

Centre for Asian Legal Studies - Universitas Gadjah Mada Fakultas Hukum Peer Learning Initiative (CAUPLI)

2nd Reciprocal Workshop

“An Introduction to the Basics of Indonesian Contract Law”

On 23 August 2025, the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (“CALs”) and Universitas Gadjah Mada Fakultas Hukum (“UGM Law”) kicked off the first session of their second reciprocal workshop titled “An Introduction to the Basics of Indonesian Contract Law”.

Organised by law students from UGM, the session was attended by 39 law students from the National University of Singapore (“NUS”) and the Singapore Management University (“SMU”). This workshop is part of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies – Universitas Gadjah Mada Fakultas Hukum Peer Learning Initiative (“CAUPLI”), now in its second iteration.

The opening ceremony that preceded the session was graced by CALs’ Deputy Director, Assistant Professor Dian Shah, and UGM Law’s Vice Dean, Professor Adrianto Dwi Nugroho. Both delivered speeches that underscored their shared appreciation for the initiative and its value to Singaporean and Indonesian law students alike. As/Prof Shah highlighted that the workshop forms part of CALs’ broader efforts to deepen Singaporean law students’ engagement with Asian civil law, while also expressing gratitude for the partnership with UGM Law. Prof Nugroho echoed this sentiment, describing the programme as a “wonderful experience” for UGM Law’s students and voicing his hope that it would continue for many years to come.

This enthusiasm was shared by the student project directors. Nahlia Riska Priyantari of UGM Law highlighted the workshop as an invaluable opportunity for students to exchange and discuss comparative insights on Singaporean and Indonesian law. Iain Lin from NUS Law concurred, noting that CAUPLI distinguished itself in two ways – it allowed students to step into the role of peer tutors and fostered enduring connections with peers across the region.



A group photo between UGM and NUS Law faculty and students after the opening ceremony on 23 August 2025.

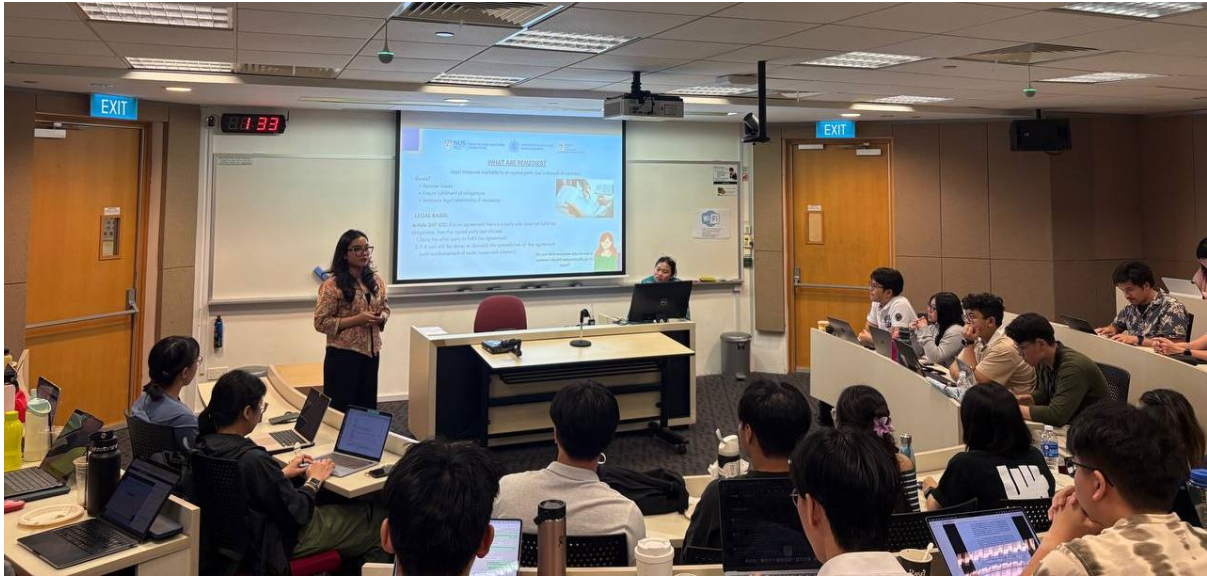
Following a strong first session, which saw spirited exchanges between Singaporean participants and their Indonesian peer tutors, the second and third sessions were held in-person on 6 September 2025 at NUS Bukit Timah Campus. Attended by law students from NUS and SMU, the second session saw a high turnout of 43 while the third session welcomed 39.

