



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017 - OCTOBER 2017



ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION



THE 39TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

Welcoming delegates



Brunei CJ Kifrawi Kifli

The National Committee of ALA Brunei headed by its Chairman, Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, hosted the 39th Governing Council Meeting at the elegant The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Brunei Darussalam from March 23-25, 2017. The meeting was well attended by more than 150 Delegates and Accompanying Persons from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Chief Justice Kifli was ably assisted by the hard-working and efficient members of ALA Brunei organizing committee.



Heads of Delegations



The heads of delegations delivered their remarks, conveying their appreciation for the excellent arrangements provided by the ALA Brunei National Committee, introducing the members of their delegations and expressing their aspirations for the Governing Council Meeting. The heads of delegations were the following: Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei; Hon. Justice You Ottara, Vice President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Hon. Chief Justice Dr. Muhammad Hatta Ali, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia; Hon. Ambassador Amphay Kindayong, Ambassador of Lao PDR to Brunei Darussalam; Hon. Director General Dr. Thida Oo, Director General of the Legal Advice Department of Myanmar; Hon. Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban (Ret.) of the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Hon. Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore; Hon. Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand; and Hon. Le Thi Kim Thanh, Vice President of the Vietnam Lawyer's Association.







Audience of Heads of Delegation with the Sultan of Brunei



The ALA President, ALA Secretary General and the Heads of Delegations were privileged to be invited to an audience ceremony with His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Im

Address of ALA President



Atty. Avelino V. Cruz

In his address, ALA President, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, posed the following questions to the association – “*should ALA continue to go the way of other Asian Bar Societies whose work is circumscribed by legal cooperation, research and endless networking? Or should ALA now reach beyond, move vigorously as the ASEAN Charter's exclusive civil society affiliate for law and to help achieve harmonization of laws in real terms?*” – to which Atty. Cruz answered that ALA's destiny lies with the latter. Atty. Cruz then mentioned the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), whose projects he hopes could move faster through sustained and energetic programs for harmonization of laws. Atty. Cruz urged ALA to commit to fast track effective channels of communications with the ASEAN Summit and its various ministerial agencies to seek approval of its proposals.

Atty. Cruz then referred to the recommendations of the “*ALA at the Crossroads*” and the “*Harmonization of Laws*” Working Groups which essentially are: (1) to restructure and reinforce representation in each National Committee to ensure that each Governing Council delegation is more representative of its country's national leadership; and (2) to energize liaison activities with the ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) and the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) and other crucial agencies of ASEAN so that ALA could help promote ASEAN integration with its unique capacity building resources, legal specializations, and partnered legal institutions. He underscored the immediate step taken by the Philippine National Committee under the leadership of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban to reinforce national leadership representation, through the formal induction of new Minister-Representatives of the National Committee to the Governing Council.

Atty. Cruz then highlighted a couple of items in the agenda of the 39th Governing Council Meeting – the uploading of the most recent updates of the E-book on ASEAN Legal Systems and the decision of whether to make available online the ALA Law Journal or to leave a hard copy at hand. In closing, Atty. Cruz called on all officials and members of ALA to be mindful always, with a strong sense of urgency, of the need to harness its resources and National Committees for the goals they have set.



Tributes to Hon. Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria, Chief Justice of Malaysia, and the Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin, Vice President of the Court of Appeal of Singapore

On the occasion of the retirement from the service of Hon. Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria, Chief Justice of Malaysia, and of Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin, Vice President of the Court of Appeal of Singapore, the Hon. Chief Justice Kifrawi Kifli of Brunei and the Hon. Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of Singapore delivered their respective tributes.



Chief Justice Kifrawi Kifli

In his tribute to Chief Justice Arifin, Chief Justice Kifli enumerated the various roles Chief Justice Arifin held within the legal profession for 43 years, highlighting therein how he rose through the ranks from Judicial Commissioner of the High Court of Malaya to Chief Justice of Malaysia. Chief Justice Kifli also lauded Chief Justice Arifin's efforts as an advocate of environmental justice, which include the establishment of the Environmental Court, and noted Chief Justice Arifin's membership in the International Advisory Council for Environmental Justice under the United Nations Environment Programme. Chief Justice Kifli mentioned, as well, Chief Justice Arifin's invaluable role in harmonizing laws and civil processes within ASEAN – particularly in amending the Rules of Court of all the ASEAN countries to accommodate the service of process between jurisdictions. Finally, Chief Justice Kifli thanked Chief Justice Arifin for being a model for judicial conduct in his fairness and wisdom to all those who sit at the Bench.

