

# Constitution-Making in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Asia



13 & 14 November 2017, Monday & Tuesday

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs) and the SMU School of Law are pleased to host the Workshop on 'Constitution-Making in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Asia' on 13 and 14 November 2017.

## Overview of Workshop

Asia has gone through several stages of constitution-making since the late nineteenth century, with decolonization in particular spurring a flurry of activity in this regard. In more recent years, a new wave of constitution-making has been taking place: East Timor, for example, adopted the nation's first constitution in 2002. More recently, Thailand and Nepal have adopted new constitutions, while Sri Lanka and Myanmar are currently debating the initiation and design of national constitution-making processes. As compared to the earlier epochs, a significant feature of this latest stage is that these processes take place in the context of globalization.

Convened by Assoc Prof Maartje De Visser (SMU Law) and Dr Bui Ngoc Son (NUS Law), the Workshop aims to explore how selected Asian nations have conducted, or are conducting, constitution-making in the face of pressures associated with globalization, with reference to the following questions:

- What is the nature and origin of the global and local factors that shape the design of constitution-making processes?
- How do such factors interact: are they mutually constitutive of specific procedural choices or do they point in opposite directions, possibly injecting (more) tension in what often already is a complex and sensitive undertaking?
- What are the consequences, both in terms of drafting processes and the eventual text of the constitution, that can be attributed to the interplay between global and domestic imperatives?

## Participation is By Invitation Only

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