

Public International Law Conference *Empowering Through Digital Technologies*

9th December 2025, 09:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Venue: Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore

The Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, is convening a one-day in person Public International Law Conference on the theme “Empowering Through Digital Technologies”. It will bring together world-leading researchers and practitioners to discuss how the use of digital technologies should be effectively regulated by international law, human rights law, environmental law, and Sustainable Development Agenda, to alleviate digital poverty, reduce the digital divide and digital illiteracy, resist digital colonialism, implement human rights, and to empower vulnerable individuals and social groups. The conference will combine classic academic panels and interactive solutions-oriented workshops. It will feature innovative projects that have demonstrated success in advancing social, global, digital, and environmental (including climate) justice, racial and gender justice, human rights, and sustainable development.

The Night Before...

19:30 – 21:00 Speaker’s Dinner, Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore

Draft Programme

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome Remarks and Preliminary Thoughts

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

9:10 – 10:40 Panel 1: How International Law Should Regulate Digital Technologies?

Moderator: **Mr. Benjamin Ang**, Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security and Head of Digital Impact Research at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Mr. Tony Oweke, Multilateral negotiator on AI at the United Nations and Advisor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
“Building the Plane While Flying It: AI Governance at the United Nations”

H.E. Anita Ashvini Wahid, Indonesian Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
“Whose Empowerment? The Struggle for Rights in ASEAN’s Digital Future”

Mr. Dimitri Gugunava, Head of Digital Governance and Cyber Security Strategic Planning and Analytical Unit LEPL Digital Governance Agency Ministry of Justice of Georgia; Head of the Georgian Delegation in the Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the Council of Europe
“Empowering Through Responsible AI: The Council of Europe Framework Convention and the HUDERIA”

Prof. Başak Çalı, Head of Research, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford
“The Right to Meaningful Access to the Internet in the Age of AI”

10:40-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Panel 2: How to Ensure Inclusiveness in the Digital Context?

Moderator: **Prof. Jason Allen Grant** (Associate Professor of Law, SMU Centre for Digital Law)

Mr. Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, United Nations Development Programme
“Building Digital and AI Ecosystems for Inclusive Development”

Ms. Helen Magata, Executive Director, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education, Philippines)
“Indigenous Peoples’ Data Sovereignty: Defining and Designing a Culturally-Inclusive Digital Future”

Prof. Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Member of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law and Global Leadership at University of Pennsylvania Law School
“A Promethean Moment: Addressing Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence and Coded Bias”

Dr. Elena Pribytkova, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
“Securing a Digital Minimum in International Human Rights Law”

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Panel 3: From Disabling to Empowering (Special Issues)

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

Dr. Mikiko Otani, Member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists; Former Chair of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child; President of Child Rights Connect
“Children and Future Generations: Growing Up in the Digital World”

Prof. Sun Sun Lim, Vice President (Partnerships and Engagement); Lee Kong Chian Professor of Communication & Technology, Singapore Management University
“Making Technology Work for Everyone: Bridging Gaps and Addressing Invisible Illiteracies”

Prof. Surya Deva, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development; Professor at Macquarie Law School
“Right to Development Imperatives for Tech Generation, Use, and Transfer”

Dr. Jon Truby, Lead AI & Technology Law, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
“Governing the Design and Use of Digital Technologies for a Safe, Stable, and Healthy Climate and SDG 13: An International Law Perspective”

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Panel 4: Good Practices of Empowering (World Café Style¹)

Moderators: **Dr. Samuel White**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore; **Dr. Zeynab Malakouti**, Research Affiliate, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

Ms. Yu Ping Chan, Head, Digital Partnerships and Engagement, Chief Digital Office, United Nations Development Programme
“Global Partnerships – Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for the SDGs, AI Hub for Sustainable Development and UNDP’s Support to National Digital Transformation Efforts”

Mr. Kishore Babu G.S.C. Yerraballa, Area Representative, Southeast Asia & other Member States in Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union
“ITU Regional Initiatives: Asia and the Pacific”

Mr. Gyan Prakash Tripathi, Strategic Advisor, Forum on Information and Democracy
“Epistemic Justice in Practice: The Observatory on Information and Democracy”

Dr. Eric J. W. Orlowski, Research Fellow at AI Singapore, National University of Singapore; **Mr. Hakim Norhashim**, Research Assistant, AI Singapore, National University of Singapore
“‘Too Much Alignment, Not Enough Culture’: Rebalancing Cultural Alignment Practices in LLMs”

¹ World Café is a café-style facilitation method where participants rotate among small-table conversations, carry ideas forward to connect and refine them, and conclude with a collective “harvest” of insights.

Ms. Helen Magata, Executive Director, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), Philippines
"Data by and for Indigenous Peoples: Community Based Monitoring Information Systems (CBMIS) and the Indigenous Navigator"

Ms. Aizhan Kapysheva, Partnerships Analyst, United Nations Development Programme
"Digital Family Card"

Mr. Keith Detros, Program Manager, Tech for Good Institute, Singapore
"Confident Digital Society"

Mr. Hong Sen Chia, Trainer and Consultant, Guide Dogs Singapore, Singapore
"Enabling the Vision Impaired Community through Digital Technology"

Mr. Nahid Jubair, Deputy Director Programs, Digital Empowerment Foundation, India
"SoochnaPreneur Program: A Women-led, Hyperlocal Model for Meaningful Last-mile Digital Empowerment"

17:00 – 17:30 Closing Remarks & Discussion

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

Participants: Representatives from each panel

Conference Reception

17:30 – 19:00 Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore