

PREFACE

The aim of Volume IX of the *Singapore Year Book of International Law* continues to be the publication of timely and significant pieces of international law scholarship from within and outside the Asian region. Our outlook is international despite a specially felt responsibility to foster and promote Asian, Southeast Asian and Singapore scholarship in the field. In that regard, the *Year Book* continues to seek, review and accept writings from some of the best scholars the world over for our Articles, Notes and ASEAN Features sections.

This year, we have also decided to put aside a new section for two notable keynote speeches which have come to our attention in the previous year, and which may not otherwise be made as widely available to an international readership. Deputy Prime Minister Jayakumar's speech was delivered to the Conference on Law of the Sea Issues in the East and South China Seas, held in Xiamen, the People's Republic of China on 12 March 2005, while Judge Owada's speech was delivered to the Symposium on the Asian Contribution to the Universality of International Law, also held in the PRC at Beijing's Tsinghua University on 25 March 2005.

In addition, we have expanded the Regular Features section to include coverage of "Private International Law in the Malaysia Courts" and "Recent Developments in Singapore on International Commercial Arbitration". While the first of these is intended to complement our regular feature on "Private International Law in the Singapore Courts", we hope the second of these will confirm to our readers that the *Year Book* intends to be as broad and useful in its coverage as possible. The aim of the Regular Features is to keep our readers informed about developments in Singapore and, to a lesser extent, in neighbouring Malaysia.

Beyond Singapore and Malaysia, we continue to invite scholars worldwide to submit their work for inclusion in our ASEAN Features section. We hope that the ASEAN Features section will not only become the leading forum for the very best writings on ASEAN and the sub-region, but will itself encourage more ASEAN and Southeast Asia-related scholarship.

Our book reviews section will continue to accept a relatively small number of reviews of a substantive nature each year, and we would also like to draw attention to our website (<http://law.nus.edu.sg/sybil>) where selected articles for pre-publication as well as further information about the *Year Book* and its predecessor, the *Singapore Journal of International & Comparative Law*, may be found.

Again, the support of our colleagues at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, and particularly that of the Dean, has been crucial to the *Year Book*. Likewise, we have been fortunate to continue to receive generous encouragement, advice and assistance from our distinguished non-executive board members. The Deputy Editor-in-Chief and the executive board members have provided crucial support for the many details involved in the preparation of this year's volume. Our contributors this year have been patient with our demanding deadlines and they have been wonderful to work with. Finally, I should express my deeply felt gratitude to our three young Associate Editors this year. They were the ones who put in the long hours required to make this *Year Book* possible.

Chin Leng LIM
Editor-in-Chief