



SINGAPORE DECLARATION AT THE 12TH COUNCIL OF ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES MEETING

WE, the Chief Justices of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, and the Kingdom of Thailand; the Representatives of the Chief Justices of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; at the 12th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices ("CACJ") Meeting in Singapore;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and the appreciation of the CACJ to Singapore for successfully hosting the 12th CACJ Meeting, the inaugural ASEAN Meeting of Insolvency Practitioners and Judges and the inaugural ASEAN Meeting of Intellectual Property Practitioners and Judges in 2025.
2. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and the appreciation of the CACJ to Thailand for successfully hosting the inaugural CACJ Working Week from 21 to 25 July 2025.
3. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the contributions of all ASEAN judiciaries in providing their respective write-ups on the recognition and enforcement of foreign money judgments on the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal ("AJP").
4. **THE AGREEMENT** for each ASEAN judiciary to nominate a dedicated portal champion to oversee regular updates to the respective landing pages on the AJP, and for all ASEAN judiciaries that have organised past CACJ meetings to submit any multimedia content produced to highlight CACJ's story, achievements and/or milestones.
5. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the work of the Working Group of the AJP ("AJP WG") and the Social Media Taskforce in considering the various issues relating to the use of *LinkedIn* by CACJ; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the AJP WG and the Social Media Taskforce to set up the CACJ *LinkedIn* page.

6. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Civil Proceedings to further deliberate and continue its endeavours in developing a Memorandum of Guidance on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Money Judgments within ASEAN with the assistance of academics or other professionals where appropriate, and to submit the necessary report on the progress and appropriate recommendations for the CACJ's consideration at the 13th CACJ Meeting.
7. **THE AGREEMENT** for CACJ Malaysia and the CACJ Secretariat to defer the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law Masterclasses for ASEAN judges and judicial officers on the following to 2026, to be held in conjunction with the CACJ Working Week 2026:
 - (i) The 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements;
 - (ii) A Refresher Course on the 2019 Hague Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters; and
 - (iii) The 1961 Hague Convention on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.
8. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology to further deliberate and continue its endeavours in developing a Simplified Protocol on Verification Procedure to Authenticate Court Orders Within ASEAN, and to submit the necessary report on progress and appropriate recommendations for the CACJ's consideration at the 13th CACJ Meeting.
9. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology to circulate a survey questionnaire by February 2026 to gather feedback from ASEAN judiciaries on their individual priorities in the area of court technology, the current stage of development in respect of the areas they identify, the assistance they may require, and the assistance they can extend be deferred to 2026, and to submit the necessary report on the findings at the 13th CACJ Meeting and to share the said report with the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings.
10. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and appreciation to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia and the Supreme Court of the Philippines for the continued progress of the Working Group on Judicial Education and Training in:

- (i) Maintaining the CACJ E-Learning Portal, a learning management system linked to the AJP, created in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, and promoting its full utilization with additional E-Learning Courses;
- (ii) Completing and launching the E-Learning Module on “Evaluating Scientific Evidence in Climate Change Adjudication” in the CACJ E-Learning Portal in cooperation with the International Development Law Organization (“IDLO”);
- (iii) Continuing the work on the development of the Module on Consumer Protection for ASEAN judges in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – Consumer Protection in ASEAN II Project;
- (iv) Successfully conducting the Training Needs Analysis in Trafficking in Person Cases, the Regional Workshop on the Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN judges in Trafficking in Persons and Validation Workshop on the Revision of the 2018 Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN judges on Trafficking in Persons, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and ASEAN-Australian Counter Trafficking;
- (v) Successfully conducting the First ASEAN Multilateral Judicial Knowledge Exchange in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic; and
- (vi) Successfully conducting the Regional Workshop in Preparation for the Handbook on Judicial Training Strategies on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence for ASEAN Countries by the Supreme Court of the Philippines in partnership with the Council of Europe.

11. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the intention of the United Nations Environmental Programme to support the implementation of the Judicial Education and Training programs according to the priority of the Work Plan 2020-2025 and for the Working Group to submit its recommendations to the CACJ for approval prior to implementation.

12. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Judicial Education and Training to:

- (i) Continue the expansion of the judicial knowledge exchanges on Trafficking in Persons (“TIP”) among ASEAN judiciaries by using the Framework for a Judicial Knowledge Exchange on TIP Adjudication in ASEAN;

- (ii) Complete the Compendium of Good Practices in Adjudicating Trafficking in Persons Cases in ASEAN Member States: Lessons Learned and Responses to Challenges, with judicial knowledge exchanges with other ASEAN judiciaries;
- (iii) Approve the Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN judges on TIP for adoption by ASEAN judiciaries, its subsequent domestic roll-out by the respective judicial training institutes, and publication in the AJP;
- (iv) Continue to maintain the E-Learning Portal and expand the training modules accessible to all ASEAN judiciaries by working with potential development partners;
- (v) Approve the Model E-Learning Module on “Evaluating Scientific Evidence in Climate Change Adjudication,” developed in cooperation with the IDLO, as the second training module for the CACJ E-Learning Portal, and to mandate its immediate broader use by all ASEAN judiciaries, recognizing that successful internal testing has confirmed its appropriateness and relevance for ASEAN judges;
- (vi) Continue the development and finalization of the E-Learning Module on Consumer Protection for ASEAN judges, including the pilot testing, the formal launching, and the effective introduction and utilization of the module by all ASEAN judges; and
- (vii) Review and update the Strategic Plan 2018-2025 and the Work Plan 2020-2025 and further explore potential internal and external sources of funding for approval by the CACJ, by organizing dialogue meetings among potential partners for their continuing implementation.

13. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Judicial Education and Training to continue the discussion and preparation for the piloting and subsequent establishment of the ASEAN Judicial Fellows Programme, in accordance with the Recommended Blueprint approved by the 11th CACJ Meeting.

14. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** that the Working Group on Cross-border Disputes Involving Children has:

- (i) Agreed to hold the 4th ASEAN Family Judges Forum on Therapeutic Justice during the CACJ Working Week in 2026; and

- (ii) Agreed to establish a Resource Page on Legal Procedure on the AJP, to provide information on the legal procedures for applications concerning cross-border proceedings involving children in ASEAN.
15. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings to update the Compendium of Videoconferencing Practices among ASEAN Member States based on any relevant further information received from the ASEAN Member States.
 16. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings to continue engaging with the judiciaries of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea regarding the development of a Multilateral Memorandum between the Member States and those judiciaries setting forth the best practices on cross-border hearings through videoconferencing.
 17. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings to note the comments of the ASEAN judiciaries on the feasibility of drafting a Model Rule on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings, as set out in the Report of the Working Group dated 5 November 2025, and, pursuant to these comments, to study the feasibility of preparing a non-binding framework on cross-border videoconferencing hearings to submit the necessary report on its findings at the 13th CACJ Meeting.
 18. **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT** of the CACJ to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines for initiating engagement with the Australian Judiciary by delivering the invitation letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, to discuss a potential collaboration between the CACJ and the Australian Judiciary; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings to continue exploring such potential judicial collaboration with the Australian Judiciary, and to report the outcomes at the next CACJ Meeting.
 19. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the CACJ to CACJ Thailand for acting as the focal point between the CACJ and the judiciaries of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and for transmitting the questionnaire by the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings to the said three judiciaries; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings to continue its support to the Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing

Hearings towards developing a Multilateral Memorandum between the ASEAN Member States and the judiciaries of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, setting forth the best practices on cross-border hearings through videoconferencing to promote transparency and collaboration between and among the concerned States.

20. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings to continue to support the other CACJ Working Groups in any future endeavours to explore opportunities for collaboration with the said three judiciaries.
21. **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group on Climate Justice to implement its Work Plan for the years 2025 through 2028, which will guide its future activities; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the Working Group to develop an online database of relevant materials on climate justice in collaboration with the AJP WG.
22. **THE AGREEMENT** to approve the Model Framework for Communication and Cooperation between ASEAN Courts in Cross-Border Insolvency Proceedings ("Model Framework"); and **THE RECOMMENDATION** that the ASEAN judiciaries consider adopting the Model Framework subject to and in accordance with the respective ASEAN Member State's laws, regulations and legal framework and with such modification as each ASEAN judiciary deems fit.
23. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and appreciation of the CACJ to the work of the Meeting of ASEAN Intellectual Property Judges; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the Meeting to continue its work as a forum to share ideas, experiences and perspectives on Intellectual Property-related matters or issues.
24. **THE AGREEMENT** to adopt the terms of references as proposed by the Meeting of ASEAN Intellectual Property Judges as a framework for the continuing work of the Meeting.
25. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and appreciation of the CACJ to the Singapore Judiciary for its continued efforts towards promoting court excellence through the holding of regular roundtable meetings for the members of the ASEAN-IFCE Resource Network to discuss and share experiences on the different elements of the International Framework for Court Excellence; and **THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT** of the Singapore Judiciary for the technical assistance rendered to the Thailand Judiciary on

the use of the International Framework for Court Excellence as a tool for self-evaluation and continuous improvement.

26. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ Secretariat to submit a summary report of the CACJ's activities for 2024–2025 to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, through the ASEAN Secretariat.
27. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of the necessity for a predictable framework for the rotational hosting of future CACJ Meetings on a twinned basis with future ASEAN Law Association Governing Council and General Assembly meetings; and **THE AGREEMENT** to adopt the framework proposed in the Concept Note on the Rotational Hosting of ALA and CACJ Meetings tabled by CACJ Singapore.
28. **THE AGREEMENT** for the 13th CACJ Meeting to be held in conjunction with the next ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the 13th CACJ Meeting to be held in Thailand in July 2026.
29. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ to convene a CACJ Working Week in Malaysia in 2026; and **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and appreciation of the CACJ to CACJ Malaysia for their agreement to host the said CACJ Working Week in place of CACJ Vietnam on the basis of reciprocity.
30. **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ Secretariat to convene a meeting of judges to discuss and share knowledge on issues relating to the nature and status of digital and other virtual assets in each of the ASEAN jurisdictions.
31. **THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and **APPRECIATION** of the attendance of the Hon. Afonso Carmona representing the Timor-Leste Judiciary at the 12th CACJ Meeting; and **THE AGREEMENT** for the CACJ Secretariat to assist them in their membership application to the CACJ.

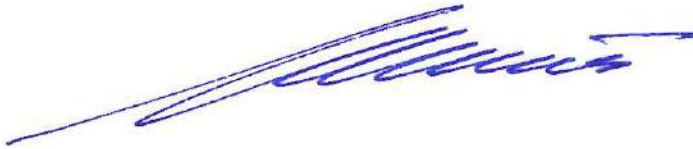
Signed this **15th day of November 2025**
in Singapore



The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam



H.E. You Ottara
Vice-President
Representative of the President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of
Cambodia



The Hon. Prof. (HCUA) Dr. H. Sunarto, S.H., M.H.
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia



H.E. Khounsouvanh Southammavong
Vice President of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic



The Rt. Hon. Dato' Seri Utama Wan Ahmad Farid bin Wan Salleh
Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia



The Hon. Tha Htay
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar



The Hon. Alexander G. Gesmundo
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The Hon. Sundaresh Menon
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