

CALL FOR PAPERS

SHAPING THE CLIMATE REGIME IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LAW

Date:
30 October 2026

Venue:
Ho Chi Minh City University of Law
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Climate change constitutes an existential challenge to humanity. It has far-reaching consequences for human rights, environmental protection, food security, and sustainable development. While the international community has established frameworks such as the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, global governance remains characterized by a persistent gap between global objectives and national implementation.

Recent advisory opinions by the International Court of Justice (2025) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2024) have marked a turning point. They affirm that States bear the obligations under international law to address climate change and protect the marine environment.

The ASEAN region is among the most vulnerable regions facing the adverse effects of climate change. Southeast Asian nations face a dual challenge: navigating the transformation of global climate governance while sustaining economic growth amidst the unique characteristics and vulnerabilities of the region.

Against this background, the Conference aims to provide a rigorous academic forum to examine the evolving legal foundations of climate governance, while amplifying voices from the ASEAN region and the Global South.

Conference themes

1. Theoretical foundations and emerging jurisprudence

- The influence of international adjudicatory bodies, such as the ICJ, ITLOS, and regional human rights tribunals, on the climate regime development in South East Asia.
- The interplay between the Paris Agreement and principles of customary international law, such as the no-harm rule and the duty to cooperate.
- The shift from political discretion toward legal accountability in the global climate regime.

2. Climate justice and rights-based approaches

- Exploring intergenerational, transgenerational, and transboundary dimensions of climate justice.
- Legal protections for vulnerable populations (eg indigenous peoples, women, children...) facing climate change within international and domestic human rights systems.
- Conceptualizing the right to live in a safe and climate-stable environment.

3. The green transition: Carbon markets and resource extraction

- Legal architecture of international and regional carbon markets, including carbon credits, offsets, and pricing mechanisms.
- Legal and environmental challenges of critical minerals supply chain in the context of sustainable development.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks for the scaling of wind, solar, and hydro energy in ASEAN. This may include legal questions relating to the promotion of green transport and legal standards for charging infrastructure and battery lifecycle management.
- Legal concerns regarding trade measures and unequal access to transition technologies.

4. ASEAN and regional climate action

- Strengthening regional pathways for legal implementation and enforcement for the objective of climate justice.
- Developing policies to support vulnerable communities during the transition process, ensuring equitable distribution of costs.

5. Judicial procedures and corporate accountability

- Trends and analysis: claims against States or corporate polluters in domestic and international legal systems.
- Legal questions relating to jurisdiction, evidence, and legal limits in climate-related disputes - challenges and prospects.

6. Open theme: Emerging issues in climate justice

We explicitly welcome submissions on topics beyond those listed above. Authors are invited to present original research on emerging areas such as climate-related migration law, the intersection between legal technology/AI and sustainable development and/or climate change, the intersection of climate justice with global health law, the climate-trade nexus or other themes they deem important and appropriate to the evolving landscape of climate law and ASEAN's regional

Abstract submission:

Authors should submit an extended abstract of **500 – 800 words** by **15 August 2026** via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/IQpSD3cTtnWJkgTL7> or by scanning the QR code below.



Abstracts must clearly present the research subject, methodology, objectives, and expected contributions to the field. Authors whose abstracts have been selected will be notified by **30 August 2026**.

Full paper submission:

Selected authors will be invited to submit a full manuscript of 5,000 – 8,000 words in **English** by **30 September 2026**. High-quality papers will be invited to present their papers at the conference and considered for publication sponsorship by Scopus-indexed journals.

All submissions must be original and not under consideration elsewhere.

- Selected conference papers may be considered for publication in an international journal or an academic book published by a reputable publisher after the conference.
- Authors and participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.
- Conference Fee (including lunch, conference materials, tea breaks, and related services):
 - ♦ **3,000,000 VND for international participants.**
 - ♦ **2,500,000 VND for Vietnamese participants.**
- Participation is free of charge for faculty members, staff, graduate students, and doctoral candidates of the Ho Chi Minh City University of Law.
- The collected fees will be used to cover conference organization expenses.

Contact Information: Mr. Le Minh Nhut (Email: lmnhut@hcmulaw.edu.vn)

Publishing Sponsor:

