



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015 – MARCH 2016



# ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION



# ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION



## THE 12th ALA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 12th General Assembly of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) was held from 26 February to 28 February 2015 at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel in Makati City, Philippines. The General Assembly's theme was *"Sharing Prosperity at the Crossroads of ASEAN Integration: Legal Challenges"*. The affair was well attended by more than 353 delegates and accompanying persons from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



At the Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session on 26 February 2015, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, the Chairman and Head of Delegation of ALA Philippines delivered the Welcome Address. Thereafter, the General Assembly was addressed by the President of the ALA and Chief Justice of Indonesia, Hon. Dr. Hatta Ali, and by the ALA Secretary General, Hon. Swandy Halim. This was followed by introductory speeches and remarks of the Heads of Delegations of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session



**Atty. Avelino V. Cruz**



**Hon. Dr. Hatta Ali**  
ALA President  
Chief Justice of Indonesia



**Hon. Swandy Halim**  
ALA Secretary General



## “Heroes of ALA” Awards

“ALA Past Presidents, Hon. Justice Sansern Kraichitti, Hon. TPB Menon and Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin, along with the President of ALA Philippines and the Head of the Philippine Delegation, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, gave out the “Heroes of ALA” Awards to ALA leaders without whom ALA would not be where it is now. The awardees were: Indonesia: Chief Justice Purwoto S. Gandasubrata, Former ALA President; Dr. Teuku Mohammed Radhie, Former ALA Secretary General; Prof. Dr. Komar Kantaatmadja, Former ALA Secretary General; Malaysia: Lord President Tun Mohamed Suffian Mohd Hashim, Former ALA President; Justice Harun Mahmud Hashim, Former Chairman of ALA Malaysia; Philippines: Justice Felix Antonio, First Chairman of the Philippine National Committee; Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, Former ALA President; Atty. Isidro J. Perez, Former Chairman of the Philippine National Committee; Atty. Jose F.S. Bengzon, Jr., ALA Governing Council member and Chief Organizer of the ALA Business Law Committee; Singapore: Mr. Nathan Isaac, Founding Member, ALA Singapore. The awardees’ respective families and relatives received the “Heroes of ALA” Award.”



## Keynote Address of Philippine Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno

In her keynote address, Philippine Chief Justice, Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno emphasized the importance of ALA as the organizational framework of cooperation in a region with so much diversity. She mentioned that, in a borderless future, ALA must take the initiative to prevent discord through the setting of ground rules on how to achieve a peaceful integration in the political, economic and socio-cultural areas. Chief Justice Sereno stressed that the RULE OF LAW – the observance of rules, rather than the unwarranted exercise of discretion – is key to the creation of the single market that the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint desires. And, the duty to enforce the RULE OF LAW falls on the shoulders of the various judiciaries of all the member countries, which must transform from a very domestic or localized mindset to an international one so as to have a mutual understanding of the various judicial systems.





## The Delegations



**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM** headed by Hon. Chief Justice Dato' Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi bin Dato' Paduka Haji Kiffi



**CAMBODIA** headed by Hon. Judge Ottara You



**INDONESIA** headed by Hon. Prof. Dr. Djenal Sidik Suraputra



**LAO PDR** headed by Hon. Justice Khamphanh Sitthidampa







**MALAYSIA** headed by the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice Tun Dato' Seri Arifin bin Zakaria



**MYANMAR** headed by Hon. Kyaw San



**PHILIPPINES** headed by Hon. Atty. Avelino V. Cruz



**SINGAPORE** headed by Hon. Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon







**THAILAND** headed by Hon. Justice Eakachai Chinnapongse



**VIETNAM** headed by Hon. Dr. Prof. Le Minh Tam



### Conference Workshops



Six (6) workshops were consecutively held on topics relevant to the theme of the General Assembly dealing with the Legal Profession, Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Law, Business Law, Trade and Investment and Legal Education. At its conclusion, each workshop submitted insightful points for the consideration of the Standing Committees and the General Assembly. In addition to the various workshops, two distinguished Philippine government leaders were luncheon speakers - Retired



Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban spoke on unleashing the entrepreneurial ingenuity to achieve liberty and prosperity and Senate President Franklin M. Drilon discussed the Philippine legislative efforts at complying with its obligations towards ASEAN integration.



