

FOREWORD

Global trends such as the rise of technology giants, trade wars, increasing competition, and even the COVID-19 pandemic are all having a profound impact on the way business is conducted. To cope with the new developments, business sectors need to transform. The buzzword is *digital* transformation; a process no industry, including ours, can escape. The Ministry of Law launched its Legal Industry Technology and Innovation Roadmap in October 2020 to promote innovation, technology adoption and development in Singapore’s legal industry. We are doing our part to support the legal industry on its transformation journey by bringing you two Special Issues on technology law.

The first of the two is this volume entitled “Law and Technology”. The articles in this Special Issue explore topics related to technology law such as cryptocurrency regulation, data protection and cybersecurity. They also cover broader issues ranging from regulatory problems brought about by the pace of technological innovation to the use of technology in law and the judicial process.

We are privileged to have Professor Daniel Seng as the Guest Editor for this Special Issue. Prof Seng teaches and researches information technology law and infocommunications law. Between 2001 and 2003, he was concurrently the Director of Research, Technology Law Development at the Singapore Academy of Law. Since then he has been *amicus curiae* to the Court of Appeal of Singapore in *Chwee Kin Keong v Digilandmall.com Pte Ltd*, the leading Singapore case on unilateral mistake in the digital environment. He has also presented papers at various local, regional and international conferences and written on evidence, information technology and intellectual property laws. Prof Seng was an active member of various Singapore governmental committees that undertook legislative reforms in information technology and intellectual property laws. He has also been appointed as consultant by the World Intellectual Property Organization, where he has researched, delivered papers and published monographs on copyright exceptions for academic institutions, music copyright in the Asia Pacific and the liability of Internet intermediaries.

We are grateful to Prof Seng for his careful selection of contributors and meticulous review of the articles. Each article in this publication has benefited considerably from his helpful suggestions and valuable insight.

Special thanks are also due to our contributors who need no introduction; their work speaks for itself. They are: Prof Simon Chesterman, Prof Katrin Nyman Metcalf, Prof Tanel Kerikmäe, Mr Joseph Lau, Mr Benjamin Wong, Ms Bridget Mead, Mr James Goepel, Mr Jared Paul Miller,

Asst Prof Paul Flanagan, Ms Hu Ying, Mr Kenneth Khoo, Prof Stephen Mason, Mr Shaun Lim, Assoc Prof Helena Whalen-Bridge, Prof Zhang Ni and Mr David Johnson. We very much appreciate their tireless efforts and time expended to contribute illuminating and thought-provoking articles to this publication.

I thank the staff of the Singapore Academy of Law for their editorial support throughout the publication process.

Lastly, in the first paragraph, I had alluded to two Special Issues on technology law. I am happy to announce that the next Issue (on artificial intelligence and governance) will be published in 2022. I am sure that you will find this Issue informative and insightful and that it will indeed whet your appetite for the next Issue.

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