

**International Conference
Transboundary Pollution: Evolving Issues of International Law and Policy
27-28 February 2014
Orchard Hotel, Singapore**

Welcome Remarks by Chairman, CIL

Salutation

Professor S Jayakumar, Patron and Chairman of the IAP
Professor Robert Beckman, Director of CIL
Distinguished Speakers and Participants of the Conference
Ladies and Gentlemen

Warm Welcome

On behalf of CIL, I would like to welcome you all to the International Conference on “Transboundary Pollution: Evolving Issues of International Law and Policy”. A special welcome goes to those who have travelled a long distance to be here today to participate in the Conference.

In accordance with my usual practice, I will make three points. First, I will start with a brief introduction to CIL. Second, I will explain why we have convened this Conference. Third, I will explain the structure of the Conference and the issues to be discussed at the Conference.

Introduction to CIL

CIL is a university-wide research centre at the National University of Singapore launched in 2009 by Prof S Jayakumar in response to the growing need for international law expertise and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region. Its vision is to become a world class centre of excellence in international law in Asia, through its research and

training activities. Its mission is to enable the region to play a more significant role in the promotion, implementation and development of international law.

For the last four years, CIL has undertaken many important research projects, published many books and articles and organised many conferences and workshops to encourage dialogue on significant international law and policy issues affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, especially in its initial focal areas of (a) Ocean Law and Policy; (b) ASEAN Law and Policy; and (c) Trade, Investment and Arbitration; and (d) International Dispute Resolution.

In our next stage of development, in addition to continuing to further excel in these focus areas, CIL is also exploring to address a few other areas that are critical to governments regionally and globally, including issues of transboundary pollution.

Background and Objectives of the Conference

Pollution does not always stop at national borders. Pollution originating from one country may damage the environment of other countries. A spill from an oil installation in one country may affect the marine environment of a neighbouring country. The smoke haze from economic activities in one country may pollute the air of neighbouring countries. The pollution of an international river in an upstream country may affect the water quality conditions of the river in downstream countries. The leaking of radioactive material from nuclear plants in one country may also raise environmental concerns to many regional countries.

This Conference aims to review the evolving rules and principles of international law governing transboundary pollution in order to raise awareness among regional governments of their rights and responsibilities under international law. To this end, the Conference has brought together leading experts on the field to discuss major legal aspects of transboundary pollution.

Structure of the Conference and Issues to be Discussed

The Conference consists of seven sessions. Each session has been allocated 90 minutes. Each session will have a chairman and two speakers. Each speaker will have up to 20 minutes to present his or her paper. After the presentation made by the speakers, the chairman will invite questions and comments from other participants of the Conference.

The list of topics to be covered today is as follows:

1. General Principles Governing Transboundary Pollution
2. State Responsibility for Transboundary Pollution
3. Transboundary Pollution of Fresh Water Resources
4. Transboundary Pollution of the Marine Environment

Tomorrow we will cover the three following topics:

1. Transboundary Nuclear Pollution
2. Transboundary Air Pollution
3. Cooperation Mechanisms to Combat Transboundary Haze Pollution

I hope that that all participants will fully participate in discussions and actively make contributions to the success of the Conference.

Thank you very much.