



Deutsch - Singapurische Juristen-Vereinigung e.V.  
German - Singaporean Lawyers' Association



## Annual Conference 2001

25 May 2001

Reception, German Ambassador's Residence

Hosted by: H.E. Volker Schlegel, German Ambassador to Singapore  
Guest of Honour: Mr. Chan Sek Keong - Attorney-General of Singapore

26 May 2001

Parliament House, Singapore

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The world is a smaller place.

Industries have been deregulated, monopolies broken and competition encouraged. Communications technologies from the telephone to the e-mail have shrunk the world.

As the world's second largest exporting nation, Germany is at the heart of this process and continues to be Singapore's largest European trade partner. Singapore is an important centre of the international economy but depends to a large extent on foreign investments. With its more than 600 companies operating in and from Singapore, Germany is an important player in the island-state.

Globalisation has not excluded the legal profession. Knowledge of other legal systems and inter-action between lawyers from different jurisdictions are recognised as essential factors contributing to an attractive business location. The legal profession in both Germany and Singapore has undergone radical changes during the last few years to keep up with the changing world of business. German lawyers are increasingly confronted with Anglo-American practices and the past months have seen consolidation amongst smaller firms and a wave of mergers with mainly English law firms to prepare for the challenges ahead. Regional legal services are in demand in Singapore and the Government has allowed joint law ventures and alliances with international law firms to facilitate cross-border transactions and to better understand different legal cultures and practices.

The Association adds to this development. In July 2000, German lawyers interested in Singapore and its legal system and Singapore lawyers with similar interest in Germany founded the German-Singaporean Lawyers' Association. The Association, registered with the Berlin Registrar of Societies as "Deutsch-Singapurische Juristen-Vereinigung e.V.", has more than 40 members from the legal profession of both countries but is open to other individuals and organisations as well. Singapore Minister for Law and Foreign Affairs H.E. Prof. S. Jayakumar, Ambassador Prof. Walter Woon, Ambassador Volker Schlegel and Prof. Rauschnig, founding father of the German Law Student Exchange Programme with the National University of Singapore, are honorary members of the Association.

The Association is the first of its kind in Singapore, although Germany has similar bilateral tie-ups with several other countries, including China, Korea and Thailand. The German-British lawyers' association, for example, celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. The Association aims to promote deeper knowledge and understanding of Singapore law in Germany and of German and EU law in Singapore, enhance co-operation and facilitate business relations between both countries, support a regular exchange of law students and pupils, and generally offer a forum for contacts between German and Singaporean lawyers. The Association will closely co-operate with the Law Society of Singapore and the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The founding of the Association marks an important step in the history of relations between the two countries in the legal field. It follows a tradition of academic exchange initiated in 1979 by Prof. S. Jayakumar, then Dean of the Law Faculty of NUS, and Prof. Dietrich Rauschnig from the University of Göttingen. Since then, almost 70 German law students have spent a four-month term at NUS. A number of distinguished Singaporean lawyers have done research at German universities and law institutes in the past decades.

This conference brings together members from the legal profession in Singapore and Germany, offering a unique platform for exchange, learning, understanding and forging closer relationships. The speakers and panelists include **internationally recognised experts in arbitration and mediation, business EU and international law.**

We are confident that a successful conference lies ahead of us and hope to welcome many members and interested colleagues in Singapore.

Mannheim/ Singapore/ Berlin, May 2001  
The Committee

Dr. Axel Reeg  
President

Thomas Weidlich  
Vice-President

Klaus Jakubowski  
Treasurer



## Agenda

The Conference will take place over the weekend **25 – 27 May 2001 in Singapore** as follows:

Friday, 25 May	6.30 p.m.	Reception German Ambassador's Residence, Nassim Road
Saturday, 26 May	10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Conference Parliament House, Auditorium
	7.00 p.m.	Guided Tour, Parliament House
	8.00 p.m.	Dinner Parliament House & Garden

All members of the legal profession, whether from the judicial services, administration, academic world, practitioners, pupils or law students, will benefit from this conference. The presentations and panel discussions will touch on current issues in Singapore and Germany, including:

