



PRESS RELEASE

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NUS RESEARCH CENTRE PIONEERS THE REGION'S FIRST ONLINE SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF ASEAN DOCUMENTS

Centre for International Law's database will promote ASEAN Law to the world

The National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for International Law (CIL) officially launched its online searchable database of ASEAN and International Law documents today. The event was graced by His Excellency Mr Bagas Hapsoro ASEAN's Deputy Secretary-General of for Community and Corporate Affairs who specially made the journey from Jakarta, to speak at the launch.

The Centre's new online searchable database, CIL Documents Database, is an internet resource of more than 320 selected ASEAN and International Law documents. Each document featured in the Database has been carefully selected based on the criteria of importance to international law policies for the ASEAN region. The Database uses a specially-commissioned search engine that helps users to find documents by category, sub-category, year, or keyword. In addition, every agreement or declaration in the database is fronted by a one-stop information page that contains useful facts about that document, such as the date of entry into force, as well as the link to download the text in either PDF or MSWord format.

A first for Southeast Asia, the collection of ASEAN documents on the CIL Documents Database 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.

CIL Director, Associate Professor Robert C Beckman, says, "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. Before you can study and implement agreements, you must first be able to find them."

His Excellency Mr Bagas Hapsoro, Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs of the ASEAN Secretariat, endorsed CIL's initiative at the launch by congratulating "CIL and the National University of Singapore for being the first institution in the ASEAN region with a publicly available comprehensive database of ASEAN documents and International Law documents." He also added that, "The CIL database is definitely yet another connectivity tool that will connect the people to ASEAN and ASEAN to the people."

The Database's International Law archive also contains over 120 significant global instruments such as the well-known 1997 Kyoto Protocol which deals with global climate change, a major international concern in contemporary times.

Associate Professor Robert C Beckman noted, “In addition to ASEAN Documents, we decided to upload global agreements since many government officials and scholars in South East Asia still do not have proper libraries or electronic resources. An important mission of CIL is capacity-building and training on International Law. The CIL Documents Database makes it easy for anyone with a modest internet connection to gain instant and free access to basic international law documents.”

The launch, held at new Maxwell Chambers in Singapore, was attended by invited guests from academic and research institutions, the government, the Supreme Court, the diplomatic corps, and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

Please refer to the fact sheet for more details on the Centre for International Law at NUS.

For more information, please contact:

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore is a leading research-intensive university centred in Asia. Ranked in the top 30 worldwide, NUS offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner for Singapore’s 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are world class, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences, medicine, social sciences, natural sciences and at the intersection of these disciplines to address issues such as ageing and sustainability.

For more information, please visit: www.nus.edu.sg.

About Centre for International Law (CIL)

The National University of Singapore’s (NUS) Centre for International Law was established on October 2009 at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus in response to the growing need for international law expertise and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region.

CIL was established as a university-wide research centre in order to foster multidisciplinary research and close collaboration with other NUS and external centres of research excellence. CIL will initially focus on the following thematic areas: ASEAN Law and Policy; Ocean Law and Policy; Trade Law and Policy; Aviation Law and Policy; Intellectual Property Law and Policy; and International Dispute Resolution.

For more information, please visit: www.cil.nus.edu.sg.