



BRIDGING BORDERS

October 2012

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BABSEA CLE Organize First-Ever Pro Bono Conference in the Region

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, does it make a sound? That was the question Malathi Das, President of LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, posed to the delegates of the 1st Southeast Asia Pro Bono Conference during her keynote address.

Some 150 delegates to the conference - comprising lawyers, civil society organisation representatives, academics, students, bar association representatives and government officials -- gathered in Vientiane, Laos, on 28 and 29 September, to share their experiences on *Developing pro bono initiatives to strengthen access to justice in the Southeast Asia region and internationally*. [read the full article on page 3](#)



CLE Summer School in Can Tho, Viet Nam

In late July and early August, a team of international experts travelled to Can Tho University in Viet Nam as part of the latest BABSEA Community Legal Education (CLE) Initiative. There, they conducted a successful CLE 'Summer School' and assisted in the design of the first credit-bearing CLE course for the Can Tho University (CTU) Law School.

The two-week 'Summer School' involved lecturers and students from universities across Viet Nam and was designed to introduce participants to the two principal concepts that underlie CLE's 'hands-on' approach to teaching and learning.

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4th Trio for Justice

**Half Marathon. 10K Run. 5K Run.
Huay Tung Tao Park, Chiang Mai.**

BABSEA CLE and CLE Foundation will hold the 4th Trio for Justice run/walk for social justice on January 13th, 2013. All funds raised will go towards supporting the organizations' various Access to Justice projects and those of their partners.

Join us!
- Sponsor the event!
- Run with us!
- Donate money!



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Growing Pro Bono in Southeast Asia

BABSEA CLE Organizes First-Ever Pro Bono Conference in the Region

By Laura Milne, Access to Justice and Pro Bono Programme Manager, Hanoi

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, does it make a sound? That was the question Malathi Das, President of LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, posed to the delegates of the 1st Southeast Asia Pro Bono Conference during her keynote address.

Some 150 delegates to the conference -- comprising lawyers, civil society organisation representatives, academics, students, bar association representatives and government officials -- gathered in Vientiane, Laos, on 28 and 29 September, to share their experiences on *Developing pro bono initiatives to strengthen access to justice in the Southeast Asia region and internationally*.



What does a falling tree have to do with pro bono? Malathi explained that if you don't hear the tree fall, you don't know it has fallen. If you don't know it has fallen, then it probably

doesn't exist for you. If it does not exist for you, you probably will not see any need to do anything about it. But that does not mean that the tree did not fall or make a noise. It may have also caused a lot of damage. The longer the damage is left, the harder it is to remedy. Malathi warned that we may be ignoring the noise of the falling tree at our peril. So, what is this noise that our profession can't ignore? It is the noise of men, women and children who need access to justice.

The Conference brought together individuals from 20 countries to share their many and varied experiences in





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promoting access to justice. Dr. Jayampathy Wickramaratne, a Sri Lankan lawyer who has worked in his home country and throughout the region, explained that, on principle, he has never charged a woman seeking to secure child support, because in his country such women are among the most marginalised in the community. Khin Maung Win shared his experience of the development of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network (MLAW). MLAW aims to work with government, lawyers and civil society to strengthen the capacity of the legal community and implement a system of legal aid.

"I was extremely humbled by the work the BABSEA CLE does and how much it has achieved with so little. It reminded me that when you have people together who believe in something very strongly – no matter how little they have, no matter how difficult the task ahead – good things happen. The one thing that really moved me was hearing the granny in the video describing how she felt when she received pro bono help: 'I feel like I am sharing the same breath and heartbeat as my lawyers'." -- Malathi Das

We heard from Muhamad Isnur how LBH Jakarta, the Jakarta Law Aid Institute, conducts analytical mapping on social causes for their legal cases. In

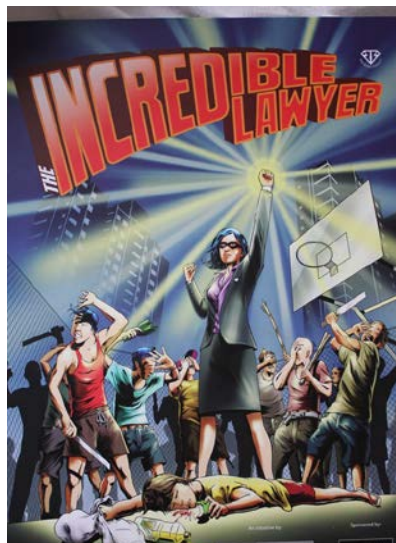


other words, they also look at what caused the tree to fall in the first place.

