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Oct 30, 2009

More international law expertise

By Sujin Thomas

MINISTRIES and agencies in Singapore should make the effort to build expertise in international law, said Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Professor S. Jayakumar.

'All officials need to be conscious that every step or decision, every act or omission they make may have legal implications, even many years after the fact,' he added.

He also stressed the need for 'cross-fertilisation' between academics and legal practitioners in order to develop a younger generation of international lawyers.

Prof Jayakumar was speaking at the launch of the Centre for International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus yesterday.

The centre aims to be an intellectual hub that will promote international law research in areas such as Asean law and policy as well as education in the region.

Among those present were Law Minister Mr K. Shanmugam, Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon, Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong and Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh.

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