



Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum

Edition 4, November 2008

Newsletter

From the Chair



I am pleased to be able to report on two important developments for the Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum (APJRF): the publication of the judicial reform handbook and the next Round Table Meeting.

The major focus of the APJRF's activities over the past two years has been the development of a publication setting out a series of judicial reform experiences from across the region. This project is nearing completion and Oxford University Press, India, has agreed to publish the monograph as *Searching for Success in Judicial Reform: Voices from the Asia Pacific Experience*.

Written by experts with first hand experience in judicial reform, the publication has also benefited from the involvement of the broader APJRF membership, through the feedback given at the Round Table Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2007, author and reviewer drafting and validation workshops, and online discussion forums. I express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and dedication of all those involved in the production of the publication, in particular, the members of the Project Board, the authors, reviewers and editors, the network facilitator and the UNDP.

I am pleased to announce that the next Round Table Meeting of the APJRF will be held in Singapore from 19–21 January 2009. On behalf of the APJRF, I extend our thanks to the Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts of Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Law for offering to host the meeting.

The Round Table Meeting will have two objectives. First, the meeting will explore and discuss the reform experiences captured in the chapters of *Searching for Success in Judicial Reform*, and highlight reform themes and issues arising from the publication. The final draft of the publication is now with the publishers.

The second purpose of the meeting is to encourage debate about the future directions of the APJRF. I encourage you to have a look at the APJRF's website (www.apjrf.com). There you will find that we have posted some discussion points to stimulate debate about the way forward for the organisation.

Invitations to attend the Round Table Meeting have been sent to Chief Justices in the Asia Pacific region. I would encourage all jurisdictions to send a representative to the meeting to ensure that the APJRF benefits from the experiences of as many courts as possible.

Justice Kenneth Hayne AC
High Court of Australia
November 2008

Round Table Meeting

19–21 January 2009, Singapore

The next Round Table Meeting of the APJRF will be held in Singapore from 19–21 January 2009. The objective of the meeting will be to review and discuss the chapters of *Searching for Success in Judicial Reform: Voices from the Asia Pacific Experience*.

The development of a publication on judicial reform initiatives was originally identified at the first Round Table Meeting of the APJRF held in Sydney in March 2006. Over the past two years the nature and substance of the publication has evolved to better meet its aim of promoting judicial reform in the region. The publication is practical in focus, while providing some theoretical background to judicial reform activities in the region. *Searching for Success in Judicial Reform* provides readers with examples of reform experiences that worked and some that didn't work. Further, it critically analyses this experience to assess why some initiatives were successful and others not, and develops practical key messages that readers can draw on to inform their own reform priorities and planning.

Particular issues arising from the publication that will be covered at the Singapore meeting include:

- judicial reform experiences
- case management reforms and delay reduction
- judicial education and skills
- ethics, integrity and judicial accountability
- promoting access to justice through judicial reform.

The intention of the meeting is to provide participants with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others and engage in robust discussion about judicial reform programmes which have been implemented in several member countries. We are hopeful that participants will be able to take the lessons learnt by others and adapt them for their own countries.

As the APJRF is a member-based organisation, it is important that future projects reflect the needs of members. Participants at the Round Table Meeting will also be asked to consider the future directions of the APJRF and suggest possible projects. If you are interested in contributing to the debate before the meeting, please have a look at the discussion points on the APJRF's website (www.apjrf.com).

The Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts of Singapore, and the Singapore Academy of Law will be providing the meeting facilities for the Round Table Meeting and will also provide meals during the meeting and local transportation for participants. Participants, however, are asked to cover their accommodation and international travel costs but to inform the Secretariat via email to apjrfsecretariat@hcourt.gov.au should funding be required.

Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Judge Tan May Tee and Judge Sandra Looi from the organising committee at: SUBCT_APJRF2009@subct.gov.sg or fax number: +65 6435 5913.

Secretariat Contact Details

The APJRF Secretariat is chaired by the Honourable Justice Kenneth Hayne AC. It consists of representatives from Australia, the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok.

Postal Address

Secretariat, Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum
c/o Ms Deborah Carlsund
High Court of Australia
Level 19 Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney NSW 2000

Email: apjrfsecretariat@hcourt.gov.au
Website: www.apjrf.com