

ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION

Asean Law Association



From **Hon. Chief Justice Atthaniti Disatha – Amnarj,**
President of the Asean Law Association



In the twenty-nine year history of our **ASEAN Law Association**, we have established a tradition of trust and friendship among our brothers, sisters and friends. We have focused on many fields of law including Judicial Cooperation, Legal Education, International Law, Business Law, etc. We have created a forum in which lawyers with different backgrounds and at different stages of their careers share their expertise and insights. Such an exchange of experience and knowledge forms the backbone of ALA's dual goals of professional growth and community advancement. These efforts also take the form of *pro bono* assistance and our activities gear toward raising community awareness of rights and responsibilities

My dear brothers and sisters, my friends from every member country, I need your assistance to preserve our tradition and expand on our achievements. There is no support better than your personal involvement and sense of pride in our ALA.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the dedication and expertise of ALA Malaysia, who day in and day out help us organize this Governing Council Meeting for our beloved Association. THANK YOU.

ALA Governing Council Meeting (Jakarta, 19-22 July 2007)

The 28th Governing Council Meeting was held on 21 July 2007 at Hotel Borobudur, Jakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting considered papers tabled by Mr TPB Menon of Singapore (entitled "Taking ALA To New Heights"), Professor R Rajeswaran of Malaysia (on a student attachment programme within ASEAN) and Professor Myrna S Feliciano of the Philippines (on the publication of an Anniversary Edition of the ASEAN Law Journal). Other matters discussed included the areas for the enhancement of the ALA Website.

Several outcomes were reported and accepted following the meetings of the Standing Committees. It was resolved that the Standing Committee framework would be strengthened so as to be more effective. The Standing Committee on ADR also reported the establishment of a working committee comprising experienced ADR practitioners from each ALA member country. This working committee would have terms of reference that include -

- (a) setting up a suitable system within ALA to accredit ADR practitioners from ALA member countries;
- (b) exchange of information and experiences between ALA member countries in relation to out-of-court mediation and court-annexed mediation; and
- (c) establishment of an ADR centre for ASEAN countries and a set of common rules on ADR.



← President ALA with Chairman of ALA member country and the ALA Secretary-General

Malaysian cultural performance →



Presenting ... the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) Website

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The ALA Website (at www.aseanlawassociation.org) was established in 2004, pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the Governing Council Meeting held in Chiang Rai on 26th June that year. It was officially launched on 24th November 2005 at the ALA 25th Anniversary Special Commemorative Session in Manila, Philippines.



The ALA Website documents the history of ALA, and is a repository of its Constitution and By-Laws, the ALA Anthem and information on all ALA National Committees and the key individuals involved in ALA.

Since its inception, the ALA Website has become an incomparable resource on ASEAN legal systems for individuals and organisations beyond ASEAN, due to its extensive collection of materials on the legal systems of the various ALA member countries, as well as the papers delivered at past ALA conferences by renowned ASEAN legal scholars. It is not exaggerated to say that the ALA Website has grown into a global showcase that reveals the ASEAN laws to the whole world.

Since the launch of the ALA Website, there has been a steady increase in the number of visitors to the Website from the region and beyond. In December 2005 (the month following its official launch), the ALA Website logged 13,716 hits. Currently, the average monthly visits over around 43,000 hits, with 48,293 hits in June 2008. The ALA Website has also logged visitors from all over the world, including Australia, United States, United Kingdom, China, India, the Russian Federation, and many other countries in Europe, the Middle East and South America.



The ALA National Committee of Singapore, which maintains the ALA Website on behalf of ALA, takes this opportunity to thank all ALA National Committees for their strong support and ready co-operation in this undertaking. ALA (Singapore) also welcomes any feedback on how the ALA Website may be further enhanced for the benefit of ALA members and users in general.



Appointment of the Honourable Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno as Chairman of ALA Philippines



ALA congratulates the Honourable Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno on his appointment as Chairman of ALA Philippines.

In 1962, the Honourable Chief Justice Puno obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of the Philippines (UP). In 1966, he went to the United States for his post-graduate studies. He was a grantee of a full scholarship given by the Academy of American Law for a degree of Master of Comparative Laws at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

He was also awarded full scholarship by the Walter Perry Johnson Foundation for a degree of Master of Laws at the University of California in Berkeley, California. He was also given a tuition scholarship by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, from where he finished all academic requirements for the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science Degree. He was given the Doctor of Humanities degree (honoris causa) by the Philippine Wesleyan University in 1994. He finished the degree of Master of Comparative Laws with high honors and as valedictorian of a class consisting of 23 graduate scholars from various parts of the world.

