

EVENTS

PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

In January 2021, the University of the Philippines (“UP”) College of Law and the UP Law Center Institute of International Legal Studies hosted the 25th Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition Southeast Asian Regional Rounds (SEARR). The Philippines made a good showing in SEARR with Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) reaching the Final Round, the University of San Agustin (USA) making it to the Semifinal Round, and UP, the University of Cebu - Banilad (UC Banilad), the University of Santo Tomas and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila competing in the Quarterfinal Rounds. ADMU, UC Banilad, and USA won Best Overall Memorial, Second Best Memorial and Third Best Memorial respectively. Oralists from ADMU and USA also ranked in the Top 5 from the Preliminary Rounds. In March 2021, the Team from UP made it to the Quarterfinals of the International Rounds and also managed to bag the Third Best Memorial Award.

The Jessup Global Rounds were held in March and April. Teams from the University of San Carlos (USC), ADMU, and UP ranked in the Top 20 the Preliminary and Advanced Rounds. USC reached the Semifinals and ADMU reached the Quarterfinals while UP reached the Octofinals.

In March as well, UP represented the Philippines in the Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, managing to reach the Semifinal Round and winning Best Memorial for the Prosecution.

In April, UP represented the Philippines in the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition with Aloysius Bresnan ranking as 10th Best Oralist of the International Rounds.

In the same month, UP also represented the Philippines in the East Asia & Oceania Regional Round of the 19th edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition and won the Championship for the first time. The oralists of the team won best orators in the Final and Semifinal Rounds.

In August 2021, ADMU represented the Philippines in the Asia Cup International Law Moot Court Competition where they were the Overall Second Runner Up, earning memorial and oralist awards.

ADMU also participated in the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot and gained the distinction of being Overall 3rd Highest Ranked Team in the Written and Oral Preliminary Rounds and being a Global Top 16

Finalist. Team members were also able to gain the Best and 2nd rank in the Preliminary Rounds as oralists.

In December 2021, UP participated in the 36th Edition of the Jean-Pictet Competition held in Albania and capped their successful run in the Final Round of the Competition.

ADMU also participated in the Vis East Moot General Rounds.

JUDGE RAUL C. PANGALANGAN RETIRES AS JUDGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Raul C. Pangalangan has retired from the International Criminal Court (“ICC”) at the Hague. He served on the international court from 13 July 2015 to 10 March 2021, continuing in office until 16 May 2021.

As one of 18 judges, Dean Pangalangan was elected to the ICC on 24 June 2015 by the Assembly of States Parties, composed of representatives of the States that have signed the Rome Statute. Even before his election to the international court, Dean Pangalangan served as a Philippine Delegate to the drafting of the Rome Statute and co-chaired the campaign for ratification by the Philippines and other Asia-Pacific states.

In 2016, Dean Pangalangan was elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber VIII. This chamber heard the landmark case *The Prosecutor v. Al Mahdi*, the first ICC case involving the war crime of attacking religious and cultural heritage. He also heard *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen*, a case involving alleged child soldiers and forced marriages.

In 2017, Dean Pangalangan sat in the Pre-Trial Chamber in the Situation in the Republic of Burundi, a case involving Burundi’s withdrawal from the Rome Statute. The Court here held that it retained jurisdiction over crimes committed during the time in which Burundi was party to the Statute.

In 2019, Dean Pangalangan was elected President of the ICC Trial Division. Throughout his term, he has also sat *ad hoc* in the Appeals Chambers for cases concerning murder, rape, and sexual slavery as war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Dean Pangalangan was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1984. He received his LL.M. and S.J.D. from Harvard University and holds the Diplôme of The Hague Academy of International Law. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Asian Society of International Law and sits on the boards of various academic journals. He served as Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law from 1999 to 2005 and has also been appointed as *amicus curiae* in constitutional law and international law cases before the Supreme Court. Shortly after his retirement from the ICC, Dean Pangalangan was elected as an Associate Member to the prestigious Institut de Droit International on 25 August 2021.

THE 2021 ASIAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
8TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The 8th Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law (“AsianSIL”) was held online for the first time on 24 to 28 May 2021, with the theme “What place for international law in the Asian future?.”

The five-day landmark conference included an opening plenary session, academic presentations, roundtable discussions, and a PhD Student Workshop, all addressing a wide range of topics in international law and featuring a panel of notable international law senior scholars and academics.

The AsianSIL is an international forum for scholars and practitioners of international law, serving as a centre of activities in Asia and elsewhere, with the goal of fostering and encouraging Asian perspectives of international law and promoting awareness of and respect for international law in Asia. The Biennial Conference is one of the ways it achieves this goal as the plenary conference promotes the research, education, and practice of international law in Asia through its engaging presentations and panel sessions.

The main conference was preceded by a PhD Student Workshop that took place on 20 to 21 May 2021 where higher degree research students were able to participate in a workshop consisting of panels on the following topics: Law of the Sea, International Investment Law, History and Theory of International Law, and International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law. The workshop was guided by a distinguished panel of experts and who shared their knowledge and expertise in their respective fields.

Professor Shirley Scott, the President of AsianSIL and a professor of International Law and International Relations at the University of New South Wales Canberra, started the conference by delivering a speech emphasizing the continuing role of international law in global politics.

Dr. Rosalie Balkin, the Secretary-General of the Comité Maritime International, gave the keynote speech and discussed the many contributions of the International Maritime Organization in the development of treaties and soft law instruments in the current global oceans governance. Professor Antony Anghie, Secretary General of the AsianSIL, extended his thanks to Dr. Balkin on behalf of AsianSIL.

