

CONFERENCE DOSSIER



THE 33RD POLA CONFERENCE

SHANGRI-LA KUALA LUMPUR
14 TO 15 JULY 2023



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 0, Thursday, 13 July 2023			
Time (Malaysian Time)	Event	Location	Dress Code
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Cocktail Reception	Johor Room, Lower Lobby Level, Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur	Smart Casual
Day 1, Friday, 14 July 2023			
Time (Malaysian Time)	Event	Location	Dress Code
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration	Johor Room, Lower Lobby Level, Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur	Business Attire
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Opening Ceremony Welcome Address by Karen Cheah Yee Lynn , <i>President, Malaysian Bar</i>		
9:15 am – 10:45 am	Conference Session 1 Artificial Intelligence: A Boon or Bane for the Legal Profession? Moderator Sarah Yong Li Hsien , <i>Council Member, Bar Council Malaysia; Chairperson, Bar Council Technology, Cyber and Privacy Law Committee</i> Panellists (1) Victor Dawes SC , <i>Chairman, Hong Kong Bar Association</i> (2) Paul Tan , <i>Council Member, The Law Society of Singapore</i> (3) Cui Haiyan , <i>Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs Commission, All China Lawyers Association</i>		
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Morning Tea Break and Group Photo Session		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Conference Session 2 Climate Change and the Law Moderator Anand Raj , <i>Secretary, Malaysian Bar</i> Panellists (1) Frazer Barton , <i>President, New Zealand Law Society</i> (2) KOBAYASHI Motoji , <i>President, Japan Federation of Bar Associations</i> (3) Benjamin Foo , <i>ExCo Member, The Law Society of Singapore</i>		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Luncheon Talk Malaysia as a Legal Destination: “Why Foreign Lawyers Should Consider Malaysia” by H R Dipendra , <i>Council Member, Bar Council Malaysia; Chairperson, Bar Council International Professional Services Committee</i>		
1:30 pm – 2:30	Departure to Putrajaya		

pm	
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Palace of Justice Tour
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Talk by The Honourable Justice Dato’ Sri Latifah bt Haji Mohd Tahar , <i>Judge, High Court, Malaysia</i>
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Hi-Tea with Judges

Day 2, Saturday, 15 July 2023			
Time (Malaysian Time)	Event	Location	Dress Code
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration	Johor Room, Lower Lobby Level, Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur	Business Attire
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Conference Session 3 Anti-Money Laundering (“AML”) and Legal Profession Privilege Moderator Babu Raj Raja Gopal , <i>Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Committee on AMLA</i> Panellists (1) C M Chan , <i>President, The Law Society of Hong Kong</i> (2) Luke Murphy , <i>President, Law Council of Australia</i> (3) Chia Boon Teck , <i>Treasurer, The Law Society of Singapore</i> (4) Prashant Kumar , <i>President, The Bar Association of India</i>		
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Morning Tea Break		
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Conference Session 4 Resolving the ‘Great Resignation’ Moderator Dato’ Azmi b Mohd Ali , <i>Council Member, Bar Council Malaysia; Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council International Professional Services Committee</i> Panellists (1) Christine Low , <i>ExCo Member, The Law Society of Singapore</i> (2) Mohamad Ezri b Abdul Wahab , <i>Vice-President, Malaysian Bar</i> (3) William Wylie Clarke , <i>President, Fiji Law Society</i>		
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Departure to Asian International Arbitration Centre (“AIAC”)		
12:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Visit to AIAC and Lunch		
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Departure to Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur		
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Presidents’ Summit		
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Departure to Bijan Bar and Restaurant		

AGENDA FOR PRESIDENTS' SUMMIT

Day 2, 15 July 2023 (Saturday) 3.00pm – 6.00pm

1. To adopt the Minutes of the Presidents' Summit held on 22 Sept 2022 prepared by The Law Society of Singapore;
2. To consider matters arising therefrom;
3. Highlight of the Country Reports by each delegation (limited to 5 minutes each delegation);
4. Review of POLA Charter (Report of the Working Group) - to be presented by the Law Council of Australia;
5. Hosts for POLA 2025 and 2026;
6. To consider the proposal to establish a POLA secretariat; and
7. Any other business.

32nd POLA Conference Presidents' Summit Singapore

22 September 2022

(Minutes of Meeting)

Attendees	
Name of Bar Association	Name of Representative
Law Council of Australia	Tass Liveris, President
	Margery Nicoll, Deputy CEO & Director, International Division
Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia	LY Chantola, President
	YON Bunna, Council Member
	ANN Sovathana, Deputy Secretary General
Fiji Law Society	Maopa Wati Seeto, Vice President
Hong Kong Bar Association	Victor Dawes SC, Chairman
The Law Society of Hong Kong	Amirali Nasir, Vice-President
PERADI (Indonesian Advocates Association)	Johannes C. Sahetapy-Engel, Head of International Cooperation Division
	Nixon Sipahutar, Secretary of International Cooperation Division
Japan Federation of Bar Associations (attended virtually)	Motoji KOBAYASHI, President
	Mariko MATSUMURA, Vice-President
	Kunihisa ISHII, Deputy Secretary General
	Yuka ONO, Officer/Attorney, Office of International Affairs
	Naru MATSUMOTO, Officer/ Attorney, Office of International Affairs
Korean Bar Association	Jong Yop LEE, President
	Dae Gwang KIM, Secretary-General
	Jae Woo KWAK, International Committee member of KBA
Macau Lawyers Association (attended virtually)	Dr. Jorge Neto Valente, President
	Dr. Paulo Carochas, Lawyer of the Macau Lawyers Association
Bar Council of Malaysia	Karen Cheah, President
	Anand Raj, Secretary
	Murshidah Mustafa, Treasurer
	Rejen Devaraj, Chief Executive Officer
	Sunil Lopez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
	Vilashini a/p Vijayan, Director, Practitioners Affairs Division and Continuing Professional Development

	Department
New Zealand Law Society	Caroline Silk, Vice President
	Bronwyn Jones, General Manager Policy, Courts and Government
Integrated Bar of the Philippines	Burt M. Estrada, President
Taiwan Bar Association (attended virtually)	Dr Edgar Chen, President
	Angela Lin, Director
LAWASIA	Melissa Pang, President
International Bar Association (IBA)	Sternford Moyo, President
	Kimitoshi Yabuki, Chair of the Bar Issues Commission
Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)	Richard Briggs, President
Law Society of Singapore	Adrian Tan, President
	Gregory Vijayendran, Immediate Past President

MINUTES

President Adrian Tan welcomed all delegates to the POLA Presidents' Summit 2022 and officially opened the session. He mentioned that this was the session where each representative would present their individual country reports. The country reports were presented in the following order.

