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Official Pre-Summit Event



UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability

International Conference on

Artificial Intelligence, Justice, and the Rule of Law

7 October 2026

Orchard Hotel Singapore



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

About the conference

The UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS), convenes this conference in partnership with UNESCO and with the support of the International Law Association Committee on AI & Technology Law.

Recognised as an official Pre-Summit Event of the Geneva AI Summit 2027, the conference forms part of the Road to Geneva AI Summit programme, bringing discussions on AI governance, justice and sustainability to the wider summit dialogue.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly used in legal research, court administration, case management and decision support. These applications raise questions about bias, discrimination, privacy, transparency, accountability, due process and human oversight.

A UNESCO survey of judicial operators across 96 countries reported that 44% were using AI tools for work, including research and drafting, while only 9% had received institutional guidelines or training. The conference will examine how courts and public institutions can respond to this gap. [UNESCO programme](#)

Objectives

- Contribute to a blueprint for an AI strategy for the judiciary.
- Exchange knowledge on AI and fair trial rights, cross-border governance, environmental sustainability and digital infrastructure in the justice sector.
- Build partnerships across the Asia-Pacific through UNESCO's Global Programme on AI and the Rule of Law and the Chair's activities.

Participants

Approximately 60 invited participants are expected, with balanced gender, regional and institutional representation. Invitations are intended for:

- Judges, court administrators and judicial policy or technology officials; judicial academies and training bodies.
- UNESCO and UN entities; international and regional organisations; government agencies and regulators working on law, justice, digital policy, data protection, health, science and security.
- Universities and research institutions; the legal profession and civil society; companies working on AI, cloud services, data centres, health, life sciences and legal technology; and the diplomatic community.

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026

Conference programme

Orchard Hotel Singapore

All times are Singapore time (UTC+8).

Time	Programme	Format
09:30-10:00	Registration and arrival	Registration
10:00-10:15	Opening remarks by Dr Jon Truby UNESCO Chair	Remarks
10:15-10:25	Welcome remarks	Remarks
10:25-10:35	Keynote address	Keynote
10:40-11:00	Coffee and networking break	Break
11:00-13:00	UNESCO consultation Judiciary AI Diagnostic Tool	Open consultation
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Break
14:00-14:30	UNESCO AI and Global AI Initiatives	Presentation and discussion
14:30-15:45	AI for Sustainable Development Environment, Equality, and Access to Justice	Panel and Q&A
15:45-17:00	Governing AI Across Borders	Panel and Q&A
17:00-17:15	Closing remarks	Closing session

LAUNCH AND SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS

The Chair launch and UNESCO sessions

Official launch of the UNESCO Chair

The conference will formally launch the UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability, held by Dr Jon Mark Truby, Visiting Research Associate Professor in Artificial Intelligence and Technology Law at CIL, NUS. The launch will present the Chair's mandate, current activities and priorities for its four-year term.

The Chair examines AI governance through international law, with particular attention to courts, public institutions, human rights and sustainable development. Its programme includes Global Dialogues on AI for Peace and Sustainability, the ASEAN Networking Series, judicial engagement, visiting research fellowships, research, publications and institutional cooperation.

The conference builds on the ASEAN series, with plans to extend engagement across the wider Asia-Pacific. The appended factsheet sets out the Chair's programme and opportunities to partner.

Consultation on UNESCO's Judiciary AI Strategy

UNESCO's Judiciary AI Strategy will set out a model that individual judiciaries can adapt to their own context. An accompanying diagnostic questionnaire will help judicial institutions assess their readiness to use AI and apply UNESCO's Guidelines for the Use of AI Systems in Courts and Tribunals through regulations suited to their circumstances.

The consultation will gather feedback on the draft strategy and diagnostic tool from judicial practitioners and other participants. Their contributions will inform the publication and its practical use in judicial policy and institutional planning.

UNESCO's global initiatives on AI and the rule of law

This session will present UNESCO's work with judiciaries worldwide on the benefits and risks of AI in justice systems, with attention to fundamental rights and due process. It will cover UNESCO-Oxford work on AI and fair trial rights, tools and frameworks for judicial institutions, and forthcoming work on AI and gender equality in the judiciary.

Participants will consider how these initiatives can inform judicial policy, training and institutional planning.

PANEL 1 · 14:30-15:45

AI for Sustainable Development

Environment, Equality, and Access to Justice

This panel will examine the environmental and social effects of AI systems and digital infrastructure, and their implications for equality and access to justice. It will consider how law, public policy and professional standards can support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Environmental sustainability and digital infrastructure

Related SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13

Discussion will address energy and water consumption, emissions, critical minerals, electronic waste, data-centre planning, climate exposure and the effects of digital infrastructure on local communities. It will also consider environmental assessment, public procurement, resource management and infrastructure that can withstand climate risks.

Equality and access to essential services

Related SDGs 3, 5, 10 and 16

The panel will consider bias in AI systems and datasets, unequal access to digital infrastructure and the effects of AI on women, persons with disabilities, rural communities and linguistic minorities. Particular attention will be given to exclusion from health care, justice, education and other public services.

