

On the importance of ASEAN

"Unlike the protectionist trend elsewhere, ASEAN remains committed to free trade, regional integration and open economies...RCEP (The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of ASEAN and six other economies) will be one of the biggest free trade areas in the world."

- Ambassador Tommy Koh, Chairman of the CIL Governing Board and Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

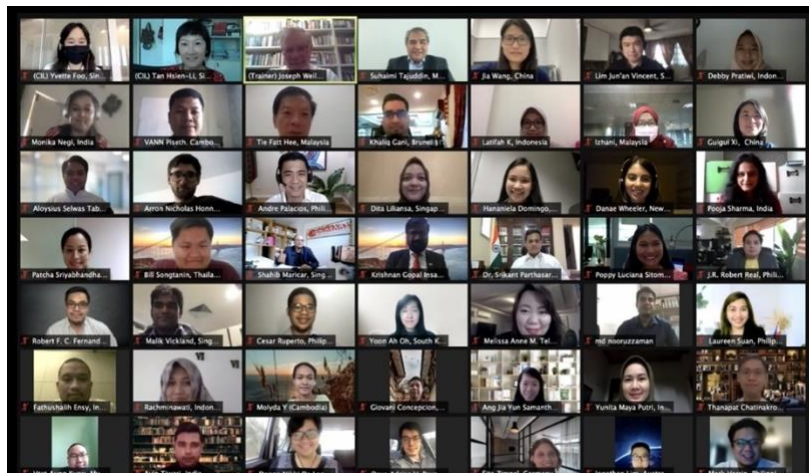
"I have witnessed how the interests and concerns of Member States are amplified internationally when ASEAN speaks with one voice. ASEAN is also capable of summoning a spirit of unity which is unparalleled. Even when faced with the thorniest of issues, leaders and officials work tirelessly to find common ground, and achieve agreement by consensus. This is not a trivial undertaking, given the diversity of the region we sit in."

- Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore

"ASEAN itself manifests what could be achieved – with the requisite political will and diplomatic persistence – to fundamentally transform a region from one marked by conflict and trust deficit to one of stability and strategic trust."

- Dr Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia (2009-14) and author of *Does ASEAN Matter? A view from within* (2018)

Feedback from participants of the ASEAN Law Academy Advanced Programme



"I've acquired understanding about our region and international public law which I'd not been familiar with before the program. From the perspective of a practitioner, I found the program very interesting, I learned a lot not only from the professors of NUS but also my colleagues, the participants."

"The Academy provided me not only precious knowledge on ASEAN Law but also networking of ASEAN scholars in this field. I am revising my teaching curriculum on International Trade Law with a focus on ASEAN perspective based on what I have learned from the Academy."

"As I venture forth into a career which deals with the ASEAN region, I can guarantee that the scholarship slot given to me will not go to waste. Please extend my thanks to everyone in NUS who has been instrumental in holding this informative and inspiring endeavour."