



PLANNING REGIMES IN ASIAN CITIES

WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2026 | 12.00PM TO 1.30PM
LAW CONFERENCE ROOM, ELM L1, NUS LAW (UTOWN)

The **Planning Regimes in Asian Cities** collection, edited by Andrew Harding & Rawin Leelapatana, examines planning law as an underdeveloped but vital field in Asian legal scholarship, comparing how law structures urban development, decision-making, accountability and public participation across the major Asian cities, i.e. Bandung, Bangalore, Bangkok, Johor, Hong Kong, Metropolitan Manila and Singapore. Together, the papers show that planning is never merely technical: it mediates conflicts over land, heritage, environment, infrastructure, economic growth and political authority.

The volume highlights diverse legal regimes shaped by colonial legacies, constitutional arrangements, executive power, monarchy, informality and citizen mobilisation. It also reveals recurring tensions, including weak legal recognition of planning as a specialist field, limited litigation and appeals, uneven transparency, fragmented institutional authority, and uncertain avenues for community input. By placing Asian cities in comparative perspective, the collection argues for greater scholarly, professional and public attention to planning law. It invites readers to see urban planning as a central site where legality, governance and democratic participation intersect in rapidly urbanising societies facing mounting pressures from development, climate risk and demands for more inclusive cities.

SPEAKERS



Dr Rawin Leelapatana is an Associate Professor at Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Thailand. He specializes in legal philosophy, constitutional law, and public law theory. His research interests encompass comparative constitutional law, constitutional history, monarchy and urban development, and legal theory in Southeast Asia.



Dr. Jack Tsen-Ta Lee is a legal scholar, advocate, and solicitor with research interests in heritage law, constitutional and administrative law, human rights law and media law. He has taught these subjects for more than ten years, both in Singapore and abroad, and has published in these areas as well.



MODERATOR

Professor Andrew Harding is a leading scholar in the fields of Asian legal studies and comparative constitutional law. He commenced his academic career at NUS before moving to SOAS, University of London, where he became Head of the School of Law. He joined NUS from the University of Victoria, BC Canada, where he was Professor of Asia-Pacific Legal Relations and Director of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. At NUS he has held the positions of Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Director of the Asian Law Institute, and Chief Editor of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law.

PROGRAMME

11.30AM Registration & Lunch

12.00PM Presentation of Book

Moderated by Professor Andrew Harding

Speakers:

Associate Professor Rawin Leelapatana
& Dr. Jack Tsen-ta Lee

**1.00PM End of Session,
Question & Answer**

REGISTRATION

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code

Registration closes on Friday,
20 November 2026.

Bento lunch will be provided for all
registered participants.



Organised by:



For enquiries, please email lawapcel@nus.edu.sg.