Retired Philippine Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban



Philippine Senate President Franklin M. Drilon





# The 37th Governing Council Meeting

The 37th Governing Council Meeting was held on the last day of the General Assembly. In addition to the regular items of the agenda, Prof. Locknie Hsu from ALA Singapore, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Trade and Investment reported that a survey on trade and investment laws in Asean had been circulated among the members of the committee.



Prof. Locknie Hsu



Justice Lee Sieu Kin



Deputy Solicitor General  
Jeffrey Chan

## ALA at the Crossroads and Protocol for Coordination and Cooperation between ALA and ASLOM on the Harmonization and Convergence of the Commercial Laws of ASEAN Member States

Justice Lee Sieu Kin of the Supreme Court of Singapore presented his paper entitled “ALA at the Crossroads”. Mr. Jeffrey Chan, Deputy Solicitor-General of Singapore presented the “Protocol for Coordination and Cooperation between ALA and ASLOM on the Harmonization and Convergence of the Commercial Laws of ASEAN Member States”. It was agreed that the initiatives of Justice Lee and Mr. Chan would be pursued through the establishment of two working committees. ALA Vietnam agreed to host the next Governing Council either in Da Nang or Ho Chi Minh City in 2016.

## The Delegations



Brunei Delegation



Cambodia Delegation



Indonesia Delegation





Lao PDR Delegation



Malaysia Delegation



Myanmar Delegation



Philippines Delegation



Philippines Delegation



Singapore Delegation



Thailand Delegation



Vietnam Delegation





Atty. Patricia-Ann T. Prodigalidad

## Report of the Rapporteur General

At the Closing Session of the General Assembly, Atty. Patricia-Ann T. Prodigalidad, the Rapporteur General, presented the recommendations of the workshops for consideration of the Standing Committees and the Governing Council. ALA Singapore agreed to host the 13th ALA General Assembly.

## Election of New ALA President and ALA Secretary-General

Atty. Avelino V. Cruz was elected ALA President and Atty. Regina Geraldez was elected ALA Secretary General. In his speech, outgoing ALA President and Chief Justice of Indonesia, Hon. Dr. Hatta Ali stressed that the realization of the objectives of the Asean Economic Community would require the promotion of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the Asean Economic Community, together with efforts to improve governance and the rule of law. He urged the new ALA President and Secretary General to face these challenges and further move forward to foster cohesion and contribute significantly to the ideal of ASEAN as a rule based regional community.



Atty. Avelino V. Cruz



Atty. Regina Padilla-Geraldez

The newly-elected ALA President, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz presented his to-do list for ALA which included: a) availing of its members' collaborative energies to assume a more pro-active role in fulfilling its functions as the ASEAN's only affiliate for Law under Annex 3 – IV of the ASEAN Charter; b) organizing ADHOC Committees and working groups to pursue the approved initiatives between Governing Council meetings and General Assemblies, including the protocol on harmonization and convergence of commercial laws of the ASEAN member states for ALA/ASLOM presented by Mr. Jeffrey Chan, as well as the proposals of Justice Lee Sei Kin embodied in his paper, "ALA at the Crossroads"; c) establishing an effective coordination between the ASLOM and the ALA working groups in a manner that will be the equivalent of a pre-clearance by ASLOM of ALA proposals under the protocol prior to submission of the same to the Governing Council for approval; d) studying the adoption of a sub-structure, such as an Executive Committee, that would work to neutralize any further delays in between Governing Council Meetings and General Assemblies; e) updating the various ADHOC and working committees on the prioritized political, security, cultural and economic issues, identified at the 12th General Assembly that would help fast track ASEAN Integration; f) helping ASEAN to develop, eventually, supranational bodies purposely laid aside at the outset; and g) increasing and strengthening membership in the National Committees of executive and legislative government officials, leaders of the Bar and the academe, whose ranks appear to be dwindling when compared with the robust participation of members of the ASEAN judiciary. After the speech of the newly elected ALA President, the official business of the 12th ALA General Assembly came to an end.





