

Public International Law Conference

Asian Perspectives on Peace and Peace-Making

1st October 2025, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Venue: Juniper Room (Level 2), and Lavender Room (Level 3), Orchard Hotel, Singapore

The Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, is convening a one-day conference on the theme of “*Asian Perspectives on Peace and Peace-Making*” to bring together scholars, students, policymakers, and legal experts to discuss Asian traditions on peace, encompassing a wide range of topics in international law. The conference aims to explore and highlight the Asian history, perspectives and approaches to peace, which are rooted in law, religion, culture, and diplomacy, and have shaped the global order. Yet, they remain marginal in existing scholarship.

The Night Before...

7:30 – 10:00 Dinner (facultative and self-funded) at Brewerkz, 1-8 Orchard Rendez-vous Hotel

Draft Programme

7:45 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 – 8:50 Welcome Remarks and Preliminary Thoughts

Dr. Nilufer Oral, Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr. Samuel White, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

8:50 – 9:40 Panel 1: (Theme 1 – The Laws of Yesterday’s Wars)

Moderator: **Dr. Samuel White**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Ms. Rashmi Raman, Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

“Before Westphalia, there was Gangaikoonda: Sacred Sovereignty and International Law”

Prof. Sergey Sayapin, Professor and Research Director at KINEP University’s School of Law

“Custom, Concord, and the Law: Traditional Central Asian Approaches to Peacemaking and Their Relevance to Contemporary Legal and Normative Frameworks”

Ms. Adele Jansen, Bachelor student, University of Adelaide
“Journey to the East: How the Middle Kingdom, Legal Cosmology, and Philosophical Thinking Constructed Imperial China’s Conception of International Law”

Ms. Migmar Lham, Lecturer at JSW School of Law
“A Story of Peace in the Shadows: Indigenous Conflict Resolution and Community Justice Among the Lhop (Doya) of Bhutan”

9:40 – 10:40 Panel 2: (Theme 2 – Peace Processes & Political Settlements)

Moderator: **Dr. Elena Pribytkova**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr. Logan Masilamani, Lecturer, International Studies, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, and Political Science, Department of Political Science, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
“Musjawarah Diplomacy and ASEAN”

Mr. Johan Pahlepi, Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
“The ASEAN Way of Peace-Making”

Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria & Prof. Caloy Cajucom, respectively, Former Dean (2011-2018) and current Professor of Constitutional Law and International Law, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, and Professor of International Dispute Resolution, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law
“The Philippine Peace Process Experience and the Role of Modern Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations”

Dr. Tahir Quershi & Dr. Dhananjay Kumar Mishra, Assistant Professors of Law, Symbiosis International University, Pune, Hyderabad Campus
“Hydro-Securitization of Indus River Basin: International Law Prospective”

Ms. Bahishta Zahir Hellali, Operations and Coordination Lead, Hamrah Initiative, Ph.D Candidate, Goethe University Frankfurt
“Continuity in Disruption: Afghan Women’s Role in Peace-Making Before and After 2021”

10:40 – 10:50 Coffee break

10:50 – 11:30 Panel 3: (Theme 1 – The Laws of Yesterday’s Wars)

Moderator: **Dr. Samuel White**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Prof. Wasantha Senevithrane & Ms. Thivanka Ratnayake, respectively, Professor of Public International Law, University of Colombo, and Ph.D Candidate, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide

“Warfare with Restraint: Tracing the Roots of Humanitarian Norms in the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Kingdoms of Sri Lanka”

Mr. Ikhwan Fazli & Ms. Irdina Adzahar, respectively, LK Law and University of Adelaide, and Australian Department of Defence Policy Officer
“Pre-Colonial Malay Laws of War and Peace”

Prof. Battogtokh Javzandolgor, Department of International Relations
National University of Mongolia
“Korean Law of War”

11:30 – 12:20 Panel 4: (Theme 3 – Biocultural Peace & Regional Security)

Moderator: **Mr. Vincenzo Elia**, Ph.D Candidate and Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Mr. Rawnak Azam, Lecturer at the American International University-Bangladesh
“Biocultural Legal Peace: Protecting Sacred Natural Sites in Asia through a Peace-Environment Nexus Approach”

Ms. Johaira C. Wahab-Manantan, Diplomat and Lawyer, Head of the Legal Team for the Philippine Government
“Navigating the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities in the Bangsamoro Peace Framework”

