

PREFACE

There is voluminous literature on climate change today. As the global community struggles to address one of the most challenging environmental issues of our day, the amount of research dedicated to the subject of climate change is both staggering and inspiring. However, there exists a lacuna in this large body of literature as few scholars have sought to address climate change issues in an Asian context. This is extraordinary given that Asia is the world's most populous region which is already experiencing climate change and is expected to bear the brunt of climate change impacts in time to come.

Crucial Issues in Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol: Asia and the World is an attempt to fill this lacuna. This book focuses on Asia, on the impacts of climate change on the region, on the legal, socio-economic and governance issues raised by countries' attempts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and on the involvement of Asian countries in the international climate change regime. Each chapter addresses themes and issues which are of significant contemporary interest to policy-makers, lawyers, and academics alike. The book begins with a broad examination of climate change within the constellation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the science of climate change. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), arguably the most successful Kyoto Protocol Flexible Mechanism, is a thematic area in itself. Contributors share their knowledge of various countries' experience with implementing the CDM, as well as the emerging problems with the international CDM regulatory regime. Some authors discuss how Asian economies could effectively mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to the global effort to tackle climate change. Improving energy efficiency

and adopting co-benefit approaches that seek to achieve sustainable development and climate change mitigation at the same time are fundamental in this regard. Finally, while there are clear signs that there will be a future international climate change treaty, the details of the post-2012 treaty remain unclear. The concluding chapters therefore discuss alternatives to the Kyoto Protocol as well as significant post-2012 issues such as protecting forests to mitigate climate change.

Crucial Issues in Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol: Asia and the World provides an insight into how Asia perceives the challenges of climate change, and how the various countries of this region, highly disparate in their cultures, socio-economic conditions and political systems, are responding to climate change. Our hope is that sharing these ideas and information will increase our understanding of the issues and challenges that climate change presents to the world, and to Asia, in particular. We also hope to inspire further intellectual dialogue, and more importantly, to action to address climate change.

Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Ambassador Tommy Koh for his *Foreword*. Ambassador Koh served as Chairman of the Preparatory Main Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development from 1990 to 1992. One of the key outputs of the Conference was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Combining his deep understanding of climate change issues and personal dedication to the environmental cause, this book has benefited immensely from Ambassador Koh's support and encouragement.

KOH Kheng-Lian, *Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, NUS*

LYE Lin-Heng, *Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; Deputy Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, NUS*

Jolene LIN, *Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong; Associate Member, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, NUS*