# 12th ALA Championship Golf Tournament, February 25, 2015

The ALA Golf Chapter successfully held its 12th ALA Championship Golf Tournament at the West Course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club on 25 February 2015. It was the first ALA Championship Golf Tournament to be held after the election of Justice Presbitero Velasco and Atty. Jeremy Z. Parulan as Chairman and Secretary General, respectively, of the ALA Golf Chapter.

The tournament was participated in by 112 golfers - 55 players from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and 57 players from the Philippines. The Tun Dzaidin Challenge Trophy for the team championship was won by the host nation Philippines with 231 stableford points. Indonesia was second with 202 stableford points, while defending champion Malaysia was third with 194 stableford points.

The individual winners were as follows:

## Individual Winners

LOWEST GROSS		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Atty. Bobot Lantion (Philippines)	72		
1st Runner-up	Danilo Roleda (Philippines)	76		
2nd Runner-up	Raul Corro (Philippines)	78		

## REGULAR DIVISION (Ages 60 & below)

CLASS A - HCP 0-10		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Atty. Jeremy Parulan (Philippines) (lower HCP)	83	9	35
1st Runner-up	Peter Sanchez (Philippines)	83	10	35
2nd Runner-up	Jake Corporal (Philippines)	81	7	34

CLASS B - HCP 11-20		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	John Dekson Guntik (Indonesia)	85	20	43
1st Runner-up	Justice Mon Cruz (Philippines)	84	18	42
2nd Runner-up	Atty. Edgardo Banaag (Philippines)	82	14	40

CLASS C - HCP 21 & above		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Mr. Vije chander (Malaysia) (lower HCP)	85	22	46
1st Runner-up	Raul Hebron (Philippines)	87	25	46
2nd Runner-up	Justice Peter Corales (Philippines)	90	25	43

## SENIOR DIVISION (Ages 61 - 65)

CLASS A - HCP 0-15		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	K. Puspalingam (Malaysia)	83	13	38
1st Runner-up				
2nd Runner-up				

CLASS B - HCP 16 & above		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Atty. Ric Bernabe (Philippines) (lower HCP)	86	22	45
1st Runner-up	Atty. George Briones (Philippines)	87	24	45
2nd Runner-up	Boy Manzano (Philippines)	90	24	42

## SUPER SENIOR DIVISION (Ages 66 & above)

CLASS A - HCP 0-15		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Justice Rene Francisco (Philippines) (lower HCP)	89	23	42
1st Runner-up	Boy Sangco (Philippines)	93	27	42
2nd Runner-up	Justice Nick Acosta (Philippines)	86	19	41

## LADIES DIVISION

LOW GROSS		GRS	HCP	PTS
Champion	Lim Siew Kuan (Singapore) (lower HCP)	91	18	35
1st Runner-up	Yuningtyas Upiek Kartika (Indonesia)	95	22	35
2nd Runner-up	Teresa San Juan (Philippines)	115	36	29
	Esmeralda Bernabe (Philippines)	121	39	26





In a meeting of the various golf convenors, it was agreed that ALA Golf Chapter will try to hold at least two tournaments per year to further strengthen the brotherhood among ALA members.