1. Japan Federation of Bar Associations (Annex A)
2. Law Council of Australia (Annex B)
3. Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (Annex C)
4. Fiji Law Society (Annex D)

Apart from presenting a summary of her country's report, Vice President Maopa Wati Seeto asked if the session was recorded and if the recording and her country's report would also be made public. President Adrian Tan responded that the session was recorded but had not come to a decision whether it would be made public or whether it would be made available to the delegates only. He mentioned that for the time being, the report and the recording would not be made public and would be limited among the members, unless the delegates unanimously allowed the minutes to be made public. Vice President Maopa Wati Seeto mentioned that she did not want her country's report and the recording of the meeting to be made public due to sensitive information presented.

5. Hong Kong Bar Association (Annex E)
6. Law Society of Hong Kong (Annex F)
7. PERADI (Indonesian Advocates Association) (Annex G)
8. Korean Bar Association (Annex H)

Apart from presenting a summary of his country's report, President Lee raised the issue of managing the POLA's website. The POLA's website was established by the Korean Bar Association (KBA) in 2008 and they had been managing the website from then till now. They wanted to discuss how the management of the website would be done, moving forward. A working group was established in 2018 and discussions on the management of the website were raised. The working group suggested that each member would take turn every 3 years to manage the homepage. This matter was not resolved due to COVID. KBA stated that they

wanted to restart this discussion. President Adrian Tan stated that this was an important issue that needed to be resolved and he was grateful to President Lee for raising it. President Adrian suggested that the issue be discussed after all delegates have presented their respective country's reports.

9. Macau Lawyers Association (Annex I)
10. Bar Council of Malaysia (Annex J)
11. New Zealand Law Society (Annex K)
12. Integrated Bar of the Philippines
13. Taiwan Bar Association (Annex M)

President Adrian Tan thanked all representatives for presenting their respective country's report.

He then mentioned that the maintenance of the POLA homepage had been a tremendous effort on the part of the KBA and he thanked them for their efforts. The issue was who was going to take over the maintenance of the website, moving forward. There was an understanding in the past that it would be rotated among the members. President Adrian Tan thought that this was an excellent idea. He then invited members to speak freely on this matter.

President Lee added that the homepage was established in 2009. Since then, KBA has managed the website (domain and hosting) and that it was now time to hand over the management of the homepage to another member. With the easing of the COVID-19 situation, President Lee suggested the formation of a working level group to work on the details of the website management. Gregory Vijayendran invited President Tass Liveris to share on past decisions on this matter. President Tass Liveris mentioned that the corporate history of this matter was not known to members but this issue has been discussed over the years. He said that it was a worthwhile idea to share the website hosting function for the time being and moving forward. He then stated that the Law Council of Australia was willing to take on the responsibility of managing the homepage for the next 3 years. President Tass Liveris suggested that documentation of the process be done so that there was a collective understanding moving forward between member organisations in relation to how the website hosting would continue in the future.

President Adrian stated the following: -

1. That the proposal from President Lee was that a working level committee be set up and members would be representatives of each of the Law Associations. The purpose of the working level committee would be to formulate some guidelines/rules pertaining to the management of the website.
2. President Tass Liveris's offer for the Law Council of Australia to take over management of the homepage from KBA for the next 3 years.

Vice President Maopa Wati Seeto agreed to both points.

President Tass Liveris then further observed that a tenure of 3 years was discussed in the past and was a reasonable length of time. He was happy to maintain that as the tenure for the rotation.

President Karen Cheah stated that in terms of convenience and practicality, since Malaysia was going to be the host for the next POLA conference, it would be easier for the Bar Council of Malaysia (BCM) to manage the website next. She commented that she was not aware of the previous decision of the tenure being 3 years but she was fine with that length of duration. Vice President Maopa Wati Seeto agreed with President Karen Cheah's proposal.

President Tass Liveris replied that what President Karen Cheah said made sense. With the BCM hosting the next POLA conference, President Tass Liveris agreed that BCM should take over the management of the POLA's website.

President Adrian Tan summarised the proposal as follows: -

1. Since BCM would be hosting the next POLA conference, BCM would take over the management of the POLA homepage for the next 3 years.
2. A documentation of the process in relation to how the website hosting would continue in the future so that delegates in future conferences would know what the procedure would be.
3. Each member organisation to send a representative to the working group that should be formed. That working group should be tasked with formulating guidelines as to who should host the website and how the content of the website should be managed. This could be something that could be discussed in the months going forward as well.

All delegates present unanimously agreed that the BCM would take over management of the website and that each of the member association would send a representative to a working group that would be formed to formulate rules pertaining to the POLA website.

President Adrian Tan commented KBA for doing a wonderful job shouldering the burden of managing the homepage since 2009 and that delegates owed the KBA a debt of thanks. A note of appreciation for KBA was recorded.

President Karen Cheah brought up the issue of the archive of previous decisions and meeting minutes. She mentioned that sometimes delegates entered meetings blindsided in terms of the issues to be discussed and the historical context of those decisions. She proposed developing a system of documentation of all past decisions made.

Immediate Past President Gregory Vijayendran then requested the assistance of Margery Nicoll to assist the committee on the history of this matter.

Margery Nicoll stated that the reason as to why she was being called upon was because she had been doing work with the working group on looking at the POLA Charter again. She shared that there was no practice of resolutions being passed in POLA. There may be provisions made for this in the POLA Charter in the future. Margery Nicoll mentioned that there should be an agreement on terminology and prescribe the type of sessions to be held. For example, to always have a President's summit or plenary sessions. This was what the working group raised when they first started looking at this issue back in 2018.

President Adrian Tan requested Margery Nicoll to explain the Charter to all delegate and the amendments being proposed.

Margery Nicoll stated that POLA started in 1991 and had a different name. Over the years, there were changes and developments. There was an executive committee. Now it was down

to the host country to make the arrangements and decisions pertaining to the organising of the conference. Discussions in Kunming, China showed the level of Discussions that took place (i.e the clauses that should be looked at and re-evaluated). Then the COVID pandemic began and discussions stopped. Discussions restarted when Gregory Vijayendran called for a meeting of the working group members. At that meeting, suggested updates to the Charter were made. They were as follows: -

1. To make allowances for the usage of Zoom
2. To make allowances for voting to be done via Zoom
3. Allowing for the notification of attendance via Zoom
4. Agreement on 2/3rds majority for the passing of resolutions.
5. Discretion to choose whether voting decisions of member organisations should be noted (if they wished to put it down)

President Adrian Tan asked if these issues would be discussed the next day. Margery Nicoll answered in the affirmative. President Adrian Tan then thanked Margery Nicoll for her assistance.