The Conference was a unique opportunity to bring together individuals and organisations with a range of strengths and resources to map out possibilities for pro bono partnerships. Malathi concluded

her address by stating that we must ensure that there are always lawyers, law students or legally trained volunteers who will be around to hear the tree falling and lend a helping hand.

The 1st Southeast Asia Pro Bono Conference was an opportunity for those actors to explore how they might all work together in the forest.



It was a huge privilege to meet so many people working so hard to strengthen access to justice in Southeast Asia and beyond. We have already had some fantastic feedback from the Conference and have no doubt that next year's conference in Ho Chi Minh City will be even better. Until then, I look forward to hearing from our delegates about the initiatives that were sown, took root and sprouted in Vientiane.

Developing Law Clinics – by Going to Summer School!

by Richard Grimes, Director of Clinical Programmes, University of York Law School, UK, and Rebecca Parker, Pro-Bono Coordinator and Supervising Solicitor, The College of Law Legal Advice Centre, Birmingham, UK



In late July and early August, a team of international experts travelled to Can Tho University in Viet Nam as part of the latest BABSEA Community Legal Education (CLE) Initiative. There, they conducted a successful CLE ‘Summer School’ and assisted in the design of the first credit-bearing CLE course for the Can Tho University (CTU) Law School.

The two-week ‘Summer School’ involved lecturers and students from universities across Viet Nam and was

designed to introduce participants to the two principal concepts that underlie CLE’s ‘hands-on’ approach to teaching and learning.

Firstly, CLE is premised on the educational theory that students experience an enhanced level of understanding when they are actively involved in their learning, rather than passive recipients of knowledge, as offered by traditional lectures. Secondly, law schools and faculties possess a great capacity to contribute to clinic

legal work and thereby improve the ability of marginalised communities to access legal services and, ultimately, justice.

BABSEA CLE’s ‘Summer School’ began each morning with demonstrations of various interactive learning models used in CLE classrooms. The Vietnamese lecturers participated in a simulated CLE class as “students”. In the afternoons, two groups of lecturers practised teaching with the morning’s methods, while the others kept their



"student hats" on. At the end of each day, there was a peer-feedback and self-reflection session. In the second week, Vietnamese law students joined the afternoon classes. Judging by the enthusiasm and hard work put in by all participants, the CLE 'Summer School' was a great success in both teaching and learning.

While it is one thing to coach a new way of teaching and learning, it is quite another to see those ideas become a reality. After CLE 'Summer School' ended, we were asked to join the team at Can Tho University charged with designing a new credit-bearing CLE course for their law students. In addition to providing the teaching staff with the tools of CLE methods and the students with the opportunity to put legal theories into practice, the program was required to meet the standards of higher education in Viet Nam, the internal rules of CTU and the conditions of admission to the legal profession.

Case Study Course

The team concluded that in order to build the necessary experience and confidence in the CLE learning models, the course should be based on a range of simulated case studies that represented the type of legal problems that the students might encounter in a legal clinic, such as family, housing, inheritance, and other civil and criminal issues. Spread over 13 weeks and guided by their teachers, law students will simulate

interviews, obtain facts, conduct research and draft accurate and realistic advice for their fictional clients as if they were faced with a real case. As this CLE course is also intended to provide a platform for the Law School to develop an in-house legal clinic, these simulated case studies are aimed at providing a workable framework for use in live-client clinical work. Subject to evaluation, the Law School has expressed a willingness to pilot the program and share the design of the new CLE course with other law schools in Viet Nam, to help develop a nationwide CLE initiative.

The CTU program is planned for January 2013, and hopefully, the accredited CLE course will provide a locally and regionally adaptable blueprint for others. BABSEA CLE's partner universities across the region are working toward accreditation for the CLE approach to legal education to simultaneously aid student learning and facilitate access to justice and legal services for communities in need.

Summer School in Can Tho, Viet Nam

by Uyen Hoang To, Hanoi

I attended the CLE Summer School hosted by Can Tho University June 23 to July 5, as part of BABSEA CLE's organizing team. As a logistics coordinator, I experienced a lot of personal challenges. After it was over, I realized that the course itself had also brought me a lot of pleasant and memorable experiences: funny energizers, interesting group activities and the most awesome classes I have ever attended.