## Social Events

"The camaraderie fostered by the 12th ALA Championship Golf Tournament was further enhanced by a series of social activities. At the Welcome Reception which was held at the San Diego gardens, inside the walled city of Intramuros, delegates feasted on authentic Filipino cuisine and were regaled with Filipino songs and dances and excerpts from Broadway musicals. Pre-concert cocktails and a classical piano concert featuring acclaimed pianist Mr. Jose Artemio Panganiban III was held at the Ayala Museum and was followed by a reception for heads of delegations at the residence of Atty. and Mrs. Avelino V. Cruz. ALA Founding President, Senator Edgardo J. Angara, was the guest of honor and speaker during the reception. Heads of delegations paid a courtesy call on President Benigno S. Aquino at Malacañan Palace. During the Farewell Dinner the award-winning El Gamma Penumbra staged a customized light and shadow production which showcased the recognizable emblems, icons and symbols of each ASEAN country. This was followed by the traditional musical numbers of the different delegations, rendered with enthusiasm and sportsmanship."



## The Classical Piano Concert at Ayala Museum



## Reception at the Residence of Atty. and Mrs. Avelino V. Cruz





## Courtesy Call on Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino at Malacañan Palace



## Farewell Dinner



## ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting



To follow through on initiatives adopted at previous meetings, the Philippine Supreme Court hosted the ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting at the Shangri-la Boracay. This followed on the heels of the 12th ALA General Assembly and took advantage of the presence of many Chief Justices who also head their respective ALA National Committees. Many ALA delegates took advantage of the opportunity to visit the world famous Boracay beach and to participate in the many activities that were painstakingly planned and executed by the Supreme Court and the local government of Boracay for the ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting.



# Activities of the ALA President and the ALA Secretary-General

## The EU-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility-Nang, Vietnam (July 16-17, 2015)

The ALA Secretary General, Atty. Regina P. Giraldez was invited to speak at the EU - Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility, under the sponsorship of the European Union, in Da Nang, Vietnam on July 16 -17, 2015. She delivered a paper entitled “Practices, Challenges and Direction Towards Legal Harmonization in the ASEAN.” The speakers which also included professors knowledgeable on the operations of the European Economic Community and its institutions afforded the audience the opportunity to compare similarities and differences between the EEC countries and ASEAN countries which will largely influence the direction, nature and scope of integration in ASEAN.



**Atty. Regina P. Giraldez, ALA Secretary General at Vietnam Conference**

## The Visit to Chief State Counsel of the Department of Justice of the Philippines (September 22, 2015)

On September 22, 2015, the ALA President, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, the ALA Secretary General, Atty. Regina P. Giraldez, and Atty. Patricia-Ann T. Prodigalidad visited Chief State Counsel Ricardo V. Paras III of the Department of Justice, in his capacity as the Philippine representative in the Asean Senior Law Officials Meetings (ASLOM) to discuss the ALA Guidelines on Best Practices on the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards within ASEAN (“ALA Guidelines”) in relation to the Protocol for Coordination and Cooperation between ALA and ASLOM on the Harmonization and Convergence of the Commercial Laws of ASEAN Member States. The ALA Guidelines seek to facilitate, plug gaps, prevent delays and expense in the enforcement of Arbitral awards.

## Courtesy Call of ALA Vietnam Delegation on Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes P.A. Sereno; Discussions with Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Supreme Court of the Philippines (November 12, 2015)

On November 12, 2015, upon the request of past ALA Secretary General Ms. Thanh Le of ALA Vietnam, ALA President Avelino V. Cruz and ALA Secretary General Regina P. Giraldez made arrangements for Ms. Thanh Le and her colleagues in the ALA Vietnam National Committee to pay a courtesy on Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno and to meet with Justice Antonio T. Carpio regarding the arbitration case brought by the Philippine government disputing China's claims over the South China Sea.