President Adrian Tan summarized that 2 things have been achieved in this meeting.

1. Malaysia would take over the managing of the POLA homepage for the next 3 years; and
2. A working group would be set up to formulate rules for the hosting of the website.

President Adrian Tan then concluded that the Charter's amendments would be discussed the next day at 10:30am.

President Karen Cheah asked if the country reports would be circulated and disseminated to all members. President Adrian Tan responded in the affirmative but clarified that the reports were not public documents and should only be circulated within member organisations since they have been particularly told by Vice President Maopa Wati Seeto that some of the information in her report was of a sensitive nature.

Melissa Pang asked for the sequence of the hosting of the POLA Conference. Gregory Vijayendran stated that in Kunming, China in 2019, the decision for the next 3 hosts was made. They were Singapore, Malaysia and then Hong Kong. Melissa Pang thanked Gregory Vijayendran for confirming the host countries.

President Adrian Tan thanked all delegates for their participation and ended the session.

[6.05pm]

POLA Working Group

Establishment of Working Group

On 2-3 August 2018, the Law Council of Australia hosted the 29th POLA Conference in Canberra, Australia. This annual event was attended by representatives from 18 law societies and bar associations from around the region, as well as representatives from the International Bar Association (IBA), LAWASIA and the Inter-Pacific Bar Association.

The Presidents' Meeting at the Conference provided an opportunity to initiate a discussion about the objectives, founding documents and operations of the organisation. The Law Council submitted that, after nearly thirty years of POLA gatherings, it was timely to review POLA's Charter, including correcting the name from the Charter to the one in current usage.

A copy of the paper prepared by the Law Council in support of this agenda item is provided at **Attachment A**.

The following organisations expressed interest in participating in the review:

- Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- Korean Bar Association
- Law Society of Singapore
- Law Society of Hong Kong
- Law Council of Australia
- New Zealand Law Society
- Bar Association of India

The Presidents' meeting unanimously agreed to form a Working Group comprised of the above listed POLA members for the purpose of conducting a 30 year 'health check' of POLA's objectives, founding documents and operations, with outcomes to be delivered for consideration to the 2019 POLA meeting.

Meetings of the Working Group

It was agreed that the President of the Law Council should chair the Working Group meetings, and that the Law Council Secretariat take responsibility for co-ordinating those meetings, making notes, and ultimately preparing a report for review by the Working Group for presentation to the 30th POLA Conference in Kunming.

The Working Group met face-to-face on two occasions: 9 October 2018 at the IBA Conference in Rome and 3 November 2018 at the LAWASIA Conference in Siem Reap. Individual working group members also provided written feedback to the Law Council to be included in the Draft Report.

In conducting a line-by-line review of the POLA Charter, the Working Group took the opportunity to discuss the future of POLA generally as well as specific issues identified by Working Group members.

The results of the discussions held by the Working Group were collated into a document entitled the 'Draft Report of the Working Group to Conduct a 30 Year 'Health Check' of POLA's objectives, Founding Documents and Operations' and tabled at the 30th POLA Conference held in Kunming on 1 August 2019. Unfortunately there was insufficient time to discuss the Draft Report at that meeting.

With the subsequent advent of the COVID pandemic, and truncated virtual POLA meetings during that time, it was not possible to consider the Draft Report until the next face-to-face meeting. In 2022, prior to the POLA Conference in Singapore, the Working Group was reconvened by Chair Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC (the only original member of the Working Group, with Ms Margery Nicoll assisting), with a view to undertaking a fresh review of the Draft Report tabled in Kunming. A new Working Group was convened, consisting of representatives from:

- The Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- The Korean Bar Association
- Law Society of Singapore
- Law Society of Hong Kong
- The Law Council of Australia
- Bar Association of India

The main points this Working Group believed should be reflected in the Draft Report were to:

- Make provision for the issue of virtual attendance and the consequences for voting;
- Agree that two-thirds majority was acceptable for making a resolution;
- Make provision for adequate notice to be given for both agenda items and upcoming resolutions;
- Ensure that an aggregate vote only would be recorded/published, subject to an individual Bar's discretion to have its vote specifically noted if requested.

These points were added to the Draft Report which was then presented, reviewed and discussed at the Singapore POLA Summit.

At the Singapore POLA Summit, there appeared to be general agreement for the Draft Report and proposed amendments to the current Charter, including the more recent proposed amendments made by the Working Group immediately prior to the POLA Summit. Substantive particular amendments which were requested to be added to the Draft Report at the Singapore POLA Summit were:

- That the name for gatherings of POLA Members, variously referred to as 'Conferences' or 'Meetings' in the past, be referred to 'POLA Summits' in the future;
- In relation to Article 4(4) – Membership – to delete reference to a 'national Bar' and replace 'national' with the word 'jurisdiction' to allow for the inclusion of an organisation with a majority of practising lawyers in an appropriate jurisdiction to become a POLA Member. It was noted that the usage of the word 'sub-national' Bar, however, could be retained;

- In relation to amended Article 7 – Host Bar Association – clarification that the incoming Host Bar Association should be decided upon at the preceding POLA Summit, and that the responsibilities for the Host Bar Association should extend throughout the calendar year of its hosting. These responsibilities would include organising and hosting the Summit, as well as providing a written record of the Summit so that continuity could be maintained, particularly with regard to decision making and resolutions.

These amendments have now been added to the Draft Report and are marked up in red.

Overall conclusions from the Working Groups

Overall, it has been agreed by successive Working Groups that a large part of the success of POLA Conferences lie in their informality and flexibility. The Working Groups have been committed in their review to maintaining the spirit of POLA and avoiding prescriptive rules and regulations which might have the effect of detracting from the unique nature of POLA. However, the Working Groups have agreed that there is merit in amending the POLA Charter to reflect the updated situation and to improve administrative arrangements. The outcomes of the line-by-line review of the POLA Charter are reflected in the *Suggested Amendments and Commentary to the POLA Charter* (below). The current, unamended Charter is provided at **Attachment B**.

