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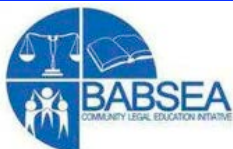


Global CLE Leader Makes First Visit to Viet Nam

By Frank and Melissa Bloch

Frank Bloch is Professor of Law Emeritus at Vanderbilt University (Tennessee, USA) and a leader in the international clinical education movement, most notably as one of the founding members of the Global Alliance for Justice Education. He and his wife Melissa visited Hanoi in February 2012.

Practically every time we met someone new during our recent three-week visit to Viet Nam, we were asked: "Is this your first visit to our country?" For Frank, the answer was 'Yes'; he came to Viet Nam to work with BABSEA CLE's Vietnamese partners after learning about their CLE programs at recent international meetings of the Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE). Having worked in clinical legal education internationally for many years, this visit gave him the opportunity to deepen that experience. For Melissa, the answer was "No, I was here once before"; in 1997, she came to Viet Nam with a team of doctors with Operation Smile to write about their experience performing reconstructive plastic surgery for children with facial deformities. This visit gave her the opportunity to see Viet Nam again from a different perspective.



BRIDGING BORDERS

APRIL 2012

FRANK: It was especially important to me to be able to help bring Viet Nam into the global clinical community. So we decided that I would talk at each school about a book I published recently called “The Global Clinical Movement: Educating Lawyers for Social Justice” (Oxford University Press 2011). The book describes the global reach of clinical legal education, explains the social justice mission of CLE, and describes the emergence of a vibrant clinical movement worldwide. I saw right away that Vietnamese law teachers and law students are in a wonderful position to contribute to that movement with strong community-focused clinics taking hold around the country at the very time that Viet Nam is looking to modernize its system of legal education and make it more socially relevant. We also decided that I would help conduct workshops for faculty and students on writing about CLE in various formats, from academic books and articles to manuals and other practical materials that can be used in clinical courses. One of BABSEA CLE’s projects with its Vietnamese partners is to produce a manual for clinical teachers and their students -- an important part of clinical scholarship.

MELISSA: I was very impressed by the commitment of the BABSEA CLE team to realizing their immediate and long-term goals

with their law school partners in Viet Nam. The intensity and thoroughness of the preparation for and execution of the workshops was contagious and invigorating. Translation presented special challenges, and the translators not only made communication possible but also brought attention to nuances in words that made all the difference. Clearly, all of this was felt and appreciated by the students, faculty and deans who were most welcoming and gracious to all of us. I was particularly



struck by the positive personal and professional relationships that existed among the participants and those that developed quickly with newcomers. As a guest and observer I felt included and honored to be part of the team.

FRANK: One of the strengths of the global clinical movement is its respect for local and regional differences in approaches to clinical education. GAJE, for example, encourages cross-national and international cooperation and exchanges, but always with the idea that we learn not only from

what we do in common but also from what we do – and how we see things – differently. We therefore began each workshop with an open discussion of what role clinical scholarship can, and should, play in Vietnamese legal education. We could then focus on topics that would be of interest in Viet Nam, and on what might be written about Viet Nam that would be of interest to clinicians in other parts of the world. We also worked on the new manual. In true BABSEA CLE fashion, most of the sessions were highly interactive – using lots of small group exercises and role-play. Everyone participated with interest and enthusiasm (which was great, since some of the “students” were teachers) and it was a real pleasure for me, as a clinical teacher, to join in the fun.

MELISSA: My previous experience in Can Tho, 15 years ago, was very different. The surgeons at the hospital where I worked needed to learn new techniques from the medical volunteers; the facilities and equipment were inadequate to meet the needs of the patients. Now there is a new hospital staffed by trained surgeons. On this visit I observed a change in the relationships between people of different cultures and world experience: the gap has lessened. I sensed a new openness, breadth of education, and an ease of communication. Young people are becoming equipped to make progress in their own country and the world, and they know it



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





methodology. The students discuss in English interactive methods, act out role plays and write a lesson plan for community teaching in a foreign language. The aim of the first lesson was to have the participants introduce themselves. English pronunciation is as difficult for Vietnamese people as Vietnamese names are difficult for me to pronounce. Our English classes are really interactive because I teach the students how to express their thoughts in English and they teach me how to divide participants into small groups by counting from 1 to 5 in Vietnamese.

The main purpose of my internship is to enhance CLE members' capacity, to prepare the trainers and supervisors who will teach CLE courses in Vietnam and possibly elsewhere. There is a lack of law lecturers in Vietnam, generally, and law lecturers who know and apply interactive methods in teaching law are few. So, the target groups of BABSEA

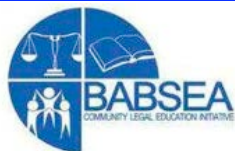
CLE are young lecturers and students. I like working with the law students of Trade Union University. The energy and enthusiasm of Vietnamese young people amaze me every day. They study law subjects, attend voluntary CLE and English CLE courses, participate in CLE extra-curricula events, and in the evening when I am going home exhausted after a day's work, I see my students practising karate. How do they manage it all?

Value of Visiting Clinicians

I believe the international clinicians who come to Vietnam and other Southeast Asia countries make an outstanding contribution to the CLE movement in this region. During my short stay in Vietnam, I attended two workshops conducted by the well-known clinicians Frank Bloch and David McQuoid-Mason. Participation in the workshops was very important for all participants,

including me. Frank shared his experience in CLE scholarship and students will certainly appreciate the value of his workshop later, when they prepare their master's thesis. David's workshop was also very useful and interactive. Before the workshop, the students prepared lesson plans. At the workshop, they became trainers and taught other participants. David is an outstanding trainer and gave participants his feedback on how to improve trainer's technique and write a good lesson plan. After the workshop, I was pleased to revise the edited lesson plans and noted the great development.

