



THE MALAYSIAN JUDICIARY

PRESS STATEMENT

HCCH-CACJ 2021 MASTERCLASS

On 19th August 2021, the Malaysian Judiciary collaborated with the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) to co-host the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) Masterclass.

The 7th CACJ Meeting in Phuket, Thailand, was the catalyst for the conception of the HCCH-CACJ Masterclass ('Masterclass'). It was agreed and endorsed in Paragraph 7 of the Bangkok Declaration for Malaysia and the CACJ Secretariat to collaborate with the HCCH to conduct a Masterclass for ASEAN judges and judicial officers. The two core Hague Conventions were the focus of the Masterclass; the HCCH Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters and the HCCH Convention of 2 July 2019 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters.

The Masterclass was held virtually, with approximately 350 delegates from all over the ASEAN region participating in it via video conference, among whom were Superior Court Judges and Judicial Officers.

The Malaysian delegation was led by The Rt. Hon. Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat, the Chief Justice of Malaysia. The Rt. Hon. Justice Tan Sri Rohana Binti Yusuf, President of the Court of Appeal, The Rt. Hon. Justice Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azahar Bin Mohamed, Chief Judge of Malaya, and The Rt. Hon. Justice Dato' Abang Iskandar Bin Abang Hashim, Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak, were also present.

The Rt. Hon. Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of CACJ Malaysia. Her Ladyship recorded her appreciation to The Rt. Hon. Justice Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azahar Bin Mohamed, the Chairman of the CACJ Working Group on Facilitating Service of Civil Processes Within ASEAN, the CACJ Secretariat and the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia, as well as the HCCH for their prodigious efforts in putting together the Masterclass. In her welcome remarks, the Rt. Hon. Tun Tengku Maimun emphasised the importance of the Masterclass in utilising

the HCCH Conventions to enhance the Rule of Law and facilitate the harmonisation of the legal landscape within the ASEAN region. In that regard, Her Ladyship expressed her sincere hope that the Masterclass will provide the CACJ Working Group with the most suitable training ground for pursuing potential work in developing the model rules for the taking of evidence abroad and the enforcement of foreign judgments within the ASEAN region.

Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary-General of the HCCH delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of the HCCH. Dr. Gérardine Goh Escolar, the First Secretary of the HCCH, then delivered the keynote speech. Afterwards, there were presentations on both HCCH Conventions, which was then followed by a Q&A session. Mr. Brody Warren, Senior Legal Officer of the HCCH, and The Hon. Justice David Goddard QC, Court of Appeal Judge of New Zealand, each presented their scholarly opinions on the two HCCH Conventions.

The closing remarks were delivered by The Rt Hon. Justice Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azahar Bin Mohamed. In his address, His Lordship focused on the accomplishments achieved through the Masterclass. His Lordship expressed his gratitude to The Rt. Hon. Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat, the Chief Justice of Malaysia, for delivering the welcome remarks on behalf of CACJ Malaysia and setting the tone for the Masterclass. His Lordship also expressed his gratitude to Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, the Secretary-General of the HCCH, Dr. Gérardine Goh Escolar, the First Secretary of the HCCH, and both the eminent speakers for their presentations on both HCCH Conventions. As a final note of appreciation, The Rt. Hon. Justice Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azahar Bin Mohamed also expressed his gratitude to the HCCH and the CACJ for their progressive and visionary efforts aimed at organizing this Masterclass.

Thank you.

Office of the Chief Registrar
Federal Court of Malaysia
Istana Kehakiman,
Putrajaya

Date: 19th August 2021