

**Seminar  
on  
Current Singapore  
Construction Law  
Issues with a US Law Input**

**Analysis by  
Emeritus Professor Justin Sweet,  
UC Berkeley, and  
Drs Philip Chan and  
Asanga Gunawansa, NUS**

**Tuesday, 31 March 2009  
10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**SDE3, Level 4, LR422  
School of Design & Environment  
National University of Singapore  
4 Architecture Drive  
Singapore 117566**

**Who should attend**

This seminar would interest architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, project managers, claims consultants and other construction professionals; those who are in-house construction professionals with statutory boards like BCA, HDB, LTA, JTC as well as those who are with contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers; practicing construction lawyers, academics involved in teaching and research on construction disputes; insurers dealing with policies used in the construction industry; providers of performance bonds; and those tasked with the duty of putting an end to disputes like arbitrators, mediators, adjudicators and negotiators.

**About the Seminar**

This is a rare occasion for all who are involved in the management of construction disputes to be given an opportunity to listen to views from Emeritus Professor Justin Sweet who hails from the Boalt Hall Law School in UC Berkeley. Three topics have been identified to allow the Emeritus Professor to share his wealth of knowledge with all. The statutory payment scheme which introduced adjudication would be analysed comparatively with the existing schemes in the US that help resolve payment disputes. Recent construction law cases of importance from both the US and Singapore would be similarly analysed comparatively. Joining the Emeritus Professor in the comparative analysis will be Dr Philip Chan and Dr Asanga Gunawansa.

**PROGRAMME**

- 0930 Registration
- 0955 Opening Remarks
- 1000 Payment disputes – a comparison between SOP Act and the US schemes to “secure” payment
- 1200 Lunch
- 1330 Some recent US construction law cases and how Singapore courts would have decided them
- 1430 Some recent Singapore construction law cases and how US courts would have decided them
- 1530 Panel Discussion
- 1600 Closing Comments followed by refreshment and networking

**END OF SEMINAR**

**— All are welcome —**

**NOTE: Due to limited seating capacity at 120,  
please register early.**

*Organised by*



Department of Building  
School of Design and Environment

## About the Speakers

Justin Sweet received his B.A. (Literature) and LLB degrees from the University of Wisconsin (USA) in 1951 and 1953 respectively. After three years as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge-Advocate General's Corp. He joined the law faculty of the University of California at Berkeley as a professor in 1958. He has been admitted to the bar in Wisconsin and California.

He has also taught in the Department of Architecture in Berkeley. In 1965 he was a Fulbright Lecturer in Rome. He has also taught at universities in Belgium, Canada, Norway, Italy, Germany and Israel. He founded the International Construction Law Conference where he wrote and lectured.

He was appointed John Boalt Professor of Law Emeritus in 1990. He retired in 1994. He has been recalled to active teaching for 2009-2010 in order to teach a seminar in Construction Law Research.

He has written many law review articles, mainly in the field of Construction Law. His major papers are being collected in one volume to be published by the American Bar Association in June. He has also written three books in Construction Law. They are Sweet on Construction Law, Sweet on Construction Industry Contracts (four editions) and Legal Aspects of Architecture, Engineering and the Construction Process (eight editions). He has consulted with construction companies as well as arbitrated disputes, public and private, that deal with construction.

+++++

Dr Chan, an Associate Professor, teaches *project management law* which includes *construction law* and *arbitration* at the *Department of Building*, School of Design and Environment, *National University of Singapore* [NUS]. He is the Deputy Head (Academic) of the department, the Programme Director of the Joint King's College, London [KCL] - NUS MSc in construction law and dispute resolution and the Co-Director of the Centre for Project Management and Construction Law.

Outside the university, Dr Chan is a Deputy President of the Singapore Strata Titles Board. He is also a Co-Editor of the *Asian International Arbitration Journal* and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board and Correspondent of the *International Construction Law*

*Review*. He is a practising arbitrator and a Fellow of the *Singapore Institute of Arbitrators* (SIArb).

Dr Chan has written ten books as both sole and joint author. His latest books are (a) *Statutory adjudication in Singapore*, Thomson 2008 and (b) *Asia Pacific Construction Law Casebook*, LexisNexis 2009. He has contributed to journals like the *International Construction Law Review* and *Building and Construction Law* journal. He also writes regularly in the newsletter of the SIArb.

Dr Chan has also delivered more than 180 conference/seminar papers and conducted numerous in-house training programmes on matters pertaining to standard form contracts and other areas of construction law and dispute resolution including arbitration.

+++++

Dr. Asanga Gunawansa is an Attorney –at- Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. He qualified as a lawyer from the Sri Lanka Law College and holds a Ph.D. in law from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and a LL.M in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Dr. Gunawansa is currently attached to the Department of Building, NUS, as an Assistant Professor. He is an associate Member of the Executive Committee of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law. He is also a member of the Editorial Committee of the International Journal of Law in the Built Environment. His teaching and research areas include construction law, legal aspects of infrastructure development, and international environmental law.

Prior to joining NUS, Dr. Gunawansa worked for over six years as a Legal Officer for two agencies of the United Nations, namely, the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). At UNCC, with a group of international lawyers, Dr. Gunawansa helped process the largest war reparations claims handled by the Commission to monitor, assess, restore and compensate for environmental damage and damages to natural resources resulting from the 1991 Gulf War. At UNRWA, DR. Gunawansa was involved in drafting and negotiating construction, trade, infrastructure development, and other commercial contracts entered into by the agency.

Dr. Gunawansa has also worked as a State Counsel attached to the Department of the Attorney General of Sri Lanka during the period 1993 - 2000.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Seminar on Current Singapore Construction Law Issues with a US Law Input

Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2009

Venue: SDE3, Level 4 – LR422

Title: Prof / Dr / Mr / Mdm / Ms

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount (inclusive of GST): [please tick]

\$90.00 (Public)

\$25.00 (student): matric no: \_\_\_\_\_

\$80.00 (BEMA member): membership no: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque No: \_\_\_\_\_

(Payable to **National University of Singapore**)

Closing date for registration: **26 March 2009 (12 noon)**

No refunds will be provided, but substitutions are allowed if the seminar organiser is informed by **26 March 2009**.

Please send the completed registration form together with your cheque payment to:

Attn: Ms Chelvi  
Department of Building  
School of Design and Environment  
National University of Singapore  
4 Architecture Drive  
Singapore 117566

For enquiries, please email: [bdg\\_seminar@nus.edu.sg](mailto:bdg_seminar@nus.edu.sg);

DID: (65) 6516-5150; Fax: (65) 6775-5502

Disclaimer: The organizer reserves the right to cancel or postpone the event due to unforeseen circumstances. © Copyright 2009 National University of Singapore. All rights reserved. This announcement is produced by Department of Building, National University of Singapore, 4 Architecture Drive, Singapore 117566. If you do not want to receive announcement of our events, please e-mail [bdg\\_seminar@nus.edu.sg](mailto:bdg_seminar@nus.edu.sg) to unsubscribe.