



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development

金融規管與經濟發展研究中心



FACULTY OF LAW

A CFRED Lecture:

CAN ASIAN COUNTRIES WIN THE WAR ON CORRUPTION?

by

Professor Jon S.T. Quah

11 March 2013, Monday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

The CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Road, Central, Hong Kong

Corruption remains a serious problem in many Asian countries, according to Transparency International's 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index and other indicators, in spite of the various anti-corruption measures initiated by them during the past six decades. This lecture attempts to explain why most Asian countries have lost the war on corruption because of the lack of political will of their governments, their reliance on ineffective anti-corruption measures, and their unfavourable policy contexts. It begins with an analysis of the adverse consequences of corruption in Asian countries, followed by the identification of the five major causes of corruption in these countries. The failure of many Asian countries to curb corruption is illustrated by referring to the ineffective anti-corruption strategies employed in India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. The lecture concludes that to win the war on corruption, these countries must replace their ineffective anti-corruption measures with the more effective measures employed by Singapore and Hong Kong SAR to minimize corruption. However, this will only be possible if their governments have the political will to implement the required reforms.

All are welcome!

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by 10 March 2013.

About the Speaker

Prof. Jon S.T. Quah



Jon S.T. Quah, Ph.D., was a Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Co-editor of the *Asian Journal of Political Science* until his retirement in June 2007, after 35 years of service. He is now an Anti-Corruption Consultant based in Singapore. His administrative appointments at the NUS included being Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences from July 1990 to June 1991, Coordinator of the European Studies Programme from July 1990 to June 1998, Head of the Department of Political Science from July 1992 to June 1998, and Member of the Board of Discipline of the Senate from July 2002 to June 2007. He was seconded from June 1988 to June 1990 to the Institute of Policy Studies in Singapore, where he served as Deputy Director, and Acting Director from January 1989.

He is a Singapore citizen by birth and obtained his B.Soc.Sci. Honours in Political Science from the University of Singapore in June 1969, and his M.Soc.Sci. in Political Science from the University of Singapore in March 1971. He was a Fulbright-Hays Scholar at the Department of Government, Florida State University, USA, where he received his Ph.D. in Political Science specializing in Public Administration in June 1975.

Prof Quah was awarded a fellowship at the Culture Learning Institute, East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i from February to March 1978, and a Harvard-Yenching Fellowship at Harvard University from September 1979 to June 1980. He has also been a Visiting Scholar at these institutions: Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California at Berkeley (September 1986 to May 1987); Harvard Institute for International Development (August 1993 to March 1994); Harvard-Yenching Institute (July to September 1997); Stanford Program in International Legal Studies, Stanford University (October to December 1997); National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University (August to December 2002); and Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University (January to June 2006). He was a Visiting Professor at the Department of Public Policy and Management, Shih Hsin University in Taipei, Taiwan in March 2011 to teach an intensive seminar on corruption in Asian countries for Ph.D. students.

He began his research on Singapore's anti-corruption measures in 1977 and has published extensively on anti-corruption strategies, civil service reform, and public administration in Asian countries. His major publications include: *Curbing Corruption in Asia: A Comparative Study of Six Countries* (Singapore: Eastern Universities Press, 2003); *Combating Corruption Singapore-Style: Lessons for Other Asian Countries* (Baltimore: School of Law, University of Maryland, 2007); *Taiwan's Anti-Corruption Strategy: Suggestions for Reform* (Baltimore: School of Law, University of Maryland, 2010); *Public Administration Singapore-Style* (Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing, 2010); and Singapore: Talisman Publishing, 2010); and *Curbing Corruption in Asian Countries: An Impossible Dream?* (Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing, 2011; and Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2013).

He received a High Commendation Award from the Commissioner of Police in Singapore on February 19, 1983 for rendering valuable services to the Singapore Police Academy from 1977 to 1982. He was also awarded a *Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques* (Academic Order of the Palms) by the French Minister of Education in February 1993 for contributing to the enhancement of French culture and education in Singapore.

