Chapter Four

The Use of EO Data As Evidence in the Courts of Singapore

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I. Introduction: The Legal Structure in Singapore

Singapore is a small city-state situated at the tip of the Malay Peninsula in the heart of Southeast Asia. It was a British Crown Colony that achieved self-government in 1959, and a part of Malaysia for almost two years. Singapore became a sovereign state on 9 August 1965.

Singapore has three main sources of law: legislation, judicial precedents and custom. Some of these sources were developed in England and in the English colonies, and later imported into Singapore. Legislation consists of primary laws and subsidiary legislation. Primary laws

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1 All opinions and errors herein are personal to the author, and do not engage the organisations with which she is affiliated.
are statutory laws passed by Parliament,\textsuperscript{6} while subsidiary legislation consists of regulations, rules, orders and notifications. Custom consists of an established practice or course of behaviour judicially recognised as having the force of law.

Singapore is a common law jurisdiction, and applies the doctrine of \textit{stare decisis} regarding judgments handed down by its courts.\textsuperscript{7} The judiciary comprises the Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts. The Supreme Court is composed of the High Court and the Court of Appeal while the Subordinate Courts are composed of the District Courts, Magistrates’ Courts, Family Court, Juvenile Court, Coroner’s Court and the Small Claims Tribunal.\textsuperscript{8} The jury system was abolished in Singapore in 1970. The system of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was abolished in 1994.\textsuperscript{9}

Singapore has embraced information and communications technology (ICT) and other technical expertise. It was ranked second of 138 economies worldwide in the World Economic Forum’s \textit{Global Information Technology Report 2010 – 2011},\textsuperscript{10} an illustration of its “leadership...in adopting and implementing ICT advances for increased growth and development”\textsuperscript{11} Singapore’s legal sector has also readily adopted electronic and other ICTs. The National University of Singapore manages and operates its own satellite Earth observation (EO) ground station and processing facility at the Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing

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\item Primary laws are available at Singapore Statutes Online, available at http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/.
\item See W. Woon, “The Applicability of English Law in Singapore,” see supra note 5 at 242.
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