

Constitutional Foundings in Southeast Asia



Participants of the 'Constitutional Foundings in Southeast Asia' Workshop.

Front Row (left to right):

Koichi Kawamura (Institute Of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization), Bui Ngoc Son (NUS), Leia Castaneda Anastacio (Harvard Law School), Kevin Tan (NUS), Abdul Hussainmiya (Southeastern University of Sri Lanka), Hoong Phun (HP) Lee (Monash University)

Back Row (left to right):

Gary F. Bell (NUS), Harshan Kumarasingham (Edinburgh University), Martin Stuart-Fox (University of Queensland), Leigh-Ashley Lipscomb (WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice), Stein Tønnesson (Peace Research Institute Oslo), Aung-Thwin Maitrii Victoriano (NUS)

The 'Constitutional Foundings in Southeast Asia' Workshop, was organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS), on 9 & 10 November 2017 at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (Bukit Timah Campus).

Convened by Professor Kevin Tan (principal investigator) and Dr Bui Ngoc Son (co-investigator) of NUS Law, this Workshop discussed the 'first' or foundational constitutions of the ten ASEAN states and East Timor.

Over one-and-a-half days, participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions enquiring into: (1) the process and debates in the making of the constitutions; (2) internal factors (colonialism, socio-economic condition, political struggle, intellectual environment, religion, and tradition), and external factors (foreign constitutions, foreign governments, international law, and international actors) of the foundational constitution-making; and (3) the historical and current effects of the foundational constitutions.

By focusing on jurisdictions in Southeast Asian, this Workshop sought to enrich existing scholarship on constitutional history with thick accounts of under-examined jurisdictions and to contribute to the development of comparative constitutional history generally.



Workshop Convenors, Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan (Principal Investigator) and Dr Bui Ngoc Son (co-Investigator) giving an overview of the research project.



Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, delivering the Welcome Address.



Dr Leigh-Ashley Lipscomb (WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice) raising a question for discussion.



Professor Martin Stuart-Fox (University of Queensland) sharing his research on Laos.



Associate Professor Aung-Thwin Mairii Victoriano (NUS) responding to questions raised.



Professor Hoong Phun (HP) Lee (Monash University) giving his commentary.

Constitutional Foundings in Southeast Asia

9 & 10 November 2017, Thursday & Friday
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs) is pleased to host the Workshop on 'Constitutional Foundings in Southeast Asia' from 9 to 10 November 2017.

Overview of Workshop

There has been an exponential growth in Asian constitutional scholarship in recent years. However, most scholars tend to focus on contemporary constitutional issues and constitutional history has largely remained understudied. This project seeks to fill in this scholarly gap by focusing on the making, nature, and role of first modern constitutions during the period of founding the modern nation-states in the Southeast Asian countries by asking these major questions :

- (a) How were the first modern Constitutions in these countries made?
- (b) What are the internal and external factors that influence the making of these constitutions?
- (c) How were the constitutions related to founding modern nation-states?
- (d) What are the subsequent impacts of these constitutions on the state-building?

Convened by Prof Kevin Tan and Dr Bui Ngoc Son of NUS Law, this Workshop looks at the historical, political and social forces that led the the drafting of the 'first' or foundational constitutions of the ten ASEAN states and East Timor. In this Workshop, scholars and experts analyse how the first modern constitutions in the Southeast Asian states were drafted, as well as their roles in the constitutionalising of these new states. Constitutions covered in this project are:

- Thailand (1932)
- Philippines (1935)
- Indonesia (1945)
- Vietnam (1946)
- Myamnar (1947)
- Laos (1947)
- Malaysia (1957)
- Brunei (1959)
- East Timor (2002)
- Singapore (1958/1963/1965)
- Cambodia (1947)

Participation is By Invitation Only

For more information, please contact Ms Alexandria Chan at cals@nus.edu.sg