Professional responsibility and strong institutions

Related SDGs 4, 8 and 16

Discussion will examine the responsibilities of lawyers, judges, public officials, scientists, health professionals and technology providers when AI is used in public decisions or essential services. Topics include professional competence, verification, confidentiality, disclosure, human supervision, procurement, responsibility for errors and access to review or remedy. These issues bear directly on accountable institutions, access to justice and public confidence.

PANEL 2 · 15:45-17:00

Governing AI Across Borders

This panel will examine how public bodies, courts, companies and legal advisers manage differences between binding law, institutional policy and voluntary standards. It will focus on Asian institutions operating across jurisdictions, including coordination when harm or responsibility crosses borders.

International and regional governance frameworks

Discussion will consider UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the UN Global Digital Compact, ASEAN instruments and national legal regimes. It will examine how these principles are reflected in law, judicial policy and administrative practice, and how institutions address differences in terminology, risk categories and compliance expectations.

Data transfers and digital infrastructure

Topics include data transfers, localisation, cloud services, cybersecurity, access to computing infrastructure and jurisdiction over data. The panel will consider continuity of public services, dependence on external infrastructure and the effects of localisation or transfer restrictions on courts and other public bodies.

Public procurement and external providers

Panellists will examine contract terms, documentation, audit rights, provider assessment, supply chains, subcontracting and incident reporting. The discussion will consider how public institutions can retain meaningful oversight and allocate duties when private vendors supply important functions.

Accountability and remedies across jurisdictions

Discussion will cover impact assessment, audit, disclosure to affected persons, responsibility for errors and access to remedy. It will also address cross-border enforcement, the ability to contest decisions, access to explanations and practical cooperation between regulators and public institutions.

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The UNESCO Chair factsheet follows on the next two pages.

Factsheet on UNESCO Chair on AI Law and Sustainability

A. About the UNESCO Chair on AI Law and Sustainability

The UNESCO Chair on AI Law and Sustainability is hosted by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, and approved under UNESCO's UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme.

The Chair examines the governance of artificial intelligence through international law, with particular attention to courts, public institutions, human rights, and sustainable development. Its programme spans research, policy engagement, judicial capacity-building, regional dialogue and visiting fellowships, with a focus on strengthening Asia's and the Global South's voice in global AI governance.

B. About the Chairholder – Dr Jon Truby

Dr Jon Truby is the UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence Law & Sustainability at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore where he leads research in governance of AI, data and digital technologies with a focus on sustainability. He is a Chair of the International Law Association Committee on AI & Technology Law and a participating expert of the OECD.AI Expert Group on AI Compute and Climate.

His current research examines the intersection of international law and sustainability on emerging technologies with a focus on digital decarbonisation and nature-positive AI. His research in particular examines the application of AI and data governance towards the achievement of the SDGs, primarily on climate but also in fields such as anti-corruption law, human rights and the rule of law. He has served a number of AI policy committees including the UNESCO Group of Friends on the Ethics of AI, as well as committees on AI and data governance, data management and data privacy.

Read more about Dr Jon Truby in an interview with UNESCO [here](#).

C. Planned Outputs

- **Scholarly publications:** In-depth articles and book chapters on AI, law, and sustainable development.
- **AI governance handbook:** Comprehensive research handbook on AI's governance and sustainability.
- **Global conferences:** Hybrid conferences hosted in Singapore for wide participation.
- **Visiting scholars programme:** Fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange through visiting roles.
- **Environmental footprint issue:** Special journal issue focussing on AI's environmental impact and governance.

- **Policy briefs and reports:** Actionable recommendations for policymakers through briefs and synthesis reports.
- **Seminars and webinars:** Educational sessions on climate, regulation, and accountability.
- **Early career development:** Opportunities for students and new professionals to build expertise.

D. ASEAN Network Series

The UNESCO Chair on AI Law & Sustainability ASEAN Network Series is a flagship initiative of the Chair at CIL NUS, running from May 2026 to April 2027 and supported by the International Law Association (ILA) AI & Technology Law Committee. The Series brings rigorous AI law and governance scholarship directly to universities and research institutions across ASEAN member states, advancing inclusive and policy-relevant legal education throughout the region.

Activities under the series include:

- **Past dialogues** – Hanoi University of Law, Vietnam, and the Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia – each attracting more than 100 participants from among students, academics, legal practitioners and others working in AI, law and public policy.
- **Upcoming dialogues** – Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, followed by further engagements elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

E. ASEAN Junior Visiting Research Fellowship

Fully funded by the Centre for International Law, the fellowship gives outstanding early-career legal scholars from across ASEAN the opportunity to collaborate directly with the Chair's team on cutting-edge research at the intersection of artificial intelligence, law and sustainability. Fellows receive academic guidance, participate in seminars and research discussions, present their work, and engage with CIL researchers and the wider network of the UNESCO Chair.

F. Opportunities to Partner

The Chair welcomes collaboration with universities, research centres, international organisations, governments, and industry partners. Opportunities to get involved include:

- **Co-authored research:** Collaborate on cutting-edge studies and publications.
- **Visiting roles:** Explore opportunities as a visiting scholar or researcher.
- **Event participation:** Join conferences, workshops, and seminars hosted by the Chair.
- **Joint policy work:** Contribute to shaping AI governance frameworks.

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