

APJRF SINGAPORE ROUND TABLE MEETING

OPENING REMARKS

BY

THE HON. JUSTICE KENNETH HAYNE, AC

HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

CHAIR, SECRETARIAT OF APJRF

19 JANUARY 2009

Chief Justice of Singapore, members of the Singapore judiciary and other judicial colleagues, distinguished representatives of the Singapore Academy of Law, the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, International Commission of Jurists, Asian Development Bank, the Asia Foundation, distinguished delegates from so many countries in Asia and the Pacific.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum may I welcome you to Singapore. May I also say, on behalf of everyone in this room, how grateful we are to the Chief Justice of Singapore, the Supreme Court of Singapore and the Subordinate Courts of Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Law for agreeing to hold this Round Table here. We thank you for your hospitality. We thank you for the care, skill and attention which has been given to organising this meeting.

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During these meetings we will share experiences. Each of us will have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others about how we may improve the judicial systems of our own countries. This is important work. It is important because what each of us does in the judicial system of our own country is important to those whom we deal with in the judicial system and it is important to the society in which we live. These meetings over the next two days are therefore very important as opportunities to learn.

And in taking those opportunities to learn from the experiences of others, each of us will reach out our hands to join in the common hope of all who are in this room to "do right to all manner of people according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will".

But the meetings that we will hold over these next two days are also important because they are an opportunity for us to look forward. They are the opportunity we have for all of you to decide what it is that you, the membership of APJRF, want the Forum to do now in helping to achieve that common hope of justice in our societies.

Chief Justice, you do the Forum great honour by your attendance today. May I ask you to speak to us.