**Courtesy call of Vietnam Delegation on Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes P.A. Sereno**



**Discussions with Justice Antonio T. Carpio**



## The 6th China-ASEAN Legal Forum and “One Belt One Road” Forum on Rule of Law-Chongqing China (November 16-18, 2015)



Mr. Gu Zhao Min, Director General, China Law Society; Atty. Avelino Cruz, ASEAN Law Association President; Mr. Fu Zitang, President, Southwest University of Political Science & Law; Chief Justice Hatta Ali of Indonesia



Signing the Framework Agreement on Legal Practice Cooperation. Atty. Regina Geraldez, ALA Secretary General; Atty. Avelino Cruz; Mr. Fu Zitang; Mr. Xiaojun Zhang, Dean of Law, Southwest University of Political Science & Law.

The ALA President, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz, the ALA Secretary General, Atty. Regina P. Geraldez and Dr. Samuel D. Bernal, a member of the Standing Committee on Legal Professions, attended the 6th China-ASEAN Legal Forum and “One Belt One Road” Forum on Rule of Law in Chongqing, China on November 16-18, 2015, upon the invitation of the China Law Society and the Southwest University of Political Science and Law. Also in attendance were the immediate past ALA President and Chief Justice of Indonesia, Hon. Dr. Hatta Ali, and the immediate past ALA Secretary General, Mr. Swandy Halim. In his speech delivered at the forum, Atty. Cruz observed that the maritime silk road must overcome the potential disruptive conflicts in the disputed islands of the South China Sea between China and some members of the ASEAN before these go out of control. He suggested that both China and ASEAN revisit the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties on the South China Sea” signed in 2002 and sit down and get into the business of peaceful settlement and, ultimately, craft an effective code with conflict prevention and/or resolution measures. At the end of the conference, a Memorandum of Understanding for legal research, exchange and cooperation was signed between the China ASEAN Legal Research Center and the ALA.

## Doing Business Across Asia: Legal Convergence in an Asian Century, Singapore (January 21-22, 2016)



The ALA President, Atty. Avelino V. Cruz attended a conference on Doing Business Across Asia: Legal Convergence in an Asian Century in Singapore on January 21-22, 2016, sponsored by the Singapore Academy of Law. He was accompanied by ALA Philippines member, Atty. Emerico O. de Guzman. The conference sought to promote the convergence of business laws, improve legal infrastructure and the harmonization of regulatory standards across Asia in order to unlock the region's full economic potential. The conference sought to demonstrate that convergence can be achieved by creating a more uniform regime with standardization of legal norms, greater mutual recognition of judicial pronouncements and effective cross border enforcement processes throughout Asia.



## Organizing workshops to give recommendations for the draft Law on Referendum

In order to effectively implement the Constitution's generic provisions on referendum, the National Assembly has planned the law project on referendum. In 2014 the National Assembly assigned the Vietnam Lawyers Association to be in charge of drafting this important piece of legislation for promulgation. To contribute to the process of drafting of this law, in 2015 ALA Vietnam organized some workshops to collect the comments and opinions of the public, especially of the legal experts and scholars, including foreign ones. These activities are important for making the law to be adopted meeting the desire and will of the people, capable of promoting development of direct democracy. With best efforts of VLA and Vietnam National ALA, the draft has passed different reviewing steps by various State bodies and then adopted by the National Assembly on 25 November 2015.

# NEWS FROM ALA VIETNAM

(From March 2015 to March 2016)



Workshops on draft Law on Referendum held by the Vietnam Lawyers Association in May 2015



Hon. Nguyen Van Quyen, President of Vietnam Lawyers Association, Chairman of Vietnam National Committee (standing) moderated the 7th International workshop on South China Sea

## Organizing 7th International workshop on South China Sea

Following the fruitful results of the past 6 International Workshops on the South China Sea, the Vietnam Lawyers ALA Vietnam in cooperation with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), and the Foundation for East Sea Studies (FESS) hosted the 7th South China Sea International Conference: "Cooperation for Regional Security and Development" on 23-24 November 2015 in Vung Tau city, Viet Nam.

