

41st GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

THE 41ST ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

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Reported by ALA Thailand

On 21 November 2019, the National Committee of ALA Thailand, headed by Hon. Chief Justice Slaikate Wattanapan, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand and Chairman of the National Committee of ALA Thailand hosted the 41st ALA Governing Council Meeting at Phuket Marriott Resort & Spa, Merlin Beach, Phuket, Thailand. Over 185 participants representing all ALA National Committees were in attendance.

The Meeting was chaired and opened by an address of the ALA President Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. Chief Justice Wattanapan delivered welcoming remarks, extending a warm welcome to all the delegates. In his remarks, he emphasized that today ALA not only aims to promote cooperation and mutual understanding amongst lawyers, judges and legal practitioners in the ASEAN countries, but also intends to expand the cooperation with international, regional and national organizations with the aim to achieve its objectives.

One of the keynote addresses was delivered by H.E. Robert Matheus Michael Tene, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, who expressed his sincere appreciation to ALA on behalf of the ASEAN Secretariat for the invitation to join this meeting. He also shared some key developments in ASEAN, especially its community and integration efforts in the area of law and legal cooperation, and expressed that close collaboration and cooperation between ASEAN and ALA will certainly benefit both organizations.

In addition to the addresses, Mr. Frank Poon, Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Hague Convention on Private International Law (HCCH), delivered his presentation entitled "The HCCH: Its Work/Methods and the HCCH Apostille Convention". The presentation recommended ASEAN Member States to consider adopting the Hague Convention as the basis for a harmonized legal framework.



Mr. Paul Quan, ALA Secretary-General, gave a report on the work of the Secretary-General in three board areas, namely official trips, engagements and projects and portfolios as well as updates on the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' proposal and the Virtual Marketplace. This was followed by a presentation by ASEAN Law Institute Executive Director Andre Palacios.

The Governing Council also discussed the concept papers on ALA's role in providing assistance and support to ASEAN Secretariat, the proposal for an ASEAN protocol for communication with non-disputing states on treaty interpretation, the "Guidelines on Best Practices on the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards within ASEAN", and the proposal for "The ASEAN Moot".

The Meeting concluded with Cambodia's agreement to host the 42nd Governing Council Meeting in 2020.