Thereafter, Chief Justice Kifli proceeded to pay tribute to Justice Chao, a past president of ALA. Considered to be a founding father of the ASEAN Law Association, Justice Chao served ALA for more than three decades. Chief Justice Kifli alluded to Justice Hao as a leading figure in the drafting of the ALA Constitution during his membership of the Working Committee therefor, which was established in February 1979 in Jakarta. Chief Justice Kifli thanked Justice Chao for his leadership during the latter's tenure as ALA President which he described as practical and compassionate. He cited Justice Chao as someone who set the standard for the advancement of ALA, and whose leadership and influence have helped unite the ASEAN legal fraternities and build the foundation for advancing the integration of the various ASEAN legal systems.

In his tribute, Chief Justice Menon said that Chief Justice Arifin, who is blessed with a great legal mind, is held in high regard as a judge of patience and fairness. Chief Justice Menon noted that he has always been struck by Chief Justice Arifin's courteous, open-minded and warm demeanor. He stressed that Chief Justice Arifin has devoted his entire working life to public service in Malaysia and pointed out that, undoubtedly, the combination of his own capabilities, personality and deep experience at all levels of the Judicial and Legal Service have contributed to his inexorable rise to Chief Justiceship in 2011. He said that they worked together to establish and institutionalize the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices, where Chief Justice Arifin attended every meeting, contributed to various projects and led projects on service of civil processes, case management and court technology. He added that as a devoted husband and a proud father and grandfather, he is sure



Chief Justice Menon



that Chief Justice Arifin looks forward to his retirement to finally have the opportunity to spend more time with his family. He said that in ALA, Chief Justice Arifin is the personification of the true spirit of golf. He is a perfect gentleman on the course, respectful of the rules yet totally considerate towards his playing partners.

Chief Justice Menon then delivered his tribute to Justice Chao. He spoke of the highest esteem in which Justice Chao is held in ALA as one of the founding members. He emphasized Justice Chao's commitment to ALA such that for almost four decades he never missed a single meeting. He recounted that Justice Chao was elected as President at the 8th General Assembly and it was during his presidency when ALA held its 25th Anniversary Commemorative Session and launched its website and the online edition of ASEAN Legal Systems. This year, Justice Chao will complete 50 years of public service in some of the highest echelons of the Singapore legal establishment. Among Justice Chao's notable achievements are being part of the Singapore delegation which produced the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and being awarded the Distinguished Service Order (Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang) by the President of Singapore in recognition of his exemplary service to the nation. Even though Justice Chao will be passing the baton to his younger colleagues, Chief Justice Menon said that he knows that Justice Chao will continue to attend ALA events and to mentor the next generation of ALA leaders.

Other heads of delegations also offered words of commendation to the honorees. The ALA President moved for the adoption of a resolution of recognition and appreciation for the invaluable contributions to ALA of Chief Justice Arifin and of Justice Chao. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously approved by all those present:

“RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that in view of the exemplary and invaluable contributions to, and work of Hon. Tun Arifin Bin Zakaria, Chief Justice of Malaysia, and Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin, Vice President of the Court of Appeal of Singapore in the ASEAN Law Association, the entire organization extends its utmost gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for everything that they have done for the organization.”



