

# Asean Law Association



Newsletter January 2011

## 32<sup>nd</sup> ALA Governing Council Meeting in Manila, Philippines 20 February 2010

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of the ASEAN Law Association was held on 20 February 2010 at Makatishangri-La Hotel in Manila, Philippines. Delegates from 07 member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the Meeting. The meeting also had a pleasure to have a representative from ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Harry Jaila.

The main contents of the meeting were the submission and discussion of the two proposals on ASEAN Charter implementation, one of which was "ASEAN Charter: Dispute settlement mechanism" and another was "Proposed ASEAN protocol on enforcement of arbitral award" and the place and date of the next Governing Council meeting. It was decided that the two proposals were referred to the Task Force meeting to deliberate more closely then report to the Governing Council at the next meeting, so that ALA can move forward on a consensual basis. It was also decided that the next Governing Council meeting would be held in Thailand in February or March 2011.



Press meeting after the 32<sup>nd</sup> ALA Governing Council Meeting in Manila



Cultural performance by ALA Brunei



Cultural performance by ALA Indonesia



Cultural performance by ALA Malaysia



Cultural performance by ALA Philippines





*Cultural performance by ALA Singapore*



*Cultural performance by ALA Thailand*



*Cultural performance by ALA Vietnam*

## Meeting of ALA Task Force in Hanoi 16 October 2010

The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ALA Task Force hosted by the ALA Vietnam was held on 16 October 2010 at Bao Son Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. TPB Menon, Chairman of the ALA Task Force and attended by ALA President, ALA Secretary General and 12 representatives from 06 member countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). Mr. Un Sovannasam, a representative of the ASEAN Secretariat was also invited to attend the Meeting.



*Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting took group photo with ALA President, ALA Secretary General and ALA Task Force Chairman.*



*Hon. Pham Quoc Anh, ALA President delivering opening speech at the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting.*



*Mr. TPB Menon, Chairman of the ALA Task Force delivering welcome speech at the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting.*

The Meeting considered three issues: (i) the two papers submitted to the Governing Council at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Manila in February 2010, namely: The ASEAN Charter – Dispute Settlement Mechanisms, and Protocol on Enforcement of Arbitral Awards; (ii) the request from the ASEAN Secretariat on how ALA can



assist to develop guiding principles of law for the interpretation of provisions of Article 51(1) of the ASEAN Charter; (iii) the theme of the XI General Assembly in Indonesia in 2012.

It was decided that the Task Force would draft a short paper on dispute resolution between private parties with focus on arbitration and other mechanisms such as mediation and submit to the next GC meeting in March in Thailand for consideration. With regards to the request from ASEAN Secretariat, it was felt that the request was too general and should be referred back to ASEAN Secretariat for further elaboration. In terms of the theme of the next General Assembly, the meeting agreed to the theme “Embracing the new role of ALA after ASEAN Charter”.

The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the ALA President, also the President of the Vietnam Lawyers Association.



*Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting standing for the ALA anthem.*



*Participants discussing at the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting*



*During break time of the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting (from left to right): Ms. Le Thi Kim Thanh, Mr. TPB Menon, Mr. Avelino Cruz.*



*Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> ALA Task Force Meeting at the Farewell dinner party hosted by ALA Vietnam.*

## Trip of the ALA President and Secretary General to Myanmar 25-29 December 2010

From 25 to 29 December 2010, the ALA President and Secretary General had a trip to Myanmar to invite Myanmar lawyers to ALA.

The trip was organized with the great assistance of the Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar.

The delegation was warmly received by His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Attorney General cum President of Lawyers Association of Myanmar.

During the visit, the ALA President introduced the history, functions, tasks, mission and operation principles of the ALA. The ALA President stressed advantages and interest of joining ALA and introduced procedures for joining ALA. He also mentioned the upcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> Governing Council Meeting in Pattaya, Thailand and invited representatives of Myanmar lawyers to take part in this event as observers before they actually apply to be an ALA member.

The Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General expressed their support for Myanmar lawyers to join ALA and promised to try their best to encourage Myanmar lawyers to join ALA.