I am proud of the work I was able to contribute with BABSEA CLE team to make the CLE programme in Vietnam stronger and more effective. Step-by-step we help our Vietnamese colleagues to become members of our big CLE family. Efforts on both sides makes the way easier and shorter. Let's do it together!



Bridging Borders

April 2012

Stepping Out in Singapore: ASEAN region and Singapore pro bono culture

By Sarah Shi, Pro Bono Associate, Access to Justice LLP

One of the main themes in the speeches of Singapore's Chief Justice, Attorney General and President of the Law Society to mark the beginning of Legal Year 2012, was the vital importance of pro bono work. Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong called pro bono "the work of the Good Samaritan" and emphasized the need to actively cultivate a culture of doing pro bono work, starting from the time law students receive their university education, because, as he put it, doing such work "does not come from nature but from nurture".

Just ahead of the declaration of Legal Year 2012, in November 2011, BABSEA CLE Singapore was registered in Singapore. To celebrate and initiate its mission to coincide with the growing local pro bono spirit, the Singapore group began to plan the Inaugural Singapore Clinical Legal Education Conference and the Community Legal Education Training of Trainers Workshop held on 16-17 March 2012. The Conference and Workshop served as a forum to create opportunities

for promoting CLE in Singapore and throughout the ASEAN region. As CLE involves training persons to effectively provide legal aid to the community, the promotion of CLE ties in well with the expressed desire to revitalise Singapore's pro bono scene.

world, including almost all the ASEAN states, China, and South Africa. International support came from many BABSEA CLE partners, including Lux Development in Laos, UNDP in Vietnam, the Indonesian Legal Resources Center (ILRC) in Indonesia, and Open

Society Justice Initiative (OSJI).

Conference participants engaged with the speakers through interactive dialogue on a variety of topics, including the rationale for developing CLE programmes,

the various models of CLE, how to create sustainable CLE programmes, and the academic value and pedagogical methods of CLE. There were also sharing sessions between participants and speakers on various CLE initiatives they had organised.

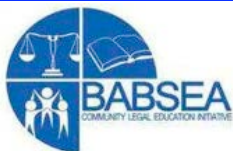
Highlights

Some of the highlights included talks by Bruce Lasky, the founder and co-director of BABSEA CLE, on the inspiring CLE programmes that have been conducted in Southeast Asia; and Kevin Kerrigan and Jonny Hall from



The Conference and Workshop were co-organised by Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE) and BABSEA CLE Singapore (www.babseacle.org), Singapore Management University, Northumbria International Journal of Clinical Legal Education (www.numyspace.co.uk/~unn_mlif1/school_of_law/IJCLE/) and Access to Justice Asia (accessjusticeasia.org).

The Conference and Workshop drew 70 participants not only from Singapore, but from all over the



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During the Singapore conference, Dr Chantan Cheasan, Chancellor of Pannasastra University of Cambodia, officially honored BABSEA CLE Director Bruce Lasky, presenting him with a silver plaque in recognition of his contribution to CLE in Cambodia and throughout South-east Asia.

Northumbria University on scholarship in CLE and how to successfully run a CLE programme as part of a university's compulsory course. On the home side, Delphia Lim and Mahdev Mohan from Access to Justice Asia spoke on public interest work, touching on their work done in Cambodia. Law professor Lei Thengat spoke on the clinical programme that she conducts at the National University of Singapore, and the local bar was represented by Wendell Wong, a partner in Drew & Napier LLC, who described the pro bono scene in Singapore, and the Law Society's director of pro bono services, Tanguy Lim, who answered questions from international participants on Singapore's pro bono activities.

Following the Conference, a Training of Trainers Workshop was conducted on 17 March. There, participants were invited to strengthen their knowledge on CLE teaching methodologies and to hone their skills in conducting CLE programmes by engaging in a series of hands-on interactive activities.

The Conference and Workshop provided another step in the right direction in the development of a sustainable pro bono culture in Singapore. Obviously, Legal Year 2012 means the time is right too, for BABSEA CLE Singapore to expand and strengthen the CLE network in Singapore and throughout the ASEAN region.

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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,



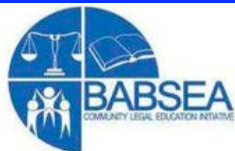
reflective, and fun. Additionally, the law lecturers realized that CLE has many models that can be applied in Indonesia, and many optional methods that are appropriate to Indonesian culture. Third, their participation in the program increased their confidence in presenting CLE ideas and views

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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Central European University and BABSEA CLE: a dynamic duo

BABSEA CLE and Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, continue to strengthen their collaborative partnership, with the goal of jointly supporting legal studies students engaged in access to justice initiatives.

The collaboration has definitely been a dynamic one. BABSEA CLE has continuously been involved in supporting and referring legal studies applicants from the Southeast Asia region to attend the CEU Legal Studies and other programs at CEU. To date,

more than a half dozen Southeast Asian graduates of CEU have worked directly with BABSEA CLE on social justice projects and programs.

Since 2003 BABSEA CLE has continuously hosted legal interns, volunteers and legal educators from the Central and Eastern European region. The shared lessons learned from those coming from countries in transition to work together have been invaluable.

In 2011, CEU's Alumni Relations & Career Services and

Development offices worked together with BABSEA CLE to establish a new scholarship award program for Legal Masters Human Rights Program students at CEU. Bruce Lasky, an alumnus (2003) of the LL.M.