Justice Chai Hick Tin



Chief Justice Tun Arifin



Report of Secretary General



Atty. Regina Padilla Geraldez, A L A Secretary General, reported on matters arising from the minutes and the activities of the ALA President and Secretary General since the last General Assembly. These included the meeting of the Working Group on “ALA At The Crossroads” and the Working Group on the Harmonization of Commercial Laws of the Asean member States held in Makati City on October 7, 2016. Insightful recommendations were generated from the meetings of the Working

Groups. The meetings were followed by a fellowship golf tournament at the Riviera Golf and Country Club at Silang, Cavite. During the Farewell Dinner, the heads of several departments and offices of the Philippine government were inducted as ALA Ministers Representatives to the ALA Governing Council, namely: Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea of the Office of the President, Secretary Vitaliano N. Aguirre II of the Department of Justice, Secretary Arthur P. Tugade of the Department of Transportation, Secretary Rodolfo A. Salalima of the Department of Information & Communications Technology, Solicitor General Jose C. Calida, and Chief Operating Officer and President Alfredo C. Lim of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). The Secretary General also reported that she attended, on behalf of the ALA President, the 49th ASEAN Day Celebration at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 15, 2016. She also participated in the AICHR Judicial Colloquium on the Sharing of Good Practices Regarding International Human Rights Law held in Kuala Lumpur from March 13-15, 2017, together with many other prominent ALA members. Finally, she reported on ALA's compliance with reporting requirements in accordance with the Guidelines of Entities Associated to the ASEAN drawn up by the ASEAN Secretariat.

Report of the Chairmen of the Working Groups

Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Chairman of the Working Group of “ALA at a Crossroads”, reported on the meeting held October 8, 2016 in Makati City. He discussed the recommendations of the Working Group, the details of which are set forth in the Minutes of the ALA 39th Governing Council Meeting held on March 25, 2017 in Brunei Darussalam.



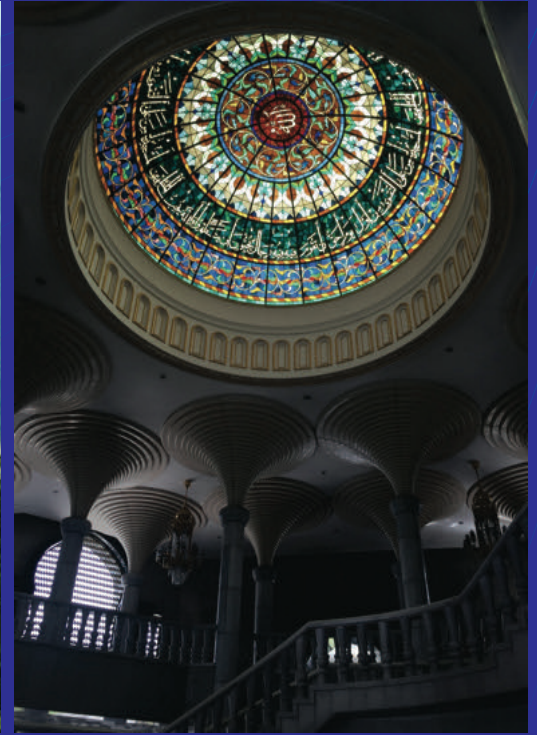
Justice Lee Seiu Kin



Atty. Llewellyn L. Llanillo

Atty. Llewellyn L. Llanillo, the Chairman of the Working Group on “Harmonization of the Commercial Laws of ASEAN Member States,” reported on the recommendations of the Working Group, the details of which are set forth in the Minutes of the ALA 39th Governing Council Meeting held on March 25, 2017 in Brunei Darussalam.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE 39TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING



The ALA Brunei National Committee exerted all efforts to extend their most cordial hospitality to the ALA delegates and accompanying persons and to provide opportunities for fostering enduring friendships. Unparalleled accommodations were provided at the luxurious and gilded Empire Hotel & Country Club. Fellowship activities included the warm welcome reception at the Supreme Court premises and the Gala Dinner where ALA Brunei members regaled the audience with their innovative rendition of songs from the musical *Mama Mia*

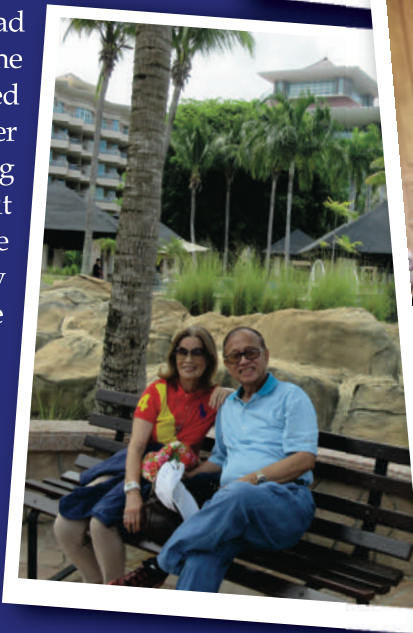




presented against a backdrop from Harry Potter. Not to be outdone, the other delegations also produced heart warming song and dance numbers which culminated in dancing among the heads of delegations.