*Hon. Pham Quoc Anh, ALA President discussed with Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs.*



*The delegation took photo with Attorney General cum President of Lawyers Association of Myanmar.*



*The delegation took photo with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.*

## News from ALA Philippines

### ***ALA Philippines has new chairman (new Chief Justice)***

At the ALA Philippines meeting held on June 21, 2010, the Honorable Renato C. Corona, Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court was elected as Chairman of the Philippine National Committee. Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno has relinquished his post as ALA Chairman, following his official retirement from the Philippine Supreme Court on May 17, 2010.

Chief Justice Corona is one of the staunchest supporters of ALA. Over the past years, he served in various capacities as Paper writer for ALA workshops, and as member of the Governing Council and of various ALA Standing Committees.





Courtesy Call on Chief Justice Renato Corona, Chairman of ALA Philippine National Committee, for August 6, 2010 Testimonial Dinner.

Left to Right: Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, Atty. Avelino Cruz, ALA Philippines President, Mr. TPB Menon, Chief Justice Renato Corona, Attorney General Kifrawi Kifli, Justice Hashim Yusoff and Justice Lee Siu Kin.



Courtesy Call on Chief Justice Renato Corona, Chairman of ALA Philippine National Committee, for August 6, 2010 Testimonial Dinner.

Group photo includes the ALA Philippine National Committee officials.



August 6, 2010 Testimonial Dinner in honor of new ALA Philippine National Committee Chairman, Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Attorney General and Mrs. Kifrawi Kifli with ALA officials. Left to right – Mrs. Cristina Corona, Justice Magdangal de Leon, Atty. And Mrs. Avelino Cruz and Atty. & Mrs. Alonzo Ancheta.



August 6, 2010 Testimonial Dinner in honor of new ALA Philippine National Committee Chairman, Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Mr. TPB Menon, Mrs. Cristina Corona and Atty. Avelino Cruz.

## News from ALA Singapore

1. ALA Singapore organised a talk by Sir Anthony Colman Q.C., a renowned international arbitrator on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010.



Sir Anthony Colman Q.C. with Justice Lee Siu Kin (Chairman of ALA Singapore).



Sir Anthony Colman Q.C. addressing the audience in Maxwell Chambers, Singapore, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The talk was organised jointly with Maxwell Chambers, Singapore's new custom-built arbitration facility. Sir Anthony addressed the audience, comprising an international set of arbitrators some of whom are ALA members, on the subject "Arbitration and the Courts – A Balanced Approach". Sir Anthony provided an interesting coverage of judicial intervention in international arbitrations, especially in the areas of jurisdiction, procedural irregularity and error of law.

The talk was followed by a question-and-answer session chaired by Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Chairman of ALA Singapore.

## **2. ALA Singapore held its 4<sup>th</sup> ALA (Singapore) Golf Tournament on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at the NSRCC Kranji Sanctuary Golf Course.**

The Tournament, with the coveted TPB Menon Challenge Trophy to be won, attracted 24 ALA members. The TPB Menon Challenge Trophy was eventually won by Mr Tito Isaac, who garnered the best Stableford score in the Men's category. Ms Lim Siew Kuan attained the best Stableford score in the Ladies category, while Mr Nor Azman Hamid achieved the lowest gross score. Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Chairman of ALA Singapore, gave away the prizes to all winners and the evening ended with a reception hosted by Justice Lee.



*Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Chairman of ALA Singapore, with some new ALA Singapore members, namely, Kalyani Rajendran, Chiam Tao Koon and Nakul Dewan.*



*(From left to right): Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng (past ALA Secretary-General), Mr Tan Chee Meng S. C., Mr Low Siew Joon (Vice-Chairman of ALA Singapore) and Mr Siva Shanmugam.*

## **News from ALA Thailand**

### **1. Chairman of National Committee of Thailand pay courtesy call on Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore and meet Chairman of the National Committee of Singapore**

On 18 January 2011, the Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand – Chairman of National Committee of Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore, during his official visit to the Republic of Singapore.

The Court of Justice of Thailand attaches great importance to set up e-court systems in order to ensure the access to justice. The Supreme Court of Singapore has been playing the leading role in case management and introducing the Electronic Filing System (EFS) for better management of court documents.



