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 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

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

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