

ABOUT THE CENTRE

HISTORY

The Centre for Project Management and Construction Law (CPMCL) was formed in 2005. The Centre is based at the Department of Building, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore (NUS).

The CPMCL replaced the Construction Management and Economics Research Group (CMERG) which had existed in the Department since 1991. The aim of the CMERG was to create new knowledge and disseminate it for further development by the academic community, and effective diffusion and application in industry. Its vision was: "To be known as the originator of a unique paradigm of construction management and economics and contribute to the development of a world class construction industry in Singapore."

The main reason for setting up the CPMCL was to have an entity which could perform functions which as individuals, academic staff members were not able to undertake. These included:

1. To market the Department's ability to host research in project management and construction law because of its physical structure, equipment and academic culture in terms of its complement of academic staff members;
2. To market research findings in project management and construction law coming from a hot-bed of research activities and a gathering of great research minds; and
3. To provide a ballast for a research tradition in project management and construction law as well as the continuity needed to establish a healthy research community.

It was envisaged that the Centre would create a reputation for the Department as having research expertise and experience in project management and construction law. It would be an avenue to market the feasibility and viability of the Department as a choice to pursue a research degree and therefore attract good research students and scholars. Finally, it was thought that the Centre is likely to attract external research funding if the construction industry is made aware of its activities and findings from the Department's research projects through its publicity of these research projects.

The strategic plan of the CPMCL for the first three years, included:

- Launch of the centre;
- Publicity for the centre;
- Conduct of research seminars and conferences;
- Conduct of executive development programmes;
- Conduct of Level 6 modules for research students; and
- Deposition of research dissertations in project management and construction law.

The founding Co-Directors of the CPMCL were:

Associate Professor Philip Chan and Professor Willie Tan.

The current Director is Professor Low Sui Pheng.

The current Associate Director is Associate Professor Philip Chan.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE

The main activities of the CPMCL are:

1. Facilitation of research by its members;

2. Conduct of research seminars and conferences;
3. Conduct of executive development programmes, both at the NUS and in the premises of the client organisation; and
4. Serving as a depository of important books and other publications on project management and construction law.

COLLABORATIONS

The CPMCL undertakes a number of joint activities with several similar organisations in good universities globally. Some examples of these collaborative activities include:

1. Joint research with several universities including the University of California, Berkeley, USA; University of Hong Kong; University of Reading, UK; Seoul National University, Korea; and Tsinghua University, China.
2. Joint research seminars with: (i) University of Hong Kong, Loughborough University, UK and University of Technology Malaysia; and (ii) Seoul National University, Korea
3. Executive professional development programme with University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.