules and standards pertaining to the climate crisis are developed and implemented, with a specific focus on the human, institutional, and legal dynamics around setting net-zero targets by networks of international, public, private, and hybrid public/private organizations. Mark actively researches these areas and intersections and will be pursuing a PhD to study these more in depth. 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. As a Sheridan Fellow with NUS Faculty of Law, Mark teaches Equity and Trusts, and has previously taught the Law of Torts.

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



Peter Barnett is a senior lawyer at international environmental NGO, ClientEarth. ClientEarth uses the law, backed by science and economics, to protect people and the planet. He works with governments, the private sector and civil society to accelerate the transition to a net zero carbon economy in the Asian region. He frequently speaks and writes on the role of corporate law in driving greater sustainability in business and investment decisions.

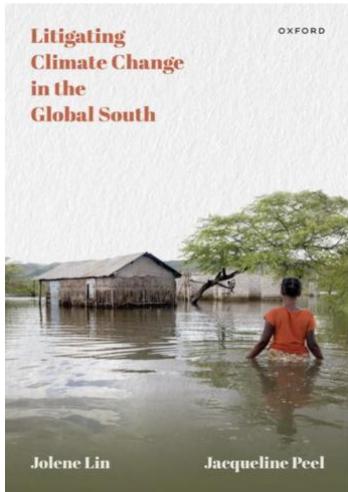
Ghislaine Nadaud started her career as an attorney and practised corporate and employment law in The Hague and Amsterdam. In 2016, she moved to Asia to set up ABN AMRO's first ever regional sustainability department for its corporate and institutional banking business. After working as a sustainable 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 is a transnational governance consultant and international dispute resolution lawyer focusing on the role that international economic law can play in driving environmental and climate justice. With over 13 years of experience spanning transnational corporate accountability, climate and environmental governance, and complex cross-border dispute resolution, she works with the public and private sectors and civil society to lead and develop transnational governance initiatives in Asia. She is an Expert Consultant with the United Nations Development Program Global Policy Network, and Lead Advisor, Environmental Justice and Transnational Governance, with Climate Governance Malaysia. She formerly led international environmental law NGO ClientEarth's Asia-Pacific judicial convening program, and corporate, financial, and international economic law initiatives in Southeast Asia and broader Asia. Previously, she practised international arbitration and litigation with Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, and was a Deputy Public Prosecutor and State Counsel with the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore. She is a Global Fellow with the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, the Singapore Rapporteur for arbitration and international commercial courts for the International Academy of Comparative Law, and Singapore Rapporteur with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law's Global Climate Change Litigation Network.

PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Book Prizes



Litigating Climate Change in the Global South

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

APCEL warmly congratulates Professor Jolene Lin (Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore) and her co-author, Professor Jacqueline Peel (Melbourne Law School), for being awarded the 2025 European Society of International Law (ESIL) Collaborative Book Prize and the 2025 Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law (ANZSIL) Book Prize for their groundbreaking work, *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

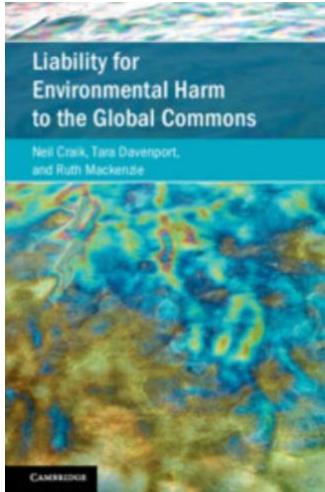
This monograph is the first comprehensive study of climate litigation in developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America—regions often underrepresented in the global legal discourse on climate change. Building on the authors' 2019 article in the American Journal of International Law, the book expands our understanding of climate litigation as a truly global phenomenon and foregrounds the legal innovation and agency emerging in Global South jurisdictions. A distinctive contribution of the book lies in how it redefines the notion of "impact" in climate litigation. Lin and Peel argue that courtroom victories are only one part of the story. In many instances, even unsuccessful cases can generate meaningful outcomes. The symbolic and mobilising effect of indirect impacts, such as shaping public discourse, empowering communities, and sustaining political pressure

can be far-reaching. As Professor Lin reflects in an interview: "Many of them have lost cases in the courtroom but actually feel they've won... because the defeat in the courtroom didn't mean the end of the case. The case continued to be discussed in the media. It continued to be a focus point for further action and discussion about what we need to do on climate change. And to them, that was a win."

