

MEDIA RELEASE
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INAUGURAL ATTORNEY- GENERAL'S LECTURE 2016 ON 5 OCT 2016

SINGAPORE (GMT+8) –Money laundering, corruption and organised crime took centre stage at the inaugural AG's Lecture 2016. The much anticipated lecture delved into the details of how to conduct effective and efficient investigations and prosecutions in complex white collar crimes and cross-jurisdictional cases.

2 The AG's Lecture was presented by the Honourable Attorney General Michael Lauber, who was first appointed as the Attorney General of the Swiss Confederation in 2012. AG Lauber has overseen some of the most high profile and complex white collar criminal investigations in the world, including the ongoing FIFA and Petrobras corruption scandals. During his lecture, he also highlighted the importance of an international cooperation strategy for successful investigation and prosecution of cross-jurisdictional cases.

3 The AG's Lecture Series is aimed at providing a platform for thought leaders in law and other related disciplines to share their experiences and insights with the Singapore legal community. Touching on this in his welcome address, AG V K Rajah, SC, said "We are keenly aware that in order to continually serve Singapore better, we have to remain a vital and constantly learning organisation that is ever mindful of developments taking place all around us. It was in this spirit that I decided to initiate the AG's Lecture Series."

4 Alluding to the purposeful selection of the inaugural speaker, AG V K Rajah added: "It is therefore particularly apt that our first speaker hails from Switzerland, a country all of us in Singapore have great esteem for. Our two countries, while geographically distant, bear striking similarities to each other. We both have relatively small and diverse populations and few, if any, natural resources, and in consequence, have had to keep an unrelenting focus on efficiency, competitiveness and the Rule of Law. We have also maintained an open and global outlook. It is no wonder that Singapore desires to learn more from Switzerland in many areas, ranging from innovation to human capital development to sustainability."

5 Commenting that the Swiss efficiency in legal matters, is an area that Singapore can garner valuable lessons from, AG V K Rajah added: "In the area of legal productivity and specialisation, I have already been more than impressed by Mr Lauber's team of specialist legal officers, having recently interacted with them on some matters. The Swiss officers produced top-notch work under time pressure – and notably, without having to work weekends! One of the key reasons for this, I duly ascertained, is their highly specialised work practices. We too are moving in this direction and I am confident that in

good time our efforts will yield the benefits of even greater productivity and efficiency.”

6 Over 340 participants from the legal community in both the private and public sector benefited from both the lecture and candid sharing of AG Lauber during the panel discussion following the lecture. Also present at this inaugural event were AGC’s counterparts from neighbouring countries namely, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Myanmar; and officers from local enforcement agencies, including SPF, CAD and MAS.

7 The AG’s Lecture 2016 also launches AGC’s 150th anniversary celebrations. The AGC was established on 1 April 1867, and the Chambers will mark the occasion with a series of events from now through the rest of 2017.

8 Sharing how AGC has evolved over the years since 1867, AG V K Rajah said: “But one thing has not changed over the past 150 years, and that is our officers’ unequivocal dedication to uphold the Rule of Law, and to protect the interests of Singapore and our fellow Singaporeans. The AGC has played a key role both protecting and advancing Singapore’s interests at every critical juncture of its history and development.”

9 Expressing hope for the AG’s Lecture to continue to benefit the legal fraternity, AG V K Rajah said: “Even after AGC150, my hope is that this Series will be a useful platform for AGC and the wider legal community to engage with cutting-edge thought leaders in key areas relevant to our work.

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