

CIL

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
National University of Singapore



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SINGAPORE

Academy Director



Professor Joseph WEILER
New York University, United States of America
Head of ASEAN Law and Policy Programme, NUS Centre
for International Law, Singapore

Professor JHH Weiler is University Professor at New York University School of Law and Senior Fellow at the Center for European Studies, Harvard. He served as President of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy from 2013–2016. He was co-founder and an Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of International Law* and is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*. He has a regular teaching appointment at the National University of Singapore.

In 2025, Professor Weiler was received the Barry Prize for lifetime intellectual achievement by the American Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Manley Hudson Medal, the highest honor awarded by the American Society of International law. In 2022 he was awarded the Ratzinger Prize by Pope Francis.

In the world of practice, Professor Weiler served, inter alia, as a member of the Committee of Jurists of the Institutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, co-drafting the European Parliament's Declaration of Human Rights and Freedoms. He is an experienced arbitrator in the framework of the WTO and USMCA.

Professor Weiler is author of numerous articles and books in the fields of international, comparative, and European law. His book *The Constitution of Europe – Do the New Clothes have an Emperor?* (CUP) has been translated into 8 languages. His novella *Der Fall Steinmann* (Piper) was a best seller in Germany. He has five children and four grandchildren and is a passionate gardener and beekeeper.

Academy Head Coordinator



Mx CHAN Sze-Wei
Deputy Head of ASEAN Law and Policy Programme
NUS Centre for International Law, Singapore

Sze-Wei manages the ASEAN Law and Policy programme at CIL together with Programme Head Professor Joseph Weiler. They oversee CIL's annual flagship programmes of the ASEAN Law and Policy Academy and Global Trade Law Academy, as well as the CIL Document Database and its collection of ASEAN and International Law instruments.

Sze-Wei's research focuses on the development of ASEAN institutions and legal frameworks, and is a continuation of their work on the ASEAN Charter process from 2006-2007 where they assisted Singapore's representatives to the Eminent Persons' Group on the ASEAN Charter, then-Deputy Prime Minister S Jayakumar and chairman of the High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Charter Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh. They were also an editorial assistant for the book *The Making of the ASEAN Charter* (eds Koh, Rosario and Woon, World Scientific 2009) and *The ASEAN Charter: A Commentary* (Walter Woon, 2015). They left the Singapore Foreign Service in 2008 and joined CIL in 2009.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

LEE



Ambassador Rena LEE
Ambassador for International Law
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Ambassador Rena Lee is a dedicated and seasoned practitioner of international law, at the international and national level, serving as a government legal advisor, diplomat and international negotiator. She was appointed Ambassador for International Law in 2023, and prior to that, served as Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the latter role, she was elected as President of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), where she presided over complex negotiations over five years which successfully culminated in the adoption, by consensus, of a landmark international agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. She was also elected and served as a member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority from 2017 to 2022.

Ambassador Lee's public international law practice includes advising the Singapore Government for more than three decades, both with the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Ministry of Defence. She has broad expertise over a wide range of international law matters, including law of the sea, climate change and environmental law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law.

Ambassador Lee is a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

PANGESTU	 Professor Mari Elka PANGESTU Presidential Special Envoy for International Trade and Multilateral Cooperation Mari Pangestu is the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Indonesia for International Trade and Multilateral Cooperation, and Vice Chair of the National Economic Council. She previously served as the President's Special Envoy for Climate Finance and advised the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs on sustainability, energy transition, and blended finance (2023–2024). From 2020 to 2023, she was Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships at the World Bank. Earlier, she was Indonesia's Minister of Trade (2004–2011) and Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy (2011–2014). She has over 30 years of experience across academia, diplomacy, international organisations and government. She is currently Professor of International Economics at the University of Indonesia and a Board Member of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta. She is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and at the Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, as well as an Honorary Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the Australian National University, and her PhD in economics from the University of California, Davis.
TAY	 Associate Professor Simon SC Tay Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs Professor Simon SC Tay is a public intellectual as well as an advisor to major corporations and policymakers. He is currently (1) Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, a globally ranked think tank; (2) Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law; (3) Senior Consultant with WongPartnership, a leading regional law firm; (4) Ambassador for Singapore; and (5) Board Member to Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, a statutory board under the Ministry of Transport. (6) Non-Executive Independent Director with the board of Certis Cisco. Previously, Professor Tay has taught at Harvard Law School and Yale University, served on boards for leading global companies including MUFG Bank of Japan, Toyota Japan, and Deutsche Boerse (Asia), and been Corporate Advisor to Temasek Holdings. He has also served Singapore as Chairman of the National Environment Agency and Nominated Member of Parliament.