He is the incumbent Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Appointed on December 8, 2006 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he is the 23rd Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. He had initially been appointed to the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice on June 28, 1993.

Appointment of Atty. Avelino V. Cruz as President of the ALA Philippines

Atty. Avelino V. Cruz is one of the five Founding Partners of Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Firm (ACCRALAW). He holds a degree of Bachelor of Laws, Magna Cum Laude from San Beda College, a Master of Laws degree from the University of Michigan and was a Ford Fellow for International Legal Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. At the age of 20, he received a special permit from the Supreme Court to take the national Bar Examinations, and placed first, the youngest top notcher in Philippine history.



He is the incumbent President of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) of the Philippines, and has served as President of the Citizen's Legal Aid Society and the Philippine Legal Management Council, and as Governor of the Integrated Bar. A long time member of the American Bar Association and the International Bar Association, he is the first Filipino invited by the American Law Institute (ALI) as member in that prestigious society of American legal scholars.

He has a number of legal publications and as Secretary General of the ASEAN Law Association, was instrumental in the region-wide study entitled "ASEAN Legal Systems" published in 1995 by Butterworths Asia. In previous years, he taught Law at San Beda College, University of the Philippines and the UP Law Center.

Appointment of the Honourable Chief Justice Atthaniti Disatha-amnarj as the Privy Councilor



ALA congratulates the Honourable Chief Justice Atthaniti Disatha-amnarj, the President of ALA, on his appointment as the Privy Councilor. Privy Council president Prem Tinsulanond countersigned HM the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's royal command to appoint the Hon. Chief Justice Disatha-amnarj as the Privy Councilor.

Born on 24 August 1944, the Hon. Chief Justice Disatha-amnarj graduated from the Thammasat University's Faculty of Law before he obtained the Master of Law from the Harvard University. After his graduation, he had a successful career. During his distinguished career on the Thai bench, he served as the President of the Court of Appeals and then the Supreme Court of Thailand. He is Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University, where he has been granted an honorary LL.D. on 10 July 2008.

Hon. Chief Justice Disatha-amnarj was elected President of the ALA on 25 November 2006 at the 9th ALA General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand. He was President of the Supreme Court of Thailand from 2002 to 2004. Prior to his election as President of the ALA, he was the Chairman of the ALA National Committee of Thailand, a position he had held since 1989.

Appointment of the Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin as Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court and Vice-President of the Court of Appeal

We congratulate immediate-past ALA President Chao Hick Tin on his appointment as Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Singapore on 11th April 2008, and as Vice-President of the Court of Appeal with effect from 18th April 2008, after completing a two-year term as the Attorney-General of Singapore.



Justice Chao is a founding member of ALA, and a member of the Working Committee established in February 1979 in Jakarta to draft the ALA Constitution. He was elected the President of ALA on 2nd December 2003, during the 8th General Assembly held in Singapore.

Justice Chao obtained his LLB and LLM from University College, London in 1965 and 1966, respectively. He was called to the English Bar at the Middle Temple in July 1965. He was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1971.

In 1967, Justice Chao began his career in the Singapore Legal Service as a State Counsel with the Attorney-General's Chambers, where he progressed to eventually become a Senior State Counsel in 1979 and headed its Civil Division in 1982. In 1987, he was elevated to the Supreme Court bench as a Judicial Commissioner.

At the Supreme Court, Justice Chao was later appointed as a Judge in 1990, and concurrently as President of the Industrial Arbitration Court between 1993 to 1999. On 2nd August 1999, he moved up as a Judge of Appeal, a position he occupied until his return to the Attorney-General's Chambers as its Attorney-General on 11th April 2006. On 11th April 2008, Justice Chao returned to the Supreme Court bench where he was appointed as Vice-President of the Court of Appeal.

Throughout the period of his service, Justice Chao has represented Singapore in numerous international fora, the most notable of which were the UN Law of Treaties Conference held in Vienna in 1968 and the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea from 1974 to 1981. Apart from having been the 8th President of ALA, he has also previously served as the Chairman of the Singapore Mediation Centre.



Appointment of former Justice Prasobsook Boondech as President of the Senate



ALA congratulates the Honourable Justice Prasobsook Boondech on his appointment as President of Senate on 19 March 2008.

