



LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate 2013

Date: 7th March 2013 | Time: 2.30 – 6.30pm
Venue: Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur

The Motion:

“This House Believes That The ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights Is An Ineffective Safeguard Of Human Rights”.

Live streaming URL:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/LexisNexisMY>

For information, please log on to www.lexisnexis.com.my



About LexisNexis®

LexisNexis® is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting, and academic markets. LexisNexis originally pioneered online information with its Lexis® and Nexis® services. Part of Reed Elsevier, LexisNexis® Legal & Professional serves customers in more than 100 countries with 10,000 employees worldwide.

Rule of Law

The Rule of Law, in its most basic form, is the principle that no one is above the law. The rule follows logically from the idea that truth, and therefore law, is based upon fundamental principles which can be discovered, but which cannot be created through an act of will. The most important application of the rule of law is the principle that governmental authority is legitimately exercised only in accordance with written, publicly disclosed laws adopted and enforced in accordance with established procedural steps that are referred to as due process. The principle is intended to be a safeguard against arbitrary governance, whether by a totalitarian leader or by mob rule. Thus, the rule of law is hostile both to dictatorship and to anarchy.

Advancing the Rule of Law Is Our Purpose as a Business:

LexisNexis® is committed to advancing the Rule of Law both through our day-to-day business, and our actions as a corporate citizen. We believe that the rule of law is essential to political stability, economic opportunity, social progress and fundamental fairness and equality.

We work to advance the rule of law in four key areas:

- I. We provide products and services that enable our customers to excel in the practice and business of law.
- II. We document laws and make them accessible to citizens and professionals.
- III. We partner with governments and non-profits to make justice systems more efficient and transparent.
- IV. We support corporate citizenship initiatives that strengthen civil society and the Rule of Law globally.

We are proud to feature the inaugural LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate as a platform to stimulate discussion and engender action in the region towards upholding human rights and advancing the rule of law.

The LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate 2013

The ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights, which came into being in 2012, lays out universal human rights principles as a guideline in the governing of Southeast Asian regions. As pronounced in the preamble of the declaration, its main aim is to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance.

Whilst many have hailed the instrument as a huge step towards the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, many also question the quality of its universality due to its cultural relativistic deference to “Asian” values. The debate aims to create awareness about the ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights, stimulate discussions on its benefits and challenges and broaden the whirlwind of discussion on human rights issues today.

The event will bring together partners, customers and friends of LexisNexis in an intimate setting, enabling meaningful discussions on the topic. The aim is to create new partnerships, initiatives and projects which will further advance the rule of law in the region.

Agenda

2:30PM	Opening
2.40PM	Welcoming Address by Shawn Clark, CEO of LexisNexis Asia
2.50PM	Keynote Lecture by Mr. Lim Chee Wee, President of the Malaysian Bar: “Human Rights in ASEAN : Past, Present and Future”
3.00PM	Panel Forum by Edmund Bon and Faisal Moideen, moderated by Syahredzan Johan: “Do We Need An ASEAN Court of Human Rights?”
3.30PM	Announcement of Debate Motion and Speaker Positions
3.40PM	Break and Debate Preparation Time
4.10PM	The LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate 2013: “This House Believes That the ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights Is An Ineffective Safeguard of Human Rights”
5.20PM	Results & Prize-giving
5.30PM	Light Refreshments/End

The Keynote Lecture: “Human Rights in ASEAN: Past, Present and Future”

2.50PM

Lim Chee Wee is the President of the Malaysian Bar, and partner in the Dispute Resolution Division of SKRINE.

He graduated from the University of New South Wales, Australia with a LLB degree and B. Comm. (Accounting) degree, and was admitted to the Malaysian Bar in 1993. He started practising in SKRINE and was made a partner of SKRINE in January 2001.

Lim Chee Wee has a broad commercial practice with experience in a wide variety of commercial and corporate disputes and litigation. He was rated by international directories such as Legal 500 and Asialaw Profiles 2011, and was listed in Chambers Asia 2010 as a leading individual for Dispute Resolution.

Under his leadership, the Malaysian Bar was presented the United Nations (Malaysia) Award 2012, recognising the Malaysian Bar’s contributions towards advancing the cause of democracy and human rights in Malaysia.

The Panel Forum: “Do we need an ASEAN Court of Human Rights?”

3.00PM

The Panellists:

Edmund Bon is a partner in the Criminal Law and Public Interest Litigation Department of Chooi & Co. and specialises in criminal defence, constitutional and administrative law, and public interest litigation. Edmund read law at University College London and was called to the English Bar (Lincoln’s Inn) in 1997. Edmund is a Chevening scholar and has a Masters degree in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University.

Edmund was previously an elected member of the Malaysian Bar Council and chaired the Constitutional Law (2009-2011), Human Rights (2007-2009) and National Young Lawyers’ (2006-2008) committees. He continues to be involved in various social movements and enterprises having co-founded the Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism & Human Rights (MCCHR also known as PusatRakyatLB). Edmund’s latest publication is the Halsbury’s Laws of Malaysia on “Citizenship, Immigration, National Security and the Police” (Volume 27, 2010).

Faisal Moideen is a member of the Malaysian Bar and the Managing Partner of Messrs Moideen & Max, a law firm based in Kuala Lumpur. He was previously attached to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as Protection Assistant. In his university days, Faisal was a champion debater for UT Mara.

Although his views in respect of rights and freedoms are largely unorthodox and unconventional, he believes that rights and freedoms are crucial components of societal development."

Moderator:

Syahredzan Johan is a partner at Messrs. RamRais & Partners.

