

BRIDGING SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE: CAMBODIA WORKSHOP

GOING ON THE ROAD

by Professor Antony Anghie

TRILA Cambodia was the first of CIL's country-specific workshops co-organised with local institutions, in this case, the Royal University of Law and Economics. We are especially grateful to Ms Channraksmeychhoukroth Dany for her dedication and effort in enabling this to take place. The workshop was held on 30–31 May 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The workshop is a follow-up from the TRILA conference organised by CIL in 2018. The conference was the first in many years to provide a forum where scholars from Asia and throughout the world could meet to discuss crucial questions on the teaching and research of international law. From the conference, we identified topics that participants regarded as especially important: these included teaching materials, teaching techniques, formulating a syllabus, methodologies in scholarship, developing a research agenda, and steps towards publishing scholarship.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Going on the Road by Professor Antony Anghie

Reflections on the Workshop by

- *Mr Yuvaktep Vann*
- *Ms Channraksmeychhoukroth Dany*

The Next Generation of Cambodian lawyers



At the conference, participants asked if it was possible to hold a TRILA workshop in their own countries. This accorded with our plans to hold local workshops—to take TRILA on the road, so to speak—so that we could follow up and consolidate the work and the findings of TRILA 2018. These local workshops aimed at

1. increasing participation by local academics;
2. focussing on the needs of a particular country;
3. developing an appropriate programme; and
4. reaching out to younger faculty.

We consulted closely with our hosts in Cambodia to create a programme relevant to local needs. Like TRILA 2018, the programme was designed to encourage participation, and the first session on 'Stocktaking' was especially important in that respect as it provided an overview of the particular experiences, and issues facing Cambodian academics.



THE ROAD TO BETTER TEACHING

Mr Yuvaktep Vann

Faculty Member, Royal University of Law and Economics



It is intriguing how countries like Cambodia and Sri Lanka should play a role in the development of international law. It is crucial for us to understand our history before dealing with the current developments in international law. Professor Anghie facilitated an interesting discussion on the origins of international law—religious values, natural law, or perhaps, the State's consent. I find this relevant in my teaching of public interna-

tional law to have students see international law revolving around the State's sovereignty and consent.

Another important point is the variety of international law textbooks written and organised in different styles. I recognised only some textbooks mentioned in the discussion. I used a few of them as supplementary materials for my students. Finally, I learned that although I seldom used international law during my several years of work experience, the subject is an important part of the human rights mission and Cambodian law firms in international trade law.

The TRILA workshop has provided me with useful information to endlessly improve my teaching of public international law. The workshop also sparked my hope in progressing in academic research in international law, because writing and publishing will be my next steps.

'I find this relevant in my teaching of public international law to have students see international law revolving around the State's sovereignty and consent.'

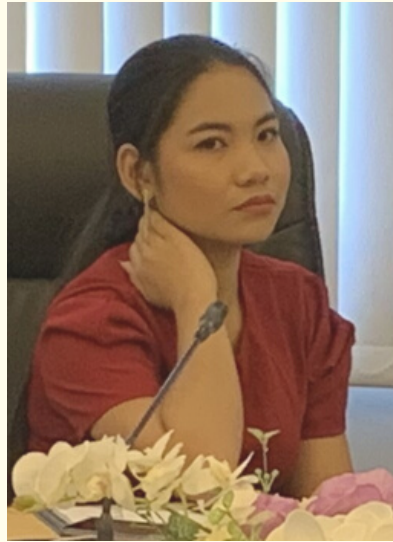


TRILA: A NETWORK AND COMMUNITY

Ms Channraksmeychhoukroth Dany

Deputy Director and Lecturer, Royal University of Law and Economics

'TRILA also inspired me to co-found the Study Club of International Law (SCIL), which is a group of people interested in the study, teaching, and researching of international law with the aim of promoting this subject to the students.'



The 2018 TRILA Conference has widened my network in terms of teaching and research of Public International Law (PIL). There, I met Mr Prabhakar Singh, who eventually taught PIL classes at Royal University of Law and Economics. TRILA also inspired me to co-found the Study Club of International Law (SCIL), which is a group of people interested in the study, teaching, and researching of international law with the aim of promoting this subject to the students.

The 2018 TRILA Conference also served as an opportunity for me to bring TRILA to Cambodia, so that our local scholars can engage in further discussions on the topics. TRILA Cambodia brought together lawyers and professors who shared their experiences in teaching, researching, and practising international law in Cambodia. Although international law is an integral part of the law and international relations faculty, the students are mainly focussed on international moot competitions, but not on developing research. Only a few Cambodian scholars are into researching international law. I am confident that the local and international networks we established through TRILA will help us expand the academic research of international law, especially with an Asian focus.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF CAMBODIAN LAWYERS

The TRILA Cambodia workshop gave Professor Anghie and students the opportunity to interact on different occasions. The day before the workshop, Mr Thol Theany, lecturer at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia who attended the 2018 TRILA Conference, invited Professor Anghie to meet his students. What started as a formal lecture on international law quickly turned into a warm and candid conversation, in which students shared their dreams, ideas and frustrations as international lawyers in training.

In a public lecture on 'Current Problems in International Law: A Historical Perspective' at the Royal University of Law and Economics, Professor Anghie spoke on Asia's role in the history of international law. From the early trade routes in Southeast Asia, to the Bandung Conference of 1955, the dialogue led to a discussion on how international law relates to current issues such as climate change, inequality, health and conflict, and the role of Asia in these areas.



CIL TRILA TEAM



Professor Antony Anghie
Head of Programme



Eugenio Gomez-Chico
Research Associate



Amiel Ian Valdez
Research Associate

CONNECT WITH US



/groups/CIL.TRILA



@CIL_TRILA



cil.info@nus.edu.sg



cil.nus.edu.sg/teaching/international-law-and-asia/



469A Bukit Timah Road, Tower Block,
#09-01, Singapore 259770