Program, and one of the Directors of BABSEA CLE, agreed that the support of a top-level graduate of the Human Rights program clearly furthered BABSEA CLE's mission of both supporting access to justice and "bridging" with like-minded people "across borders."

The Human Rights Program at CEU offers quality graduate-level education to students from various parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and the Balkans. In recent years the number of students from Africa,

America and Asia has increased considerably. From the beginning, the main goal of the program has been to provide theoretical and practical training for future scholars and professionals in human rights,

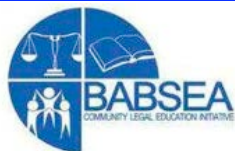
with special emphasis on the legal aspects of human rights protection.

In recognition of their special partnership, CEU honored BABSEA CLE Director Bruce Lasky with a 20th Anniversary Alumi Hero award at its 20th Alumni Reunion

<http://www.ceu.hu/node/27459>.

"The event was incredibly meaningful to me," said Lasky, "because the room was filled with 20 years of amazing people doing amazing things. I knew though that the award was not really just for me -- I was simply accepting it on the part of our amazing organization, and I was just one component of an amazing team."

BABSEA CLE and CEU intend to further strengthen this partnership and look forward to many shared opportunities in 2012 and onward.



An Exciting Trip to the Pro Bono Institute Conference in Washington, D.C.

By Director Bruce A. Lasky

As I took the train into Washington from Baltimore, Maryland, I was filled with excitement. I had spent the previous day with Prof. Doug Colbert from the University of Maryland Law School, where I had attended a seminar session on racial issues and the law in the USA. In the evening, we'd gone to a reading at the downtown courthouse by an author whose subject was the lynchings of African Americans in Maryland in the 1930s. Late into that evening, Prof. Colbert and I discussed his upcoming work with us as a volunteer from June-August, when we will strategize about ways to develop and implement CLE programs with a pre-trial detention theme. So my head was literally filled with these thoughts as I came into the nation's capital and went directly to the Pro Bono Institute's annual conference.

This year, BABSEA CLE was invited to host a luncheon table at the event, illustrating the connection between pro bono and clinical legal education. It was my, and our organization's, first time to attend, and we were grateful for the invitation. The three-day event (March 28-30) was attended by some of the largest law firms in the USA, in addition to representatives from law firms and corporations from around the world, including the United Kingdom, Australia and the Asia Pacific region. It was a particular delight to see two of BABSEA CLE's main supporting



With Annette Bain, Director of the Freehills Foundation

law firms, Freehills and Blake Dawson, there. It also was a privilege to meet PBI's President, Esther Lardent: I'd heard so much about the amazing ways she has connected law firms and lawyers into the pro bono initiative.

A significant theme of the conference was the global expansion of pro bono and how to effectively utilize human and other resources to assist in this development. I attended a panel discussion entitled Global Pro Bono: Best Practices, facilitated by the Freehills Foundation, the Public Interest Law Network (Pilnet) and Advocates for International Development (A4ID). Many firms with branch offices in Southeast Asia, as well as corporations with in-house counsel, were keenly interested to explore collaborative partnerships with us and our CLE partners. Building on the momentum of this interest, BABSEA CLE's directors made an official decision to assist in organizing the First Southeast

Asia Pro Bono Conference later this year.

While the entire conference was overwhelming in a positive way, two events will likely forever stick in my mind. One was the final morning session, a three-hour workshop on how to inspire lawyers to do pro bono work. As a trainer myself, I was impressed with what I saw. The message was that it was a bad idea to use extrinsic motivation to get lawyers to do pro bono – because you run the risk that, once the external rewards are no longer given, the pro bono actions will stop. It is better to “tap into” the intrinsic values that lawyers themselves hold dear. This way, lawyers begin to feel good about themselves and the “flow” of the legal assistance they are providing. You take small steps and build up, and eventually pro bono work is not considered separate, but a core part of what they want to do.

The second event was the speech of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S Supreme Court, addressing the conference dinner. Tiny in physical form, Justice Bader Ginsburg is a giant in all other ways. Dedicating most of her life to the advancement of access to justice and fairness in the law, she was a real inspiration to all.

I am deeply grateful personally, and BABSEA CLE is professionally, to the Freehills Foundation for making our attendance at this event possible.

Planning for the Future in Laos

By Lauren Donnison, Legal Intern, Vientiane



FLP-CLE, with the support of Lux Development, hosted BABSEA CLE at the National University of Laos for an important two-day workshop in February. The strategic planning workshop – the first of its kind in Laos -- was officially opened by the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLP), Prof Bounthieng Phommachanh, and the Director of FLP-CLE, Prof. Souliya Rounchantha.

The turnout for the workshop was large and enthusiastic: 15 CLE students, 10 law lecturers and five heads of department, plus the BABSEA CLE staff: Bruce, Wendy, Elaine and Ivy and Lux Dev staff Marie and Sharon, plus the world's fastest English-Lao translator, Dimitri. Luckily, FLP has a large – and beautifully decorated – CLE space!

The aim of the workshop was to think about the future of FLP-CLE

-- how it can be developed over the next three years -- and to discuss the new in-house clinic. "There are big plans for CLE in Laos and it's important that everyone is involved in making these plans so that we can get everyone's ideas and include everyone's needs," Law Fellow Souliya told me.

Day One of the workshop focused on the importance of planning and how to make a strategic plan. On Day Two, participants had to use what they learned on Day One to devise their own plan. "It was not easy at first for the students to make a plan. They have no experience with this and so the concept was hard for them to understand," said Law Fellow Thip. Participants worked in groups to fill in the template of a strategic plan with a list of activities that would help them meet specific objectives for five major goals: bringing the CLE program forward to an accredited

course in the law faculty; opening an in-house legal assistance clinic; further developing their community teaching; fund-raising to meet financial goals and finally, internal capacity-building to enable law students and law lecturers to meet all these objectives.

