

BRIDGING BORDERS

APRIL 2012



Our trip to Viet Nam was a wonderful experience, for Frank professionally and for both of us personally. The future is bright for CLE in Viet Nam and there are many new and exciting ideas coming out of BABSEA CLE and its partners. The seriousness of the law students we met and the dedication of the faculties and

administrators will surely lead to the service of the Vietnamese people in all aspects of the law. Hopefully, many of the teachers and students we met will join with GAJE and its members around the world to help strengthen both the Vietnamese and global clinical movements

International Clinician Exchange Experience

By Liubou Krasnitskaya, Clinician Volunteer, Hanoi

Before coming to Viet Nam, I knew nothing about this country. I couldn't even tell you the name of the capital city. Clinical Legal Education in Southeast Asia was a complete mystery to me. I heard about the leading role of China in clinical legal education, but I thought the neighboring countries must have their own way of developing it, just as I already knew the difference between Polish and Belarusian CLE achievements, for example.

I graduated from the Belarusian State University, where I was involved in the law clinic activity. Having become addicted to interactive learning methods. I wanted to work with students and keep practicing law. The best position to do this was as a law clinic supervisor, and that was my work for five years, before I left Belarus for Poland. Carrying out research about legal aid and the role of legal clinics in Poland, I realized that Clinical Legal Education in different countries is universal and diverse at the same

time. Law clinic lecturers all over the world use the same interactive methods to teach students not only legal knowledge that is different in different countries, but values that are common to CLE in all countries. Legal clinics not only develop practical skills for students, but provide legal services for marginalized people -- making it possible to achieve access to justice for vulnerable people everywhere.

International Internship

Now, I live in Hanoi, at the BABSEA CLE Volunteer House. My internship started in February at Trade Union University. During the first two weeks I got to know the CLE members and the law lecturers I work with. One of my tasks is to teach English. I remember my first English class. The English classes I have been teaching to Vietnamese students have a strong connection to clinical education, its goals and

