



T L Yap Inaugural in-coming LAWASIA President Speech on 13 October 2025 in Hanoi

I am humbled by the trust placed upon me as I take on the role as President of LAWASIA and to lead the organisation. I am acutely aware of the tasks and challenges that lies ahead but rest assured, I am ready for it. The past Presidents of LAWASIA have laid strong foundations and it will be my responsibility to take LAWASIA further forward. Outgoing President Shyam Divan under his excellent leadership has no doubt left me with big boots to fill.

We have borne witness of the commitment and dedication demonstrated par excellence by Shyam over the last 2 years. During his term, he has contributed immensely, tirelessly and selflessly to LAWASIA. His personal touch, outreach, generosity and the many initiatives he has implemented are the hallmarks of his leadership.

I acknowledge the support from member organisations, the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and the Secretariat. I look forward to working alongside all of you to take LAWASIA to the next level.

LAWASIA was founded in August 1966 and will be 60 years young as we celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2026. A coffee table book is in the pipeline to commemorate this milestone event.

I will seek to strengthen LAWASIA's values and core strengths in Human Rights, Rule of Law, independence of the legal profession and the independence of the Judiciary.

Every organisation has its heart and soul and LAWASIA is no different. As part of my vision, LAWASIA can and should be the platform for the legal profession in the Asia-Pacific and beyond to encourage discourse in Pro Bono and Access to Justice and to empower our committees to have greater involvement in the activities of LAWASIA. Of particular focus for me will be our Emerging lawyers and Women's lawyers.

I hope to increase the membership base of LAWASIA and to add value to membership. There is no better time to start on this than now. I encourage those of you in this room who have not signed up as a member of LAWASIA to do so and to join one or two of our 27

Committees. The information is readily available on our website or in your conference booklets and I look forward to welcoming you to the LAWASIA family.

All said, this is not about me but about LAWASIA. Our member organisations, committees, individual members and the Secretariat are what makes LAWASIA strong and successful. I am committed and will strive to work alongside all of you to make LAWASIA an organisation people want to be part of and an organisation we can all be proud of.

Thank you.

Teong Liang Yap
President, LAWASIA