Justice Boondech graduated with an LL.B. from the prestigious Thammasart University, and qualified as a Barrister-at-Law of the Thai Bar, and Lincoln's Inn, England.

Prior to this appointment, Justice Boondech held various judicial appointments in his illustrious career spanning 30 years. He was appointed as Secretary-General of the then Office of the Judicial Affairs of the Ministry of Justice. He was later appointed as Justice of the Court of Appeal Region 3, and Justice of the Supreme Court, before becoming the first Chief Justice of the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court. Under his leadership, the then newly-established Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court has become a model of modern courts in Thailand, and is internationally-recognized. Before he left the Thai bench, he was appointed as the President of the Court of Appeal of Thailand.

Appointment of Honourable Justice Vichai Ariyanuntaka as Professor of Law of the prestigious Thammasat University

ALA congratulates the Honourable Justice Vichai Ariyanuntaka on his recent appointment as Professor of Law of Thammasat University on 26 May 2008.

Justice Ariyanuntaka graduated LL.B. (Hons) from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and qualified as Barrister-at-Law from the Thai Bar Association. He was granted a Thai Government Scholarship to further his legal studies at the University of Wales where he graduated LL.B. (Hons) and went on to read LL.M. at the London School of Economics. He was called to the English Bar at Gray's Inn in 1983.



Justice Ariyanuntaka is the founder of the Thai Arbitration Institute (TAI), which is the largest arbitration institution in Thailand. Due to his determined effort, the arbitration practice in Thailand has become a reality, not just a text in the law. Justice Ariyanuntaka had served as the Executive Director of the Arbitration Office from 1990 - 1994 before being appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the then Office of Judicial Affairs of the Ministry of Justice.

Justice Ariyanuntaka was a founding member of the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court in 1997. He brought with him the experience and expertise from the arbitration system to the new court structure. The Central IP&IT Court is unique in its kind. The system combines the requirements of prompt and effective enforcement of intellectual property rights under the TRIPs Agreement and the speedy, fair and not-too-costly trial brought about by case management under the new regime of civil justice administration.

In 2007, he was appointed the Chief Judge of the Central Labour Court, where he carried out a reform to incorporate the extensive use of alternative dispute resolution into the court's proceeding.

Currently, Justice Ariyanuntaka is now Secretary-General to the President of the Supreme Court.

ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE



The Honourable Chief Justice Viruch Limvichai, President of the Supreme Court visit Malaysia and Singapore

The Honourable Chief Justice Viruch Limvichai, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand, together with Hon. Justice Montri Sriiamsaard, Justice of the Supreme Court and Hon. Justice Vichai Ariyanuntaka, Secretary-General to the President of Supreme Court, visited the Federal Court of Malaysia and the Supreme Court of Singapore during 21 – 23 March 2008.

▲ Second and third left: Dato' Abdul Hamid Bin Haji Mohamad and Hon. Chief Justice Viruch Limvichai at the main entrance of the Palace of Justice

At the new Singapore Supreme Court Building ▶



Video Conference between the Supreme Court Thailand and the Supreme Court of Singapore on “Backlog Deduction in the Supreme Court” on 22 July 2008

The Supreme Court of Thailand, headed by the Honourable Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai and the Honourable Justice Vichai Ariyanuntaka, conducted a video conferencing with the Supreme Court of Singapore, headed by the Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin and Honourable Justice Lee Seiu Kin on 22 July 2008. The focal point of the discussion was about “Backlog Reduction: the experience of the Singapore Supreme Court” whereby the Thai and Singapore judiciary shared their experience in reducing the backlog.

The Honourable Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai led justices from the Supreme Court of Thailand’s to the US. Embassy in Bangkok for the video conferencing with the Court of Appeal, 9th Circuit, San Francisco and the U.S. Supreme Court, Washington D.C. on “Case Management” and “Backlog Reduction and Leave to Appeal Process” on 18 and 25 June 2008, respectively.



◀ Extreme right: Hon. Justice Pornpetch Wichitcholchai head of the study group from the Supreme Court of Thailand

◀ The U.S Cultural Affairs Officer presented souvenirs to Hon. Justice Vichai Ariyanuntaka

ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE



Photos of Induction of officers of ALA Philippines held on 14 September 2007

International soprano Rachele Gerodias and Justice Magdangal de Leon entertains at ALA Philippines Induction.



Justice Ricardo Puno inducts members of the Philippine National Committee.