In a recent interview, Professors Lin and Peel also spoke about their motivation for writing the book. While both are not based in the Global South, they emphasised the importance of creating space for Global South scholars and practitioners to shape this conversation. Their hope is to spark a new wave of research and dialogue grounded in local perspectives and experiences. "We really hope that this is just the start of scholarship in this area... We saw across the Global South some really innovative work, really committed work being done that points to the importance of a collective, diverse effort to tackle this problem," said Professor Peel. This forward-looking spirit also informs Professor Lin's next phase of research: she will continue tracking developments in the Global South, including work on a forthcoming article analysing the rise of climate litigation in Asia, building on ideas she shared in a seminar at Yale earlier this year.

The ANZSIL Book Prize Committee praised the work as: "Altogether highly capable, extremely well researched and reasoned, informative and a distinctly timely contribution to the literature – scholarship that ANZSIL can be proud its members are producing." This recognition affirms the significant contribution of *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* to contemporary international environmental law scholarship. It also reflects the growing relevance of legal developments in the Global South in shaping the future of climate governance worldwide.

PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS



APCEL warmly congratulates Dr Tara Davenport and her co-authors, Professor Neil Craik (University of Waterloo) and Professor Ruth Mackenzie (University of Westminster), whose book *Liability for Environmental Harm to the Global Commons* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) has been awarded the 2024 Scholarly Book Award by the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL).

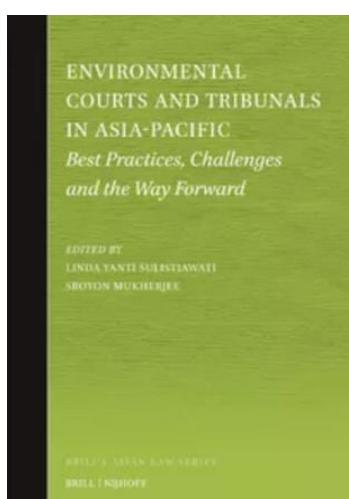
The CCIL Scholarly Book Award recognises significant contributions by Canadian scholars to international law literature. This award highlights the importance of the authors' work, which provides the first in-depth analysis of the international legal regime governing liability for environmental harm in areas beyond national jurisdiction—an increasingly critical issue as pressures on the global commons intensify due to resource exploitation and environmental degradation.

Liability for Environmental Harm to the Global Commons

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

The book offers a rigorous and timely evaluation of how existing legal frameworks address transboundary and high-seas environmental harm, shedding light on one of the most complex and evolving domains of international environmental law. Its recognition underscores the growing need for sophisticated legal scholarship to navigate the environmental challenges emerging in global commons governance.

Books



The edited volume *Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia-Pacific: Best Practices, Challenges and the Way Forward* (Brill, 2025) is edited by the APCEL researchers Dr Linda Yanti Sulistiawati and Dr Sroyon Mukherjee.

Environmental courts and tribunals (ECTs) have become key institutions in ensuring effective environmental governance, especially in a region as diverse and rapidly developing as the Asia-Pacific. This timely volume brings together leading scholars and practitioners to examine how specialised judicial bodies across the region are responding to escalating environmental pressures, rising public demand for accountability, and the growing complexity of environmental disputes. By mapping the evolving landscape of environmental adjudication, ECTs in Asia-Pacific provides a much-needed regional perspective and proposes pathways for strengthening judicial capacity and environmental rule of law in the years ahead.



PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, and Irene Amadea Rembeth. "[Climate Change Regulations in Subnational Governments of the Southeast Asian Countries: Case Studies from Indonesia and the Philippines](#)." *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, 15 Jan. 2025.
- Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, "One Health: Building a Resilient Indonesia." *Legal Policy & Pandemics: The Journal of the Global Pandemic Network*, vol. 3–4, 2024, p.73.
- Justine V.A. Muller, "Beef and Dairy Emissions: A Diagnosis of the International Legal Order." *Journal of Environmental Law*, vol. 37, no. 3, 2025, p. 617.
- Justin Lim, "Friends of the Earth (No. 3): A Tale of Two Statutory Interpretations." *Journal of Environmental Law*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2025, p. 349.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "Sowing Seeds of Change: Intergenerational Justice in Corporate Law and Governance." *Journal of Business Law*, vol. 7, 2025, p. 511.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "Understanding Intergenerational Equity through the Prism of Legal Interpretivism: Some Reflections." *Environmental Policy and Law*, vol. 55, nos. 2–3, 2025, p. 42.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "The Paradox and Fallacy of Global Carbon Credits: A Theoretical Framework for Strengthening Climate Change Mitigation Strategies." *Anthropocene Science*, vol. 4, 2025, p. 72.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "Leveraging Blockchain for Enhanced Transparency and Traceability in Sustainable Supply Chains." *Discover Analytics*, vol. 3, 2025, p. 6.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "Bending the Arc of Law: Positivism Meets Climate Change's Intergenerational Challenge." *Transnational Environmental Law*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2025, p. 285.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "A Theoretical Framework for Transformative Corporate Intergenerational Equity." *Journal of Environmental Law*, vol. 37, no. 1, 2025, p. 45.
- Ben Chester Cheong, "The ICI's 2025 Climate Change Advisory Opinion: Critical Implications for UK Environmental and Planning Law." *Journal of Planning & Environment Law*, vol. 12, 2025, p. 1623.

