



## Message From

Hon. Atthaniti Disatha-Amnarj, President of the ASEAN Law Association



### Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the family of ASEAN Law Association (ALA). As ALA embarks upon a new era of remarkable community, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Your contribution to our organization, whether it is sharing your professional skills and experience through our Governing Council, Standing Committees and ALA website, your involvement reminds me yet again of the wonderfully diverse community that serves as our organization's backbone, our support system for which we are extremely

grateful. With you, our organization has advanced with wisdom, courage and innovation for over thirty years and continues with more impetus to have purpose and relevance to this day.

The 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is one of our remarkable events as H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN is with us and delivers a keynote speech on "Possible Co-operation Between ASEAN and ALA". Moreover, workshops and discussions under the theme "*ASEAN Charter – Taking ASEAN to New Heights*" will once again bring the ALA scholars together to share productive wisdoms and achieve the common goal of continuing greater collaboration among ASEAN countries regardless of any differences.

This grand event would not have been possible without the hard work and creativity of Vietnam National Committee and the Organizing Committee who have spared no effort in making this a memorable occasion. I must thank our hosts for their hard work and dedication for organizing this very special event.

Hon. Atthaniti Disatha-Amnarj  
President of ASEAN Law Association



### National Chairman of Brunei Darussalam appointed as Chief Justice

We are pleased to announce that the Chairman of the National Committee of ALA Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Hj Kifrawi Dato Paduka Hj Kifli has been appointed to be the first local Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam. Dato Kifrawi's appointment marks a new legal milestone for Brunei Darussalam for he is the first Bruneian to be appointed Chief Justice. The appointment was effective on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and he replaced Dato Seri Paduka Mohammed Saied who had completed his term of appointment.



### Appointment of the Hon. Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna as President of the Supreme Court of Thailand

ALA congratulates the Honourable Chief Justice Sobchok Sukharomna, Honorable Advisor of ALA National Committee of Thailand, on his appointment as President of the Supreme Court of Thailand. Born on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1849, the Hon. Chief Justice Sukharomna was graduated from the Thammasat University's Faculty of Law (Hons.) before he obtained the Master of Law from Southern Methodist University. During his distinguished career on the Thai bench, he served as President of the Environmental Division of the Supreme Court and then Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Thailand.



### 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting



The Attorney General's Chambers of Brunei Darussalam Hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law

Association Governing Council Meeting from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. There were participants from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Brunei Darussalam

also hosted the ALA Golf Championship which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Empire Golf and Country Club. There were about 80 golfers from the participating ASEAN countries who have joined in the Championship.

Through the years, ALA has become a unique forum among the regional associations of legal professionals and academics in Asia in that it is an organisation whose members are exclusively from the legal community of the ASEAN countries. ALA has become an important vehicle for fostering education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among legal community in the ASEAN region. Brunei Darussalam last hosted the ASEAN Law Association Governing Council and Standing Committee Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2002 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

### ALA Golf Championship 2009 Brunei Darussalam

The night prior to the championship, in the midst of the ALA Brunei Darussalam Golf Committee final logistical preparations, it was revealed then that the weather forecast for the championship day would be bright and sunny. Surely enough the day began with promising prospects of shooting low scores as everyone appeared to be geared up for a fantastic challenge at the one and only Jack Nicklaus designed golf course in Brunei Darussalam.

As the game came to a close, with the necessary steps of signing the scorecards and subsequently handing them over to the tournament committee, Notable amongst the individual prize winners were Chief Justice Reynato Puno of the Philippines and ALA golf stalwart Mr Puspalingam of Malaysia who emerged winners of the D Division and the A Division respectively. Mr Mark Tan of Singapore captured the lowest gross score prize with a gross score of 77. The team result was favorable, the host country won the Tun Dzaidin Challenge Trophy with 4 clear points over Philippines, whilst Singapore came in third.



THE 29th GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING  
(PENANG, MALAYSIA, 1-3 August 2009)

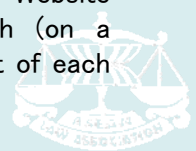


The ALA Governing Council met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2008 at the Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & SPA, Penang, Malaysia. There was enthusiastic participation from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The number of delegates who attended this meeting surpassed that of all previous meetings. There were in total 127 delegates attending the Governing Council meeting from all the seven (7) above named countries. It was regretted that there were no representatives from Laos and Cambodia.

The formal GC meeting was preceded by a short Opening Ceremony with a welcome address by the Chairman of the National Committee of ALA Malaysia Justice Dato' Hashim Yusoff followed by an address by Honourable President of ALA, Hon. Atthaniti Disatha Amnarj.

At the Governing Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2008 in Penang, it was agreed that an ALA Members Directory be included in the ALA Website ([www.aseanlawassociation.org](http://www.aseanlawassociation.org)) The ALA Members' Directory will publish (on a voluntary basis) certain pre-determined categories of information in respect of each ALA member.



Representing Datuk Zaid Ibrahim in the welcoming speech was Datuk Abdullah Sani.



Lion Dance Welcoming all ALA Delegates

The welcome Dinner on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 hosted by the Hon. Senator Datuk Zaid Ibrahim, the then Minister in the Prime Minister Department.

Apart from the opportunity to renew old friendships and forge new ones, the Governing Council meeting has once again proved to be a useful forum for the transformation of views, experiences, ideas and initiatives into concrete proposals for implementation which will lead further impetus to the harmonization of Asean laws.

### ALA Golfers attending the 29th ALA Governing Council Meeting at Penang



On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2008 ALA Golfers attending the 29th ALA Governing Council Meeting at Penang were treated by ALA Malaysia who hosted a golf tournament at the Penang Golf Resort, at Bertam Kepala Batas, Penang which is a 36-hole resort course and the tournament proper was played at the West Course, a friendly buggy course.

Though participants had to depart from the Hotel in Penang at 6.30am to be ready for the tee off at 8.00am, the 72 golfers

in total comprising of the local ALA members, the invited guests and the overseas ALA members had an enjoyable game.

The mode of play was by system 36 stableford with three categories, namely, Ladies, Open (below 55 years) and Senior (above 55 years). Teeing off from the blue tee proved to be challenging for some of the golfers, but in the true ALA spirit, they completed the 18 holes with fervor.

The winners of the respective categories were:

Ladies : Mrs Helen Cruz (Philippines) with 36 stableford points.

Senior : Mr Hj. Ahmed Bazari (Malaysia) with 38 stableford points.

Open : Mr. Jeremy Parulan (Philippines) with 40 stableford points.

A sumptuous lunch followed at the clubhouse, together with the prize presentation.

During lunch, the ALA Golf Chapter held its Annual General Meeting, wherein the incumbent Chairman/Captain The Hon. Justice Dato' James Foong announced his retirement and the retirement of Secretary- General of the Golf Chapter Mr Salvador MediaIdea. Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng was appointed as the new

Chairman/Captain of the ALA Golf Chapter and Mr Low Siew Joon as the new Secretary-General. Both Mr. Charles Lim and Mr. Low Siew Joon were unanimously elected to their respective position.



**ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA in a Dinner and Dance held on the 19th of June 2009 in the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

ALA Malaysia celebrated its 29th Anniversary with a gala Dinner and Dance at the Shangri-La Hotel on 19th of June 2009. The response to the function was overwhelming with more than 650 distinguished guests mainly members of the judiciary, lawyers, academia.

The dinner was also graced by the presence of VIPs including former ALA President, Mr TPB

Menon and his wife from Singapore, Y.A.A. Tan Sri Siti Norma Yaakob and Justice Dr. Syamsul Maarif and wife from Indonesia.



The President of ALA Malaysia, the Honourable Chief Justice Tun Dato' Seri Zaki bin Tun Azmi in his message stated that the executive council and his priority this year is to go on a membership drive so that those involved in the law can

participate in all the activities organized by ALA which will tremendously be beneficial to all.

He also highlighted the "ALA 10th General Assembly" in Hanoi which will fall between 14th – 18th of October 2009.

The souvenir magazine reproduced the Brief History of ASEAN Law Association with a group photograph of the participants of the February 1979 Jakarta Conference from ALA originated. In the magazine there was a copy of the membership form attached to enable guests who are non members to sign up on the spot.

**ALA MALAYSIA IMPLEMENT ASEAN STUDENTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

ALA Malaysia implemented a one week attachment programme involving

officers from the Ministry of Justice of Cambodia from 2nd – 8th August 2009 in Kuala Lumpur. The dates were chosen to co-incide with the 42nd anniversary of the establishment of Asean and which was celebrated on 8th August 2009 in all the Asean countries.





## LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE ALA WEBSITE

The ALA Website (at [ww.aseanlawassociation.org](http://www.aseanlawassociation.org)), established in 2004 pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the Governing Council in Chiang Rai on 26th June 2004, was officially launched at the ALA 25th Anniversary Special Commemorative Session in Manila, Philippines. The ALA Website contains valuable information on the history of ALA, its membership and activities, as well as the ever popular e-book

on the Legal Systems of ASEAN. The ALA Website has attracted a lot of interest from all over the world. Latest figures indicate an average of 51,980 hits a month (ie.1,701 hits per day), close to a four-fold increase since its launch 5 years ago.

### ALA Members Directory

In August 2008, during its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Penang, the ALA Governing Council endorsed the establishment of an ALA Members Directory, to be hosted on the ALA Website. The objectives of the ALA Members Directory are as follows:

- (a) to serve as a membership privilege for ALA members;
- (b) to facilitate contact and interaction between ALA members; and
- (c) to enhance the utility of the ALA Website.

The ALA Members Directory will publish, on a voluntary basis, certain pre-determined categories of information in respect of each ALA member, namely:

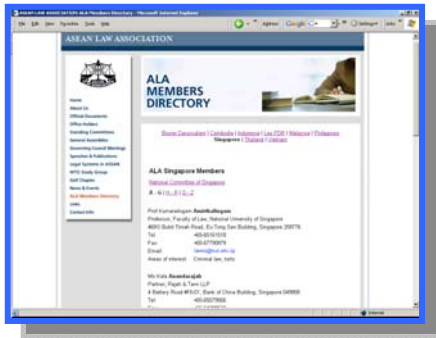
- a. Name of member
- b. National chapter member is affiliated to Optional fields
- c. Name of organisation
- d. Designation in organisation
- e. Mailing address
- f. Telephone number
- g. Facsimile number
- h. Email address
- i. Website address of organisation / member
- j. Area(s) of specialisation / expertise and other information.

Between April 2009 and September 2009, ALA (Singapore) which is undertaking this project on behalf of ALA, has worked with other ALA National Committees to collate the relevant members' information. We are pleased to report that the ALA Members Directory will be launched during the 10<sup>th</sup> ALA General Assembly in Hanoi in October 2009.





Below are screenshots of the prototype ALA Members Directory, as well as a parallel online ASEAN Law Firms Directory, which ALA (Singapore) demonstrated during the 30<sup>th</sup> ALA Governing Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in Bandar Seri Begawan. As agreed during the 29<sup>th</sup> ALA Governing Council meeting, ALA (Singapore) will bear the initial cost of creating the ALA Members Directory. It was also agreed that an annual listing fee (USD100) be collected from subscribers to the ASEAN Law Firms Directory as the funding model to maintain the ALA Members Directory.



### ASEAN Law Firms Directory

We anticipate that the ASEAN Law Firms Directory will be launched in 2010. Law firms that are institutional members of ALA or have at least one ALA member in their firm are invited to submit their applications to ALA (Singapore) or to their respective ALA National Committee. The application forms will be made available during the 10<sup>th</sup> ALA General Assembly in Hanoi.

It is hoped that the ALA Members Directory and the ASEAN Law Firms Directory will help create a higher profile for ALA in the region and beyond. ALA (Singapore) is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the ALA Website, and thanks all ALA members for their strong and steadfast support of this undertaking.



## ALA PHILIPPINES 30TH ANNIVERSARY



An excerpt from Atty. Avelino Cruz's Welcome Message for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Concert: "It was 30 years ago, in 1979, when the late Teuku Mohamed Radhie of Indonesia visited IBP President Ed Angara who led in organizing the ASEAN Law Association of the Philippines. That same year, our new organization went to an Asean Lawyers' meeting in Jakarta and there, the seeds were sown for the launching of the Asean Law Association or ALA, the following year in Manila. ALA is unique in that it carries under one roof an extended family of Asean lawyers, judges and teachers of Law. ALA Philippines, thru the years, has enlisted the most distinguished names in Philippine Judiciary, Bar societies, Law Firms and the Academe."

## IN MEMORIAM

*“That best portion of a good man’s life  
His little, nameless, unremembered acts  
of kindness and of love.”*

### NATHAN ISAAC (1937 – 2009)



**Nathan** was a founder member of the Asean Law Association (ALA). He took an active part in ALA particularly its social activities. Although he was on dialysis since 2004 he attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of ALA in Manila 2005. In recent years his medical condition had prevented him from being actively involved in the activities of ALA. We in the ALA have lost a good friend Mrs Pansy Isaac a loving husband and Nathan’s sons a loving father. We would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs Pansy Isaac and his four sons (Niko and Tito from his former wife and Riko and Ziko from Pansy Isaac). We want them to know that they do not mourn alone.

**B MENON**

**T P**

### ATTY. QUIRINO MARQUEZ

**Atty “Chino” Marquez** was a strong supporter of ALA and one of its active members. He had contributed in no small measure to the well being of ALA and all its activities. Above all he was a good and genial friend whom we shall all miss. I want his dear wife Donna to know that she does not mourn alone.



**T P B MENON**

*May his soul rest in peace.*

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