

## PROFILES OF SPEAKERS

### Webinar on Regional Energy Interconnectivity and Sustainable Development: The Role of International Law

Monday, 15 June 2026 | 16:00 – 18:00 (SGT) | Online (Zoom)

#### WELCOME REMARKS



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#### **Susan L. KARAMANIAN**

*Dean, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Law*

Susan L. Karamanian is Dean of the College of Law, Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha. She previously held leadership positions at the American University of Sharjah and the George Washington University Law School, and before joining the academy was a Partner in the law firm of Locke Lord LLP in Dallas. Susan has served on the boards of various institutions, including the American Society of International Law, the Center for American and International Law, and the Association of American Rhodes Scholars. She is on the board of Texas Applesseed and the academic advisory board of the Kuwait International Law School. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation.



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#### **Nilufer ORAL**

*Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore*

Nilufer Oral is Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore. She is a member of the UN International Law Commission (ILC) and served as Co-chairperson of the 74<sup>th</sup> session w. She is also a Co-chair of the ILC Study Group on sea-level rise in relation to international law. In addition, she is a member The Hague Academy of International Law Curatorium and an associate member of the Institut de Droit International. She was a legal advisor and climate change negotiator for Turkish MFA (2009-2016). She is currently a Member of the Committee of Legal Experts of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS). She is a Distinguished Fellow of the Law of the Sea Institute at Berkeley Law and a Senior Fellow of the National University of Singapore Law School. She has appeared before ITLOS and the ICJ for advisory proceedings.

## KEYNOTE SPEECH



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**Leonardo SEMPERTEGUI**  
**General Legal Counsel, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**

Leonardo Sempertegui is an Ecuadorian attorney with 25 years of experience in energy and extractive industries sector. He has worked with clients and employers including governments, private corporations, international organizations, academia and NGOs in administrative law, energy law and infrastructure law deals and international litigation. Regional experience in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Mr. Sempertegui joined OPEC as its General Legal Counsel in 2018, and there he leads efforts of the organization to support their member countries in energy related policy and legal areas.

## MODERATORS



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**Damilola S. OLAWUYI**  
**Professor and Associate Dean for Research, UNESCO Chairholder on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development; Co-Editor of JERL Special Issue**

Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN (KC), FCI Arb, is a Professor and UNESCO Chairholder on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at the the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Law, Doha, Qatar. He is also Chancellor's Fellow and Director of the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (OGEEES Institute), Afe Babalola University, Nigeria. A prolific and highly regarded scholar, He has practiced and taught law in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He has published close to 100 articles, book chapters, and books on petroleum law, energy, and international environmental law. He serves on the executive committees and boards of several organizations. He is the Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights; Vice Chair of the International Law Association; and Chair of the Academic Advisory Group of the International Bar Association's Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL). He previously served co-chair of the Africa Interest Group of the American Society of International Law (2016-2019). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy.

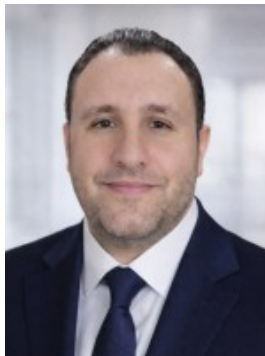


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**Denise CHEONG**  
**Former Head, Energy Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore; Co-Editor of JERL Special Issue**

Denise Cheong is the former Head of Energy Law and Policy and Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS), where she focused on energy, ocean, and environmental law research. Her research interests in the field of energy law include the conceptualisation and/or development of international energy law and the potential role international energy law can play in accelerating the clean energy transition as well as promoting greater energy interconnectivity at the regional level. She is also a member of the International Nuclear Law Association and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law. Her published works include book chapters and journal articles on nuclear, ocean and/or environmental law issues. She has been invited to speak and participate in conferences, workshops, seminars and meetings as well as expert groups on topics related to international energy law and policy, both internationally and regionally. A former lawyer in international private practice, she is an Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore and a Solicitor of England & Wales

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**Imad Antoine IBRAHIM**  
**Assistant Professor of Law, Technology and Sustainability, University of Twente**

Imad Antoine Ibrahim is an Assistant Professor of Law, Technology and Sustainability at Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability (CSTM), Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences (BMS), University of Twente, the Netherlands. He has been working on global issues from a legal perspective for the last decade. He is currently involved in several projects in places such as Europe, South Africa, MENA region, Central Asia, and China. Ibrahim's research focuses on the interplay between environmental law and disruptive technologies. He is an expert in water law, energy law and agriculture that he combines in the context of Water-Energy-Food nexus.



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**Mohammad HAZRATI**

**Senior Research Fellow, Energy Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore**

Mohammad Hazrati is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS), specialising in energy, environmental, and climate change law and policy, with a particular focus on the energy transition. Previously, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, France, working within the Energy Justice & Social Contract Chair, the Laboratory Energy and Environmental Transition (TREE), French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). He has published extensively, including peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and the book “The Rise of Restorative Justice in the Energy Transition and for Climate Mitigation” (Springer Nature). Notably, his work, “Conceptualising Restorative Justice in the Energy Transition: Changing the Perspectives on Fossil Fuels,” was cited by US Department of Energy as a key reference for integrating energy justice into infrastructure projects, influencing \$62 billion in federal funding allocation.



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**Nivedita S**

**Research Fellow, Energy Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore**

Nivedita S is a Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS). 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), nuclear applications at sea and in outer space, and the development of regional energy norms. She is particularly interested in the intersections between different branches of international law. She also coordinates the podcast series [EnergyMatters@CIL](#) (formerly [Nuclear Matters at CIL](#)). Nivedita has previously worked with international organisations, NGOs, and other institutions on nuclear law, human rights, environmental law, international criminal law, and gender issues.



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**Kaho YU**  
**Chief Research Officer, Asia Carbon Institute**

Kaho Yu is the Chief Research Office at the Asia Carbon Institute. He is an energy market and geopolitics specialist with over 15 years of research experience in think tanks, academia and the private sector. In addition, he serves as Maplecroft's Lead China Analyst. His current research focuses on the geopolitics of energy transition, carbon market, critical mineral security and ESG risks in the Asia Pacific. Currently, he also holds affiliated research positions at the London Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Science at King's College London, and the Asia Energy Studies Center. He regularly advises multinational corporations, investors, international institutions, and the public sector on macroeconomic landscapes, policy trends, and ESG-related risks



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**Jiangyuan FU**  
**Assistant Professor in Law, School of Law and Criminology,  
Maynooth University**

Jiangyuan Fu is an assistant professor in law at the School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University. Jiangyuan's previous academic appointments were at Huazhong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She also teaches on occasional basis at Federal University of Minas Gerais Brazil. She teaches International Economic Law, Advanced Perspectives of International Trade Law, Introduction to Chinese Law, and Commercial Law. Her research focuses on international trade law, and she is particularly interested in agricultural trade, trade facilitation, and renewable energy trade. She works regularly with the United Nations ESCAP, ADB, Mekong Institute and various NGOs on trade policy, and has authored various reports in this field.



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**Ahmed Essa AL-SULAITI**  
**Lecturer at the College of Law, Hamad Bin Khalifa University  
(HBKU)**

Ahmed Essa Al-Sulaiti is a Lecturer at the College of Law, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and a licensed attorney before the Qatari Appellate Court. He previously served (2022–2025) as Director of the Office of the State of Qatar to the WTO, WIPO, and UNCTAD, and earlier as a diplomat and legal counsel at Qatar's Permanent Mission in Geneva (2018–2022). With over 13 years of experience in international law and diplomacy, he specializes in trade law, intellectual property, and dispute resolution. His expertise includes international negotiations, mediation, arbitration, and strategic litigation. He has held senior leadership roles, including President of the International Law Association (ILA) – GCC Branch, President of the Executive Committee of the Berne Union, Chairperson of the WTO Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, and President of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances.