

## IPS Special Adviser Professor Tommy Koh Honoured as a Top Negotiator

Special Adviser to the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) [Professor Tommy Koh](#) was conferred the Great Negotiator Award at a ceremony on 10 April 2014, at Harvard University.

The award recognises Prof. Koh's contributions to the fields of negotiation and dispute resolution, and his role in forging several landmark agreements. These include the conclusion of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA), the development and ratification of a charter for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and his efforts in the two legal battles between Singapore and Malaysia over land rights, among others.



(From left) Harvard Business School Professor Jim Sebenius, Professor Tommy Koh, Harvard Law School Managing Director Susan Hackley and Dean of Harvard Law School Professor Martha Minow at a dialogue at Harvard University, where Professor Koh received the Great Negotiator Award for 2014. Photo credit: Tommy Koh

Prof. Koh, 76, is the first Singaporean to receive this award in its 14-year history. The Great Negotiator Award was created by the Program on Negotiation, an inter-university consortium comprising faculty and staff from Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Tufts University. The award aims to acknowledge a lifetime of good work rather than one single achievement, and has been given to a diverse cast of distinguished negotiators such as former US Secretary of State James Baker, the former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari and the United Nations' special envoy for Afghanistan Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi.

In [a working paper citing Prof. Koh's achievements](#), Harvard Business School professor James K. Sebenius and co-author Laurence A. Green described Prof. Koh as an individual who took "an early interest in law and diplomacy" and who has championed using cultural activities for social justice and economic advancement. In referencing eight case studies among Prof. Koh's significant negotiations, the authors said that he has been "instrumental in an array of significant negotiations and international legal disputes throughout his career, especially large-scale diplomatic conferences."

Prof. Koh, who served as IPS Director from between 1990 and 1997, and again from 2000 to 2004, participated in two separate dialogues with Harvard faculty and students prior to the award ceremony on 10 April. With his trademark humour, he quipped later at the award dinner: "I am not a great negotiator. I have never won a negotiation with my wife."

### Media Coverage

Professor Tommy Koh wins Great Negotiator Award (10 April)

*Channel News Asia*. 2014. [Tommy Koh receives Harvard Award](#), 11 April

*The Straits Times*. 2014. [China urged to go to court for territorial disputes](#), 12 April

*Berita Harian*. 2014. [Tommy Koh diiktiraf tokoh perunding terbaik](#), 12 April

联合晚报. 2014. [许通美获选‘杰出谈判专家’哈佛领奖时戏言：和妻子谈判没赢过](#), 4月12日

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