TRAINERS

AMBAST	 Ms Ashwita AMBAST Senior Legal Counsel Permanent Court of Arbitration Ms Ashwita Ambast is a Senior Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and was appointed PCA Representative in Singapore in 2025. Ms Ambast has acted as tribunal secretary or registrar in over 45 international arbitrations involving states, state entities, international organizations and private parties and has assisted the PCA Secretary-General and other appointing authorities with over 55 requests relating to arbitral appointments, challenges, and fee reviews. From 2018-2020, she served as a Registrar of the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre. Ms Ambast obtained a B.A. and an LL.B. with honors from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and obtained an LL.M. degree as a Goldman Scholar from Yale Law School. She is qualified to practice law in India and England and Wales.
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CHESTERMAN



Professor Simon CHESTERMAN
Dean, NUS College
Professor, NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore

Simon Chesterman is David Marshall Professor of Law and Vice Provost (Educational Innovation) at the National University of Singapore, where he is also the founding Dean of NUS College. He serves as AI Governance and Policy Lead at the NUS AI Institute and Editor of the *Asian Journal of International Law*. Previously, he was Dean of NUS Law from 2012 to 2022 and Co-President of the Law Schools Global League from 2021 to 2023.

Educated in Melbourne, Beijing, Amsterdam, and Oxford, Professor Chesterman's teaching experience includes periods at the Universities of Melbourne, Oxford, Southampton, Columbia, and Sciences Po. From 2006-2011, he was Global Professor and Director of the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme. Prior to joining NYU, he was a Senior Associate at the International Peace Academy and Director of UN Relations at the International Crisis Group in New York.

Professor Chesterman is the author or editor of more than twenty books, including *We, the Robots? Regulating Artificial Intelligence and the Limits of the Law* (CUP, 2021) and *One Nation Under Surveillance* (OUP, 2011). He also writes on legal education and higher education more generally and is the author of five novels including the *Raising Arcadia* trilogy and *Artifice*.

DAVENPORT



Dr Tara DAVENPORT
Co-Head, NUS Centre for International Law
Assistant Professor, NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore

Dr Tara Davenport is and an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) where she teaches law of the sea and international regulation of the global commons, Co-Head of the Ocean Law and Policy Programme at CIL, and Deputy Director, NUS Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law.

Dr Davenport is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Asian Journal of International Law* and *Ocean Development and International Law Journal*. She received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2013 and the NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship in 2014. She is a qualified Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore. Her research interests are in public international law and law of the sea, and she has written extensively on a variety of issues, including on the international regulatory regime governing submarine cables and pipelines.

ELMS



Dr Deborah ELMS
Head of Trade Policy, Hinrich Foundation

Dr Elms is Head of Trade Policy at the Hinrich Foundation in Singapore. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Executive Director and Founder of the Asian Trade Centre. She was also President of the Asia Business Trade Association and the Board Director of the Asian Trade Centre Foundation. Dr Elms serves on the board of the Trade and Investment Negotiation Adviser at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific. She was on the International Advisory Council for APCO (2021-2023) and was a member of the International Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Trade Professionals Alliance and Chair of the Working Group on Trade Policy and Law, as well as a member of the World Economic Forum's Trade and Investment Council for 2018-2020.

She was also the head of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations and Senior fellow of International Political Economy at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Dr Elms received a PhD in political science from the University of Washington, an MA in International Relations from the University of Southern California, and bachelor's degrees from Boston University. She is the author of numerous articles, editor of several books, and regularly published the *Talking Trade Blog*.

HEW



Dr Denis HEW
Senior Research Fellow,
Centre on Asia and Globalisation
NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Dr Hew is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation, at the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research focuses on regional economic integration, international trade, economic security and geoeconomics.

