

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



The Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)

Established at the initiative of the Faculty and the World Conservation Union - Commission on Environmental Law (IUCN - CEL), and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), APCEL was launched on 1 July 1996. This initiative was in response to the call in Agenda 21 to build capacity in environmental law and to promote awareness of environmental issues. APCEL has since established itself as a centre of excellence in the region for capacity-building in environmental law, and has established a world wide reputation in the field.

APCEL's Objectives

- To serve as a regional training centre for the teaching of environmental law;
- To organise conferences, seminars and other programmes on environmental issues;
- To serve as a regional centre for research, including multi-disciplinary research on international, regional and national environmental law and policy;
- To promote the exchange of information on international, regional and national environmental law and policy;
- To cooperate and collaborate with law schools, institutes, centres and such other organizations to further its objectives.



APCEL/National Climate Change Secretariat Workshop on REDD+ and Legal Regimes of Mangroves, Peatlands and Other Wetlands: ASEAN and the World, 15 - 16 November 2012, Faculty of Law, NUS



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Rule of Law Program Asia: Environmental Law Talks III, co-hosted with KEMITRAAN-UKP4/REDD+ Agency, 17-18 June 2014, Jakarta



2nd ADB Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance Training Program - Strengthening Capacity for Environmental Law in the Asia-Pacific: Developing Environmental Law Champions" for law teachers from the Mekong Region and South China, with IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, 1-5 June 2015, in Manila, Philippines.

APCEL collaborates with many international, regional and local institutions in developing capacity-building courses in environmental law and management. Courses include 'Training the Trainers' for environmental law professors in the region, which has led to the two-volume publication, *Capacity Building for Environmental Law in the Asian and Pacific Region: Approaches and Resources (Asian Development Bank: 2nd edition, 2003)*. This publication is being widely used in the region as well as internationally.

APCEL has also conducted numerous capacity building courses, including those for the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Singapore Environment Institute aimed at policy makers, senior officials and administrators of the environment in developing countries. APCEL members have served as experts in many workshops and seminars in the region as well as internationally, and have taught at universities in the United States, Australia, Mexico and many others.

APCEL plays a leading role in the university's multi-disciplinary environmental management programme, the M.Sc. (Env. Mgt) [MEM] hosted by the School of Design and Environment, in collaboration with nine faculties/schools in NUS. <http://www.mem.nus.edu.sg/>

APCEL's activities include the organisation of various conferences and workshops on cutting-edge issues such as sustainable development of coastal and ocean areas in Southeast Asia, trade and environment, intellectual property rights and biological resources, crucial issues in climate change and the Kyoto Protocol, REDD+ in the context of legal regimes of mangroves, peatlands and other wetlands, and illegal wildlife trade in the ASEAN region.

APCEL members have undertaken research in various areas of the environment including pollution laws, biodiversity conservation, trade in endangered species, marine environmental law, transboundary haze issues, environmental aspects of zoonotic diseases, environmental impact assessments, climate change, trade and the environment, water resources management, ASEAN environmental law and governance, and environmental law in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

Event Highlights

ASEAN-WEN Regional Stakeholders Law & Policy Workshop on Wildlife Crime (by invitation) 8 – 10 December 2014, Faculty of Law, NUS

ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) together with other organisations invited APCEL to host the above workshop at the Law Faculty, National University of Singapore, 8-10 December 2014. This workshop focused on mapping the legal and other resources available and strategising on how best to utilise these resources to combat wildlife crime.

The Asia Environment Lecture

The Asia Environment Lecture is a flagship event for NUS, launched in October 2013. It is organised annually by APCEL together with two multi-disciplinary programmes on the environment at NUS – the M.Sc. (Environmental Management) (MEM) and the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) programmes. The Q & A sessions are moderated by Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Chair, APCEL & MEM Advisory Committees.

Speakers : Inaugural Lecture – Dr Bindu N. Lohani, Vice-President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB (2013); Dr Marco Lambertini, Director-General, WWF International (2014); Ms Christine Ervin, First President and CEO, U.S. Green Building Council (2015); Dr Andrew Steer, President & CEO, World Resources Institute (2016).

APCEL Specialist Group on Climate Change Adaptation Established February 2013 Chair, Emeritus Prof Koh Kheng-Lian

The first workshop of the Group was *Adaptation to Climate Change: ASEAN and Comparative Experiences*, 17 - 18 July 2014, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. The workshop covered cutting-edge issues in climate change adaptation. These include energy and industry; the Warsaw international loss and damage mechanism; migration and disaster management and risk reduction.

The Group was invited to co-organise with the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law, University of Sydney Law School, a *Research Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disasters in the Asia-Pacific Region: Focus on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage*, 10 - 13 March 2015, Sydney.

