



Melbourne Law School



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**Workshop on Researching Statelessness and Citizenship in
Asia and the Pacific
University of Melbourne, Australia
27-29 January 2016**

Summary Report

The Workshop on Researching Statelessness and Citizenship in Asia and the Pacific was held jointly by the University of Melbourne's Melbourne School of Government and Melbourne Law School and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ("UNHCR") from 27 to 29 January 2016.

The Workshop aimed to convene a group of academics, researchers and experts to jointly consider the way forward for research on statelessness and to identify solutions to statelessness in Asia and the Pacific. The Workshop had a number of key objectives including considering the international legal definition of a stateless person and how this definition can be applied in academic research in the region; discussing good practices in research methodologies, including common challenges and potential solutions; and identifying areas of potential future academic collaboration, such as the development of a regional research agenda, a regional curriculum on statelessness, citizenship and international law and potential platforms for sharing and disseminating research.

The Workshop's participants included academics, experts and researchers from a range of disciplines based in Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Sri Lanka and representatives from the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and UNHCR.

The Workshop's participants considered a wide range of issues relating to statelessness and citizenship in Asia and the Pacific, including the varying approaches to the definition of a stateless person across the region. They also examined how academic legal, qualitative and quantitative research could increase the availability of high-quality data and information on statelessness, improve understanding of the issue and potentially inform public policy. The Workshop's participants recognised that there were significant opportunities for academic collaboration and multidisciplinary research in this area and that steps could be taken to build capacity and understanding of the issue amongst academic and research communities in the region.

The Workshop resulted in a number of recommendations, which included:

- Developing a prioritised and multidisciplinary regional research agenda based on the issues identified during the Workshop, to bridge identified gaps in quantitative and qualitative data on stateless or potentially stateless populations in Asia and the Pacific, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the issue;
- Devising a multidisciplinary academic curriculum on statelessness and citizenship, focused on the Asia and the Pacific through the formation of a multi-disciplinary regional team;
- Examine the possibility of establishing a research and teaching centre on statelessness and citizenship in Asia and the Pacific; and
- Establishing a web-based repository of data, information and research on statelessness and citizenship in Asia and the Pacific.

The University of Melbourne, UNHCR and Workshop participants will explore how to implement these recommendations.