

The Asian Privacy Scholars Network (APSN) – Reflections on 16 years

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Centre for Legal Innovation and
Digital Society (CLINDS)

co-organised with:

APSN

with the support of:



個人資料私隱專員公署
Office of the Privacy Commissioner
for Personal Data
中國香港 Hong Kong, China



The 10th Asian Privacy Scholars Network Conference –
‘Privacy and Data Protection in the Age of Intelligent Systems’

23-25 September 2026

APSN's origins

2009 – I became Asia-Pacific editor for a bi-monthly privacy law journal, but there were no conferences to meet other academics with similar interests

2010 – 1st Conference – A meeting of 16 Asia-Pacific academics from 10 countries at UNSW Faculty of Law, Sydney, agreed to form APSN.

This is the **10th Conference** in 16 years.

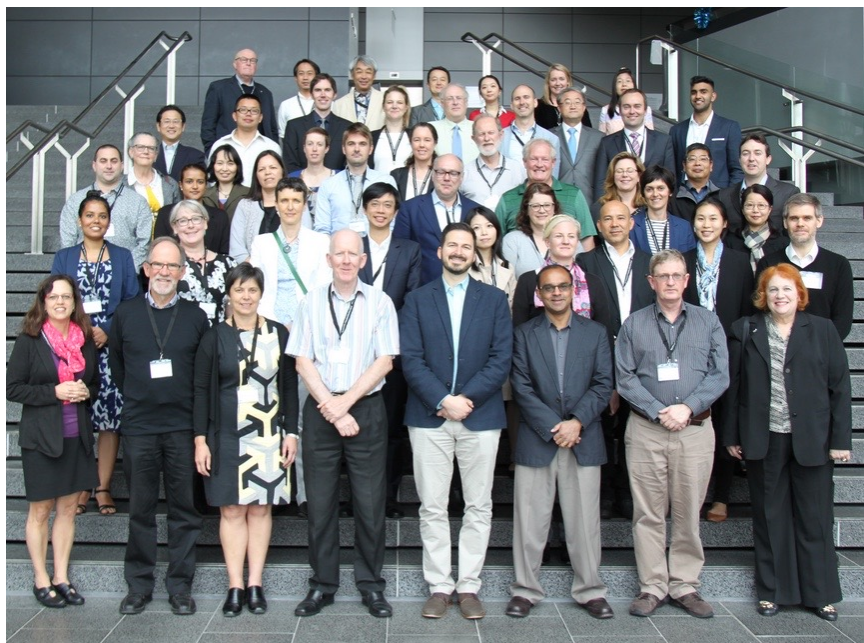


Conferences



Details – <http://asianprivacy.org/events/list/?eventDisplay=past>





APSN aims & objectives

2026 – Nearly 200 members from 20 Asia-Pacific countries (+some others)

Please nominate your peers to become APSN members

APSN aims to assist Asian scholars to **communicate** with each other

APSN's aim is to further **research** into personal data protection, privacy, & surveillance in the Asia-Pacific region, through conferences, publications and networking. Many lawyers - also includes computing, business, sociology etc

Membership basis: Members **publish** work on data protection, privacy, and surveillance that is respected by their peers. Membership is by **nomination from another member** to the APSN list, plus acceptance after a week.

All **presenters** at APSN Conferences can be nominated for APSN membership by the Secretariat.

Predominantly academics, + some scholars from government, NGOs, legal practice & and business – with a record of individual publications. **PhD candidates** in these fields are welcome, irrespective of publications.

APSN is NOT an **advocacy** organization. Limited exception: resolutions encouraging governments to study particular issues.

<http://asianprivacy.org/>

APSN Secretariat

(membership,
conference host
selection, website
& email list)

Ex-officio members (hosts of past, current and pending Conferences)

- **Secretary / Chair:** Emeritus Prof Anne Cheung, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong (**retiring 2026**)
- Prof Kiyoshi Murata, Centre for Business Information Ethics, Meiji University, Tokyo
- Prof Gehan Gunasekara, Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Auckland
- Prof David Tan, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
- Prof Ching-Fu Lin, Professor of Law, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan
- Assoc Prof Han-Wei Liu, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University
- Assoc Prof Normann Witzleb, Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Assoc Prof Stuart Hargreaves, Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Co-opted members (to maintain continuity, geographical and gender balance)

- Prof Graham Greenleaf, Macquarie Law School, Sydney, Australia
- Prof Sinta Dewi Rosadi, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Padjadjaran University
- Chinmayi Arun, National Law University Delhi and Yale University
- Adj Prof Andrew Adams, Deputy Director of the Centre for Business Information Ethics, Meiji University
- Emeritus Prof Colin Bennett, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria

Executive Officer: Michael Cheung, Research Officer, Law and Technology Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong

<https://asianprivacy.org/the-secretariat/>



Academic outcomes

- 2014 – Special Issue of *Journal of Law, Information and Science* (JLIS), from [2012 Tokyo Conference](#)
- 2017 – Special Issue of *Journal of Law, Information and Science* (JLIS), from [2017 Auckland Conference](#)
- 2021 – Special Issue of *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*, from 2019 Singapore Conference
- 2025 – Special Issue of the *International Journal of Law & Information Technology* (IJLIT), from 2024 Hsinchu Conference



Successes and Challenges

- **10 Conferences** in 16 years are the main achievement: Asia-Pacific scholars now know many more of their peers
 - No conferences yet in India and South Asia, Indonesia or Philippines
- 5 issues of **refereed journals** from 10 Conferences is good
- APSN's Conferences **encourage** as many members as possible to present, particularly those not used to presenting to international audiences
 - In contrast, the US and European Privacy Scholars Conferences are based on critical examination of competitive papers
- The **Emerging Privacy Scholars** Colloquium on Day 1 of this Conference is a splendid innovation
- The APSN mailing list has **little discussion** of issues
 - Asking questions and requests for help will be well-received
 - Members encouraged to post details of publications & achievements

APSN owes many thanks to:

- Emeritus Professor **Anne Cheung** (HKU)
 - Secretary of APSN for over a decade
- University of Hong Kong Law Faculty, for supporting the Secretariat and website
 - Particular thanks to Michael Cheung
- My colleagues at AustLII, for maintaining APSN mailing facilities
- 8 Universities hosted Conferences
 - Meiji & HKU have given twice
- Hundreds of presenters and attendees



Asian Privacy Scholars Network (APSN)

<http://asianprivacy.org/>

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