During their limited free time, delegates had the opportunity to take in the sights of the beautiful mosques with their gold-tipped domes in Bandar Seri Begawan. A water taxi ride transported them to Kampong Ayer, the water village, with homes that jut just above the sea. The museum at the site tells the interesting history of how Kampong Ayer came to be known as the Venice of the East.

For the heads of delegations, an audience with His Majesty, the Sultan Haji Hassamal Bolkuiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam at the famed Istana Nurullm, was truly an unforgettable experience.



Brunei Darussalam
25 March 2017



FELLOWSHIP IN ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION





ALA Golf Philippines hosts the ASEAN 50 ALA Golf Championship



Very recently, on 23 March 2017, the 14th ALA Golf Championship Tournament was successfully held at the Empire Golf Country Club in Brunei, Darussalam.

Now, on 26 October 2017, ALA Golf Philippines will host the ASEAN50 ALA Golf Championship, as one of the highlights of the ALA Commemorative Governing Council Meeting in our country.

The golf tournament will be held at the Palmer Course, Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite City. The number of local lawyer-golfers expected to play add up by the day, while joining them are 39 of their foreign counterparts; with 18 coming from Malaysia, 16 from Indonesia and 5 from Singapore.

The annual ALA Golf Club tournaments provide the avenue for developing friendships and alliances, while enjoying the hospitality and culture of the hosting state. This year, however, is extra special, as ALA celebrates not only its 37 years of genuine solidarity, but also the 50th Founding Anniversary of the ASEAN.

Undoubtedly, this year's friendly match will be another affair to remember.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ALA PRESIDENT AND THE ALA SECRETARY GENERAL

Attendance at the Forum of Entities Associated with the ASEAN May 4, 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia



ALA Secretary General Regina Geraldez, represented ALA President, Avelino V. Cruz at the Forum of Entities Associated with the ASEAN, held in Jakarta, Indonesia on May 4, 2017. The Forum which carried the theme “Forging Ahead Together” sought to familiarize the entities – professional, civic, cause-oriented entities - associated with the ASEAN with the goals, structures, functions and operating procedures of the ASEAN Secretariat. The Forum was also attended by prominent ALA dignitaries, Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, Chief Justice of Brunei, Mr. Swandy Halim, former ALA Secretary General and Mr. Ramu Miyapan, Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Participation in the US-ASEAN Conference on Legal Issues of Regional Importance - May 8-9, 2017 Singapore



ALA Secretary General Regina Geraldez represented ALA President Avelino V. Cruz, at the US-ASEAN Conference on Legal Issues of Regional Importance held in Singapore on May 8-9, 2017 sponsored by the Asia Foundation, Inc. The conference was attended by representative form the ASEAN countries, as well as from Australia, China, India and the United States. The topics discussed were substantive and included environmental issues, women's rights and gender equality, maritime security, trafficking in persons cyber-security and data protection, labor migration and regional trade.



Attendance at ASEAN Women's Business Conference - August 31, 2017, Manila



ALA Secretary General Regina Geraldez attended the ASEAN Women's Business Conference in Manila on August 31, 2017 which featured the sharing of insights, experience and expertise among women entrepreneurs from the ASEAN and other regions. The conference tackled issues such as visible and invisible barriers to women entrepreneurs, gender equality in ASEAN, culture and religion-based rules and traditions that are biased towards men, tourism and gender empowerment, strong ecosystem and policy benefits for women, and workforce participation, leadership and pay gaps.

Visit of AIPA Secretary General Isra Sunthornvut - July 7, 2017, Manila

The ALA President and Secretary General were privileged to meet with the Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Mr. Isra Sunthornvut. He expressed a keen interest in exploring areas of cooperation between ALA and AIPA. He initially proposed cooperation in combating the sexual exploitation of children, an activity which would gain support throughout ASEAN. The ALA President and Secretary General invited Mr. Sunthornvut to attend the ALA Commemorative Governing Council Meeting in Manila to present a Concept Paper on the proposed terms of cooperation.