"The best part of the workshop," according to Thip, "was that all members of CLE: students, teachers, and Deans all worked together and shared ideas."

One of the main topics considered in the planning was how to get CLE into the university curriculum. It takes four years for a course to be accredited in Laos. Instead of waiting that long, the CLE team have decided to join it with a new Human Rights course. By taking part in the Human Rights course, students will be able to get credits for the work they do with CLE. This would be a great step forward for CLE. Another step in this plan is to develop a Lao CLE textbook -- then CLE will be well on its way to being its own fully accredited course.

Thip reported that at the end of the workshop the group had completed the drafting of a one-year plan. "It's not perfect," Souliya added, "but it's something to work from and hopefully we can improve it." They have set up an In-house Clinic Team to prepare documents for the clinic that's not built yet -- another important step forward for the clinic and for FLP-CLE. The future is looking very bright in Laos!

Sharing Work and Learning Lessons at Singapore's First Conference

By Suzanna Binti Abdul Hadi, Community Outreach Program, University of Malaya

It was an enlightening experience for me to be able to join the Inaugural Singapore Conference and Workshop. I've been to many such conferences and workshops, but each one seems to have something new in store, something new to learn or someone new to meet and talk to, and Singapore was no exception.

Some of us arrived early for the first day of the conference, so we were put to work hanging posters and banners of CLE programs throughout Southeast Asia in the meeting hall. Here, I experienced the spirit of togetherness and teamwork among the participants. Everyone helped 'decorate' the venue, chatting and laughing like old friends as we worked.

The Conference itself was very informative. I acquired new information on how to conduct an effective CLE program, and learned through the experiences of other CLE programs in the region, how each succeeded in its own way. Moreover, we had the opportunity to exchange ideas, as well as to discuss the possibility of future collaboration, either in CLE or in other aspects of education.



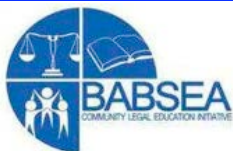
Team Spirit

Team spirit carried over to the Workshop, as well. Its purpose was to benefit those who did not already know how CLE works, so assistance was required from those of us who already had some knowledge about CLE. A few of us, myself included, were asked to help conduct the Workshop. Naturally, it was run in an interactive manner. No one was 'allowed' to stay quiet; everyone had to participate, either as a Learner or a Facilitator.

It was while helping out in this workshop that I learned even more interactive learning methods, methods we do not

usually use in UM. I also learned that every CLE program has its own method of delivering an effective lesson, especially in the drafting of their lesson plan. We had to agree to disagree, something that happens often in CLE. But it was all done in a fun and interactive manner.

All in all, I gained a lot from the two days I was in Singapore. I met new friends and rekindled old friendships. I gained new ideas and insights for our CLE program. I love being able to take home souvenirs like that and I look forward to attending more such conferences and workshops in the future.



Bridging Borders

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A STAR IS BORN!

Hien Bui Thu, CLE Advisor and Trainer, Viet Nam

On 3 March 2012, I got the chance to attend an international conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on access to justice organized by the International Islamic University (IIU) -- in fact, I was one of the main speakers!

At first, I wasn't the one invited to speak at the 'Revitalization of Understanding and Implementation Of Social Justice' conference. It was my supervisor, BABSEA CLE Director Bruce Lasky, who was supposed to speak. He has a good professional relationship with both lecturers and students of IIU, supporting them to establish and develop a CLE program that is still very new for the school. It was unfortunate for Bruce (and fortunate for me, to be honest) that he couldn't arrange his time to attend. So I got the encouragement from BABSEA CLE and the invitation from IIU to participate.

Just a few days before the conference took place, I started to find out its purpose, and also the expectation they put on me as the only international speaker. This kind of work is new for me. Although I had experienced being an international presenter in an international practicum, I would now be the only representative of this organization and the only international speaker – a big first-time-ever for me. Luckily, I never say 'no' to a challenge. I thought of a quote that I really like: 'Ships



are safe in the harbor but is that what ships are for?'. I wanted to be a ship that dares to launch to the ocean rather than stay safely in harbor with no idea what I can do.

Thanks to my colleagues, who gave me good advice, I eventually chose a topic that I feel strongly about: 'Access to Justice in Vietnam and The Response of Clinical Legal Education to Educate Future Lawyers'.

The conference itself was a big success and a wonderful opportunity for me to learn about so many things: to contribute to giving pro-bono and access to justice awareness to the next generation of IIU lawyers... and to assert myself.

How did I help?

My presentation was not only about presenting information, but also about sharing my personal experience as a young lawyer who dedicates herself to access to justice work. For the presentation, I focused on three main parts. First

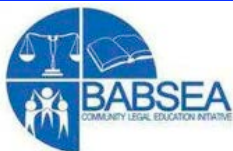
of all, I had participants discuss on what we mean by access to justice. I think it was helpful for IIU law

students, because social justice or access to justice is not something they are taught at law school. In addition, based on the similarity of Viet Nam and Indonesia in terms of economic and social development, as well as the legal educational system, I presented about the current situation on access to justice in Viet Nam. But instead of lecturing, I led the audience in a comparison of what I had presented about Viet Nam with the same thing in their countries. Finally, the most important point I raised was about how CLE can respond to the needs of ethical lawyers who are willing to help people get access to justice. This part was especially helpful, I think, because some of the participants were not aware of the vital social justice component contained in the program.

