

CIL ASEAN CHARTER SERIES :
WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING LEGAL PERSONALITY
AND PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES
16 AUGUST 2010
GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT HOTEL

**Welcome Remarks by Prof Tommy Koh
Chairman, Centre for International Law (CIL)**

Talking Points

Salutation

1. Your Excellencies and friends from the ASEAN countries.
2. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, Pak Bagas Hapsoro, and other colleagues from the ASEAN Secretariat.

Thank Jill Barrett, Dr Termsak, Mr Gerd Droesse, Pak Hikmahanto Juwana for coming to the workshop from afar and agreeing to be presenters.

Distinguished participants in the workshop, ladies and gentlemen.

Tribute to Tiwari

3. First, may I request all of you to rise and join me in paying a tribute to Mr S Tiwari, who passed away on 26 July 2010.
4. Thank you very much.
5. Mr Tiwari had a distinguished career in the Singapore legal service. He was the legal adviser to the Ministry of Defence and, subsequently, the long-time head of the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers.

6. Mr Tiwari had played a leading role in the negotiations of many ASEAN agreements as well as agreements between ASEAN and its dialogue partners.
7. After his retirement from the Singapore legal service, Mr Tiwari joined the ASEAN Studies Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). A few months ago, a very good book, entitled "ASEAN: Life After The Charter", edited by him, was published by ISEAS. One feature of the book which I like very much is that, at the end of each chapter, Mr Tiwari had written a summary of the key points. I had hoped that Mr Tiwari would edit and author many more books on ASEAN law, but this was not to be as karma took him away from us at the relatively young age of 64. We mourn his passing, but celebrate the many achievements of his rich and happy life.

Singapore's Contributions to ASEAN Studies

8. Second, I want to share with you some thoughts on Singapore's contributions to ASEAN studies.
9. We are very fortunate to have two distinguished former Secretaries-General of ASEAN with us in Singapore. Ambassador Rod Severino heads the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS and is a prolific scholar. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is the Director of the Institute of Policy Studies. Ambassadors Severino and Ong are two human encyclopedias of knowledge and wisdom on ASEAN.
10. Another intellectual force in Singapore is Professor Simon Tay, the Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA). The SIIA organises an annual ASEAN think-tank roundtable which has been very successful.
11. More recently, NUS has established a Centre for International Law (CIL). Under the able leadership of the Director, Professor Robert Beckman, and Deputy Director, Dr Navin Raj, the CIL has made a very good start.

12. One of the core areas in the CIL's agenda is ASEAN law and policy. This workshop is an initiative in line with this priority. Another important initiative is a major research project co-directed by Professor Joseph Weiler and Professor Michael Ewing-Chow. This project is called the ASEAN Integration Through Law Project. We will have the pleasure of hearing from the two co-directors at this workshop. Another important project will be undertaken by Professor Walter Woon, the Vice-Chairman of CIL and former Attorney-General. He will author a commentary on the ASEAN Charter, with the assistance of Ms Chan Sze-Wei, who is the rapporteur of our workshop.
13. It is my hope that ISEAS and CIL will become major centres for ASEAN Studies in the years to come. We welcome scholars on ASEAN, from all parts of the world, to work with us at our centres and institutes. We wish also to nurture the next generation of ASEAN scholars in our region. At the same time, SIIA will work to strengthen the ASEAN identity and its connections to our public intellectuals and civil society.

To be Useful to the ASEAN Secretariat

14. Third, I wish to tell Pak Bagas and, through him, the ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, that we wish to assist the Secretariat in its important work. With the implementation of the Charter and the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights, ASEAN has embarked on a new phase in its journey. The 2009 Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN has come into force. The High level Legal Experts are now working on the implementation of the chapter in the Charter on dispute settlement and other legal issues. The Singapore representative on the HLEG, Mr Jeffrey Chan, is with us. There is much work to be done between now and 2015 when ASEAN will ascend another peak. By 2015, ASEAN will have transited from being an association to a community, a community supported by three strong pillars: a political-security pillar; an economic pillar; and a social-cultural pillar.

Declare Workshop Open

15. It now gives me great pleasure to declare the workshop open and to wish all of you success in your deliberations.
16. Thank you very much.

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