This conference gathered 70 distinguished international scholars, 30 participants from foreign diplomatic missions to Vietnam and 70 Vietnamese experts. Six topics were discussed during the conference: Developments in the World and Its Implications for the South China Sea; Developments in and around the South China Sea; Major Powers Interactions in the South China Sea; International Law; the Way Forward; Simulation - Settlement, Delimitation and Joint Developments in the South China Sea. The conference gives the participants a special opportunity to assess the current situation in the South China Sea from an interdisciplinary perspective, and to discuss measures to maintain peace and stability and promote cooperation in the region.





*Hon. Nguyen Van Quyen, President of Vietnam Lawyers Association, Chairman of Vietnam National Committee presided a meeting on preparation of the 38th ALA Governing Council Meeting*

## Preparing for the 38th ALA Governing Council Meeting

The Vietnam National Committee is preparing to host the 38th ALA Governing Council Meeting which will be taken place in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam at the beginning of April this year. In order to implement this important task, ALA Vietnam has conducted necessary activities to ensure the Meeting thoughtfully and successfully conducted and ALA delegates nice time meet each other and chance to make significant contributions to the development of ALA.

Hon. Nguyen Van Quyen, President of the Vietnam Lawyers Association cum Chairman of the Vietnam National Committee personally monitors over the process of logistical preparation for the Meeting and issued a decision on establishing the preparation for the 38th ALA Governing Council Meeting and gives timely and appropriate instructions.

## NEWS FROM ALA PHILIPPINES (From March 2015 to March 2016)

### Organization of ALA Philippine National Committee

Following the holding of the 12th General Assembly and the 37th Governing Council Meeting in Manila, members of ALA Philippines elected the members of the ALA Philippine National Committee for the following sectors : Judiciary – Chief Justice Maria Lourdes A. Sereno and Justice Antonio T. Carpio; Lawyers in Government – PEZA Director General Lilia B. de Lima and Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano; Practising Lawyers – Atty. Avelino V. Cruz and Atty. Alonzo Q. Ancheta; Teachers of Law – Dean Danilo L. Concepcion and Comelec Chairman Andres B. Bautista; Representatives at Large – former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban and former Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno; Ex-officio Members – former Senator Edgardo J. Angara (Past President, ALA) and Senate President Franklin M. Drilon (Chairman, ALA Foundation).



**Retired Philippine Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban**

Elected as officers were the following: Chairman – former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban; Vice Chairman – Atty. Alonzo Q. Ancheta; Secretary – Atty. Victoria C. de los Reyes; Treasurer – Atty. Regina Padilla Geraldez; Deputy Secretary General – Atty. Ricardo C. Bernabe, Jr.; Editor, ALA Journal – Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano; Assistant Secretary – Atty. Victoria V. Loanzon.

Elected as members of the Advisory Council were the following: former Senator Edgardo J. Angara, former Secretary of Justice Ricardo C. Puno, former Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., Atty. Teresita Cruz Sison, Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Dean Bartolome S. Carale

### ALA National Committee and Members Meetings

The ALA National Committee and members of ALA Philippines met on October 15, 2015, January 19, 2016, August 2, 2015 and February 4 and 16 2016. During the meetings members invariably discussed initiatives of the membership committee to generate membership growth and the efficient collection of membership dues. The treasurer's report on revenues and expenditures was a standard item in the agenda designed to ensure strict accountability. Invitations to attend regional conferences and seminars were disseminated and attendees reported on the outcome of the conferences. The members also discussed fund-raising activities to support the activities of the ALA National Committee as well of the ALA President and Secretary General. In recent meetings the ALA National Committee exerted efforts to generate interest among its members in attending the 38th Governing Council Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City and the Golf Tournament. The participation of specific members in the discussions of the various Standing Committees was also agreed upon.

## Meeting Hosted by Atty. Eduardo Hernandez in Iloilo City

Atty. Eduardo Hernandez, ALA Philippines stalwart, hosted the August meeting at his seaside plantation residence in the outskirts of Iloilo City, in the southern Philippines. No less than 20 ALA members were beneficiaries of his warm and gracious hospitality. Apart from having served for many years as an officer and benefactor of ALA Philippines, Atty. Hernandez is a respected law practitioner and law author. Atty. Hernandez has also successfully engaged in mechanized farming and livestock cultivation in his farm in Iloilo.



