

1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference

State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges

LAWASIA, in association with The Bar Association of India, is pleased to invite the participation of members and legal professionals at the 1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference to be held in New Delhi, India from 9-10 February 2019.

Hosted at the Hyatt Regency Delhi, and with a theme of “State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges”, the conference will explore a broad range of human rights issues of relevance in the Asia Pacific region, including:

- Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights
- New Technologies, Privacy and Mass Surveillance
- Experiences and Challenges of Human Rights Lawyers
- Aggressive Policing and Human Rights
- Freedom of the Press in the Digital Age
- Cross-border Migration & its Conflicts
- Climate Change, Water Conflicts & Human Rights
- Business and Human Rights

This is LAWASIA’s inaugural Human Rights Conference, providing a unique opportunity for lawyers and associated professional members to exchange insights and expertise on topics of significant importance to all.

We look forward to welcoming you at the conference. Visit the conference site for updates and the full program. We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

LAWASIA Secretariat

Program: State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges

Saturday, 9 February 2019

8:00 – 9:00 Conference registration

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome remarks and opening address

9:15 – 10:00 Keynote presentation

10:00 – 10:30 Morning refreshments and networking

Session 1

10:30 – 11:30 Gender, sexuality and human rights

This session will explore developments across the ESCAP region with respect to legal approaches to gender, the decriminalization of homosexuality, and measures to reduce discrimination.

Session 2

11:30 – 12:30 New technologies, privacy and mass surveillance: Will human rights survive?

Rapid developments in technology enable corporations and state entities to track and profile users. Law enforcement agencies embrace these technologies to prevent crime. What are the foreseeable impacts on human rights? Is privacy an enforceable right or outdated sentiment? Do the latest developments in data protection sufficiently protect users against the state and large corporations that collect and commercially exploit data?

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch and networking

Session 3

13:30 – 15:00 Human rights lawyers: Independence and threats

This session will provide an opportunity for lawyers from the region to interact and share their experiences and challenges to effectively represent clients.

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon refreshments and networking

Session 4

15:30 – 17:00 Aggressive policing and human rights

Across several jurisdictions, aggressive policing is compromising the presumption of innocence. Does eliminating serious crimes in this manner compromise the rule of law?

19:00 – 22:00 Conference Dinner

Sunday, 10 February 2019

Session 5

9:00 – 10:30 Freedom of the press in the Digital Age

Has the advent of the Digital Age enhanced or encumbered press freedom across jurisdictions in the Asia Pacific region?

10:30 – 11:00 Morning refreshments and networking

Session 6

11:00 – 12:30 Conflicts and cross-border migrations

Is there right to have human rights? Stateless individuals and persons escaping persecution are especially vulnerable. What are their rights and the corresponding responsibilities of receiving states?

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch and networking

Session 7

13:30 – 15:00 Business and human rights

Socially responsible corporations are required by municipal law or their internal policies to comport with human rights in areas such as gender equality, health and work conditions of employees, environmental best practices among others. This session builds on deliberations at the 31st LAWASIA Conference held at Siem Reap, Cambodia in November 2018.

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon refreshments and networking

Session 8

15:30 – 16:45 Climate change, water conflicts and human rights

From an environmental standpoint, water stress is increasing. What are the institutions for resolving these conflicts and reviving water quality in polluted rivers, lakes, aquifers and the oceans?

16:45 – 17:00 Closing remarks

Call for Speakers

LAWASIA invites members to submit a proposal to speak at the 1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference. Proposals must correspond to the conference theme and one of the conference session topics. Please click [here](#) to view the program and descriptions of each session.

Please note that your expression of interest must include:

1. Session Details:

Session name – refer to conference program.

Presentation abstract (250 word limit) summarizing the content focus of your presentation.

Note: Regrettably, the Organizing Committee is unable to accept proposals with topics that are not listed in the conference program.

2. Speaker Credentials:

Full name and contact details.

Brief professional biography indicating relevant experience.

Where will we find further information about you? Please share links to any social media accounts, videos, recorded presentations, published articles and/or testimonials.

Deadline for submissions: Friday, 9 November 2018

Please send your submissions via email to: events2019@lawasia.asn.au

Note: All speakers must be able to cover their own conference registration, accommodation and travel costs.