Visit of Mr. Karim Khan & Ms. Shyamala Devi Alegandra of the International Criminal Court - August 4, 2017, Manila



The ALA President and Secretary General were pleased to receive Mr. Karim Khan and Ms. Shyamala Devi Alegandra of the International Criminal Court to discuss possible areas of cooperation with ALA. Mr. Karim and Ms. Alegandra sought to elicit the interest of ALA members in serving as counsels or judges in the International Criminal Court. Ms. Alegandra is the daughter of prominent ALA Malaysia member Puan Sri Datin Seri N Saraswathy Devi.

Visit from China Law Society Delegation - September 11, 2017, Manila



The ALA President and Secretary General were also happy to meet with a 10-member delegation from the China Law Society headed by Mr. Bao Shaokun, Vice President and Secretary General of the China Law Society (CLS). The other members of the delegation includes professors, law school deans and research center directors. The delegates also met with Atty. Abdiel Dan Elijah S. Fajardo, the President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and Atty. Danilo Concepcion, President of the University of the Philippines (UP) and Dean of the UP College of Law. The CLS also seeks to pursue regional and cross-regional platforms of legal cooperation. It has conveyed its desire to promote “legal diplomacy” by pursuing friendship, mutual trust and fruitful partnership with legal communities in ASEAN and other countries and regions.



THE ALA JOURNEY CONTINUES



NEWS FROM ALA PHILIPPINES

(from March 2017 to October 2017)

Meetings of ALA National Committee

The ALA President and Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganibam (Ret.), Chairman of the ALA National Committee called several meetings of the ALA National Committee to prepare for the Commemorative Governing Council Meeting and to constitute the relevant committees. ALA Secretary General Regina Geraldez was assigned to head the organizing committee. Members of the organizing committee met with officials of Malacañan Palace to coordinate the special session with President Rodrigo Duterte as guest speaker.



ALA Get-Together and Fellowship

Atty. Rick Bernabe and Supreme Court Justice Estela Perlas Bernabe, staunch ALA members and supporters, hosted a get-together and fellowship on August 2, 2017 for members of ALA Philippines at their lovely home. ALA members partook of delicious fare, excellent band music and opportunities for enjoyable singing and dancing.





Testimonial for Supreme Court Justice Andres Reyes, UP President Danilo Concepcion and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Lilia de Lima

The ALA National Committee held a testimonial dinner at the residence of ALA President Avelino V. Cruz to honor its three ALA members for their outstanding achievements. The testimonial for Supreme Court Associate Justice Andres Reyes, formerly the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, was delivered by his law school classmate, Supreme Court Associate Justice Estela Perlas Bernabe. Dean Bartolome Carale delivered the testimonial for the President of the University of the Philippines, Danilo Concepcion, who holds the concurrent position of Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law. The ALA Secretary General Regina Geraldez delivered the testimonial for Lilia de Lima, who was an awardee of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service. Director General Lilia headed the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) for 21 years.



NEWS FROM ALA SINGAPORE

(from March 2017 to October 2017)

ALA Newsletter Oct 2017 – Article on the 11th ALA (Singapore) Golf Tournament



Mr Ramu Miyapan receiving the TPB Menon Challenge Trophy from Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Vice-Chairman of ALA (Singapore).



Justice Lee Seiu Kin receiving the Challenge Trophy for the ALA(S)-CIArb-SCCA Triangular Golf Game from Mr Chou Sean Yu, Chairman of CIArb Singapore.

The 11th annual ALA (Singapore) Golf Tournament was held on 1 June 2017 at the Lake Course of Raffles Country Club, in conjunction with the 5th Friendly Triangular Golf Game among ALA (Singapore), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association. The tournament winners were:

- (a) Mr Ramu Miyapan, who won the TPB Menon Challenge Trophy for best stableford score (Men);
- (b) Ms Chan Lai Foong, who won the Ladies Challenge Trophy for best stableford score (Ladies); and
- (c) Mr Leon Koh, who retained the “Moosa Mug” for the best gross score.

