

Importing CLE Teaching Methods from BABSEA CLE to Indonesia

By Pultoni, The Indonesian Legal Resource Center

The Indonesian Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is a nonprofit organization that promotes Clinical Legal Education (CLE) in Indonesia and is part of the growing CLE global movement. CLE as a teaching method has already been adopted by some law lecturers here, and it has been integrated into the curricula at some law schools. However, many more law lecturers are not aware of the concept of CLE and its teaching methods. So, in order to improve understanding of CLE and provide practical experience for law lecturers, ILRC developed a program to send law lecturers to Chiang Mai to join the BABSEA CLE International Legal Studies Clinic Jan-Feb 2012.

Four law lecturers were selected by ILRC and BABSEA CLE to join the program in Chiang Mai: Fendi Setyawan (School of Law, Jember University), Birkah Latif (School of Law, Hasanudin University), Tri Fenny Widayanti (School of Law, Hasanudin University) and Rinaldy Amrullah (School of Law, Lampung University). They spent a month at the BABSEA CLE center, studying CLE concepts and practising various teaching methods, to analyze how to integrate the CLE program at law schools in Indonesia.

In general, all of our participants reported obtaining the same major

benefits from the program. First, they have a better understanding of CLE concepts and the role and importance of CLE in preparing future lawyers: providing them with good skills, a sense of professionalism and a social-justice perspective.

Second, the teaching methods practised by BABSEA CLE trainers during the program were a new thing for the Indonesian law lecturers -- they were interactive,



reflective, and fun. Additionally, the law lecturers realized that CLE has many models that can be applied in Indonesia, and many optional methods that are appropriate to Indonesian culture. Third, their participation in the program increased their confidence in presenting CLE ideas and views

and promoting CLE programs in their faculty. Fourth, the Indonesian law lecturers' involvement in the program has strengthened their support network and relationship to CLE, because they worked with participants from different countries and with different law schools in Thailand and now have CLE colleagues they can consult with in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam, Australia, the UK and the U.S.

Birkah Latif said she felt very lucky to have had the chance to participate in the program. "This internship experience not only opened my mind and added to my knowledge about CLE," she said, "but also emphasized and supports my role in helping create a CLE structure at my university." After completing the program, Birkah committed to practice CLE teaching methods and to share her understanding of

CLE with her colleagues at the School of Law of Hasanudin University.

Fendi Setiawan said the program has changed the way he thinks about legal teaching methods. "I am very eager to bring this experience and knowledge about



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CLE to apply at my university," Fendi said. He is planning to include CLE teaching methods in his own classes and he will propose adopting CLE methods into the curricula to the Dean of his Law School at Jember University.

Tri Fenny Widayanti agreed. She, too, said that everything she learned during her participation in the program made it a valuable experience, for example, new

teaching methods that she will apply in her own classroom. "I've learned how to teach about legal research and other material with methods that are more fun and not boring," she said.

Rinaldy Amrullah is a Director of the Legal Aid Center at Lampung University and also a criminal law lecturer. He reported that all the activities provided by BABSEA CLE were very satisfying because

he learned a lot of new things: "I learned new new ways to think about creating more attractive legal lessons in the classroom that are not boring and at the same time, help increase the knowledge of students in order to become good lawyers," he said. Rinaldy is planning to adopt the Street Law program into his teaching, and also into the Legal Aid Center's program.

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