In 2009, Syahredzan was appointed as the Co-deputy Chairperson of the Bar Council’s Constitutional Law Committee, the committee behind the successful MyConstitution campaign. After two terms, the Bar Council subsequently appointed him as Chairperson of the Constitutional Law Committee (2011-present). In 2011, he was also elected as a Committee member of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee, chairing the Information Technology and Communications Committee of the Kuala Lumpur Bar. He is also a member of the Bar Council’s National Young Lawyers Committee and the KL Bar’s Young Lawyers Committee. In 2012, Syahredzan was appointed as a member of the Bar Council.

Syahredzan has written articles published in the mainstream media, with columns in The Star (i-Pad) and Sinar Harian, as well as at www.loyarburok.com.

The LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate 2013 : “This House Believes That the ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights Is An Ineffective Safeguard of Human Rights”

4.10PM

The format: British Parliamentary

In the British Parliamentary Debating format there are four teams in each round - two teams representing the Government, and two the Opposition, with each team consisting of two members. The Government supports the motion, and the Opposition opposes it.

On the whole, the debate is made up of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Opening Government:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister | 3. Closing Government:
Member for the Government
Government Whip |
| 2. Opening Opposition:
Leader of the Opposition
Deputy Leader of the Opposition | 4. Closing Opposition:
Member for the Opposition
Opposition Whip |

Speaking alternates between the two sides and the order of the debate is therefore:

Prime Minister → Leader of the Opposition → Deputy Prime Minister → Deputy Leader of the Opposition → Member for the Government → Member for the Opposition → Government Whip → Opposition Whip.

Speeches are seven minutes in length; points of information can be requested after the first minute of a speech and prior to the last minute of the speech. The point of information can last no more than fifteen seconds and may take the form of a question, a statement, or an argument.

The British Parliamentary format is used for the World Universities Debating Championship and is probably the most commonly used format in the world.

The prize:

- USD2,000 cash; and
- USD3,000 worth of LexisNexis publications to the winning institution

The debaters:

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Imran Rahim is an Asian Champion and Best Speaker, Asian BP Champion and twice Best Speaker, Australs Finalist and 3rd Best Speaker, World Universities Debating Championship Quarterfinalist in 2011 and Octo-finalist in 2013, and World Universities Peace Invitational Debate Champion. He has also won, and been ranked as the Best Speaker, of several regional Intervarsities.

“The Rule of Law means that laws should govern a country instead of the wills of particular individuals.”

Robin Teo is a 4th year Law student who just finished his last semester of Law school. Highlights of his debate career include being Quarterfinalist and Octo-finalist in 2 different World Universities Debating Championships, Champion of Asia in 2011, Grand-Finalist of Australs in 2011, and top individual speaker in various local, regional and global tournaments. Robin is very proud to be donning the NUS colours one last time in this tournament.

“The Rule of Law means civilization - a world where we can order our societies around institutions rather than individuals, and where nobody can claim to be another's master by virtue of birth.”

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Lee Yarcia is recognized as Best Speaker of the Philippines and ranks second in Asia. He is a celebrated Filipino debater who has won multiple regional tournaments, while being a student of the most elite and prestigious accelerated medical degree program in the University of the Philippines. Lee is one of the youngest Filipino physicians, and he is currently involved with the Philippine government's Universal Health Care agenda.

“The Rule of Law defines the borders between right and wrong. Its rule means society is living within the boundary of what is good for all.”

Elmer Cruz is the current Prime Minister of the UP Manila Debate Circle all the while juggling the demands of being a 2nd Year Medicine Student at the UP College of Medicine. A champion in his own right in multiple local Intervarsities as well as a Quarterfinalist in the United Asians Debate Championship and Philippine Intercollegiate Debating Championship, Elmer has taken his talents to serve as a debating consultant in the Philippine Department of Health's "The Secretary's Cup", a nationwide event that serves to highlight various local health issues.

“The Rule of Law is the permeating dictum that reflects our humanity.”

UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA

Roderick Sibarani is the First Best Speaker and Grand-finalist of South East Asian English Olympics, 2nd Best EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Speaker of World Universities Debating Championship 2012, and Champion of Asean Youth Debating Championship. He is also the Indonesian Debater of the Year 2011.

“The Rule of Law is a reflection on the kind of society the nation wants to live in.”

Terry Muthahhari is a Grand-finalist of Asian English Olympics 2013, Best Novice Speaker and Quarterfinalist of Asian English Olympics 2012.

“The Rule of Law is a set of rules that were created to help people maintain the values of humanity.”

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Arinah Najwa is a Quarterfinalist and the 2nd Best ESL (English as a Second Language) speaker in the World Universities Debating Championship 2013, Asians British Parliamentary Debate Quarterfinalist and 3rd Best Speaker, Australs Octo-finalist in 2011 and Best Speaker in the ESL Category. She has been Best Speaker and finalist in various regional and local tournaments.

“The Rule of Law is a basic guideline for society to be able to live with one another. Without it there is only anarchy.”

Syed Saddiq is this year's World Universities Debating Championship 3rd Best Speaker in the ESL Category and World Universities Debating Championship Quarterfinalist. He was Octo-finalist in Australs 2012 as well as Overall Best Speaker in ESL Category. He was also Overall Best Speaker (ESL) at the Cambridge Intervarsity 2012 as well as the Asians British Parliamentary Debate 2012. He has been ranked Best Speaker and finalist in various local and regional competitions.

“The Rule of Law is the locus of my security.”

The LexisNexis Rule of Law Debate 2013 will be screened live at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/LexisNexisMY>. The event will also be recorded and will be uploaded later on LexisNexis websites and channels. Please stay tuned to our Facebook: www.facebook.com/LexisNexisMalaysia and Twitter: www.twitter.com/LexisNexisMY for updates. Tweet using the hashtag #LN4ROL!

If you would like to partner us in our Rule of Law initiatives, contact **Gaythri Raman** at gaythri.raman@lexisnexis.com!