



THE MALAYSIAN JUDICIARY

PRESS STATEMENT **THE 7th JOINT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**

The Malaysian Judiciary had the privilege of hosting the 7th Joint Judicial Conference (7th JJC) on July 21, 2023, at the Westin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Chief Justices of Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore and their respective senior judges and judicial officials attended the 7th JJC.

The JJC, which was conceptualised from a shared vision in 2011, now stands at the threshold of its seventh edition. This prestigious biennial conference serves as a resonating affirmation of the collaborative resolve held by the tripartite judiciaries to come together to engage in meaningful discourse, exchange best practices, and develop a shared understanding on issues of mutual interest affecting the ASEAN region in general and the three Judiciaries in particular.

The 7th JJC was founded upon the theme, 'Criminal Justice System in ASEAN: Moving Towards A More Compassionate Society.' This overarching theme steered the conference into three intellectually stimulating sessions, namely:

- i. *Due Process and the Crime Control Model: Judicial Decision-Making in Criminal Justice*
- ii. *Improving the Criminal Justice System: Best Practices and Collaboration*
- iii. *Cross-Border Criminal Conviction and Punishment: The Importance of Mutual Respect, Understanding, and Dialogue*

The 7th JJC was formally inaugurated with the opening address from each of the ASEAN Chief Justices from Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. In Her Ladyship's opening address, the Right Honorable Chief Justice of Malaysia, Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat, emphatically accentuated the synergy between the ongoing developments in the ASEAN Region and the principles laid out in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Her Ladyship underscored that across the ASEAN region, there has been a unified, purposeful movement towards amplifying the rights of accused persons. Her Ladyship astutely highlighted the evolution taking place within the sphere of criminal justice,

evidencing a noteworthy shift from traditional retributive justice towards a more inclusive and rehabilitative model of restorative justice.

The Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon in His Lordship's opening address highlighted among others that this year's theme for the JJC has put into perspective one of the principles of the 2008 ASEAN Charter, which is to "enhance the well-being and livelihood of the people of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare, and justice."

The Chief Justice of Singapore, The Right Honorable Sunderesh Menon, in His Lordship's opening address, commended the JJC as a valued platform for judiciaries to exchange ideas and perspectives on important topics of mutual interest. He recognised the foundational role of criminal justice in the justice systems and societies, hence underscoring its significance as a conference theme.

The panel discussions and moderation of the three sessions curated for the 7th JJC were proficiently undertaken by the judges and judicial officers from all three ASEAN Judiciaries. This year's JJC, akin to previous years, showcased astute presentations by speakers and facilitated vibrant discussions on emerging issues.

At the close of three insightful sessions, The Right Honorable Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat delivered her closing remarks. Her Ladyship thanked her brother Chief Justices as well as all the delegates from the three ASEAN Judiciaries for collectively contributing to making the 7th JJC a success. Her Ladyship also thanked all the Judges and Judicial Officers of the Malaysian Judiciary who organised and contributed to the success of the 7th JJC. The 7th JJC culminated in a Gala Dinner, which was hosted by the Malaysian Judiciary.

Thank you.

**Office of the Chief Registrar
Federal Court of Malaysia
Palace of Justice
Putrajaya**

Dated: 22nd July 2023