What I learned?

What did I learn?

In Vietnamese we have a saying that means the farther you go, the more you learn. For me, it definitely applied to this trip to Indonesia. The experiences and



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Hien Bui Thu, continued

lessons I learned were not only about work and law but also about life, culture and religion. In addition, I had the good fortune to meet many professors who were experienced practically and academically in access to justice and social justice. Talking with them was a more precious lesson than anything published in books.

How did I assert myself?

I don't usually feel good about myself after going through a new challenge. But this time, I did. I can't say my performance was excellent but at least I felt very confident and appreciated my capacity much more than before.

When you are still young, it is not easy to settle on one career choice. Being a public interest lawyer has always been my first choice, but after this trip, I found more concrete reasons to chase it. Because of all the meaningful things I experienced, I feel I really can contribute to society and make the world a better place.

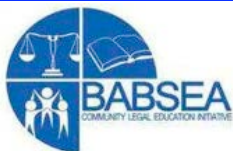
SAVE The DATE! Nov 10, 2012

BABSEA CLE'S 2ND ANNUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PUBLIC INTEREST FAIR



**Over 20 human rights organizations and
volunteer and educational institutions came to
our first Access to Justice Fair last year!**

Join them at our 2nd Annual Access to Justice Fair!



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My Eye-opening Experiences with Externs in Thailand

By Yam Chenda Khvan of Sustainable Cambodia

My experience attending the externship program in Chiang Mai in January started with a 24-hour bus trip from Cambodia to Thailand. It was a very good learning experience because I had to communicate with Thai people to get directions with only my few words of Thai language. I had to stop many times during my trip: from Pursat Town to Battambang Province, then to Pio Pet, then Longkoeur Market (Cambodia-Thailand border), and then on to Bangkok and from Bangkok to Chiang Mai. That was a crazy day! I could not sleep on the bus because it was my first time, and I was very happy when I got off the bus and found my way to the BABSEA CLE House. You can imagine how glad I was to meet and make many friends there!

First, I had to adapt and discover everything about the BABSEA

CLE "campus". I am not a very good communicator in English, but I am happy to report that this time I did better than usual. I wanted to tell the others about Cambodia. I wanted to tell everyone about what we have... and do... because it's not as bad as they think and expect.

Cultural Exchange

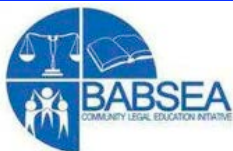
I really appreciated the opportunity to communicate and interact in English with all the other participants – from Australia, America, Burma, Thailand, Laos and Indonesia. Our first event was a communal international dinner and I was very proud to cook and present my traditional food, called Samlar Machou Trakoun (Morning Glory sour stew). I also gave a presentation on Sustainable Cambodia, describing all our projects. We work in rural areas, empowering villagers to create a sustainable quality of life: with

After our training in Chiang Mai, my group went to Muban Chom-beung Ratchapat University (MCRU), southwest of Bangkok. This gave me the opportunity to interact with people from other cultures, varying backgrounds and different careers, while preparing to teach a Clinical Legal Education (CLE) class to law students there.

Team Teaching

I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the other team members and sharing this experience with them opened my eyes and my mind. The workshops and lessons -- and especially conducting classroom teaching -- were all incredibly beneficial to me personally. They gave me many things to think about, especially with respect to considering
(continued)





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"I wanted to tell everyone about what we have... and do... because it's not as bad as they think and expect."

potential future careers and absolutely to apply to my current job and share with my colleagues. I had not previously thought I would be able to work in another country or contribute to international work projects in a positive way. However, after hearing the experiences of the other participants and their backgrounds, it is a possibility I am considering.

Our experience at MCRU also helped me understand the different needs of learners in a practical way. The teaching methodologies assignment taught me to broaden my thinking to take into consideration the benefit of activities like energizers and small group discussions. These two activities allowed us to ensure that the MCRU CLE learners with English as a Second Language were included and understood the task. It was also a good experience



for me to share how to conduct classroom activities, as I have been a teacher for 16 years in Cambodia.

Field Trips

I also learned a great deal on our field trips to local communities. The CLE clinic at MCRU is helping villagers with a land issue. I learned a lot about remote communities and resorts in Thailand, which are worth a lot of money and can create issues between poor people and rich people. I learned how important it is to help villagers work with the government to legally and fairly

resolve issues of land use and economic development.

Overall, I am incredibly grateful to BABSEA CLE for the opportunity to have had these experiences... and for the potential to learn a lot more in future programs. I feel I have greatly benefitted from this experience, especially in relation to my ability to take into account other people's feelings, their diverse backgrounds and the issues that impact and affect their opinions.

Visit Sustainable Cambodia at www.sustainablecambodia.org



Turn-about Is Fair Play: Thailand to Australia

**By Pimtida Makar,
Volunteer and Intern
Coordinator, Chiang Mai**

In my job as Volunteer and Intern Coordinator, I make all the arrangements for people coming to Chiang Mai from Australia, Canada, the UK, USA, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Laos, Singapore, everywhere! I help them with their visa applications, make sure they have information about their accommodations and trainings in Thailand and greet them and help them get settled when they arrive here.

But in February, someone else made arrangements for me! I was surprised when Prof. Col McCowan of Queensland University of Technology (QUT), with the support of AusAID, invited me to come to Australia -- and I was very happy and excited to accept! I was also very nervous. I would be the extern leaving my country for the first time. I would be the one going somewhere where people do not speak my language, where I would be far from family and friends and where, much to my surprise, it would be difficult to find Thai food.