- The role and objectives of the Association in Singapore
- German experiences with bilateral lawyers' organisations: the British- German Jurists' Association
- Law student exchange program and other initiatives between Germany and Singapore
- Joint law ventures and alliances in Singapore
- Arbitration and mediation - Singapore, German and international perspectives
- Singapore as a Global Financial Centre
- Life sciences as Singapore's 4th pillar of growth
- Rio Plus Five and the German/ Singapore... Environmental Initiative/ the role of the Asia-Pacific Center for Environmental Law (APCEL)
- Tax reform in Germany



## Speakers

The speakers and panelists feature German and Singaporean experts from the legal profession and beyond, including:

### **Mr. Chan Sek Keong - Attorney-General of Singapore**

Mr. Chan Sek Keong read law at the University of Malaya in Singapore and was among the inaugural group of 22 to graduate from the Law Faculty in 1961. He was admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1962 and in practice until 1986 when he became the first person to be appointed Judicial Commissioner. His elevation to the position of a Judge of the Supreme Court soon followed in 1988. On 1 May 1992, Mr. Chan was appointed Attorney-General of Singapore.

### **Prof. Dr. Dietrich Rauschnig - Emeritus Professor University of Goettingen; Judge of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo**

Prof. Rauschnig has been a full professor of public law and Director of the Institute of Public International Law at the University of Göttingen since 1970. He was, inter alia, dean of his faculty, founding dean of the Law Faculty at Halle/Saale and Legal Counsel to the State Government of Lower Saxony. Jointly with Prof. Jayakumar, then Dean of the NUS Law Faculty, he was also co-founder of the law student exchange program between the NUS Law Faculty and German universities. Since March 1995, he has been a Judge of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo (appointed by the Council of Europe from Germany). He is the leading Co-ordinator for the Project of the Council of Baltic Sea States "EuroFaculty for Law" at the State University of Kaliningrad. The books and articles he has published have dealt mainly with topics of public international law and constitutional law.

### **Prof. Robert C. Beckman - Vice-Dean, Law Faculty National University of Singapore (NUS)**

Associate Professor Robert Beckman is an international lawyer who has been with the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore since 1977. He is a US citizen and a permanent resident of Singapore. He received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his LL.M. from Harvard Law School. He specializes in public international law, ocean law and marine and coastal environmental law. He is the coach and administrator of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Programme and other international moot programmes at NUS. He is the Executive Chairman of the Society of International Law, Singapore (SILS), Deputy Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), General Editor of the Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law (SJICL), and a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law. Professor Beckman was recently appointed the Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Law.

### **Dr. Thomas R. Klötzel - Committee Member, German-British Jurists' Association; Partner, Thümmel, Schütze & Partner, Stuttgart**

Dr. Thomas Klötzel was admitted as Attorney-at-Law to the Stuttgart Bar in 1986. From 1987 to 1988 he was Head of the Singapore office of Thümmel, Schütze & Partner. Since 1991 he is a partner of Thümmel, Schütze & Partner and in charge of the firm's operations in the Asia-Pacific region. In his practice, Dr. Klötzel is focussing on international commercial arbitration and international business law including joint ventures, technology transfer and licensing, distribution and IP-related litigation. He is also a lecturer for Foreign Law at the Export Academy of the Professional College Reutlingen and a member of the Board of the German-British Jurists' Association.

### **Mr. Ang Yong Tong - Executive Director of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)**

Mr Ang Yong Tong obtained his LL.B. (Hons) from the National University of Singapore in 1988 and was admitted to the Singapore Bar in the following year. Before assuming the appointment of Executive Director and Registrar of SIAC with effect from February 1998, Mr Ang was legal officer of the Housing and Development Board, practiced as advocate and solicitor and was the Group Legal Manager of a local listed company. As Executive Director of the SIAC, Mr Ang promotes arbitration as a method of alternative dispute resolution in Singapore. As Registrar, Mr Ang administers domestic and international arbitration cases conducted under the auspices of the SIAC. Mr Ang is a fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the SIAC local panel of accredited arbitrators. He regularly hears construction, international trade, joint venture and bunker disputes and renders awards as arbitrator.

### **Prof. Dr. Thomas A. Lange - Chief Country Officer & General Manager, Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore Branch**

Prof. Dr. Lange read law at the University of Kiel/Germany and the University of Surrey, London School of Economics & Political Science at the University of London/ Great Britain. He has written various books and articles on Bank Management and Internet Banking and taught Economics, Bank Accounting and Controlling from 1995 to

1997 at University for Banking Management (Hochschule für Bankwirtschaft), Frankfurt am Main. Since 1997, he holds a chair as Senior Lecturer for National and International Bank Management at the University of Rostock in Germany. Prof. Dr. Lange was appointed Chief Country Officer & General Manager, Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore Branch in March 2000 and was previously Director Corporate & Institutional Banking for Deutsche Bank's Rostock Branch. He is a Board Member of International Bankers Forum e. V., Frankfurt am Main, and Council Member of the Association of Banks in Singapore.