Legal Opinions, Blogs, Working Papers and Policy Papers

- Jolene Lin, and Johanna Aleria Lorenzo, [Legal Opinion on the International Legal Obligations of Multilateral Development Banks and Their Major Shareholder States in Relation to Climate Change Mitigation](#), November 2025.
- Jolene Lin. Climate Law Developments in East and Southeast Asia. 2025. NUS Law Working Paper No. 2025/011; NUS Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law Working Paper 25/01; [SSRN](#).



PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati**, Safe, Clean, Sustainable: Is ASEAN's New Declaration Enough? , Tempo.Co, 17 November 2025.
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati**, Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in Indonesia: When Defenders Became Defendants, Tempo.Co, 10 May 2025.
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati** and Irene Amadea Rembeth. Halfway There: Indonesia's Adat Law towards Right of Nature Frameworks, Case-Based Reflections from Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia. 2025. NUS Law Working Paper No. 2025/021; NUS Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law Working Paper 25/04; [SSRN](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati** and Muhammad Adib Zain. Legal Analysis of Anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit against Public Participation) Environmental Cases in Indonesia: A Long and Winding Road to Implementation? 2025. NUS Law Working Paper No. 2025/013; NUS Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law Working Paper 25/02; [SSRN](#).
- **Yang Huiwen, Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, and Ghislaine Nadaud** and. Exploring a Just Transition in Southeast Asia. 2025. APCEL Policy Paper No. 2501; [APCEL-PP-2501](#).
- **Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Justine V.A. Muller** and **Yang Huiwen**. Ocean Futures: Advancing Decarbonisation and Innovation in Shipping and Marine Biodiversity. 2025. APCEL Policy Paper No. 2502; APCEL-PP-2502.
- **Param Nayankumar Pandya** and co-authors, OECD Report 'Board Responsibility and Sustainability-Related Disclosure in Asia, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2025.
- **Kanika Jamwal**. Empowering Vulnerable Communities in Climate Litigation: The Indian Application of the Precautionary Principle. 2025. NUS Law Working Paper No. 2025/014; NUS Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law Working Paper 25/03; [SSRN](#).



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

APCEL researchers organised, supported, and participated in a number of in-person and online events in 2025, including:

FEBRUARY- MARCH, 2025

- APCEL Roundtable: COP29 Insights Exchange
- Dr Linda Yanti Sulistiawati Appointed Lead Author for IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities
- APCEL Book Launch: Environmental Courts and Tribunals in Asia-Pacific

APRIL-MAY, 2025

- APCEL–CNCS Executive Course on Singapore’s Legal and Regulatory Issues on Climate Change
- APCEL Seminar: Legal and Policy Frameworks as Tools for Compassion — Strengthening Animal Protection in Singapore
- Prof Jolene Lin Speaks at Yale Law School on Climate Litigation in Asia
- Dr Tara Davenport presented at the 14th Ocean Dialogue organized by the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.
- Dr Tara Davenport presented at the Dili International Conference.