*Hon. Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong took a group photo with Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna – Chairman of National Committee of Thailand and Thai delegation.*

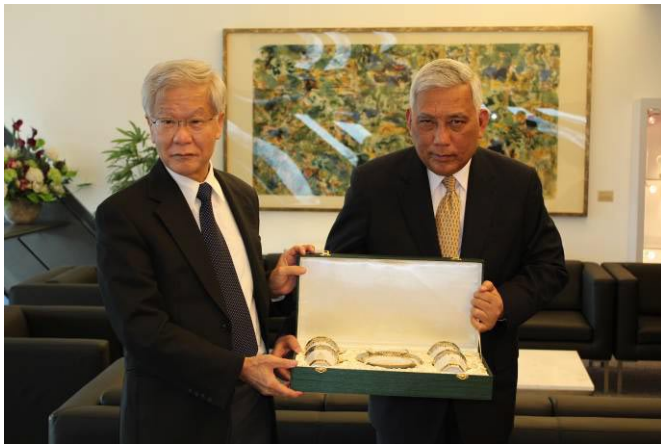
During the visit, the Thai delegation has an opportunity to learn from Singapore of its well-known, high quality and standard of adjudication of disputes and administration of court processes.



In the course of this visit, the Chairman of National Committee of Thailand also met the Chairman of the National Committee of Singapore, Hon. Justice Lee Seiu Kin, and Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin, former President of ALA. The two national committees sought strengthened cooperation and exchanged views with regard to the development of the judiciary in this region. In this visit, several key members of ALA Thailand such as Hon. Wirat Chinwinigkul – Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Governing Council Meeting and Justice Phattarasak Vannasaeng also joined the meeting. Meanwhile, the Chief Justice Sobchok also expressed the readiness of Thailand to host the 33<sup>rd</sup> Governing Council and Standing Committee Meetings in Pattaya.



*From the left: Hon. Wirat Chinwinigkul, Hon. Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna, Hon. Justice Chao Hick Tin and Hon. Justice Lee Seiu Kin.*



*Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna presented the token of appreciation to the Chief Justice of Singapore.*



*Hon. Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong presented the gift (the painting of Singapore Supreme Court Building) to Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna.*

## **2. Chairman of National Committee of Thailand meet Chairman of National Committee of Malaysia**

The Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand – Chairman of National Committee of Thailand, paid courtesy visit to Chief Justice Tun Zaki Azmi, Chief Justice of Malaysia – Chairman of National Committee of Malaysia, on 19 January 2011.

During the visit, the Chairman of National Committee of Thailand also met Hon. Justice Dato James Foong, former ALA golf captain and many key members of ALA Malaysia.

The Thai delegation also included Hon. Wirat Chinwinigkul, Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary who is also the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Governing Council and Standing Committee



*Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna and Thai delegation together with Ambassador Thana Duangratana took a group photo in front of the Palace of Justice.*

Meetings and many key members of ALA Thailand.

The visit has raised more cooperation between ALA member countries; especially in the area of judicial cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia. The aim of this effort is to create a closer cooperation among ASEAN Supreme Court that will result in a better functioning, more efficient, and access to justice of the people. The visit has proved its value especially that it is an opportunity for the Thai judiciary to exchange its views with Malaysian Judiciary about Islamic Law and Sharia Court.



*Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharmorna presented the token of appreciation to the Chief Justice of Malaysia.*



*Group photo after the presentation made by the Hon. Chief Justice of Malaysia at Chief Justice's Chambers.*

### **3. ALA Thailand host dinner reception in honor of Senator Ed Angara**

Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, former Chairman of National Committee of Thailand, on behalf of ALA Thailand hosted dinner reception in honor of Senator Ed Angara, one of the founding members of ALA, during his trip to Thailand on 26 December 2010 at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club (RBSC Polo Club).

ALA Thailand was very pleased to receive and greet Senator Ed Angara and his family with their warmest welcome. Many key ALA members of Thailand such as Prof. Prasit Kovilaikool, former Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office – Honorary Committee Members of ALA Thailand, Justice Surin Cholpattana, Judge Montri Sillapamahabundit, Judge Sorawit Limparangsri and Judge Tidarat Narintarangkul Na Ayudhaya also joined the dinner reception.



*The front row: (from the left) Prof. Prasit Kovilaikool, Mrs. Angara, Senator Ed Angara and Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai*



*Senator Ed Angara presented a gift to Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai*