INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

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Public Officers’ Law Seminar:
Understanding the Law
26th and 27th October 2016

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Contents

- What is Public International Law?
- Importance to Brunei Darussalam
- Sources of Public International Law
- International Affairs Division, AGC
What is Public International Law?

- “Law of nations”
- State to State relationship
- Governing the Rules and Conduct of States
Subject

States

Non-State Actors

International Organisations

Individuals
Importance of Public International Law

- Maintain peace, harmony and mutual cooperation
- Certain issues cannot be resolved by a single State
Sources of International Law

Statute of the ICJ, article 38 (1):

a) international conventions, whether general or particular, establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states;

b) international custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law;

c) the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations;

d) [...] judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations, as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law.
Sources of International Law

- International Treaties
- Customary International Law
- General Principles of International Law
- Judicial Decisions
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Attorney General

Solicitor General

Administration and Finance Division

Legal Draftsman

Assistant Solicitor General I

Assistant Solicitor General II

Legislation and Research Division

Criminal Justice Division

International Affairs Division

Civil Division
International Affairs Division

Vision

“To be regarded as a reliable international law expert representing and safeguarding Brunei Darussalam globally”

Mission

“To deliver the highest quality legal service through the effective interpretation and application of international law”
Scope of Work

- Law of Treaties
- Law of the Sea
- Maritime Law
- International Trade Law
- Intellectual Property
- International Environmental Law
- Bilateral and Multilateral Negotiations
- International Criminal Law
- Civil Aviation and Outer Space
- Terrorism
- Privileges and Immunities
- International Dispute Settlement
- Disarmament and Arms Control
- International Organisations
- International Banking and Finance
- Military Cooperation
- Human Rights
Scope of Work

Responsible for all legal issues

between states (G to G) and

between states and international organisations

based on principles of public international law.
Terms of Reference

- Negotiating, drafting, vetting, legally scrubbing and interpreting various international instruments
- Attending international meetings as BD representative
- Preparing legal opinions based on public international law
Terms of Reference

- Preparing opinions and recommendations upon joining a treaty or an I.O.
- Members of national committees relating to BD’s international obligations.
- Preparing country reports, advising, monitoring and implementing BD’s international obligations.
THANK YOU