From 2011 to 2022, Dr Hew served as Director of the APEC Policy Support Unit, the research and analytical arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Dr Hew was previously with the Asian Development Bank, where he worked in the Southeast Asia Department managing technical assistance programs on regional cooperation and integration.

An economist by training, Dr Hew holds a B.A. (Hons) in Economics from the University of Warwick and both an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He has published widely on ASEAN economic integration, trade policy, and regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. He most recently served as co-editor of the April 2026 special issue of *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, "Revisiting Economic Security in Southeast Asia" Vol.48 No.1.

LEE	 Professor Joel LEE NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore Joel Lee is a Professor of Negotiation and Mediation at the Faculty of Law, the National University of Singapore. Joel co-pioneered the teaching of Negotiation and Mediation in the Singapore Universities and has played a significant role in furthering the development of mediation in Singapore, not just in education but in practice. A graduate of Victoria University of Wellington and Harvard Law Schools, Joel is a principal mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre and a Master Trainer with Peacemakers. Joel was a member of the International Mediation Institute's Independent Standards Commission and Intercultural Taskforce and was also a key member of the Ministry of Law's Working Group on International Commercial Mediation. Joel is the founding and immediate past Chair of the Board of the Singapore International Mediation Institute. He is also a Certified Trainer of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). Joel has taught overseas at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Law, Economics and Science of Aix-Marseille (Aix-en-Provence France) and Anglia Law School (UK) and is the co-editor and co-author of the book "An Asian Perspective on Mediation" and the "Singapore Mediation Handbook", and the General Editor for the Asian Journal on Mediation. In 2011, Joel was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award which is the National University of Singapore's highest teaching award. Joel was also awarded the Singapore's Public Service Medal in 2023 for his work in promoting mediation.
LIN	 Ms Joanne LIN Senior Fellow, Coordinator of ASEAN Studies Centre Institute of Southeast Asian Studies – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore Ms Joanne Lin is the Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. She has over 20 years of work experience in the Singapore public sector, regional and international organisations, think tanks, and NGOs. Ms Lin previously served at the ASEAN Secretariat from 2015 to 2021 and was the Head of the External Relations Division under the ASEAN Political-Security Community Department. At ISEAS, she is an author of the Institute's flagship State of Southeast Asia survey and regularly publishes on ASEAN affairs. She is currently a Visiting Scholar at the MIT Center for International Studies.

OMORI



Mr Yuichiro OMORI
Legal Counsel, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Yuichiro Omori is a Legal Counsel at International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Prior to joining ICSID, he worked as an attorney at the Tokyo office of Baker & McKenzie (2010-2018) and as a trial lawyer at an international court in the Hague, the Netherlands (2018-2022).

Mr. Omori holds degrees from Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M.) in the United States, Kobe University Law School (J.D.) and Osaka University (LL.B.) in Japan. He is admitted to practice law in the State of New York and Japan (currently omitted), as well as a solicitor in England and Wales. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

ONG



Mr ONG Chin Heng
Deputy Director-General (Economic) /
Senior State Counsel
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Ong Chin Heng is Senior State Counsel and serving as Deputy Director-General (Economic) in the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore, where he oversees the Division's work on economic law, treaties and general public international law.

He negotiated Singapore's free trade agreements with the European Union, China, ASEAN, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Comprehensive & Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), as well as investment treaties with various countries. He has led Singapore's delegation at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), working on reforms to investor-State dispute settlement and investment arbitration rules. He acted as counsel in Singapore's interventions before the World Trade Organization (WTO) in disputes concerning IT Products and the US-China trade war, and before a CPTPP panel in a dispute concerning dairy measures.

Besides economic law, Chin Heng served as counsel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case concerning sovereignty over Pedra Branca, and represented Singapore in international aviation, law of the sea, maritime security, arms control and counter-proliferation matters.

He is called to the Singapore and New York Bars and was awarded the Public Administration (Bronze) and Long Service Medals.