ALA (Singapore) comfortably beat CIArb to win the Friendly Triangular Golf Game and retained the challenge trophy. The golf game provided a great opportunity for members of the associations to build ties in a warm and friendly competition, and also marked the final time that the tournament would be held at the Raffles Country Club (which will terminate operations in July 2018).

ALA Newsletter Oct 2017 – Article on elevation of Judges to the Singapore High Court Bench



Justice Valerie Thean



Justice Aedit Abdullah



Justice Debbie Ong

ASEAN Law Association (Singapore) congratulates our members, Justice Valerie Thean, Justice Aedit Abdullah and Justice Debbie Ong, who were appointed by the President of the Republic of Singapore as Judges of the High Court with effect from 30 September 2017. Justice Ong has also been appointed Presiding Justice of the Family Justice Courts in Singapore from 30 September 2017.

Justice Aedit Abdullah is a member of the ALA (Singapore) National Committee, while Justice Thean and Justice Ong have been active in the development of family law and practice both in Singapore and regionally.

We wish them all the very best in their new appointments.

Images courtesy of the Supreme Court of Singapore ©

ALA Newsletter Oct 2017 – Article on the retirement of Justice Chao Hick Tin

Images of Justice Chao on the Bench during the Valedictory Reference held on 27 September 2017, and receiving the book published in his honour from the Hon. the Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon. Images courtesy of the Supreme Court of Singapore ©



The Supreme Court of Singapore hosted a rare Valedictory Reference on 27 September 2017 in honour of Justice Chao Hick Tin, who retired as a Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court on 28 September 2017. Justice Chao holds the distinction of being the only judge to have served under all 4 Chief Justices in post-independence Singapore.

Justice Chao, who was also the Vice-President of the Singapore Court of Appeal, is a founding member of ALA and was ALA President from 2003 to 2006. In 1979, Justice Chao, together with the other members of the Jakarta Working Committee, drafted the ALA Constitution with a vision for harmonisation of ASEAN laws and close collaboration amongst ASEAN judges and lawyers. Such is Justice Chao's commitment to ALA that he has not missed a single ALA meeting in 38 years since 1979. He is held in high esteem and is well loved by ALA colleagues, and his wise and pragmatic advice has provided clear direction towards achieving the vision of ALA's founding fathers.

Some 500 lawyers, judges and distinguished guests, including the Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, the full Supreme Court Bench, and Justice Chao's wife Sen Li, daughters and their spouses, were present as the Hon. the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, who is also Chairman of ALA (Singapore), led the chorus of tributes by legal luminaries in Singapore. Chief Justice Menon's address was followed by speeches delivered by the Hon. Minister for Law K Shanmugam, former Minister for Law Professor S. Jayakumar, the Attorney-General Lucien Wong, the President of the Law Society Gregory Vijayendran, the Registrar of the Supreme Court Vincent Hoong and the Hon. Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang (who succeeds Justice Chao as Vice-President of the Court of Appeal). A book entitled "A Judge for the Ages – Essays in Honour of Justice Chao Hick Tin", which includes a compilation of essays on his remarkable contributions to diverse areas of Singapore jurisprudence, was also launched in conjunction with this event.

On Justice Chao's retirement, Chief Justice Menon said, "I congratulate Justice Chao in having completed a most remarkable five decades of distinguished public service in the law. Justice Chao is held in the highest esteem by all segments of the legal profession in Singapore and also throughout ASEAN. He is not only well respected for his legal mind and excellent judicial temperament, but he is also greatly admired and loved for his humility, kindness and wisdom. He will be greatly missed on the Bench."

We are glad to report that Justice Chao has not retired from ALA, and intends to continue his involvement in ALA for many more years to come!

NEWS FROM ALA THAILAND

(from March 2017 to October 2017)

The Honorable Chief Justice Cheep Jullamon is appointed as the new President of the Supreme Court of Thailand.



Chief Justice Cheep Jullamon has received the royal endorsement appointing him as the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand since October 1, 2017.