In addition to these suggested amendments, the other major recommendation of the earlier Working Group was that a “blueprint” for hosting POLA Conferences be prepared in time to assist the Korean Bar Association in its preparation for the POLA Conference in 2020.

While obviously this blueprint was not possible to prepare due to the COVID pandemic, consideration may wish to be given as to whether this recommendation still had value. It had been envisaged that such a blueprint would include a set of documents to help future hosts prepare a POLA Summit, including Members and Observers to be invited and key contact people, a list which could be updated annually.

Working Groups also considered the POLA website and noted that the website could benefit from being refreshed with an updated design. The Working Groups have been mindful that maintenance of this service has been generously provided to POLA by the Korean Bar Association since 2008. The issue of the need to review the POLA website and its maintenance was raised by the Korean Bar Association at the POLA Summit in Singapore in 2022, and the unanimous decision was made that the Malaysian Bar Association should take on the responsibility of reviewing and maintaining the website for three years, with the agreement that a Working Group be established to assist with reviewing and upgrading the website.

Working Groups have noted the importance of the website as a repository for POLA’s records, annual country reports and contact information. Frequent rotation of web-hosting (eg: every three years) was discussed but not supported by the Working Group due to its impracticality.

Suggested amendments and commentary to the POLA Charter – as at 26/6/23

The Presidents of Law Associations in Asia Charter

Article 1. (Name)

The name of this Organisation shall be the “Presidents of Law Associations in Asia” (hereafter, ‘POLA’).

Discussion

The Working Group recommended that the name of the Organisation should be changed to reflect the name in common usage by its members – the “Presidents of Law Associations in Asia” or “POLA”.

Drafting note: Consequential amendments to implement this recommendation have been included throughout the Charter.

Article 2. (Nature)

POLA shall be a non-political gathering known as a ‘POLA Summit’ convened for international exchange and cooperation amongst the presidents of bar organisations in Asia.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group recommended that the substance of this Article remain unchanged.

Article 2A. (Attendance)

Attendance in person by POLA Members at POLA Summits is preferred and strongly encouraged. However, it is recognised that on occasion it may be necessary and pragmatic for a POLA Member to attend by virtual means. In such a situation, prior notice of virtual attendance must be given to the Host Bar Association. The POLA Member attending by virtual means, having given prior notice, will have all the rights afforded to POLA Members attending in person, including the right to vote on any resolution.

Article 3. (Objects)

The objects of POLA shall be:

1. To exchange information and mutually cooperate regarding the operation and organisation of the bar associations.
2. To provide regional cooperation for the promotion of peace and human rights activities.

3. To make joint efforts for the enhancement of the rule of law.
4. To co-operate in advancing the status of lawyers, in developing the legal profession and the scope of its activities and in strengthening the activities of the bar associations in the region and
5. To cooperate with related international or global organizations such as the United Nations, and other regional or international legal profession organizations.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group considered that this provision and its ramifications were of central importance and had the potential to be powerful. The only amendment suggested to this Article was to broaden the scope of Article 3 (5), which has been done by the addition of the words after ‘the United Nations’.

It was recognised that an important feature of POLA is its ‘informal’ nature which allows senior leaders from bar associations of the Asian region to come together in one place and exchange information and opinions on various matters, by which the members can establish mutual understanding.

The current formulation of Article 3 provides a broad remit within which members of POLA can work to achieve this. It also allows cooperation, through POLA, on issues affecting human rights, the rule of law, the status of lawyers, the activities of bar associations in the region and international cooperation with related organisations. It was noted that although POLA has not established a relationship with the United Nations, the Charter should also allow POLA to develop a cooperative relationship with other international legal professional organisations.

Article 4 (Membership)

1. Any bar organisation representing a majority of the practising lawyers in a country or area in Asia shall be eligible to apply to become a POLA Member. The term “bar organisation” shall include a bar association, a lawyers’ council, a law society, or any other organisation of lawyers with a similar name.
2. Applications for POLA membership shall be affirmed by a vote at the next Annual **Summit**. If an organisation is not accepted as a POLA Member, this shall not preclude the same organisation applying again for membership in the future.
3. POLA membership may be revoked during the proceedings of an Annual **Summit** by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at the **Summit**. If the POLA membership of a bar organisation is revoked, this shall not preclude the same bar organisation

or another bar organisation representing the same majority of the practising lawyers in a country or area in Asia applying for POLA membership again in the future.

4. In making decisions regarding POLA membership, POLA Members will be guided by the principle that where a bar organisation represents a majority of the practising lawyers in a **jurisdiction of Asia**, that organisation should be a member of POLA, with due sensitivity and consideration given to the inclusion of sub-national Bars and in circumstances where more than one organisation with national or other significance acts as a representative of the profession in a country or area in Asia.

5. Any president of any international legal association may participate in the Summit in session as an Associate Member-Observer with the approval of the Host Bar Association upon the recommendation by three or more Members. An Associate Member-Observer shall not be eligible to vote on any matter. Associate Member-Observers may observe the proceedings of the Annual **Summit** and witness the deliberations and resolutions of POLA Members. They may also give presentations to the Annual **Summit** if requested on the basis that this does not displace or prevent contributions by POLA Members. It is expected that Associate Member--Observers will report their observations to their home organisations.

6. Any POLA Member may request that a specific portion of the Annual **Summit** program takes place in the absence of one or more Associate Member-Observers. If such a request is made, all Associate Member-Observers to which the request applies will leave the meeting until called to return by the Chairperson. The request may be withdrawn immediately by the POLA Member making the request or by a vote of not less than two-thirds of POLA members in attendance.

Working Group Discussion

It was discussed that there is a need to be able to conduct regular reviews of POLA's membership and to clarify provisions dealing with joining and being removed from POLA. A major consideration in this discussion is that the number of POLA member organisations has grown over the years without any explicit means for members to be removed. For example, POLA's membership list includes organisations that do not regularly attend POLA meetings, are not representatives of lawyers in the Asian region (eg: The Israel Bar Association), and organisations which are defunct (eg: the Vietnam Lawyers' Association has been replaced by the Vietnam Bar Federation).

Discussions of the Working Group were consistently focussed on the importance of broad representation and inclusion throughout the region. It is important to preserve the organisation's capability to bring together legal profession leaders from throughout the Asia region. It is not intended that POLA should become exclusive in its membership or be reduced over time to a smaller "ideal" number of members. The general principle guiding the Working Group in discussing this article was that where a jurisdiction had an acknowledged jurisdictional Bar, that organisation should be a member of POLA, with due sensitivity and

consideration given to the inclusion of subsidiary Bars and in circumstances where more than one organisation acts as a representative of the profession with national or other significance.