Dr. Anjuman Ara Begum, Associate Professor, Royal School of Law and Administration, Royal Global University
“Women’s Leadership in Peacebuilding. Traditional Practices and Governance in North East India”

Dr. Bethan Hall, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
“Panchsheel: The Legal Legacy of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence”

12:20 – 13:00 Panel 5: (Theme 1 - The Laws of Yesterday’s Wars)

Moderator: **Dr. Samuel White**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Mr. Rizaldy Alif Syahril, Master’s student, Faculty of Law, Universitas Indonesia
“From Local Custom to Global Insight: Indigenous Peace-Making through Libu Adat and Bantaya in Kulawi, Central Sulawesi, and Its Relevance to Global Conflict Resolution Discourse”

Dr. Arlina Permanasari, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Universitas Trisakti
“Reviving Indonesian’s Traditional Laws of War: Cultural Foundations and Contemporary Relevance towards the Modern Humanitarian Law towards Asian Peace-Making”

Dr. Andrey Sujatmoko, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Universitas Trisakti
“Some Notes on Traditional Laws of War in Indonesia”

13:00 – 14:00 Buffet Lunch, Orchard Hotel Café (Lobby Level)

14:00 – 14:50 Panel 6: (Theme 2 – Resistance, Security & Law)

Moderator: **Ms. Rashmi Raman**, Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Mr. Aryan Pratap Singh, Postgraduate Researcher, South Asian University
“Reversing the Postcolonial Gaze: Pashtun Resistance, Epistemic Violence, and Peacebuilding in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa”

Dr. Sabrihan Hasan, Assistant Professor, School of International Law, East China University of Political Science and Law
“Oceanic Peacebuilding: Maritime Cooperation and Environmental Security in the Bay of Bengal”

Mr Arifur Rahman, Ph.D candidate at the School of Politics and International Relations, East China Normal University
“Why Doesn’t Pressure Work? The Missing Confucian Logic in DPRK’s Denuclearization Talks”

Mr Angelo Karlo Guillen, Human Rights Lawyer, National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers, and Coordinator of Defend Panay Network
“A Flawed Approach to Peace: Examining the Philippine Government’s Whole-of-Nation Strategy”

14:50 – 15:30 Panel 7: (Theme 2 – Vietnam & Myanmar)

Moderator: **Dr. Su Wai Mon**, Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr. Thi Trang Ngo & Ms. Nguyen Hai Duyen, respectively, Vice Dean of the Faculty of International Law at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, and Lecturer of the Faculty of International Law at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
“The 1973 Paris Peace Accords and the Vietnamese Perspective on Conflict Resolution: From the Battlefield to the Table”

Ms. Junli Lim, Research Fellow, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University of Singapore
“Potential pathways towards peace: Mutual aid and parahita in Myanmar”

Ms. Hien-Thao Nguyen, Ms. Nguyen Thu Tra & Mr. Khac-Truong Thai, Students at the Faculty of International Politics and Diplomacy, Faculty of International Law, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

“The Limitations of R2P in Southeast Asia: Revisiting Vietnam’s Policy towards Cambodia (1978–1991)”

15:30 – 15:40 Afternoon Break

15:40 – 16:40 Panel 8: (Theme 3 – Intersections of Climate Change Law and Other Areas of Law)

Moderator: **Mr. Vincenzo Elia**, PhD Candidate and Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Mr. Chathura N. Herath & Ms. Thamasi Konara, respectively, State Counsel, Attorney General’s Department of Sri Lanka, and Lecturer, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

“Sacred Algorithms: Artificial Intelligence Reinventing Religious Peace-Making in Asia”

Dr. Dmitry Erokin, Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

“Digital Discourses of Peace: Crowdsourced Perspectives on Asian Peace Making Through YouTube Analysis”

Dr. Elena Pribytkova, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

“The Human Right to Peace Between the Global South and the Global North”

Ms. Hla Yadanar Win & Mr. Tun Zaw Chit, respectively, Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, and student in the Master of Arts in Human Rights at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University

“Reimagining Myanmar’s Peace Process”

Mr. Sheikh Sultan Aadil Huque, Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

“Indigenous Languages in India – A Peace Mechanism”

16:40 – 17:00 Closing Remarks & Publication Pipeline

Chair: **Dr. Samuel White**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Conference Dinner

6:00 – onwards Lavender Room (Level 3), Orchard Hotel, Singapore