

Haze advisory panel named

Monday, March 17, 2014 - 06:30

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The Straits Times

The eight-member panel that will advise the Government on transboundary pollution issues was announced by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources yesterday.

Members come from five countries and include university professors, international law practitioners and a former International Court of Justice (ICJ) judge.

The panel will be chaired by Professor S. Jayakumar and Professor Tommy Koh, both of the National University of Singapore. The former was previously deputy prime minister, and the latter is also Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other six members are:

-Dr Abdul G. Koroma, a former Sierra Leonean judge at the ICJ.

-Judge Jin Hyun Paik of Seoul National University and judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

-Professor Edith Brown Weiss of Georgetown University in the United States.

-Professor Catherine Redgwell of Oxford University in Britain.

-Professor Nicholas Robinson of Pace University in the US.

-Mr Rodman Bundy, director of dispute resolution at international law firm Eversheds.

The co-chairs and Prof Robinson, Prof Redgwell and Mr Bundy were among panel members who attended a conference on transboundary pollution law organised by the National University of Singapore's Centre for International Law last month.

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan announced the formation of the International Advisory Panel on Transboundary Pollution in Parliament on Tuesday.

It will meet in Singapore over the next few months to advise on international law trends and developments, as well as issues relating to transboundary pollution and practical steps which the Republic can adopt.

A new Transboundary Haze Pollution Bill has been proposed that would hold companies and other entities liable for fires on their land that cause haze in Singapore. The Bill is up for public consultation until March 19.

THE STRAITS TIMES

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