Chief Justice Jullamon was born on February 16, 1954. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree with second class honours from Ramkanhaeng University. He also earned Master of Public Administration from Chulalongkorn University and Honorary Doctor of Law from Ramkanhaeng University.

Chief Justice Jullamon entered the Judiciary of Thailand as Judge-Trainee in 1980. Thereafter, He served as Chief Judge of the Chiang Mai Provincial Court, Presiding Judge of the Civil Court, Research Justice of the Supreme Court. During his distinguished career on the Thai bench, he served as Chief Justice of the Criminal Court, President of the Court of Appeal, Regions I and III and the Vice – President of the Supreme Court.

Presently, Chief Justice Jullamon also serves as Chairman of National Committee of ASEAN Law Association of Thailand, Chairman of the Judicial Commission, Chairman of the Judicial Administration Commission, Chairman of the Commission on Jurisdiction of Courts and President of the Thai Bar.

One Step Closer:

Promoting ASEAN integration through the Harmonization of Commercial Laws



The ASEAN Law Association National Committee of Thailand successfully organized an academic conference entitled “One Step Closer: Promoting ASEAN Integration through the Harmonization of Commercial Law” during 4 - 5 September 2017 at Arnoma Grand Hotel, Bangkok. The event was co-hosted by the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), the Thailand Arbitration Centre (THAC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, and was well-attended by government officials, legal practitioners and academics, both from Thailand and abroad.

The Conference served to raise awareness for the need to harmonize the commercial laws of ASEAN Member States, bringing together public and private entities involved in cross-border trade, legal practitioners, policymakers, academics and other stakeholders to share their insights and experience. Discussion was focused on the benefits and processes to achieve harmonization, which brings clarity and predictability in the legal framework within ASEAN. This, in turn, helped to inform policymakers on the priority areas in the harmonization of commercial law that will encourage international trade and investment to and within the ASEAN region.

Justice Sarawut Benjakul is appointed the new Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand and the Secretary of National Committee of ASEAN Law Association of Thailand



Justice Sarawut Benjakul has recently received the royal endorsement appointing him as the Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary effective October 1, 2017.

Justice Sarawut holds an LL.B. degree with second-class honours from Ramkhamhaeng University. He also holds a Master's Degree in Comparative Jurisprudence from Howard University and two LL.M. degrees from American University and University of Bristol.

He entered the Judiciary of Thailand as a Judge-Trainee. Thereafter, he has served as Judge of the Phattalung Provincial Court, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Judicial Affairs, Chief Judge of the Office of the President of the Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Family and Juvenile Division of the Sakonnakorn Provincial Court and Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary respectively.

Moreover, he has served as a member of the Committee of the Commission for Judicial Service and the Committee of the Government Pension Fund, as well as the Secretary-General of the Institute of Legal Education Thai Bar Association.

Presently, he serves as the Secretary of National Committee of ASEAN Law Association of Thailand, the Secretary of the Judicial Commission, the Secretary of the Judicial Administration Commission, and a member of the Committee of the Commission for Judicial Service and the Committee of the National Judicial System Reform.

Approach and target of the Office of the Judiciary in court administration and judicial service works

Personnel development shall be performed by means of training programs and seminars in order to increase the working capacity of the judicial service officers. Upon this method, the distinct approach, target and expected benefit shall be planned to produce the highest efficiency and effectiveness.

Target of the working system shall be to perform timely, concisely, fast and correctly with uphold to the Code of Conduct. In this case, the application of the Information Technology shall be required to facilitate the efficiency of working capacity.

The working principle and method of the Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary

- 1) Thinking outside the box.
- 2) Every position is important. Officials should work as a team.
- 3) Officials should develop themselves. Every year the court officials develop their potential in working by making their Individual Development Plan. The Office of the Judiciary supports its officials by providing various training courses at the Judicial Training Institute, study visits in various country and scholarships for master and doctoral studies.
- 4) Positive Thinking: the glass is half empty or half full.
- 5) Skill: officials should pass on their skill and knowledge.
- 6) Officials should improve their working method to be more disciplinary and learned.
- 7) Social Network: officials should improve their working system and result and use Social Media in working for useful purpose and faster process.
- 8) Officials should be creative to support the Thailand 4.0 Policy.