JUNE, 2025

- APCEL Research Associate Yang Huiwen presented at an Oxford workshop on public international law.
- APCEL Researchers Dr Justine Muller and Yang Huiwen presented at ENS–PSL Conference on Global Ecological-Economic Legal Frameworks

JULY, 2025

- Dr Linda Sulistiawati spoke on Indonesia’s engagement with rights-of-nature frameworks through customary Adat law at the Regen Asia Summit
- Dr Linda Sulistiawati participated in EU–ASEAN Business Council Global Plastics Treaty Industry Roundtables
- Asian Environmental Negotiation Competition 2025 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel)
- New Index to Strengthen Environmental Governance in Asia-Pacific Unveil



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AUGUST, 2025

- APCEL Academic Fellow Justin Lim presented at the HKU Conference: Legal Pathways to Sustainability Transition: Innovation & Resilience
- APCEL Conference: Exploring a Just Transition in Southeast Asia

- Understanding the Law: Environmental Impact Assessments Must Not Be a Mere Formality
- Dr Linda Sulistiawati represented APCEL at the IPCC Experts Collaborate on Cities and Climate Change — 2nd Lead Author Meeting, Mombasa

OCTOBER, 2025

- Dr Linda Sulistiawati moderated a high-level panel at the AsianSIL Conference in Hanoi
- APCEL hosted a delegation from the Civil Aviation University of China
- APCEL–Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Global Symposium on Sustainable Ocean Governance
- Dr Linda Sulistiawati presented at Abu Dhabi University School of Law in a Research Workshop
- Dr Linda Sulistiawati presented at an International Law Conference on Protection of Forests & Rights of Environment Defenders (Cebu)
- APCEL–IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change: Law Expert Review Group Meeting

SEPTEMBER, 2025

- Dr Linda Sulistiawati led an ASIL Abroad panel: Global Climate Action in the Trump Era
- “Litigating Climate Change in the Global South” Wins ESIL & ANZSIL Book Prizes

NOVEMBER, 2025

- Dr Tara Davenport presented at a workshop organized by the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and Rule of Law.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

HIGHLIGHT EVENT

[Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Convene Global Symposium to Advance Sustainable Ocean Governance](#)



On 14 October 2025, the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) at the National University of Singapore and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD) jointly hosted the international symposium “Ocean Futures: Advancing Decarbonisation and Innovation in Shipping and Marine Biodiversity through Law, Policy, and AI” at SUAD’s Al Reem Island campus, as part of the university’s Year of the Ocean initiative. This interdisciplinary event brought together experts from law, policy, and science to address pressing environmental challenges in the maritime sector. It convened policymakers, academics, international organisations, NGOs, and industry leaders from across the UAE and beyond to discuss how governance, technology, and innovation can jointly advance a sustainable future for the oceans.

Opening the symposium, Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Senior Research Fellow at APCEL, and Professor Nathalie Martial-Braz, Chancellor of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, underscored the value of international collaboration in shaping effective legal and policy responses to the twin challenges of decarbonisation and biodiversity loss. Their remarks highlighted how the APCEL–SUAD partnership bridges regions and disciplines, translating academic research into actionable policy and industry insights.

The symposium unfolded in three engaging panels, each addressing vital aspects of maritime sustainability. **The first panel** examined the decarbonisation of the shipping industry, highlighting the complex legal, policy, and technical challenges involved in transitioning toward a net-zero shipping future. Discussions centered on the role of international frameworks, the innovations driving the industry, and the crucial role of regional cooperation in achieving ambitious climate goals.

The second panel shifted focus to the intersection of shipping and marine biodiversity protection, exploring the urgent need for stronger legal instruments to mitigate the ecological impacts of shipping. From pollution to the spread of invasive species, the panel emphasized the necessity of robust protections for vulnerable marine ecosystems, which are under increasing pressure from global shipping operations.



In the final panel, experts delved into the transformative potential of AI and robotics in marine conservation and climate solutions. This session illuminated how these cutting-edge technologies, from autonomous underwater vehicles to machine learning, are reshaping the way we monitor and protect marine environments, offering new avenues for data-driven solutions to preserve biodiversity and address climate change.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

OTHER KEY EVENTS



[Dr. Jolene Lin Presents at Workshop on ICJ Advisory Opinion and Investment Arbitration](#)

On 18 November 2025, Dr. Jolene Lin, Director of APCEL and Associate Professor at NUS Law, spoke in a workshop titled "The ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and Its Implications for Investment Arbitration." The event, held at White & Case in Singapore, brought together leading academics and practitioners to discuss the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) unanimous advisory opinion on climate change obligations for states, and its potential impact on investment arbitration.



[APCEL Conference Explores a Just Transition in Southeast Asia](#)

On 7 August 2025, APCEL organized a full-day convening to explore the challenges of achieving a just transition to a low-carbon future in Southeast Asia. The event brought together experts from academia, government, civil society, and business to discuss how to balance economic development, social equity, and climate resilience. The event featured three panels covering the need for local solutions, the role of the rule of law and that of financial institutions in supporting a just transition in Southeast Asia. The discussions underscored the need for collaboration across sectors to ensure that no one is left behind in Southeast Asia's climate transition.