The Working Group recommended that the concept of permitting Observers to POLA meetings should be retained and the terminology clarified.

Article 5. (Annual Summit)

1. The Summit shall, in principle, be held once a year in the country or area in Asia of a POLA Member and be hosted by one or more POLA members located in that country or area in Asia (the Host Bar Association). The agenda of the **Summit** shall be determined by the Host Committee established for that year's **Summit**, in consultation with other POLA Members. Every effort will be made by the Host Committee to notify the POLA Members of the items to be included on the agenda and any proposed resolution to allow sufficient time for the POLA Members to prepare for the **Summit**, and in any event will circulate the agenda and proposed resolution(s) not less than one month prior to the **Summit**. However, it is recognised that on occasions, there may be unexpected items of urgency requiring discussion at POLA **Summits**. In such circumstances, a decision on how the matter should be considered and progressed will be decided by two-thirds of the POLA Members attending the **Summit**
2. Each **Summit** shall include:
 - i) a Presidents' meeting;
 - ii) one or more substantive plenary sessions; and
 - iii) a **Summit** dinner.
3. The Host Bar Association may also offer optional social and cultural events that are not part of the formal **Summit**.
4. The Chairperson, or their nominee, will Chair the Presidents' meeting with impartiality and respect for the equal standing of all POLA Members. The purpose of the Presidents' meeting will be to:
 - i) allow the President or a nominee of each POLA Member to table a written report and provide a brief oral report on the current status and activities of their organisation;
 - ii) facilitate discussion of matters relevant to the administration of POLA and the pursuit of its objects;
 - iii) conduct votes on formal resolutions; and

iv) determine the subsequent Host Bar Association, the place and date of the subsequent **Summit** and to provide an opportunity for POLA Members to suggest topics for discussion at the subsequent **Summit**.

5. The purpose of the substantive plenary session(s) will be to grant each POLA Member in attendance the opportunity to give a presentation on a topic related to POLA's objects. As per Article 4(5), Associate Member-Observers may also give presentations to the Annual Conference if requested on the basis that this does not displace or prevent contributions by POLA Members.

~~3. At the Conference, each member shall have the right to one vote. A member shall be entitled to appoint one of the other members as his proxy if he is unable to attend a particular annual conference.~~

Working Group Discussion

Noting the importance of retaining flexibility and the capacity for each host organization to host POLA Conferences according to the diverse customs and expectations of the legal profession they represent, the Working Group discussed the desirability of there being more consistency from year to year in terms of the format of each POLA Conference.

Amendments also incorporate comments from the Working Group about the importance of the Chair being scrupulous in ensuring neutrality and fairness in the chairing of the Conference and meetings.

The Working Group also discussed the desirability of developing a separate 'blueprint' that would cover more procedural and administrative aspects of hosting a POLA Conference, including timings for notification, processes for developing agenda items and a list of those international Bars and Observers who should be invited each year. This is the subject of a separate recommendation, noted above.

It was also suggested that it would be beneficial to specifically require that the subsequent Host Bar Association shall announce, at least the dates and city of the subsequent Conference, at each Conference. This would assist members in making arrangements for their president and other representatives to attend.

Drafting Note: The changes suggested above introduce a framework to provide consistency between Conferences by setting out the basic elements for all POLA Conferences. This has been done in a way that aims to maintain a broad range of discretion and flexibility in terms of how each POLA Member interprets this framework.

Other discussions of the Working Group indicated support for clarifying the status of "POLA Reports" – tabling of these reports has therefore been included as a part of the Presidents' meeting. Further guidance on the format and matters for inclusion of this report may be best dealt with as part of the 'blue print' for POLA Conferences.

<p><i>Voting procedures have been moved to a new Article 6.</i></p>

Article 6. (Officers ~~Resolutions~~)

1. Each POLA Member shall have an equal vote.
2. Votes shall be conducted by the Chairperson, who may appoint additional persons to assist the conduct of the vote if required.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the majority required for all votes shall be not less than two-thirds of all POLA Members in attendance.
4. The quorum for any vote shall be not less than half of the total number of POLA members, including those not in attendance.
5. Despite Article 6(4), no quorum is required to vote to revoke POLA Membership in accordance with Article 4(3) where the POLA Member whose membership is to be revoked has failed to provide:
 - i) an explanation to the satisfaction of a majority of members in attendance regarding repeated, recurring or habitual failure to attend Annual **Summits**; or
 - ii) current contact information and therefore cannot be contacted.
6. Except for amendments to this Charter, any formal resolution is not binding upon any POLA Member unless that POLA Member agrees to be bound. Any binding obligation may be terminated immediately and without penalty upon the POLA Member providing written notice to all other POLA Members. A resolution includes, but is not limited to, a statement, declaration or communique recording the position of POLA Members in relation to any issue relevant to POLA's objects.
7. Any POLA Member may propose a vote on any issue. There is no need for the proposal to be seconded before conducting the vote.
8. To preserve POLA's capacity to conduct its business without unnecessary delay or complexity, proxy voting is not permitted.
9. Resolutions proposed at the POLA Conference and the result of the voting upon those resolutions will be noted as an aggregate result in a record made at the POLA **Summit**. It is a matter of discretion for each POLA Member as to whether they wish their individual vote, whether in support, disagreement or abstention, to be noted in the record.

~~—— The CPA shall have 3 officers: a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and an Honorary Chairman. The Chairman shall be the President of the Bar Association sponsoring the subsequent Conference, and a Vice Chairman shall be designated by him.~~

Working Group Discussion

It was agreed by the Working Group that this provision, in its current form, was ‘unworkable’. In practice it has fallen out of use. Recent experience has been that the previous Chairperson/host organisation had little capacity to meaningfully contribute towards or direct the organisation of the subsequent conference as “Honorary Chairman”.

Drafting Note: The current provision may have intended that the “Vice Chairman” be a representative of the next host country, however this is not clear on the face of the Charter in its present, unamended, form. If so, it is noted that it may often be impossible to appoint a Vice Chairman until the conclusion of the Presidents’ meeting, when hosting arrangements for the next Conference are agreed. By this time, there is little practical contribution for the Vice Chairman to make to the organisation and hosting of the Conference. There may be a residual role for implementing outcomes from the Conference, but this is likely to be more easily performed by the host organisation. The role of the host organisation has been dealt with by the amended Article 7.