Panel discussions were then conducted to present and discuss the papers submitted by the delegates and participants falling under various themes,

including the History and Theory of International Law, International Human Rights Law, International Investment Law, the Law of the Sea, and International Dispute.

Resolution, among others. One panel focused on International Criminal Law and presented an opportunity for a productive discussion on the reform of the International Criminal Court (“ICC”). Taking part in the discussion were ICC Judge Raul Pangalangan, Professor Douglas Guilfoyle, Priya Pillai, Ambassador Neuhaus, and Professor Rosemary Grey.

PHILIPPINE SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING AND RESEARCHING
INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ASIA (TRILA) PHILIPPINES 2021

On July 1-3, 2021, the National University of Singapore Centre for International Law, the Philippine Society of International Law and the Philippine Association of Law Schools hosted an online conference on Teaching and Researching International Law in Asia (“TRILA”).¹ The Conference was the Seventh in a series of country-specific programmes that form part of the ‘TRILA on the Road’ initiative.

TRILA aims to foster the development of Asian scholars, practitioners, officials and diplomats who are highly knowledgeable and skilled in international law and its operations in a continuously changing global environment. More broadly, it seeks in this way to change the historical condition in which Asian societies only played a relatively minor role, that is, as rule-taker rather than rule-maker, in the making of modern international law.

The members of the Yearbook’s Board of Editors actively participated in the TRILA. Judge Raul C. Pangalangan gave the keynote address; Professor Elizabeth H. Aguiling-Pangalangan and Dr. Lowell Bautista served as moderators of several events; Professors Rommel J. Casis and Andre C. Palacios participated as panelists; Dean Sedfrey Candelaria was a response speaker; and Ambassador Eduardo Malaya gave a book lecture.

The Yearbook’s Managing Editor, Professor Michael Tiu, Jr. also presented a working paper on Customary International Law in Philippine Supreme Court Decisions.

Delegates from the University of the Philippines College of Law, the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, the University of San Carlos, Ateneo De Manila University, the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law, the University of New South Wales, and various other institutions from the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific participated in the conference.

PYIL BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
THE ASIAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Retired International Criminal Court Judge Raul C. Pangalangan, Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands J. Eduardo Malaya, and University of the Philippines College of Law Professor Elizabeth H. Aguilung-Pangalangan have been elected as members of the Executive Council of the Asian Society of International Law (“AsianSIL”) in their 8th General Meeting, held online last 17 August 2021. The General Meeting was hosted by the University of New South Wales Canberra and was held a few months after the Society’s 8th Biennial Conference.

Judge Pangalangan, Ambassador Malaya, and Professor Aguilung-Pangalangan join a roster of 41 international law experts and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific Region. The Executive Council of AsianSIL has the power to make decisions concerning the management of the Society. Elections to the Council are made through a three-step procedure of nominations, recommendation, and majority voting by the AsianSIL members. Upon election, Executive Council members serve for a maximum term of two years and six months. No more than three members of the Council may be nationals of the same country.

AsianSIL is an international non-partisan, non-profit, and non-governmental organization that serves as a region-wide forum for interaction among scholars and practitioners of international law based in or interested in Asia. In the past, both the 7th General Meeting and 7th Biennial Conference in 2019 were held in the Philippines and hosted by the University of the Philippines College of Law.

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH AGUILING-PANGALANGAN GIVES LECTURE AT
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILD PROTECTION CONVENTION

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Child Protection Convention, the HCCH Approach (“Advancing and Promoting the Protection of All Children”) was held on 19 October 2021. Formatted as an online lecture series, the event featured insights from law practitioners all around the globe whose diverse perspectives and expertise helped shed light on key issues in the realm of international family and child protection law.

Representing the Philippines on the roster of experts was Professor Elizabeth H. Aguilung-Pangalangan, Director of the University of the Philippines Law Center Institute of Human Rights, President of the Philippine Society of International Law, and member of the HCCH Experts’ Group on Parentage and Surrogacy and Family Agreements. Speaking on the theme “Why Join the HCCH 1996 Child Protection Convention: Perspectives,” Prof. Aguilung-Pangalangan made the case for the Philippine accession to the Convention, emphasizing the country’s own framework on child protection as reflected in its Development Plan 2017-2022 and its domestic laws.

Among the child protection issues highlighted in Prof. Aguilung-Pangalangan’s lecture were parental disputes over children, unregistered children, commercial sexual exploitation, physical and sexual abuse, and children in street situations. The discussion also delved into the various physical, socio-cultural, and economic factors that gave rise to these issues, as well the State initiatives currently in place to address them. Major accomplishments in the advancement and protection of the rights of children were also given recognition, some of which were the creation of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) Task Force on the Welfare of Children, the launch under the Philippine Plan for Safeguarding Children from Commercial Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of a database on offenders, and the strengthening by the Philippine Committee on Special Protection of Children of their tracking mechanisms for the movement of traffickers in and out of the country.

In closing, Prof. Aguilung-Pangalangan proposed the next steps that the Philippines should take in pursuit of its long-term vision on child protection, which were also the recommendations made in the study of Philippine Child Protection Programs she undertook with the (DOJ) in 2019. These next steps are the determination of new categories of children in need of special protection, the legislation of measures to address these new categories, and the establishment of cooperation and referral mechanisms to operationalize these measures.