



37TH LAWASIA CONFERENCE

Navigating the Legal Landscape in the Digital Age

13–15 Oct 2024
Hilton Kuala Lumpur



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Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima David Wong Dak Wah

*Former Chief Judge, High Court of Sabah and Sarawak;
Chairman, Borneo International Centre for
Arbitration and Mediation (“BICAM”)*

Moderator for Working Session (14 Oct 2024)

Tech and Activism: Opportunities and Challenges



Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima David Wong Dak Wah has had an illustrious legal and judicial career. His Lordship graduated with degrees in accountancy and law from Australia’s University of New South Wales in 1976 and 1977, respectively. Initially, His Lordship worked as an auditor in Sydney before being admitted as a barrister-at-law of the New South Wales Supreme Court in 1979. His Lordship was admitted to the Sabah Bar in 1980 and practised as an advocate and solicitor in Sandakan until 1992 before going to Sydney to practise law there until 1996. Upon returning to Sandakan in 1997, His Lordship continued his practice until 2005, when His Lordship was appointed Judicial Commissioner of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak.

His Lordship was elevated as a Judge of the High Court in 2007, the Court of Appeal in 2013, and the Federal Court in 2018. On 18 July 2018, His Lordship was sworn in as the fifth Chief Judge of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak, and His Lordship served in that capacity until his retirement on 19 Feb 2020.

His Lordship played a significant role in digitising the case management system, and introduced artificial intelligence (“AI”) in sentencing in the criminal courts. In recognition of his professional achievements, His Lordship was awarded the 2020 Alumni for Professional Achievement by the University of New South Wales. Additionally, His Lordship is a CIPAA (Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012)-qualified adjudicator and a member of the BICAM and AIAC (Asian International Arbitration Centre) panel of arbitrators. His Lordship is also a fellow member of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (“MIArb”). Over the last few years, His Lordship has acted as an independent arbitrator in various arbitrations. Currently, His Lordship heads BICAM, and remains active in the legal field.

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