Prof. Col from QUT was my host in Brisbane and he invited me to join his program with Bhutanese lawyers. The Bhutanese study the Australian legal system by visiting the courts and doing research in the library. I went with them to Family Court, where we listened to a divorce case, and also visited the police prosecutor's station and heard a presentation on criminal investigation procedure.

The next day, Prof. Tina Cockburn of QUT took me to the Caxton Legal Centre, the largest in Queensland. We had a meeting with the Director, Scott McDougall and Camielle Donaghey, who is the Publications and Volunteer Coordinator. We talked about what our organizations do. Caxton has about 200 volunteers working there, including law students and volunteer lawyers, and they cover many areas of law: credit and debt,

neighborhood law, employment law, discrimination, insurance, family law, domestic violence and guardianship law. The centre provides social services help, as well as free legal advice.

On my last night in Brisbane. I got to experience the famous Australian food called "barbecue" with Tina and her family. We ate outside and had beef and corn cooked on the grill and I had tuna, because I don't eat beef.

Moving to Melbourne

The next day I flew to Melbourne, two hours south of Brisbane. Prof. Helen Yandell met me at the airport and took me to her home outside the city. Then, she took me to a restaurant where we could watch the sun set... at 8.30pm! I wish we had that in Thailand!
(continued next page)



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We spent the next day at the legal services centre where Helen works. I followed Joyce, a 3rd year law student at Monash University, who is from Hong Kong. She had three cases: the first one was a traffic accident caused by someone parking illegally. The second was a consultation with a client who was coming back to the clinic to follow up on a divorce case, bringing documents that Joyce had asked to see. Her third client had come to the clinic for the first time and told us about a problem with his bank. The bank was charging him an extra fee but he did not bring the bank paper, so we had to tell him we could not advise him; he must make a new appointment and come back with the letter. That same day, the four other law students at the centre also had at least two cases each, so you can see it was a very busy clinic.

My last day in Melbourne was a total “turn-about” day: a former BABSEA CLE intern I had met in Chiang Mai showed me around her city! First, Shaan Bajwa, a final-year law student at Monash University, took me to see their CLE Clinic. It is a big clinic and you cannot go past the reception desk without a security check. Inside, Shaan introduced me to the director professor and five students, all of whom were working separately on their computers. Next, Shaan gave me a tour of the

Law Faculty and library. Then she drove me into the city.

I was proud that I could find my way around the city by tram. I had done my research. I knew that the brown tram was FREE! Unluckily, the tram was also slow and it did not continue to the end of the line on the map – it stopped at Parliament, when I had only a short time to get to the shopping center where Shaan was going to pick me up again. I had to ask for directions and walk 20 minutes to get there, but I made it! We had dinner with Shaan's family at a Chinese restaurant that had dishes that were very close to Thai food.

I had a great time in Melbourne and then it was back to Brisbane for just one day, before flying home. On the long flight (9.5 hours Brisbane to Bangkok!) I thought

about all I had learned.

- ❖ The experience of staying abroad is about learning everything, including culture and food.
- ❖ You learn how to act when you stay with other people and learn to think about differences and how to work with people from another country.
- ❖ I learned that legal services are not the same in Australia and Thailand; they seemed more developed, the clinics all larger and well-organized and busy. And I'd like to see ours here improving like that.



Reflections of an Australian Academic on Externship in Thailand

By Catherine Campbell, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology

Meeting the 'dynamic duo' of Bruce and Wendy in Brisbane last year inspired me to get organised and visit our QUT interns whilst they were on their three-week placement in Chiang Mai in January 2012.

BABSEA CLE has been a placement partner for Queensland University of Technology law students enrolled in work-integrated learning (WIL) units since 2007. I became involved in teaching in our WIL program in 2011 with the 'bribe' of a possible free trip to Thailand. The bribe worked, and my experiences working with BABSEA CLE since then have reinvigorated my enthusiasm for teaching and working with law students, as well as reaffirming the value of legal skills and knowledge in promoting social justice.

My colleague Tina Cockburn and I arrived in Chiang Mai from Brisbane and were immediately whisked up to Phayao University, 'only' three hours away in northern Thailand.

Any feelings of tiredness were forgotten as we were warmly greeted by our students and Wendy and then joined the Thai students and Ajaan Withoon for dinner. The rapport between the BABSEA CLE interns and the Thai law students was immediately obvious, and highlighted again the following day watching our students teaching workshops and engaging with their Thai colleagues. We were impressed by the preparation and team-work shown by all the interns, as well as their genuine interest and enthusiasm for the work they were doing. Observing our students in action gave meaning and depth to our understanding of the BABSEA CLE program

and the work our students are engaged in. It was also valuable to experience the conditions they are exposed to – hard bunk beds, cold water and squat toilets!

Our few days back in Chiang Mai gave us time to discuss our students' progress with Bruce and Wendy and the team. Trust in the integrity and professional-ism of an overseas placement partner in supervising students is essential, and we were able to observe the professionalism and dedication of the entire BABSEA CLE team. We also forged great friendships and enjoyed lots of laughs – it's an





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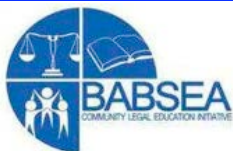
Australia Day I won't forget! We attended meetings organised with BABSEA CLE partners and were involved in discussions on topics ranging from teaching ethical issues to human trafficking and statelessness issues in Thailand. Our interns were involved in researching these and other legal issues, as well as being immersed in experiences with the local community. For Tina and I, this included an evening visit to the Saturday night markets and the lady boys' free Cabaret Show. The humour, friendliness and over-the-top costumes of the performers masks the abuse and hardships they suffer. BABSEA CLE's work in assisting the transgender community made a deep impression on us after meeting the performers and talking to them.

