

Online Seminar Series on Climate Change and Investment

Seminar 3

“Facilitating Private Investment to Fund Climate Change Mitigation and Net Zero Policies”

22 March 2023

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (SGT) / 9:00 am – 11:00 am (GMT) / 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (CET)

Register here <https://nus-sg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtc-Ggpj8vEtT08PwAtm1G5gvBMCvGQN7K>

What This Seminar is About

Private investment can play an important role in the ability of states to take the steps necessary to contain climate change while coping with its effects. According to the IMF, developing economies must collectively invest at least USD 1 trillion in energy infrastructure by 2030 and USD 3 to 6 trillion across all sectors per year by 2050 to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

This seminar addresses how different states facilitate Paris-aligned investments, with a special focus on Asian developing countries such as China, the Philippines, and Lao PDR. These countries have traditionally relied heavily on fossil fuel resources, and a substantial amount of investment is needed for the just transition to a low-carbon economy. The promotion of the investment necessary to make this transition requires the support of well-designed policy frameworks. By discussing how different developing Asian countries are trying to facilitate green investments, this seminar aims to provide insights into the drivers and content of those policies and their effectiveness in facilitating investments that can fund climate change mitigation.

Programme

Moderator

- **Danielle Yeow** (Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore)

Panellists

- **Rolando Avendano** (Economist, Asian Development Bank)
- **N. Jansen Calamita** (Head, Investment Law & Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore)
- **Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego** (Governor, Philippines Board of Investment)
- **Vilayphone Xindavong** (Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Lao PDR)
- **Yawen Zheng** (Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore)

Background to the Seminar Series on Climate Change and Investment

The CIL Seminar Series on Climate Change and Investment comprises six seminars examining how international law can serve as a tool to support Paris-aligned investment flows. Under Article 2(1)(c) of the Paris Agreement, states have committed to strengthening the global response to climate change by, *inter alia*, “making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and climate-resilient development.” It is hard to overstate the magnitude of this ambition, essentially requiring the wholesale adjustment of state economic regulation and private sector investment approaches across the globe in order to limit financial flows to carbon-intensive activities and redirect those flows to Paris-aligned ones.

The series focuses broadly on Asia. Not only does Asia account for approximately 60% of the world’s population but it is also the main GHG-emitting region in the world, accounting for approximately 50% of global CO₂ emissions per year. Moreover, compared to regulatory and treaty reform discussions in Europe and North America, the situation in Asia is often overlooked. To that end, in this series we ask broadly what role states in Asia can play in creating solutions, whether through the leadership of economic blocs like ASEAN or larger economies like China, India, Japan and Korea. Moreover, we also ask whether states in Asia are willing to lead in this space.

Forthcoming seminars in the series

<https://cil.nus.edu.sg/seminar-series-on-climate-change-and-investment/>

Seminar 4: “The Role of Financial Institutions in Supporting Net Zero Investments”

- 26 April 2023

Seminar 5: “Aligning Investment with Net Zero Goals through Domestic Corporate Laws”

- tbd

Seminar 6: “The Role of Trade Law in Aligning Investment Flows”

- tbd