The amended Article 6 deals with resolutions. Amended article 6(5) has been included to avoid a situation where POLA’s membership list becomes dominated by inactive POLA Members. If this were to occur, Article 6(4), without the suggested Article 6(5), would effectively paralyse POLA due to its inability to achieve a quorum. Rather than introduce special quorums, which may avoid but would not ultimately resolve this problem, a set of special powers is suggested to allow active members to “tidy up” the membership list. Any POLA Member removed by these means would not be prevented, per amended Article 4(3), from applying for its membership to be reinstated.

Article 5(3) currently permits POLA Members to issue proxies. The Working Group discussed the need to clarify how proxies work, however the suggested amendments have taken the course of removing proxy voting entirely. This has the major advantage of accommodating the recent practice of POLA, which generally does not issue proposals sufficiently in advance to allow non-attending Members to arrange proxies.

Proxy voting also creates the possibility of there being two paths to achieving a successful resolution by POLA – one with more formal notification requirements and the inclusion of proxies, and a second where there is little if any prior warning before a vote and where the proxy voting could prove to be impractical. This would have two adverse consequences:

Firstly, the POLA Member proposing a vote on an issue may make a tactical decision on which method to use in order to increase the chance of their proposal succeeding.

Secondly, POLA Members instructing proxies may need to give unfettered discretion to their proxy to cast their vote as they see fit in response to a proposal made without notice. Given the importance of independence, including self-regulation and self-governance, as a guiding principle for bar associations, it is assumed that this would not be considered desirable.

Including proxy voting would imply the creation of a formal process and timeline for lodging matters for formal vote. Rules for this purpose can be developed if required. However, POLA Members may wish to consider how this might impact on POLA's capacity to conduct its meetings with minimum formal requirements and to create an environment that fosters open discussion and free exchanges of information. The desirability of increasing vs decreasing the scope for this flexibility may need to be the subject of further analysis and discussion, however Working Group members were consistently in favour of retaining the flexibility and openness that characterises POLA.

Article 7. (~~Executive Committee~~ Host Bar Association)

1. The Host Bar Association for the succeeding Annual Summit will be decided upon at the preceding POLA Summit. The selected Bar Association will become the Host Bar Association for one calendar year, commencing on 1 January and be responsible throughout that calendar year for the organisation and management of the POLA Annual Summit as well as providing a written record of Summit proceedings, decisions and resolutions. The Host Bar Association will also be responsible for overseeing the work of any ad-hoc committees during the calendar year of the Summit it is responsible for organising.
2. The Host Bar Association for a Summit shall designate a Chairperson, typically the President of the Host Bar Association at the time of the Summit, and a contact officer working in the Secretariat of the Host Bar Association.
3. Where two or more POLA Members have elected to work together to deliver a POLA Summit, these members will be referred to collectively as the Host Bar Association. In these circumstances, each POLA Member hosting the Summit shall designate a Chairperson. The designated Chairpersons shall be co-Chairs, unless otherwise agreed between themselves.
4. The Host Bar Association may change, reassign or designate additional official roles and contact persons as required to deliver a POLA Summit. These will be promptly communicated to all other POLA Members and Associate Member-Observers.
5. The Host Bar Association may request assistance from other POLA Members in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter.
6. The Host Bar Association shall give appropriate notices to, and confer with, all POLA Members concerning the progress of preparations for the Summit it is responsible for organising, including by providing opportunities for other POLA Members to provide input regarding the topics for discussion at the Summit.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group noted that suggestions and guidance on topics and content of particular interest to the Members would be very helpful in preparing for the next Conference and provide some continuity with the Conferences. The earlier suggestion of calling for topics for the following POLA Conference at the Presidents' meeting was reiterated. This has been implemented at revised Article 5(4).

It was also suggested that it would be beneficial to clearly provide mechanisms for cooperation between POLA members in hosting conferences.

Drafting note: The suggested amendments continue the logic of the Working Group in relation to Article 6, especially its conclusion that the current structure of Officers and Executive Committee does not resemble what actually occurs, or is required, to successfully organise a POLA Conference. In fact, recent practice does not leave any role for Officers or Executive Committee members who are not directly employed by or representatives of the Host Bar Association.

The role of the Executive Committee has therefore been replaced by clear provisions setting out the role of the Host Bar Association. The Host Bar Association is the more natural and appropriate entity given it is (i) financially responsible for the Conference, (ii) has direct control over the staff and other resources required to host the Conference, and (iii) is generally located in the country or area where the Conference will take place.

Article 8. (Ad Hoc Committee)

Ad Hoc Committees may be established for planning, preparing, and implementing activities specifically designated by the Chairman as the main activities to be resolved by POLA.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group representatives had no comment on this Article and were satisfied with it.

Article 9. (Finance)

1. The Host Bar Association shall bear the costs arising from hosting the POLA **Summit**.
2. The President of each country's Bar Association and any other official participant in the **Summit** shall bear their own travel and attendance expenses.

3. The Host Bar Association may request payment to cover the cost of optional social and cultural events that are not part of the formal **Summit**.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group did not make any particular recommendations regarding this Article.

Drafting note: It is suggested that the words “as a general rule” should be removed from Article 9(1) as there are no stated exceptions to the ‘general rule’. Article 9(3) has been included to avoid doubt about financial liability for social and cultural events that are often arranged to coincide with POLA but are not part of the essential proceedings of POLA (see amended Article 5(2)). Article 9(3) is not an exception to the rule in Article 9(1) because the optional side-events are specifically “not part of the formal Conference”.

Article 10. (Duration)

1. These amendments to the Charter of The Conference of the Presidents of Bar Associations in Asia adopted in 1991 shall take effect upon the approval by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Members present at the **2023 POLA Summit**.
2. POLA shall continue in perpetuity.

~~The duration of the CPBA shall be perpetual.~~

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group had no specific comment on this article, other than that the name ‘CPBA’ be deleted and replaced with the correct acronym ‘POLA’.

Drafting note: Addenda Article 1 (Effective Date) has been incorporated into this Article. The wording of the current Article 10 has also been revised slightly. The current Article 10 seems to have been inspired by company laws that require the person setting up a corporation to nominate a company’s lifespan as either ‘perpetual’ or ‘indefinite’ at the time of its incorporation. It is suggested that this is not necessary for POLA.

