Centre for International Law creates first online database of ASEAN documents

NUS' Centre for International Law (CIL) officially launched a first-of-its-kind searchable database of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and International Law documents on 18 March 2010 at the Maxwell Chambers. ASEAN's Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs, His Excellency Bagas Hapsoro, came specially from Jakarta to speak at the launch which was attended by several other dignitaries, including Chairman of the ASEAN Law Association Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Ambassador-At-Large in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ong Keng

DATABASE LAUNCH: Among the distinguished guests were (from left) ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Bagas Hapsoro, Ambassador-At-Large in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ong Keng Yong and Director of the Centre for International Law at NUS Assoc Prof Robert C Beckman

Yong, and then Attorney-General Prof Walter Woon who has since returned to academia as Professor of Law at NUS.

Known as the CIL Documents Database, this new online platform contains more than 320 ASEAN and International Law documents selected based on their importance to international law policies for the ASEAN region. The ASEAN document collection contains over 200 intergovernmental instruments concluded by Member States with each other or with external parties. An example is the 2007 ASEAN Charter, which outlines the regional grouping's goal of becoming a rules-based organisation.

"Having agreements such as the ASEAN Charter on the database, free of any charge and easily downloadable, means everyone will now have effortless access to ASEAN Law. This will contribute to improved policy-making in ASEAN capitals and enhance research on ASEAN integration among scholars." said CIL Director Assoc Prof Robert C Beckman.

Adding his compliments, His Excellency Bagas Hapsoro said: "The CIL Database is definitely yet another connectivity tool that will connect the people to ASEAN and ASEAN to the people. ∎