For the five days we were in Chiang Mai we saw our students passionately working on BABSEA CLE projects at all hours of the day and night. They were cheerful, tired, enthusiastic, and immensely grateful for the opportunity to come to Thailand and work with BABSEA CLE. The reflections the students submitted (as part of their assessment to gain academic

credit for their internship) reveal the true value of their experience. They described and reflected on the value of Community Legal Education from their personal experiences, and indicated how they believe their BABSEA CLE experiences will impact on their future legal careers. As one student put it, "The value of community legal education isn't just limited to the vulnerable sector. It benefits law students, the academic sector and the wider community, as it creates sustainability and therefore empowers a community." And another commented, "Experiencing that [BABSEA CLE] work first hand, really highlighted the importance of

promoting CLE programs throughout my own career." Internships such as this offer a unique opportunity to inspire and motivate the next generation of lawyers to promote social justice and access to justice. The value of empowering Thai people through community legal education was clear. Our commitment to fostering a strong sense of social justice and responsibility in our QUT law graduates was strengthened by our short visit to BABSEA CLE in Thailand. The experiences are real and life-changing – for both students and academics!





Capacity Building: Supporting Staff and Partners Instead of Changing Lightbulbs!

By Director Wendy Morrish

2012 will be the year BABSEA CLE focuses on building our capacity in the management and coordination of the programs we support, our human resources, the use and availability of equipment and resources and our continued sustainability. As one of the proud Directors of BABSEA CLE making a plan to develop and strengthen our capacity, I needed to address what steps to take and how and why and when we could implement them. What first came to mind was one of those old jokes that circulate about international development workers:

How many development workers does it take to change a lightbulb? Well, wait a minute! You can't go changing a lightbulb just like that. You need a plan – long-, medium- and short-term. And you need to be clear what you are trying to achieve by changing it – and write that down to hand out to anyone who comes to watch you change the lightbulb. Furthermore, you must account for the lightbulb not being very bright -- you can't just discard it. Then you need to assess your procedure after the event, with an emphasis on taking the bulb-changing process to the next stage. Then... You get the picture.

With this in mind, we asked for help from Silvia Ostberg to conduct meetings with our team and volunteers to get a better



understanding of where we are now and what the highest priorities are in terms of strengthening our ability to support our partners. We want to make this happen, not just go round and round as the joke indicates.

Shaping Up

Our plan started to take shape in February and some of the developments that we've seen so far include the arrival of international clinicians into the region to support our CLE partner programs; one-on-one English tutoring for our Thai team; English-language support for our legal fellows in Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia; Thai language classes for international and regional teams; four new CLE legal fellows, three in Thailand and one in Indonesia; and we moved into the "blue" office to keep our resources and team together, improving

communication and access to each other. We also welcomed U.S. Criminal Lawyer Judy Mandell to the team to support and mentor the International Legal Studies Externship Clinic participants; supported Pimtida Makar on a study visit to Australia to experience travelling and daily life in another country; relocated Vietnamese CLE trainer Trang Le Ivy to Thailand, to support the trainings at BABSEA CLE's training clinic; and expressed our gratitude to Dinah Chung for all her work managing and coordinating conferences, workshops, awareness-raising events, fundraisers and other events.

We're looking forward to evaluating how far we will have come in our capacity-building development over the following months, quarters and year.



Growing Support for International Externships

By Wendy Morrish

When we received our invitation to present at the Externships 6 Conference in Boston, USA, I was filled with anticipation: which law schools would attend; what themes would arise from the sessions; what is the future of externship programs in U.S. law schools? What I did not anticipate was snow!

We arrived to a blanket of snow on our first morning, greeting friends from around the world as we made our way to Northeastern University – a real "warm up." We talked about the increased number of international sessions: Global Law Field Placements, Preparing Lawyers for Modern Practice and The Development of Externship Clinics Worldwide. Such interesting topics made me almost as happy as watching Jeff Giddings (Australia) and Ernest Ojukwu (Nigeria) coming down the icy path.

International Interest

This was the first Externship conference with such a large international interest. Participants from 11 countries (Thailand, China, Spain, Australia, Nigeria, USA, Hungary, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Canada and Kyrgyzstan) made up the 200+ delegation. Congratulations to



Jerry and Liz ((Gerald Slater and Liz Solar) for getting us all there!

As the conference progressed, it became clear that U.S. law students are seeking more international opportunities and expressing a strong desire to participate in Social Justice placements. Yes! Let's give students an opportunity to become global law students! Many of the externship professors were eager to engage their students in such placements, while ensuring that they receive good supervision and support.

I was pleased to hear Professor Daisy Floyd from Mercer University School of Law speak about the externship being more than a place for law students to "work"; it is an opportunity for them to explore their role as a legal professional.

This is one of the core beliefs that we at BABSEA CLE encourage our interns to explore – and not just their future legal professions,

but their role as global citizens ensuring access to justice.

It was the final day when we were presented, and by then I felt Bruce and I were in a good position to describe the successes and challenges we have observed over the 10 years of running our [international legal studies externship clinic](#).

We also had the good fortune of having a former intern, [Rachel Tritter \(BABSEA CLE Intern 2008\)](#) join our session to share how the BABSEA CLE experience has guided her life goals. Rachel delighted us all with stories of an all-American girl seeing squat toilets for the first time and also being overwhelmed by the gratitude of Thai women prisoners for her legal lessons.

Overall, "Externships 6" offered a wealth of insight on the world of field placement clinics. Just as Jerry and Liz promised. The snow was just icing on the cake!



