



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 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Conference Parliament House, Auditorium
	7.30 p.m.	Dinner Parliament House & Garden
Sunday, 27 May		Social Program Sightseeing Tour Singapore



For registration and enquiries, please contact Mr. Thomas Weidlich at (65) 232 0784 or thomas.weidlich@sg.rajahtann.com.



Deutsch - Singapurische Juristenvereinigung 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

Opening address: Assoc. Prof. Ho Peng Kee, Singapore Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs



Kindly Supported By:



SIEMENS



PEPPERL+FUCHS Deutsche Bank



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.

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. 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, April 2001

The Committee

Dr. Axel Reeg
President

Thomas Weidlich
Vice-President

Klaus Jakubowski
Treasurer



Topics

The presentations and panel discussions on Saturday, 26 May 2001 in the new Auditorium of Parliament House will touch on current issues in Singapore and Germany, including:

- Singapore and Southeast-Asia: slowdown or another economic crisis ahead?
- A snapshot on the German and European economy
- The role and objectives of the Association in Singapore
- 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 developments
- "Common vs. Civil Law"
- Life sciences as Singapore's 4th pillar of growth
- The Financial Services Industry in Asia - A German Perspective
- New developments in EU law



Speakers

The speakers and panelists are internationally recognised experts in arbitration and mediation, business, EU and international law, including:

- Mr. Chan Sek Keong - Attorney-General of Singapore
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Dietrich Rauschnig - Emeritus Professor University of Goettingen; Judge of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo
- Prof. Robert C. Beckman - Vice-Dean, NUS Law Faculty
- H.E. Volker Schlegel - German Ambassador to Singapore
- Mr. R. Palakrishnan SC - President of the Law Society of Singapore; Partner, Palakrishnan & Partners
- Prof. Dr. Thomas A. Lange - Chief Country Officer & General Manager, Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore Branch
- Prof. Peter Ellinger - Emeritus Professor NUS Law Faculty; Director of Research, Rajah & Tann
- Dr. Thomas Klötzel - Committee Member, British-German Lawyers' Association; Partner, Thümmel, Schütze & Partner, Stuttgart
- Mr. Ang Yong Tong - Executive Director of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)