PUNO



Ms Railla PUNO
Executive Director
Fair Transitions Lab

Ms Puno is an environmental lawyer with extensive experience in governance, legal training, project management, policy development, and multi-disciplinary research. Currently, Ms Puno is Executive Director of the Fair Transitions Lab, a nonprofit think tank focused on climate action, technological change, and socio-economic transformation. She also holds several legal and policy positions in climate change

think tanks and non-profit organisations.

Ms Puno has worked on international environmental law, climate change, biodiversity, and oceans issues over the past 10 years and has participated in UNFCCC, UNGA, and ECOSOC negotiations in various capacities. She has a J.D. from the University of the Philippines and obtained her LL.M. in Global Environmental Law (summa cum laude) from Pace University's Elisabeth Haub School of Law in New York in 2020.

S



Ms Nivedita S
Research Fellow
NUS Centre for International Law, Singapore

Ms Nivedita S is a Research Fellow with CIL's Energy Law and Policy team. Her work explores international law and policy issues spanning energy, oceans, space, security, and the environment. Her research focuses on the conceptualisation of international energy law, legal and policy frameworks for energy justice and the clean energy transition (including governance of critical minerals and regional

energy connectivity), nuclear applications at sea and in outer space, and the development of ASEAN energy norms and governance. She also coordinates the podcast series [EnergyMatters@CIL](#) (formerly [Nuclear Matters at CIL](#)). She has been invited to speak at and contribute to conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings, and expert groups on nuclear and energy law and policy at both regional and international levels.

Before joining CIL, Nivedita trained at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Office of Legal Affairs, where she conducted legal analysis and interpretation of international legal instruments in the areas of nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and liability, and undertook research on issues of international and treaty law. Nivedita holds an Advanced LLM in Public International Law (Leiden University), a LLB (Hons) (University of Birmingham), and a University Diploma in International Nuclear Law (University of Montpellier).

SAENGKRAI



Dr Phattharaphong 'Phil' SAENGKRAI
Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

Dr Saengkrai is a Lecturer at Thammasat University's faculty of law where he has been teaching since 2014. He teaches inter alia public international law, international human rights law, and international investment law. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Thailand Journal of International Law*. His works have been published in *Journal of International Dispute Settlement*, the *European Journal of International Law*, and *Thai Legal Studies Journal*.

Apart from academic activities, Dr Saengkrai regularly advises governmental authorities and non-governmental organisations. He has served as counsel for Thailand in the advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice.

Dr Saengkrai completed his PhD (summa cum laude) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. In 2025, he was awarded the prestigious Diploma in Public International Law from the Hague Academy of International Law.

TAN



Associate Professor TAN Hsien-Li
NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore

Professor Tan Hsien-is Associate Professor at the NUS Faculty of Law and was formerly the Co-Head of the ASEAN Law and Policy Programme at CIL. In 2023, Professor Tan received the Pingat Kepujian (The Commendation Medal) for her contributions to Singapore and the region on ASEAN integration.

Professor Tan researches on ASEAN integration and public international law, regional integration and resilience, and political economy. She has published in the *European Journal of International Law*, *Human Rights Law Review*, and *Michigan Journal of International Law*. She is also the author/co-author of three books on ASEAN human rights institutionalization and rules-based compliance in ASEAN (Cambridge University Press 2011, 2016, 2019).

She is a co-editor of the *Asian Journal of International Law* and the general co-editor (together with Joseph Weiler) of the *ASEAN Integration Through Law Book Series* (Cambridge University Press).

