

PREFACE

This will be the last volume of the *Singapore Year Book of International Law*. In the coming months, the *Year Book* will be re-launched as a new and broader journal, the *Asian Journal of International Law*.

The roots of the *Singapore Year Book of International Law* can be traced back over 30 years to the first scholarly documentation of Singapore's international law practice in 1977. That year, the long-established *Malaya Law Review* (renamed the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* in 1991) commenced a regular section with the aim of recording Singapore's growing state practice in international law. In time, a Southeast Asian section was also included to reflect the wealth of emergent Southeast Asian practice. In 1997, in consideration of the fact that the international law articles and regular sections in the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* had become well-established, the *Singapore Journal of International & Comparative Law* was founded in its own right. After Volume 8 of 2004, the *Singapore Year Book of International Law* succeeded the *Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law*.

In this process, there have been a number of changes in editorship and formats. The *Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law* was published twice annually and steered by editors from the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law, starting with M. Sornarajah in 1997. Kevin Tan assumed chief editorial duties in mid-1998 and Thio Li-Ann was Chief Editor from 2000-2003. From 2004, under the editorship of Lim Chin Leng, it was remodelled as a Year Book and focused solely on international law. Joel Lee then served as Joint Editor-in-Chief with Lim Chin Leng in 2007.

Since its inception, the *Singapore Year Book of International Law*, or *SYBIL*, has served as a platform for Asian, Southeast Asian, Singapore and international scholarship, seeking to publish engaging and significant pieces on issues of international law of contemporary regional and international interest. *SYBIL* has also provided a resource on developments in Singapore.

SYBIL has been a considerable success, providing a comprehensive overview of domestic and regional developments in relation to both public and private international law, as well as timely analyses of the latest Singapore judicial rulings on international commercial arbitration. It is highly regarded and ranks high in many university assessments of journals. It has also been an invaluable resource for Singapore and sharing information about Singapore's positions on international law.

The NUS Faculty of Law has been responsible for publishing all of these journals. In 2007, the Faculty took on the role of Secretariat for the Asian Society of International Law. More recently, the NUS established a Centre for International Law. After much consideration, the Faculty has concluded that there is the opportunity and the need for a journal that contributes to a wider discourse about international law, drawing in particular on Asian perspectives. The new *Asian Journal of International Law* will be produced by the NUS Faculty of Law for the Asian Society of International Law.

The *Asian Journal of International Law*, as its name suggests, will offer articles on regional issues and also Asian perspectives on global issues. The current editors of the *Singapore Year Book* will serve to edit the new Journal, alongside a new appointee.

The *Asian Journal of International Law* will publish peer-reviewed scholarly articles, shorter comments (“views”), and book reviews on public and private international law. The regional focus of the Journal is broadly conceived. Some articles may focus specifically on Asian issues; others will bring one of the many Asian perspectives to bear on issues of global concern. Still others will be of more general interest to scholars, practitioners, and policymakers located in or working on Asia.

The *Journal* will be published by Cambridge University Press. We anticipate that this will greatly enhance the profile of the new publication and strengthen its distribution networks. Working with the Asian Society of International Law, we hope will also expand its reach among experts and practitioners and widen the pool of potential contributors. Given these developments, the decision has been made to end the publication of the *Singapore Year Book* in order to allow a focus on developing the *Asian Journal*.

On behalf of the current editorial board, we gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to *SYBIL* and its predecessors, the Dean and our colleagues in the NUS Faculty of Law, the past editors and especially Lim Chin Leng, who led the revamp of *SYBIL*.

Looking forward, we hope that the new *Asian Journal of International Law* will serve the existing audience of the *Singapore Year Book of International Law* and, also reach more widely into the region and beyond to represent the scholarship and perspectives on international law across Asia.

Simon Tay
Simon Chesterman
Michael Ewing-Chow