Article 11. (Secretariat)

- ~~1. The President of the Bar Association hosting the subsequent conference shall appoint as the Secretariat as may person with as many functions as he deems necessary.~~
- ~~2. The Secretariat shall perform its various duties as directed by the Executive Committee.~~

~~3. The hosting Bar Association shall be responsible for the cost of the Secretariat.~~

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group noted that there is no permanent secretariat for POLA and that the Host Bar Association is responsible for providing necessary support to organise each Annual Conference. These Secretariat functions should remain under the control of the Host Bar Association, rather than an external ‘Executive Committee’.

Drafting note: The suggested amendments, taken together, remove the concept of the Executive Committee entirely, with any functions previously reserved to the Executive Committee returned to the Host Bar Association.

It is suggested that, if the suggested amendments are accepted in their current form, this entire Article can be deleted.

The current Article 11(1) is now covered by amended Article 7(4).

Unless otherwise specified, as in the case with the current Article 11(2), secretariat functions will be under the control of the Host Bar Association. Article 11(2) can therefore be deleted.

Current Article 11(3) is not necessary as amended Article 9(1) states that the Host Bar Association is responsible for the costs arising from hosting the Conference.

Costs may become an issue where two or more organizations elect to jointly host a POLA Conference. The current and amended versions of the Charter are both silent on this issue. Provisions to deal with this issue have not been included in the amended version of the Charter on the basis that it is better to allow joint hosts to come to their own agreements regarding the cost of hosting a POLA Conference, rather than impose additional requirements through the Charter that may impede or prevent cooperation.

Article 12. (Amendment of Charter)

Subject to quorum, this Charter may be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at the Conference.

Working Group Discussion

No amendments were suggested to this article apart from the addition of ‘subject to quorum’.

Drafting note: Discussions by the Working Group indicated support for using the two-thirds majority rule for votes on other matters. This standard has therefore been used throughout

the suggested amendments including in respect of membership (Article 4) and resolutions (Article 6).

The words “subject to quorum” have been used to avoid confusion.

ADDENDA

Article 1. (Effective Date)

~~This Charter shall take effect upon the approval by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Members present at the 1991 Conference.~~

Working Group Discussion

Drafting note: This article can be deleted as it has been incorporated in full into Article 10.

Article 2. (Chairman)

~~The President of the Bar Association sponsoring the Conference at the time of the adoption of this Charter shall act as the Chairman of the particular Conference in session.~~

Working Group Discussion

Drafting note: This provision is no longer required as it has been incorporated into amended Article 7(2) (designation of a Chairperson). The role of the Chairperson has been expanded on by amended articles 4(6), 5(4), 6(2) and 7(3).

29th Presidents of Law Associations in Asia Conference Presidents' Meeting – Agenda Item #2

Review of POLA Objectives, Founding Documents and Operations

Sponsor

Law Council of Australia

Proposal

To establish a working group for the purpose of conducting a 30 year 'health check' of POLA's objectives, founding documents and operations, with outcomes to be delivered to the 2019 POLA meeting.

Discussion Points

Composition of the Working Group: A working group could be composed of up to five POLA Member Organisations, each represented by one senior office holder and one officer level member of staff. One organisation would provide 'leadership among equals' to drive the work of this group forward. Working group members should be broadly representative of the diverse membership of POLA.

Terms of Reference: It is not proposed that there should be detailed terms of reference for the Working Group, beyond a broad instruction to conduct a review of POLA's objectives, founding documents and operations, and to report to the 2019 POLA Presidents' meeting.

Nature of Review: The Review would aim to produce a set of options for consideration at the 2019 Presidents' Meeting. These would be for consideration only and will not have any binding effect until endorsed by POLA members.

Background

POLA is an important regional organisation that regularly brings together leaders of the legal profession from throughout Asia. It therefore has the potential to be an important and influential organisation that can support individual member organisations and provide influential views on important developments affecting the rule of law throughout the region.

Current strengths

- The only exclusive grouping of the leaders of law societies and bar associations in Asia.
- Wide list of member organisations
- Regular opportunities to discuss legal developments throughout the region
- High value given to mutual exchange, collaboration and promotion of friendships between member organisations

Possible areas for improvement

- The POLA Charter does not reflect current practice, e.g. Art 6 (Officers) and Art 7 (Executive Committee)
- Connection from one conference to the next could be improved
- Communication about the content of discussions could be improved, including communication of outcomes beyond POLA's membership.
- Mechanisms to ensure POLA's objects (Art 3) result in practical outputs

The Conference of the Presidents of Bar Associations in Asia Charter

Article 1. (Name)

The name of this Organization shall be “the Conference of the Presidents of Bar Associations in Asia” (hereafter, the “CPBA”).

Article 2. (Nature)

The CPBA shall be a non-political conference for international exchange and cooperation amongst the presidents of bar organizations in Asia.

Article 3. (Objects)

The object of the CPBA shall be:

6. To exchange information and mutually cooperate regarding the operation and organization of the bar associations.
7. To provide regional cooperation for the promotion of peace and human rights activities.
8. To make joint efforts for the enhancement of the rule of law.
9. To cooperate in advancing the status of lawyers, in developing the legal profession and the scope of its activities and in strengthening the activities of the bar associations in the region and
10. To cooperate with related international or global organizations such as the UN.

Article 4 (Membership)

1. Any president of bar organization representing a majority of the practicing lawyers in a country or area in Asia shall be eligible to be a member of the CPBA. The term “bar organization” shall include a bar association, a lawyers council, a law society, or any other organization of lawyers with a similar name.
2. Any president of any international legal association may participate in the Conference in session as an Associate member-observer with the approval of the Host Bar Association upon the recommendation by 3 or more Members. An Associate Member-observer shall not be eligible to vote on any matter or be entitled to participate in other activities of the CPBA.

Article 5. (Conference)

1. The Conference shall, in principle, be held once a year in the country of a member.

2. Each conference shall determine the subsequent Host Bar Association and the place and time of the subsequent conference. The general agenda of the Conference shall be determined by the Executive Committee established for that year's conference.
3. At the Conference, each member shall have the right to one vote. A member shall be entitled to appoint one of the other members as his proxy if he is unable to attend a particular annual conference.

Article 6. (Officers)

1. The CPBA shall have 3 officers: a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and an Honorary Chairman. The Chairman shall be the President of the Bar Association sponsoring the subsequent conference, and a Vice-Chairman shall be designated by him.

The Honorary Chairman shall be the President of the Bar Association that sponsored the immediately prior conference.

