

Ms Daphne HONG, Director-General, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore



Daphne Hong is the Director-General of the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers. She started her legal career in 1991 as a judicial officer in the Singapore Judiciary, first in the State Courts as Magistrate and then District Judge, before joining the Supreme Court as Senior Assistant Registrar in 2004. As a judicial officer, she has dealt with the entire range of cases, spanning civil trials (including commercial cases), criminal trials and family law cases.

She moved to the International Affairs Division in 2006, where she undertook international law advisory and negotiation work covering the entire range of international law issues. She was attached to Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York as its legal advisor from September to December 2009. From 2010 to 2015, her primary focus was on international economic law, encompassing trade and investment law and international intellectual property law. She was the lead counsel for the government in the negotiation of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. She also led the legal team in Singapore's intervention as a third party in the Tobacco Plain Packing dispute before the WTO.

She was appointed as Director-General of the International Affairs Division in August 2016. In this role, she is the Legal Adviser of Singapore and heads the legal department that advises the government on all international law matters, including international economic law, law of the sea, aviation law and human rights law. She also represents Singapore in international negotiations and dispute resolution. More recently, she was involved in the applications before the International Court of Justice involving, *inter alia*, sovereignty over the island, Pedra Branca.