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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### ASIL HOSTS ASEAN DISCUSSION

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) will host the panel discussion *ASEAN's Evolving Legal and Institutional Framework* on Wednesday, **May 21, 8:30-10:00 a.m.** The event will take place at ASIL headquarters, **2223 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC.** Members of the press and public are invited to attend by registering with ASIL Director of Communications and Member Relations, Sheila Ward, at [sward@asil.org](mailto:sward@asil.org).

This discussion will consider, within the context of international law, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) legal personality as an international organization as well as what impact this personality has on the legal nature of regional free trade agreements. Panelists will be [Amelia Porges](#), Counsel, Sidley Austin LLP; [Sungjoon Cho](#), Assistant Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law; [Edmund W. Sim](#), Partner, Hunton & Williams LLP-Singapore; [Michael Ewing-Chow](#), Associate Professor, National University of Singapore; and **Robert Michael Tene**, First Secretary for Political Affairs, Embassy of Indonesia. [Pek Koon Heng](#), Course Chair for the Insular Southeast Asia Advanced Area Studies program at the U.S. Department of State's

Foreign Studies Institute and Assistant Professor at the School of International Service at American University, will moderate the event.

Key questions to be examined include: What is the significance of the ASEAN Charter? Will the ASEAN Protocol on Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism and WTO dispute settlement mechanisms conflict with or compliment one another? Which mechanism is better for solving disputes amongst ASEAN members? How can the legal regime of ASEAN be improved to enhance the integrated economic development of its members? What enforcement mechanisms does ASEAN need to make sure it can implement the ASEAN Single Window Program?

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law.

ASIL events, such as *ASEAN's Evolving Legal and Institutional Framework*, generally deal with one of the Society's seven thematic focal areas: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Law and Development, International Security, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration. For more information, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).