2. The term of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be until the closing of the conference in session from the time of appointment and its designation.

Article 7. (Executive Committee)

1. The President of the Bar Association hosting the subsequent conference shall designate five or more persons in order to constitute an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall make its decisions by consensus: provided, however, that in the event of disagreement the decision of the Chairman shall be final.

The Executive Committee may include as its guest - non voting members a limited number of persons among those recommended by the President of the previous hosting Bar Association or other participating Bar Association.

2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for :
 - i. Organizing the upcoming annual conference and
 - ii. Overseeing the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee until the end of the upcoming annual conference. The Executive Committee shall be a policy or planning committee. The work required to carry out its plan shall be performed by the Secretariat.
3. The Head of the Executive Committee shall give appropriate notices to, and confer with, the Chairman of the Conference concerning the progress of preparations for the subsequent conference.

Article 8. (Ad Hoc Committee)

Ad Hoc Committees may be established for planning, preparing, and implementing activities specifically designated by the Chairman as the main activities to be resolved by the CPBA.

Article 9. (Finance)

4. As a general rule, the Host Bar Association shall bear the costs arising from hosting the conference.
5. The President of each country's Bar Association and any other official participant in the conference shall bear their own travel and attendance expenses.

Article 10. (Duration)

The duration of the CPBA shall be perpetual.

Article 11. (Secretariat)

4. The President of the Bar Association hosting the subsequent conference shall appoint as the Secretariat as many persons with as many functions as he deems necessary.
5. The Secretariat shall perform its various duties as directed by the Executive Committee.
6. The hosting Bar Association shall be responsible for the cost of the Secretariat.

Article 12. (Amendment of Charter)

This Charter may be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at the Conference.

ADDENDA

Article 1. (Effective Date)

This Charter shall take effect upon the approval by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Members present at the 1991 Conference.

Article 2. (Chairman)

The President of the Bar Association sponsoring the Conference at the time of the adoption of this Charter shall act as the Chairman of the particular Conference in session.

LIST OF FOREIGN DELEGATES

No	Bar Association / Law Society	Name	Designation	Email Address
1	Law Council of Australia	Luke Murphy	President	luke.murphy@lawcouncil.asn.au
	Law Council of Australia	Charlotte Stubbs	Senior Policy Lawyer (International)	charlotte.stubbs@lawcouncil.asn.au
2	The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia	Ann Sovathana	Deputy Secretary General	sovathana.ann@gmail.com, a.sovathana@bakc.org.kh
3	The Law Society of Hong Kong	C M Chan	President	adceag@hklawsoc.org.hk
	The Law Society of Hong Kong	Heidi Chu	Secretary General	adceag@hklawsoc.org.hk
4	Hong Kong Bar Association	Victor Dawes SC	Chairman	vdawes@templechambers.com
	Hong Kong Bar Association	Eugene Yim	Honorary Secretary	eyim@bernacchichambers.com
	Hong Kong Bar Association	Angel Wong	Member of the Bar Council	angel.wong@equitychambers.com.hk; amyleebc@hkba.org
5	Associação dos Advogados de Macau	Vong Hin Fai	President	alexandram@aam.org.mo, mail@vonghf.com
6	All China Lawyers Association	Gao Zicheng	President	internationalacla@foxmail.com
	All China Lawyers Association	Cui Haiyan	Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs Commission	chy@zjblf.com
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8	The Bar Association of India	Prashant Kumar	President	prashant@trinayalegal.com
	The Bar Association of India	Rachana Sribastav	Vice-President	advocate.rachana@gmail.com
	The Bar Association of India	Amarjit Singh Bedi	General Secretary	Amarjit.bedi@gmail.com
9	Indonesian Advocates Association	Nixon Sipahutar	Bidang Kerjasama Internasional,	sipahutarnixon@yahoo.com; jsahetapyengel@aksetlaw.com

	(PERADI)		Sekretaris	
10	Japan Federation of Bar Associations	KOBAYASHI Motoji	President	international@nichibenren.or.jp
	Japan Federation of Bar Associations	ONO Yuka	Officer / Attorney, Office of International Affairs	yukaono@hirokokokusai.jp
	Japan Federation of Bar Associations	MATSUMOTO Naru	Officer / Attorney, Office of International Affairs	matsumoto@nplaw.jp
11	Korean Bar Association	KIM Young Hoon	President	international@koreanbar.or.kr
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	Korean Bar Association	RHEE Yong-il	Special Advisor for International Affairs	international@koreanbar.or.kr
12	New Zealand Law Society	Frazer Barton	President	president@lawsociety.org.nz
	New Zealand Law Society	Bronwyn Jones	General Manager Policy, Courts and Government	bronwyn.jones@lawsociety.org.nz
13	The Law Society of Singapore	Chan Tai-Hui Jason SC	Vice-President	weiyang@lawsoc.org.sg; international@lawsoc.org.sg
	The Law Society of Singapore	Lisa Sam Hui Min	Vice-President	weiyang@lawsoc.org.sg; international@lawsoc.org.sg
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	The Law Society of Singapore	Shawn Toh	Chief Executive Officer	international@lawsoc.org.sg

33rd POLA Conference, 14-15 July 2023, Shangri La Kuala Lumpur

	The Law Society of Singapore	Alvin Chen	Chief Legal Officer	international@lawsoc.org.sg
	The Law Society of Singapore	Lee Wei Yan	Assistant Director	international@lawsoc.org.sg
	The Law Society of Singapore	Karina Lam	Senior Executive Officer	international@lawsoc.org.sg
14	Bar Association of Sri Lanka	Kaushalya Nawaratne AAL	President	kaushalyanawaratne@gmail.com; president@basl.lk
15	LAWASIA (Observer)	Melissa K Pang	President	lawasia@lawasia.asn.au
16	Belt and Road International Lawyers Association (“BRILA”) (Observer) *1, *2	Kang Yu	Secretary-General	-

List updated as at 28 June 2023.

*¹BRILA is a non-governmental, non-profit international professional organization initiated by the All China Lawyers Association ("ACLA") and is voluntarily formed by lawyers associations, legal institutions and individual lawyers in the belt and road international countries and regions.

*²BRILA contacted the Malaysian Bar expressing their interest to participate in the 33rd POLA Conference 2023. The Malaysian Bar subsequently received recommendations from the Law Society of Hong Kong, Associação dos Advogados de Macau and Lao Bar Association, in accordance with Paragraph 4(2) of the POLA Charter.