## Initiative of ALA Philippine National Committee for Promulgation of Rules Governing the Practice of Law in the Philippines of Foreign Lawyers from ASEAN Countries.

The Philippine National Committee requested Dean Danilo L. Concepcion of the University of the Philippines College of Law to convene a group of eminent lawyers to come up with a proposed framework for the implementation of the ASEAN economic integration in respect of the practice of law in the Philippines of foreign lawyers from ASEAN countries.

The working group has completed its draft proposal which defines the conditions and parameters for the limited practice of law in the Philippines of foreign lawyers from ASEAN countries. The draft proposal has been submitted to the Supreme Court which, under the Constitution is mandated to promulgate rules concerning the admission to the practice of law.

## Celebration of ALA's 36th Anniversary – “The Amazing Brahms” Concert

On February 6, 2016, the Philippine National Committee celebrated ALA's 36th Anniversary with a concert entitled “The Amazing Brahms”, featuring virtuoso concert pianist Dr. Jose Artemio Panganiban III, performing Johannes Brahms' Concerto No. 1 with the Metro Manila Concert Orchestra. The concert was held at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the BDO Corporate Center South Tower in Makati City. The concert was also an opportunity to raise funds for the projects of ALA Philippines, the ALA President and the ALA Secretary General.





# NEWS FROM ALA SINGAPORE

(From March 2015 to March 2016)

## Visit by and briefing to Thai delegates

In April 2015, Judge Montri Sillapamahabundit, a member of the ALA National Committee of Thailand, informed ALA Singapore that much discussion and interest were generated about arbitration practice in Singapore during an arbitration training programme that ALA (Thailand) had organised to equip Thai practitioners to better handle commercial disputes after the ASEAN Economic Community comes into being at the end of 2015. Following Judge Montri's request, ALA Singapore hosted a visit by a 15-member Thai delegation to the Supreme Court on 8 May 2015. Singapore Judicial College's Executive Director, District Judge Tan Boon Heng, briefed the delegation on recent Singapore judgments demonstrating a pro-arbitration stance.



## 9th ALA (Singapore) Golf Tournament

The 9th annual ALA (Singapore) Golf Tournament was held on 25 June 2015 at Seletar Country Club, in conjunction with the 3rd Friendly Triangular Golf Game among ALA (Singapore), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association. The tournament winners are: Mr Ramu Miyapan, who won the TPB Menon Challenge Trophy for best stableford score (Men); Ms Kalyani Rajendran, who won the Ladies Challenge Trophy for best stableford score (Ladies); and Mr Leon Koh, who won the 'Moosa Mug' for best gross score. ALA (Singapore) won the Friendly Triangular Golf Game and retained last year's challenge trophy.





# NEWS FROM ALA THAILAND

*(From March 2015 to March 2016)*

The Honorable Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan has received the royal endorsement appointing him as the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand effective October 1, 2015 and as Chairman of ALA Thailand.

Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan was born on October 7, 1951. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from Thammasat University in 1971 and qualified as a barrister-at-law in 1972. He also obtained Master of Laws degree from New York University in 1975. Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan entered the Judiciary of Thailand as Judge-Trainee in 1978. Thereafter, served as Presiding Judge of the Civil Court acting Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice in 1994. During his distinguished career on the Thai bench, he served as Justice of the Court of Appeal, Justice of the Supreme Court and the Vice-President of the Supreme Court. He has received the royal endorsement appointing him as the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand since October 1, 2015. Presently, Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan also serves as the Chairman of the Judicial Commission, the Judicial Administration Commission, the Commission on Jurisdiction of Courts and the President of the Thai Bar.