Left to Right: Atty. Alfonso Reyno III, Director Gen. Lilia de Lima, Atty. Alonzo Ancheta, Justice Antonio Carpio, Dean Andres Bautista, Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, Atty. Victoria Loazon, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Atty. Avelino Cruz, and Chief Justice Reynato Puno



ALA guests at ALA Philippines Induction. Justice James Foong of Malaysia and Attorney General Kifrawi Kifli of Brunei, with Justice Ricardo Puno, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Atty. Avelino Cruz.

Left to Right: ALA guests, Ambassador Emaleen Rahman Teo of Brunei, Justice James Foong and Attorney General Kifrawi Kifli, with Atty. Avelino Cruz and Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

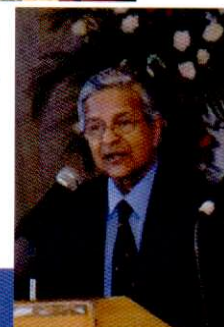


ALA Philippines President, Atty. Avelino Cruz and ALA Philippine National Committee Chairman, Chief Justice Reynato Puno.



Philippine National Committee members and UP Singing Ambassadors sing the ALA Anthem.

ALA past president, Mr. TPB Menon of Singapore, delivers his message during the induction ceremonies.



ALA (Singapore) – WongPartnership Golf Tournament 2008
Raffles Country Club, Singapore 20 June 2008

The ALA (Singapore) – WongPartnership Golf Tournament 2008 was held on 20 June 2008 at the Lakes Course of the Raffles Country Club, Singapore. Held with the objective of fostering closer camaraderie among ALA(S) members, the inaugural tournament was held in 2007 at Seletar Country Club with the generous donation of the TPB Menon Challenge Trophy by former ALA President, Mr TPB Menon.

The second tournament this year featured one of the leading Singapore law firms, M/s WongPartnership LLP, as title sponsor. ALA(S) was honoured to have the Chairman of the ALA Golf Chapter, YA Dato' Paduka Justice James Foong of the Malaysian Court of Appeal grace the tournament as the Guest-of-Honour.

The tournament saw excellent conditions – good, sunny weather and fast greens, as 34 players competed in a competition under a System 36 Stableford format. Prominent ALA(S) office holders participating included Justice Lee Seiu Kin (Chairman ALA(S)), Mr Low Siew Joon (Vice-Chairman ALA(S)) and Mr Charles Lim (immediate-past ALA Secretary-General). Special guests included YA Haji Aliman Musri of the Sessions Court in Johor Bahru, and guests invited by title sponsor WongPartnership LLP. Senior Counsel participating included Mr Giam Chin Toon SC (former Law Society President), Mr Tan Tee Jim SC and Mr Tan Chee Meng SC (from title sponsor WongPartnership LLP).



▲ (from left) Mr Tan Chee Meng SC (from WongPartnership), YA Dato' Paduka Justice James Foong, Justice Lee Seiu Kin, YA Haji Aliman Musri

After the tournament, golfers and invited guests adjourned to a sumptuous dinner at the Raffles Country Club amid warm camaraderie and fellowship. The dinner was graced by non-golfing ALA stalwarts Justice Chao Hick Tin (Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, and immediate-past ALA President), Mr TPB Menon, Mr Chelva Rajah SC (immediate-past Chairman ALA(S) and pro-tem Chairman of Working Committee on ADR), Ms Wendy Yap (immediate-past Secretary ALA(S)) and ALA(S) Executive Committee members.

Mr Mark Choy from WongPartnership took the TPB Menon Challenge Trophy in the Men's Division with 39 stableford points while Ms Lim Siew Kuan emerged the winner in the Ladies Division. District Judge Toh Han Li won the best gross score prize with a gross score of 76 on the par 72 course, and was awarded what has been affectionately called the Moosa Mug. Mr Nish Shetty won the prize for longest drive, whilst Mr Rajan Nair won the prize for being nearest the pin.

Some of the prize winners ▶



The organisers would also like to thank the title sponsor, M/s WongPartnership LLP for their generous sponsorship and also the other sponsors – Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Mr Chelva Rajah SC, Prof Lawrence Boo and Mr Anand Nalachandran for their contributions.

ALA Secretariat

C/O International Affairs Division, Office of the Judiciary, Ratchadaphisek Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, THAILAND

Tel: + (66) 2541 2016, + (66) 2512 8475 Fax: + (66) 2512 8491

E-mail: inad.judi@hotmail.com; ariyanuntaka@hotmail.com