[APCEL Hosts Roundtable on COP29 Outcomes](#)

On 6 February 2025, APCEL hosted a roundtable discussion on the outcomes of COP29 to the UNFCCC, featuring insights from experts including Dr. Linda Yanti Sulistiawati, Dr. Beatriz Garcia, and Professor Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio. Moderated by Dr. Jolene Lin, the event delved into key topics such as climate finance, carbon markets, and energy transitions in Indonesia and the Philippines. Participants also addressed the role of youth in climate advocacy and the challenges of greenwashing and ensuring genuine emissions reductions. The roundtable concluded with a call for stronger international commitments and greater focus on equity in climate finance.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



[APCEL-CNCS Executive Course on Singapore's Legal and Regulatory Issues on Climate Change](#)

On 3 April 2025, the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) and the Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions (CNCS) hosted a one-day executive programme on climate change legal and regulatory issues in Singapore. The event brought together 28 professionals, including lawyers, government officials, and sustainability experts, to explore Singapore's climate laws and the country's transition to a low-carbon economy. Speakers covered key topics such as international climate frameworks, carbon market design, and directors' duties related to sustainability. The programme provided participants with critical insights into navigating the evolving regulatory landscape and climate governance challenges.



[APCEL Seminar on Strengthening Animal Protection in Singapore](#)

On 20 May 2025, APCEL hosted a lunchtime seminar titled "Legal and Policy Frameworks as Tools for Compassion: Strengthening Animal Protection in Singapore," featuring Anbarasi Boopal, former Co-CEO of ACRES. Over 40 participants, including professionals from law firms, academia, and animal welfare groups, gathered to hear Anbu share her 20 years of experience in animal protection and enforcement in Singapore. APCEL's Mark Ortega moderated the session, which highlighted the importance of collaboration between governmental bodies and NGOs in strengthening animal protection.



[APCEL Hosts Visit by Civil Aviation University of China \(CAUC\) School of Law](#)

On 14 October 2025, APCEL at NUS Law welcomed a delegation from the Civil Aviation University of China (CAUC) School of Law, led by Professor Hao Xiuhui and accompanied by 23 students. APCEL Academic Fellow Justin Lim delivered a lecture on Singapore's environmental regulation and ASEAN environmental protection, followed by an interactive discussion. Professor Alan Khee-Jin Tan provided valuable insights on environmental and aviation law, sharing stories from his academic and research experiences. The visit concluded with a guided tour of NUS Law's Bukit Timah Campus, fostering cross-border exchange and strengthening ties between CAUC and APCEL.

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

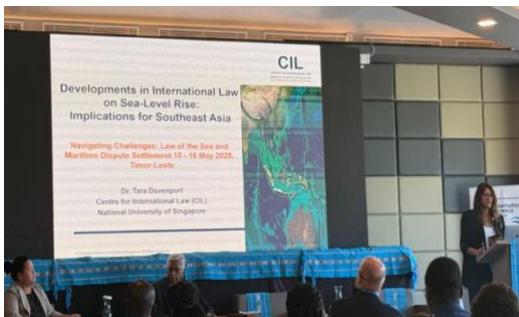
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES



[Dr. Tara Davenport Presents on Advisory Opinions in UNCLOS Dispute Settlement](#)

On 7 May 2025, Dr. Tara Davenport presented at the 14th Ocean Dialogue in Hanoi, Vietnam, on “The Evolving Function of Advisory Opinions in the UNCLOS Dispute Settlement Complex.” She discussed the development of advisory opinion jurisdiction within the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), tracing its evolution from UNCLOS negotiations to the present. Tara highlighted the shift in states' perceptions, from initial reluctance to entrust ITLOS with advisory jurisdiction to the broader acceptance of ITLOS's role in addressing issues like climate change and illegal fishing. The session explored the growing importance of advisory opinions in interpreting and developing international law of the sea and their potential for resolving disputes and enforcing UNCLOS obligations.



[Dr. Tara Davenport Presents on Sea-Level Rise and Maritime Entitlements](#)

On 15-16 May 2025, Dr. Tara Davenport presented at the Dili International Conference on “Developments in International Law on Sea-Level Rise: Implications for Southeast Asia.” In her panel on “Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Maritime Delimitation,” Tara discussed Southeast Asian perspectives on the impact of climate-induced sea-level rise on maritime entitlements. She highlighted regional trends, including the growing recognition of the legality of preserving baselines even as coastlines recede, and emphasized the immutability of boundaries established through delimitation agreements, as discussed in the 2025 UN International Law Commission's Final Report.