## The Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between Office of the Judiciary, the Kingdom of Thailand and Singapore Judicial College, the Supreme Court of Singapore



On 18 March 2016, The Honorable Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan, the President of the Supreme Court, presided the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between Office of the Judiciary, the Kingdom of Thailand and Singapore Judicial College, the Supreme Court of Singapore. The Memorandum of Understanding is jointly signed by Honorable Athikom Intuputi Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary and Honorable Justice Andrew Phang, Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Singapore at Judicial Training Institute, Bangkok.

This Memorandum of Understanding is made for purpose of enhancing and cooperating standard of legal and judicial development systems in various aspects. It is with the great belief that combined

efforts will harmoniously result in substantial development of both countries. The ceremony was attended by many honorable and distinguished guests and also witnessed by H.E. Mrs. Chua Siew San the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore.

The President of the Supreme Court delivered the keynote speech that mainly focused on Thailand and Singapore having long-lasting and close relations. In terms of the judiciary, both countries have close, mature and fruitful collaboration for a long period of time. The establishment of institutional linkages between the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand and Singapore Supreme Court will be an intellectual collaboration that will benefit both parties. Both organizations have developed a strong bond of mutual trust and cooperation, as they share ideas and knowledge based on their respective unique experiences. Under the MOU, both judiciaries will collaborate to organize a series of law workshops and seminars on various subject areas of interest to both sides, build the platform to learn from one another and benefit from our shared experiences. The judiciary plays a key role in upholding the Rule of Law in any country, which in turn creates an enabling environment for a country's development. There is a hope that the judicial cooperation partnership between Thailand and Singapore will bring judges and officers to upper level to serve the community and strengthen the Rule of Law. The MOU not only marks the new milestone of enthusiasm of learning but also confirms the evidence of long-standing friendship, partnership and goodwill. The MOU will provide great opportunities to collaborate in the higher level and bring back the mutual benefits not only for the Judiciaries of Singapore and Thailand, but also for the entire ASEAN community.





## In Memoriam: Justice T S Sinnathuray

Justice T S Sinnathuray served with distinction as Judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore for two decades from 2 October 1978 to 22 September 1997.

On his passing, the statement of Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon recalled that: "Justice Sinnathuray was a very popular Judge who always treated counsel with great courtesy. He loved the law and the legal fraternity and made it a point to attend many of our functions and events for as long as he was able to. Many of us on the Bench today remember him warmly as a good friend and colleague. We will miss him dearly."

Justice Sinnathuray was a member of the ASEAN Law Association ("ALA") Interim Governing Council in 1980. He was also the first Chairman of ALA Singapore. ALA Thailand's Chairman, the Honourable Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan, described his passing as an irreplaceable loss of a great man for ALA. ALA Secretary-General Attorney Regina Padilla Geraldez noted that senior members remembered Justice Sinnathuray as a pillar of ALA.

With the tremendous progress that ASEAN has made, notably the recent establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community, and the potential that ALA possesses in contributing to its continued success, Justice Sinnathuray's sentiments about the importance of ASEAN and the role of ALA in his invitation letter to the legal fraternity in Singapore to join ALA more than 35 years ago were truly prophetic.

Justice Sinnathuray will be deeply missed by the Singapore Judiciary and ALA Singapore.

*"...ASEAN is becoming more important in the economic and political spheres. It is, therefore, only to be expected that with the increasing economic co-operation and intercourse, there would be required greater expertise and more understanding of the respective laws of the other ASEAN countries. From its inception, the ALA has received enthusiastic support from representatives of the Judiciary, professional organisations and law faculties of all ASEAN countries. The ALA, through its conferences, exchange schemes, and personal contacts with members of the profession, is designed to facilitate greater co-operation among the ASEAN lawyers as well as understanding in the legal systems prevailing in the ASEAN countries."*

**Justice Sinnathuray in his 1980 invitation letter to join the ASEAN Law Association**



Justice Sinnathuray (*far left*) during the 1980 ASEAN Law Association Interim Governing Council Meeting





# ALA *Images*