In his opening remarks given before the second session, Toh Ding Jun, CAUPLI’s Project Advisor, emphasised that the very ability to hold these sessions reflected the strong institutional relationship between NUS Law and UGM Law. He further observed that CAUPLI’s long-term success rests on the commitment of student leaders and tutors from both institutions, noting that the initiative is, at its core, student driven.



Group photo of participants and tutors at the conclusion of the in-person sessions on 6 September 2025.

During the Q&A segment, participants engaged enthusiastically with questions on the Indonesian Civil Code, including the rationale behind the legal age of marriage being lower than the legal age of entering into contracts. With the assistance of Juris Doctor candidates Rizky Raditya Lumempouw and Daven Salim – both graduates of Indonesian universities – participants also gained clarity on the differing conceptions of negligence in Indonesian and Singaporean legal contexts.



Brigita Audrey Novena Ginting of UGM Law giving the lecture on contractual remedies.

As part of their cross-border legal exchange, students from NUS Law and UGM Law visited the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC”) on 4 September 2025. During the visit, they engaged with Mah Sue Ann (Senior Manager, SIAC) and Sherly Gunawan (Counsel, SIAC). Notably, Sherly had practised Indonesian law prior to joining SIAC, offering UGM Law students a valuable perspective on how their legal career might potentially develop through international commercial arbitration.



Sharing by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre on international commercial arbitration.

Sue Ann outlined the advantages of arbitration, underscoring its finality, enforceability, speed, flexibility, neutrality, and confidentiality. She explained that SIAC administers proceedings in accordance with its own rules and provides model clauses that parties may incorporate into their agreements.

Sherly spoke about the functions of the SIAC Secretariat. These include party nominations, appointment of arbitrators, supervision of case progress, filing of procedural applications, financial management, and scrutiny of draft awards. She noted that the scrutiny process can be particularly important when certain registration requirements apply – such as those imposed by the Indonesian Supreme Court. Sherly further emphasised SIAC’s commitment to supporting parties and maintaining active engagement with governments across jurisdictions to remain attuned to evolving regulatory frameworks.



Danielle Kwok '26 (right), CAUPLI's Reciprocal Workshop Director, presenting a token of appreciation to Mah Sue Ann (Senior Manager, SIAC).

The subsequent Q&A segment saw enthusiastic participation from students of both NUS Law and UGM Law, sustaining an engaging discussion for nearly an hour. Elizabeth Jessica Manullang of UGM Law inquired about the most common types of disputes involving Indonesian parties that SIAC see. Meanwhile, her fellow student Aliyka Annafi Gewang raised a thoughtful question about the practical usefulness of the Arb-Med-Arb clause, given the inherent strengths of arbitration itself.



NUS Law and UGM Law students having dinner at an Indian Muslim restaurant near Haji Lane.

The cultural exchange between Singaporean and Indonesian students would not be complete without visits to Singapore's iconic heritage sites. On 5 September 2025, CAUPLI students explored the vibrant alleys of Haji Lane, visited the Sultan Mosque and had dinner at an Indian Muslim restaurant. They also visited the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Chinatown during their stay in Singapore, immersing in the rich tapestry of Singapore's multi-racial and multi-cultural society.

Attention now turns to the NUS Law students, who will be conducting a workshop for Indonesian law students in October, titled "An Introduction to the Basics of Singapore Contract Law". Stay tuned for updates!