[Dr. Tara Davenport Presents on Climate Change and UNCLOS Part XV](#)

On 27 November 2025, Tara Davenport lectured at a workshop on “Climate Change Impacts on the Oceans and Challenges to the Law of the Sea” organized by the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and Rule of Law and the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tara's presentation focused on “Climate Change and Part XV of UNCLOS,” where she explored how the dispute settlement procedures in UNCLOS can hold states accountable for breaches of their climate obligations under the convention.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Farewell BTC: A New Chapter for APCEL and NUS Law

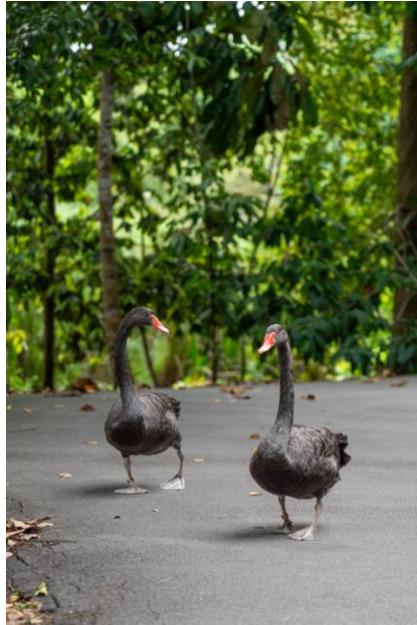


In 2025, the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) witnessed a significant shift in its journey, with the departure from the Bukit Timah Campus (BTC), where it had operated for almost two decades, to the new campus at 20 College Avenue West — within University Town (UTown), NUS' modern hub for interdisciplinary learning and research. This move marks not just a change of location but a moment of reflection on the history of APCEL and its evolving role within the NUS Law Faculty and the broader legal community.

APCEL was established in 1996 in cooperation with IUCN-CEL and UNEP, with a vision grounded in environmental stewardship and global cooperation. When the Faculty of Law returned to the Bukit Timah Campus (BTC) in 2006, APCEL found a home that seemed almost destined for its mission. Nestled beside the Singapore Botanic Gardens and framed by the ancient Bukit Timah forests, BTC offered a living landscape that perfectly echoed APCEL's commitments to environmental law and sustainability.

Here, biodiversity is not merely an academic concept, it is a living, breathing part of daily life: black swans wobbling gracefully along the lake's edge, otters travelling in large, playful family groups, and monitor lizards lounging lazily on the damp steps leading to the Centre's building. Centuries-old trees—silent witnesses to Singapore's history—stood alongside heritage buildings steeped in legal and cultural memory. Amid this natural paradise, APCEL's programmes flourished.

FEATURED ARTICLE



During its time at BTC, APCEL grew into a recognised regional hub for environmental law, convening government agencies, NGOs, scientists, community leaders, and international organisations. APCEL hosted numerous events that shaped regional and global conversations around environmental governance. Conferences on climate litigation, biodiversity law, and sustainable development took place just steps from a UNESCO World Heritage Site—a constant reminder of what environmental law ultimately seeks to safeguard.

For APCEL's researchers, BTC was more than a workplace—it was a sanctuary for creativity and inspiration. The proximity to the Botanic Gardens and the surrounding biodiversity created an environment where ecological realities met legal imagination. In this tranquil, verdant setting, intellectual curiosity thrived. Walking past lakes and observing the natural world often informed and enriched the Centre's scholarship. Often, the campus itself felt like an extension of APCEL's office—a place where ideas

about nature, governance, and justice resonated with the living world just beyond its doors. Students and scholars gathered under the generous shade of the old trees and moved between lectures and seminars along pathways where nature and law existed in rare and beautiful harmony.

As the NUS Law Faculty prepares for its move to the main campus at Kent Ridge, APCEL is embracing the new opportunities that come with being part of University Town (UTown). The new campus at UTown provides an ideal environment for APCEL to continue expanding its interdisciplinary work, with enhanced facilities for collaboration across various NUS departments. The move to Kent Ridge signals the beginning of a new chapter for APCEL.

As APCEL bids farewell to BTC, we celebrate the many milestones achieved during its time there. It is not just the buildings, but the relationships, collaborations, and knowledge that have been fostered in this space that will continue to shape APCEL's future.



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Photography by Mathieu Gouyen

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