TAN	 Mr Jason TAN Senior Director / Senior State Counsel Attorney General's Chambers, Singapore Jason Tan advises the Singapore Government on international law. He is Senior Director and Senior State Counsel at the International Affairs Division, and helms the practice on security, proliferation, and international crime engagement. Jason was the lead legal advisor for the negotiations of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity and was the lead counsel for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest free trade agreement. He served as Counsellor (Legal) at the Permanent Mission of Singapore in Geneva, Switzerland, and specialized in WTO dispute settlement. Jason also worked on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China free trade agreement, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between Singapore and India, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, the Railway Land Arbitration (Malaysia/Singapore) at the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the Case concerning Land Reclamation by Singapore in and around the Straits of Johor (Malaysia v. Singapore) at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He was a Fulbright scholar and the W. Bayard Cutting Jr. Fellow of International Law at Columbia University.
TAN	 Dr Ming TAN Executive Director Tech for Good Institute, Singapore Dr Ming Tan is founding Executive Director for the Tech for Good Institute, a non-profit founded to catalyse research and collaboration on social, economic and policy trends accelerated by the digital economy in Southeast Asia. She is concurrently a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore and Advisor to the Founder of the COMO Group, a Singaporean portfolio of lifestyle companies operating in 15 countries worldwide. Her research interests lie at the intersection of technology, business and society, including sustainability and innovation. Ming was previously Managing Director of IPOS International, part of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, which supports Singapore's future growth as a global innovation hub for intellectual property creation, commercialisation and management. Prior to joining the public sector, she was Head of Stewardship of the COMO Group and the founding Executive Director of COMO Foundation, a grantmaker focused on gender equity that has served over 47 million women and girls since 2003. Ming was educated in Singapore, the United States, and England. She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University and her doctorate from Oxford.

TEGUH	 Ms Rania Teguh Deputy Assistant to the Special Envoy to the President for International Trade and Multilateral Cooperation, Indonesia Ms Rania Teguh serves as Deputy Assistant to the Special Envoy to the President for International Trade and Multilateral Cooperation for the Government of Indonesia. She is also a Research Consultant at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia. Previously, she was a Pacific Trade and Development (PAFTAD) Scholar at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. Her work focuses on the nexus between economic and security, trade and investment, regional and multilateral cooperation, with a particular interest in ASEAN, regional economic architecture, and Indonesia's role in the global economy.
TIJAJA	 Dr Julia Puspawati TIJAJA Associate Senior Fellow Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore Dr Julia Tijaja is an ASEAN, trade, and global value chain specialist with 20 years of international public policy experience. From 2015 to 2021, she was Director of ASEAN Integration Monitoring at the ASEAN Economic Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat, where she worked on key ASEAN initiatives including AEC Blueprint 2025 Mid-Term Review, RCEP negotiations, ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, and ASEAN Consolidated Strategy on Fourth Industrial Revolution. Dr Tijaja holds a PhD in Development Economics from the Open University, UK, an MSc in Economics for Development from the University of Oxford, and a BSc in Economics with Politics from Queen Mary, University of London. She is currently an Associate Senior Fellow for the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and Non-Resident Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia. Most recently, she contributed to the development of the ASEAN Geoeconomics Report 2025.

UN



Mr UN Sovannasam
Director, Legal Services and Agreements
Directorate
ASEAN Secretariat

Mr. Un Sovannasam is a Cambodian national. He is currently a Director of the Legal Services and Agreements Directorate at the ASEAN Secretariat.

Mr. Un took up the portfolio of law and legal matters at the ASEAN Secretariat, following the ASEAN Secretariat-wide restructuring after the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter in 2008. The establishment of the Legal Services and Agreements Division, which has later upgraded to the Legal Services and Agreements Directorate was an important step in enabling the ASEAN Secretariat to adequately deal with the international law and treaty, trade and economic laws, as well as corporate legal matters to support the ASEAN Community and its rules-based agenda. He has been instrumental in the establishment and development of the Legal Services and Agreements Directorate, which he has led since 2016.

Mr. Un has also actively participated in and facilitated the initiation, negotiation and conclusions of many key international agreements/treaties both among ASEAN Member States and those entered into by ASEAN as an organisation as well as between ASEAN Member States and external parties.

WONG



Mr Kenneth WONG
Senior Director / Senior State Counsel
Attorney-General's Chambers

Mr Wong is Senior Director / Senior State Counsel at the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore. After his stint as a Justices' Law Clerk in the Supreme Court, Mr Wong served as a Deputy Public Prosecutor at AGC in 2011.

In 2015, Mr Wong was an Associate (International Arbitration and Public International Law) at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer before returning to AGC in 2017. In AGC, Mr Wong advises and represents the Singapore Government on a broad range of public international law issues, such as the law of the sea and environmental law, and international economic law. Mr Wong has a BA (First Class Honors) in Law from the University of Cambridge, and a LLM from Columbia University.