



SANTA MARTA CONFERENCE DEBRIEF: TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS

FRIDAY, 3 JULY 2026 | 10.30AM-12.00NN



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The inaugural Conference for the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels has reignited hopes for new legal and policy developments to transition countries away from fossil fuels. Spearheaded as an initiative of Colombia and The Netherlands at the Conference of Parties in 2025, the conference was an 'innovative, horizontal dialogue that deepens democratic climate governance through meaningful and influential participation by countries and subnational governments, civil society, and other stakeholders'. The high-level outcomes of the Conference include a new coordination group of states leading key transition efforts, and the creation of the Science Panel for the Global Energy Transition to support countries moving away from fossil fuels. Join us in discussing how these developments will impact the climate change regime in international law, renewable energy infrastructure, project financing, as well as negotiating dynamics in the upcoming meeting of the subsidiary bodies.

PROGRAMME

10.00am Registration

10.25am Introductions

10.30am Presentations

Joseph Teo, Singapore Chief
Negotiator for Climate Change

Jolene Lin, NUS Law APCEL

Melissa Low, NUS CNCS

Fergus Smith, White & Case

11.30am Panel Discussion

Justin Lim, NUS Law (Moderator)

12.00pm End

REGISTRATION



Visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/apcelSantaMarta2026reg>

or scan QR code to register.

VENUE

White & Case LLP Office

88 Market Street, #41-01 CapitaSpring,
Singapore 048948



Public CPD Points: 1 (TBC)

Area: International Law

Training Level: General

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.

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SPEAKERS



Joseph Teo, Singapore Chief Negotiator for Climate Change

Joseph Teo was appointed Singapore's Chief Negotiator for Climate Change on 2 July 2018. Prior to his current appointment, he has held various overseas assignments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). He was Singapore's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2015-2018), Deputy Chief of Mission at the Singapore Embassy in Belgium (2005-2008), and First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation in Geneva (1995-1998), where he was concurrently appointed Singapore's Consul in Switzerland.



Jolene Lin, Associate Professor, Director of APCEL, NUS Law

Jolene Lin is Associate Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Environmental Law (APCEL). Her research focuses on climate change litigation, and her latest monograph (with Jacqueline Peel), *Litigating Climate Change in the Global South* (Oxford University Press 2024), 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 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. She is also actively involved in global climate justice philanthropic initiatives



Melissa Low, Research Fellow, Centre for Nature-Based Solutions, NUS

Melissa Low is a Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions (CNCS). She previously worked at the Energy Studies Institute, NUS where she carried out research projects on a range of energy and climate issues of concern to Singapore and the region. She has participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) for over a decade and is an active sustainability thought leader, authoring, publishing and presenting at various forums.



Fergus Smith, Partner, White & Case

Fergus Smith is a partner at White & Case, specialising in the project financing, development and sale & purchase of energy & infrastructure projects. He has over 20 years of experience, and has been based in Asia since 2014. He is the Global Head of White & Case's offshore wind practice. He is acknowledged as a "leading figure in renewable energy projects" in Asia Pacific: Legal 500, Asia Pacific, and "a leading figure in offshore wind projects in North Asia and LNG regasification projects around Asia Pacific": Legal 500, Asia Pacific. His team was named 'Team of the Year – Project Finance' at the IFLR Asia-Pacific Awards 2024 and is acknowledged as being "at the forefront of offshore wind energy projects in Asia Pacific": Legal 500 Asia-Pacific.

MODERATOR



Justin Lim, Sheridan Fellow, NUS Law

Justin Lim was appointed as a Sheridan Fellow in 2024. Justin completed his Bachelor of Civil Law in 2024. He graduated with a BA of Jurisprudence (LLB) with First Class Honours from the University of Oxford in 2022, where he was also awarded the Peter Carter Prize for his top performance in Wadham College. He was a Visiting Researcher at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law between 2023-2024 where he organised workshops on international climate law and participated in research workshops. His primary research interest lies in how private law doctrines and models can address public environmental problems.