

The View from Outside - Impressions of the EU

Date: 25 August 2008 (Monday)
Time: 5:00 – 7:00pm
Venue: Seminar Room 4, Level 4 (SR4-4), Block B
Faculty of Law, Bukit Timah Campus
National University of Singapore

Speaker: Professor Walter Woon
Attorney- General & immediate past Singapore Ambassador
to the European Union

The European Union (EU) Centre in Singapore is pleased to present Singapore's immediate past Ambassador to the European Union Professor Walter Woon as the inaugural speaker of a new EU Public Talk series aimed at providing the Singapore community at large with general perspectives of the EU and the European Commission based on personal experiences.



NUS alumnus Professor Walter Woon graduated in 1981 with First Class Honours and joined the teaching staff of the Law Faculty. He has served as Sub-Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty, authored several books on company law, commercial law, the Singapore legal system, as well as two novels, and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007. Professor Woon has also been Legal Adviser to the President, and the Council of Presidential Advisors.

As Nominated Member of Parliament from 1992 to 1996, Professor Woon played a pioneering role in introducing the Maintenance of Parents Bill, which today remains the only Act passed by Parliament since 1965 that was not initiated by the Government.

From 1997 to 2006, Professor Woon was seconded from NUS to the Foreign Service and has served as Singapore's Ambassador to Germany, Greece, Belgium, the European Union, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Vatican. He was conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great by the Pope in 2006.

On his return, Professor Woon was given senior appointments in the Attorney-General's Chambers in quick succession: appointed Second Solicitor-General on 3 Oct 2006, Solicitor-General on 2 July 2007, and Attorney-General on 11 April 2008.

Professor Walter Woon's talk "The View from Outside - Impressions of the EU" will be hosted by NUS Faculty of Law, with Associate Professor Robert Beckman chairing.

The EU Centre in Singapore was jointly established in April 2008 by NUS and NTU with support from the European Commission. The Centre aims to help develop a base of EU studies, increase awareness of the roles of EU institutions, policies and their impact, and foster better understanding of the role of the EU in the global and regional arena through outreach activities, publications and research. For more information, please visit our website at www.nus.edu.sg/euc

About the European Union (EU) Centre

The European Union (EU) Centre in Singapore was formally established on 16 April 2008 as a partnership between the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) with financial support from the European Commission.

The EU Centre aims to promote a better understanding of EU institutions, policies, and positions on regional and global issues in general and, more importantly, a greater appreciation of the EU's role in Southeast Asia and its engagement with Singapore. The EU is an important partner of Singapore, and EU ties with Singapore are growing from strength to strength. Singapore is the EU's number one trading partner in ASEAN and Singapore is a hub for over 2,200 European businesses in the Asia-Pacific region.

Within the region, the EU is also one of ASEAN's oldest dialogue partners and is a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Economically, the EU is ASEAN's second largest overall trading partner and the biggest source of foreign direct investments (FDI). Talks are also underway to establish an EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The EU Centre in Singapore will strive to raise awareness of the longstanding and important partnership between the EU and Singapore, and the EU and ASEAN, and promote knowledge and visibility of the EU in Singapore through different outreach activities, education, research and publications. Specifically, the Centre will:

- Develop a series of outreach and public education programmes targeted at the general public, teachers, students, and the business community;
- Promote interest in European Studies at all levels working in particular with its partners, NUS and NTU;
- Carry out multi-disciplinary research and develop a wider and deeper knowledge of the EU, its institutions and its policies, primarily in the Southeast Asian context;
- Build and grow a network of people interested in EU policies and issues, create opportunities for them to meet and bring them together, leading to more discussion, reflection and policy learning.
- Facilitate exchange and expand academic linkages between NUS / NTU and universities in the EU; and
- Increase awareness of the EU through publications and engaging the media.

The EU Centre is open to all institutions and individuals who value the exchange of knowledge between the EU and Singapore. Through our activities, we hope to promote understanding, increase awareness, share insights and analysis into the role of the EU in regional and global affairs and its partnership with ASEAN and Singapore.

For more information about the EU Centre, please contact us at the address below.