

France – Singapore Legal Symposium

Building the EURO-ASIAN platform -
The role of French and Singapore law

17 January 2020 | 9am - 4pm
Supreme Court Auditorium



Organised by:



SINGAPORE
ACADEMY
OF LAW



AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
À SINGAPOUR



MINISTÈRE
DE LA JUSTICE

BACKGROUND

France and Singapore are bilateral strategic partners and enjoy excellent economic relations. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism, globalisation, the rule of law and sustainable development through regular and high-level political exchanges and visits.

On the economic front, Singapore is France's main partner in the region where it receives two-thirds of French investments into South-East Asia; 800 French companies have regional headquarters in Singapore. These companies are active in the fields of urban, air and maritime transport; finance; construction; energy; services and new technologies.

Singapore investments in France are also increasing steadily in the financial, technology, chemical and hospitality sectors. France, the second largest economy in the European Union, and Singapore, a logistics and financial hub in the heart of Southeast Asia, position themselves as regional gateways to foster the development of economic exchanges between Europe and Asia.

Singapore and France rely on strong legal systems based on different traditions - common law on the one hand, and civil law on the other. Singapore is recognized for the quality and independence of its legal system, highly-recognised judicial expertise, and top reputation in international dispute resolution and the protection of intellectual property rights. Since 1923, France has been home to the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, which have settled more than 12,000 international disputes in 170 countries and serves as a reference in this field. With their strong laws, France and Singapore offer investors critical legal predictability in the field of contract law and the protection of intellectual property rights.

Paris and Singapore are leading international centres for arbitration and mediation, and intend to continue showcasing their legal expertise through their access to legal professionals.

The recently-concluded EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) will enhance economic exchanges, and corporate and financial investments while reinforcing investor guarantees through appropriate dispute settlement mechanisms.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium aims to promote a greater awareness of French and Singapore laws, as key platforms for doing business in Europe, Asia and beyond.

It will serve to promote Paris and Singapore as investment, arbitration and innovation legal hubs, and to reflect on the commonalities and distinctiveness between the two legal systems in order to identify and share best practices, and to create further areas of collaboration.

The symposium will bring together senior government officials, members of the judiciary, legal professionals, corporate counsel, arbitrators, academics and top industry experts from France and Singapore to discuss legal and business issues, and explore synergies for further collaborations.

This event is free.

To register, please click on the link [here](#).

For inquiries, please email:

singaporelaw@sal.org.sg

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Time	Activity
08.30am - 09.00am	Registration
09.00am - 09.10am	Opening Remarks The Honourable the Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon
09.10am – 09.30am	Opening Address Olivier Cousi, President, Paris Bar Association
09.30am – 10.40am	Panel 1 – France and Singapore: gateways to Europe and Asia This panel will examine the role of France and Singapore as key gateways to Europe and Asia and how France and Singapore can leverage their hub status and attractiveness of their trade and economic policies to enhance business, investment and people flows between the two regions.
10.40am – 11.00am	Tea Break
11.00am – 12.10pm	Panel 2 – France and Singapore as legal hubs: promoting convergence, legal certainty and innovation to support cross-border deal making Legal certainty and adaptability to economic and technological evolution are key features of modern legal frameworks. This panel will feature legal experts with varied ties to France and Singapore who will speak on how they manage the complexities of deal- and rule-making across borders and how differences between legal systems influence their regional and global strategies. Building on their experience, this session will explore how France and Singapore can use their positions as legal hubs to build synergies and common strategies to facilitate regional and global business, with a focus on contracts, intellectual property and data protection.
12.10pm – 01.30pm	Networking Lunch
01.30pm – 02.40pm	Panel 3 – International Dispute Resolution: New Perspectives from Paris and Singapore This panel will examine the role of Paris and Singapore as global Alternative Dispute Resolution hubs and examine the trends in modern dispute resolution including the emergence of Online Dispute Resolution.
02.40pm – 03.50pm	Panel 4 - EU-Singapore FTA, IPA and Innovative Legal Mechanisms – Practical Insights for French and Singaporean Businesses This panel will focus on promoting awareness of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) and IPA, and how French and Singaporean businesses will benefit from the EUSFTA especially in lowering transaction costs and reducing border-related issues. This session will be particularly relevant to France and Singapore SMEs that wish to tap ASEAN or European business opportunities. It will address both the substantive trade rules contained in the new agreements and the dispute resolution procedures for investment dispute settlements.
03.50pm – 04.00pm	Closing Remarks French Ambassador His Excellency Marc Abensour

KEY GUESTS

- The Honourable the Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh MENON
- Mr Olivier COUSI, President, Paris Bar Association
- HE Marc ABENSOUR, Ambassador of France to Singapore

OUR SPEAKERS

- Mr Arnaud DE BRESSON, Chief Executive Officer, PARIS EUROPLACE
- Mr Jean-Pierre ERBA, French Foreign Trade Advisor / PAUL Asia Pacific & India
- Mr Arup RAHA, Head of ASEAN Economics, BNP Paribas Bank, Global Markets
- Mr Gregory VIJAYENDRAN SC, President, Law Society of Singapore
- Mrs Sabine d'ANGÉLY LAVAIL, Head of Legal Asia Pacific and Middle East, Marketing & Services, TOTAL
- Mr Christopher LEE, Vice President, Deputy Group General Counsel & Regional General Counsel APAC, Schneider Electric
- Mr Patrice VIDON, Vice President of CNCPI, the National Association of Patent & Trademark Attorneys in France
- Mr Mark WONG, Partner, Shook Lin & Bok LLP
- Mrs Laure ALDEBERT, Judge at ICCP-CA, International Commercial Chamber of the Paris Court of Appeal
- Prof Lawrence BOO, Member of the Courts of Arbitration of the ICC and the SIAC
- Mr Philip JEYARETNAM, Senior Counsel, Chairman, Maxwell Chambers
- Mr Olivier MONANGE, Partner, DS Avocats
- Ms Kala ANANDARAJAH (PBM), Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- Mr Erwan BARRE, Partner (Foreign Lawyer), RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP
- Ms Elizabeth CHELLIAH, Principle Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Mr Salim MOOLLAN, Essex Courts Chambers, past Chairman of UNCITRAL and its Arbitration Working Group

OUR MODERATORS

- Mr Sriram CHAKRAVARTHI, Senior Director (Legal Development) & Chief Legal Counsel, Singapore Academy of Law
- Dr Clarisse GIROT, Senior Fellow, Asian Business Law Institute
- Mr Mark FISHER, Deputy Executive Director, Asian Business Law Institute
- Mrs Dominique LOMBARDI, Lecturer, Sorbonne-Assas International Law School-Asia