#### **Mr. R. Palakrishnan SC - President of the Law Society of Singapore; Partner, Palakrishnan & Partners**

Mr. R. Palakrishnan SC graduated from the then University of Singapore with LL.B. (Honours) (Upper Division) in 1972. He obtained an LL.M. in 1976 from the London School of Economics, University of London. He was admitted to the Roll of Advocates and Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1975, and has headed his own Chambers, M/s Palakrishnan and Partners, since 1979. He practices in the areas of both civil/commercial litigation and criminal litigation, although he still regards crime as 'his first love'. He has been a Council Member of the Law Society of Singapore since 1994, having just entered his second term of office this year as President of The Law Society of Singapore. Truly believing that technology, far from bringing about a digital divide, will be great leveller, his recent foray into the world of IT include non-executive directorship in a legal portal, WWLegal.com, and the setting up of [www.counselling.org.sg](http://www.counselling.org.sg), an online counselling portal for kids in crisis launched in March 2001.

#### **Prof. Koh Kheng Lian - Professorial Fellow NUS Law Faculty, Director APCEL (Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law)**

Professor Koh Kheng Lian is a member of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore and the Director of the Asia - Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) established by the Faculty. She is the Vice Chair of the World Conservation Union - Commission on Environmental Law (IUCN-CEL), and a member of its Steering Committee. She has been consultant on capacity building in environmental legal education and other environmental law projects for the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank Institute, and the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and China. Her areas of interest, apart from environmental law, include criminal law and commercial transactions. Her publications include *Straits in International Navigation*, *Criminal Law in Singapore* (co-authorship), *Credit and Security in Singapore*, and *Selected ASEAN Documents on the Environment*. She was editor of the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, the *Singapore Law Series* and other books. Between 1980 and 1986, she served as legal officer in the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna.

#### **Mr. Thomas Busching - Partner, Haarmann, Hemmelrath & Partner, Singapore**

Thomas Busching was admitted as Attorney at Law in Germany in 1988. He is also qualified as a German Tax Advisor. From 1989 until 1999, he was with Price Waterhouse. He joined that firm in Stuttgart and has been practising in Singapore since 1995. In 1999, he became a partner of Haarmann, Hemmelrath & Partner. His area of practice focuses on German and international corporate and commercial law, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, German and international corporate taxation in particular with regard to investments in South East Asia, cross-border tax planning, indirect taxation, transfer pricing.

#### **Dr. Axel Reeg - Reeg Rechtsanwälte, Mannheim**

Dr. Axel Reeg received his legal education at the Universities of Munich/Germany, Singapore and Freiburg/Germany. He graduated with a Ph. D. in Law from the University of Freiburg in 1990. Also in 1990 he was admitted to the bar in Germany and in 1992 in Spain. During his time as a Fellow of the Freiburg based Max-Planck-Institute for International and Foreign Law he has done extensive research on foreign laws and comparative law with a strong focus on Spain and South-East-Asia. After three years as an attorney with a leading German corporate firm, in 1993, Dr. Reeg established REEG RECHTSANWÄLTE, a cross-border focussed business law firm which also represents companies from Singapore in Germany. Dr. Reeg who is the author of numerous publications specializes in Corporate and Commercial Law and in International Commercial Arbitration. He currently is the President of the German-Singaporean Lawyers' Association.

#### **Mr. Thomas Weidlich - Rajah & Tann/ Andersen Legal, Singapore**

Thomas Weidlich is working in the international Andersen Legal network since 1996. After 4 years in the corporate practice of Andersen Luther where he advised primarily on international joint ventures, corporate restructurings, venture capital investments and cross-border acquisitions, he joined the affiliated Singapore firm Rajah & Tann in January 2000. He holds a postgraduate degree in International and European law from the University of Hull in England (LL.M., 1990). Mr Weidlich has given seminars and has published on corporate law subjects; he is co-author of a text book on mergers and acquisitions which will be published soon. He is a member of several professional organisations and Vice-President of the German-Singaporean Lawyers' Association.

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