FLP's First Career Fair is a Big Success

By Catherine Gallagher, volunteer, Vientiane, Laos



The first Career Fair at the National University of Laos was organized by the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLP) and Asian Law Students Association (ALSA) students, in cooperation with the Lux-Development project 'Strengthening the Rule of Law through Legal University Education' and with support from BABSEA CLE volunteers. It was a great success: the official T-shirts arrived on the day, the weather was wonderful, all the participating companies were set up and ready to go by 10 am, and a large and enthusiastic crowd of students came by to gather information that may help them plan their futures.

The Career Fair offered free tables for companies and organizations, in order to encourage participation. There was very good response and the result was 23 different booths, with five law firms represented: Lao Law and Consultancy Group, McDonald Steed McGrath, DFDL, Rajah & Tann and the Vientiane

Law Firm. Other participants included organizations working in banking, international cooperation, journalism, power companies and audit, advisory and tax services. In addition, there were six student booths: the Environmental Protection Group, Student Gender Group, Human Rights Group, FLP Debate Group, FLP-CLE and ALSA Laos.

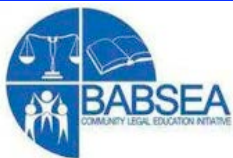
The career fair site was set up with the student groups to one side of

the stage and businesses on the other. The event sponsors were located nearest centre stage with the wonderful backdrop stating "FLP Career Fair JOB Boom Boom!" Organizers will tone that down a little next year, so that students do not come believing they will definitely find a job if they attend the fair.

Opportunities

There were several exciting announcements made that kept enthusiasm high: for example, McDonald Steed McGrath is starting a summer internship program for one or two FLP Law students to undertake work experience for a one-month placement. Students were informed of this new opportunity during McGrath's CV skills workshop, which was attended by over 100 students. The Lao Law Consultancy Group and Rajah & Tann law firm were also offering scholarships to Lao law students (*continued next page*)





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One of the goals of the event was to give students the opportunity to learn what it means to work as a lawyer, as opposed to "only" knowing about the law when they graduate from law school. But it also gave law students the opportunity to speak to representatives from companies such as BCEL and Electicite du Laos, giving them an idea of the variety of career opportunities available to those with a legal background.

There were fairly large audiences at all the presentations and the participating companies reported that they were extremely pleased with the student attendance. Every completed questionnaire returned by both companies and students alike called for the event to be

repeated next year and become an annual event. Not enough can be said to emphasize the good work done by this year's core group of dedicated ALSA students to bring about the success of this event.

Organizers predict that next year's job fair will be even larger and more successful because of the good experience participating companies had this year and because more students will want to help organize the event. And these future fairs at FLP will allow students to develop more confidence and understanding about the legal profession... and more able to seek out the ever-increasing employment opportunities in Lao PDR.

COMING SOON!

**BABSEA CLE AND
FLP-CLE WILL HOST
THE FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA
PRO-BONO SYMPOSIUM
IN VIENTIANE, LAOS**

Check the BABSEA CLE website

www.babseacle.org

Law Clinics Offer Students Career Guidance

By Dr Le Thi Chau, Law Dean, Trade Union University

Clinical Legal Education (CLE) is recognized as a way to change and reform teaching methods and law curricula, as well as a way to improve the quality of training of law students in many countries around the world. It is a new model that represents an active and effective way of socialization, by engaging in the diverse activities of legal aid. In Viet Nam, CLE is a new field.

Here, CLE began at Viet Nam National University (VNU), with representatives of VNU Hanoi-LERES. Since then, eight law clinics have been established in law schools, including Trade Union University in Hanoi, and these clinics have held many workshops to improve the practical skills of students and change legal teaching methods. They make a significant contribution in developing the soft skills of law students and are gradually improving the quality of legal education, helping to put Vietnamese education on the road to comprehensive reform and renewal.

Now there is an urgent need for CLE career mentoring activities to support all individuals to select and develop the professional skills that best suit their abilities and personal interests -- and also meet the needs of supplying human resources to the local, national and international labour market. In fact, there are many misconceptions about careers among Vietnamese students; from whether you should choose to do work you love, to



whether a prestigious university or field of study would be a better "model" to choose.

CLE Guidance

Clinical Legal Education offers effective vocational guidance for students in Viet Nam for the following reasons:

First, in Viet Nam in general, and in law schools in particular, there is a need to change the current form of teaching theory in which a "teacher reads for students." This requires innovative programs and teaching methods; therefore, CLE has an important role to play in providing content and teaching methods that will improve the quality of legal education.

Second, Vietnamese students have no concept of what their future work will be, nor any clear targets to aim for. Participation in CLE provides work experience in the office and in the community that helps law students gain proper

awareness about the legal profession and what it entails. Furthermore, it enables them to apply specific knowledge and skills they learn in the settlement of specific legal cases while still in college. CLE students also gain self-awareness of the need to change their learning methods in order to have more opportunities to participate in legal profession activities while still at school. This helps them focus on career choices.

Third, CLE contributes to diversification of the types of legal assistance available to people, which reduces the burden on the State's budget.

And finally, setting up a suitable CLE program in order to build a model law clinic is an effective way to provide a practical placement in which law students apply what they've learned.

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All together, the many activities of a CLE law clinic provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge and experience while helping to implement legal aid work for society, under the supervision and guidance of teachers and experienced lawyers. Meanwhile, such CLE clinic activity also provides an opportunity to improve the quality of law faculty by integrating training and practicing law in the "real" world. Many other countries have successfully applied this model. We here in Viet Nam, and especially at TUU, are happy and proud to be part of this global CLE movement.



Opening of clinic at TUU in December, 2010

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extern
clinic