APCEL/Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) 13th Workshop on Urban and Industrial Environmental Management 2-6 December 2013, National University of Singapore

Emeritus Prof KL Koh was the Course Director and served as a resource person, together with others including members of APCEL, NUS academia from other faculties, and the private and government sectors. There were 18 participants from 15 developing countries.

Selected Publications

Koh Kheng-Lian, NA Robinson & Lye Lin-Heng, *ASEAN Environmental Legal Integration: Sustainable Goals?* in the series *Integration through Law: The ASEAN Way in a Comparative Context*, J Weiler & Hsien- Li Tan, eds. (Cambridge University Press: 2016), 251 pp.

Michael Ewing-Chow & Melanie V. Slade, "Introduction: Setting the Stage: The Problem with Self-sufficiency and the Need for Collective Food Security for a Global Crisis" and "Conclusion: Moving to Collective Food Security", Chapter 12 in Michael Ewing-Chow & Melanie V. Slade (eds) in *International Trade and Food Security: Exploring Collective Food Security in Asia* (Edward Elgar Publishing: 2016), pp 1-11 & pp 203-210.

Burton Ong, Lye Lin-Heng, Joseph Chun "Regulating International Trade in Endangered Species - Transshipments of CITES-listed Species via Singapore" (2016) SJLS 1-29.

Burton Ong, Lye Lin-Heng, Joseph Chun "Biodiversity conservation laws in South East Asia and Singapore : A regional approach in pursuit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?" (2016) 19 APJEL 105-138.

Koh Kheng-Lian, Editor-in-Chief, *Adaptation to Climate Change: ASEAN and Comparative Experiences*, pp lii+505 (World Scientific: 2015).

Koh Kheng-Lian, "Interface Among Rule of Law, Human Rights and Human Security in Environmental Challenges in ASEAN" in *Rule of Law for Good Environmental Governance*, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and University of Cebu, pp 94-124 (Banilad, Inc: 2015).

Alan Khee-Jin Tan, "Can't We Even Share Our Maps? Cooperative and Unilateral Mechanisms to Combat Forest Fires and Transboundary 'Haze' in Southeast Asia" Chapter 12, in *Transboundary Pollution: Evolving Issues of International Law and Policy*, S. Jayakumar et al, eds.; pp327-361 (Edward Elgar Publishing: 2015).

Jolene S Lin "Litigating Climate Change in Asia" (2014) 4 Climate Law 140-149.

Koh Kheng-Lian, "ASEAN Cultural Heritage – Forging an Identity for Realisation of an ASEAN Community in 2015?", on the occasion of the Third International Symposium of Laureates Elizabeth Haub Prizes for Environmental Law Diplomacy, 14–16 November 2013, Murnau, Germany, in *Environmental Policy and Law*, Vol. 44, April 2014, pp 237-255 (IOS Press: 2014).

Lye Lin-Heng, "Environmental Law of Singapore", Chapter 46 in N. A. Robinson, Lye Lin-Heng, E Bursleson (eds) in *Comparative Environmental Law & Regulation*, pp. 1-105 (Thomson Reuters Westlaw: 2013).

Proceedings of APCEL Workshop on REDD+ and Legal Regimes of Mangroves, Peatlands and other Wetlands: ASEAN and the World, *International Journal of Rural Law and Policy* (UTS e Press: 2013) - <http://eprints.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/ijrlp/issue/view/271>

Lye Lin-Heng, Environmental Law in Singapore, *International Encyclopaedia of Laws*, 2nd ed, vol suppl 81, 1-156 pp (The Netherlands: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2013).

Koh Kheng-Lian, compiler & editor, *ASEAN Environmental Law, Policy and Governance: Selected Documents* (Vol I), pp v + 713 (2009); (Vol II), pp vii+1371(2012): World Scientific Publisher.

Lye Lin-Heng, "Land Law and the Environment - Re-examining the Concept of Ownership and Forging New Rights and Obligations in a Changed World" [2010] SJLS 189-228.

Robert, C Beckman, "The Regulation of Ship-Source Pollution in Straits Used for International Navigation, in M. Nordquist, T. B. Koh, and J. N. Moore, (eds), *Freedom of Seas, Passage Rights and the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention* (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 2009), pp. 311-337.

Lye Lin-Heng, "A Fine City in a Garden - Environmental Law and Governance in Singapore" [2008] SJLS 68-117.

Alan K J Tan, Vessel-Source Marine Pollution: *The Law and Politics of International Regulation*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Burton Ong, editor and chapter contributor, *Intellectual Property & Biological Resources*, (Marshall Cavendish Academic: 2002).

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Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)
19-21 December 2014, Fukuoka, Japan

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