Can Tho was well-prepared to host a big CLE family of international and local trainers and created a friendly atmosphere where everybody felt at home.

The CLE summer school was designed to further strengthen the network of CLE programs in Viet Nam by having the Core Partners share their experiences and learn from each other, and then apply "lessons learned" from each other and from the international CLE experts giving the training. Traditionally, they are used to

lecturing and they felt it was their duty to come to the course. Most had not thought about the fact that, here, they would be students. But in the first week of the course, they wore their "student hats", as international CLE experts trained them in how to use



the new CLE manual. Then, in the second week, they became lecturers again. They could apply the new methods they had just learned to their old lessons and practise teaching in this new way to real law students.

The summer school experience was different from any previous CLE workshops held at individual universities we had attended. The law lecturers worked an eight-

hour day, with assignments ranging from individual research papers to group work, including attending the "Clinic Office Hour" every day. I helped organize the Office Hour and I can tell you that the more interest the participants showed, the more inspired we were to make the Office Hour realistic and creative. Every-one, participants and staff and international experts, worked very hard.

There was also a social side to summer school: we visited the largest Floating Market in Viet Nam and had a football "play off" between local and international CLE members, complete with cheerleaders.

I am convinced that all the participants gained new knowledge and improved their skills, and that this experience will have a huge influence on how CLE courses are run in Vietnamese universities. Our course demonstrated that CLE methods really work and how the CLE course should be implemented in the curriculum.

Observing Summer School in Viet Nam

by Sukrat Baber, BABSEA CLE Legal Studies Clinic

Before arriving in Chiang Mai, I chose Viet Nam as my preferred placement for my internship with BABSEA CLE. Then it seemed I would stay in Thailand for the entire time — and then, I was lucky enough to get support, and I was on my way to Can Tho. I would be one of the official event reporters at the 2012 CLE Summer School at Can Tho University.

The first day of summer school was sharply organized. Chairs in the large room were set in the CLE semi-circle fashion, and translators, trainers, and learners assumed their positions. The Dean of the Law Faculty and the Vice Rector of Can Tho University gave excellent introductory remarks and BABSEA CLE directors Bruce Lasky and Wendy Morrish did what they do best: motivating the crowd for the experience ahead and outlining what the Summer School could ultimately do for social justice in Viet Nam.

The Summer School was a dynamic and novel creation. Participants were mostly law lecturers representing nine universities throughout Viet Nam. Each day, they wore their "student hats" in the morning

when international CLE experts gave workshops on CLE topics, and their "teacher hats" in the afternoon to practise what they'd learned.



There were many challenges for participants. They were directed to facilitate sessions without notice. They had to put aside pedagogical differences and work in groups to teach groups of other, often heavily critical, teachers. They were posed difficult questions by international experts about professional responsibility and client confidentiality.

Many international experts and CLE trainers were teaching in an unfamiliar academic culture.

They had to be mindful of cultural and political sensitivities and there were concerns about how a group of Vietnamese lecturers should be instructed when they were assuming the role of students.

The day real students arrived, participants and experts alike were caught off-guard when Bruce opened the session by saying "Here are your students. Give them an assignment." Impressively, the teachers broke into two groups: one to reassure the students and one to huddle and come up with an assignment.

The talent and enthusiasm of the participants and the tireless efforts of the facilitators and trainers made it possible to jump all these hurdles, if not with ease, then with grace. The participants brought to every session the competitive spirit and high energy I had heard the Vietnamese were known for.

Most notably, they were terrific teachers.



Legal Empowerment for the Poor

by Trang Tran Le (Ivy), BABSEA CLE Staff Trainer

"Poverty can only be reduced if governments give all citizens, especially the poor, a legitimate stake in the protections provided by the legal system, which should not be the privilege of the few but the right of everyone."

-- Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor

In 2010, the Ministry of Justice in Thailand hosted the first Legal Empowerment Asia Partnership (LEAP) meeting, to identify new ways in which law and justice institutions could help protect vulnerable communities. In 2011, the Mongolian Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs hosted the 2nd Annual Conference, to share experiences on how to empower poor groups, as well as to discuss the best way to ensure the success of the LEAP network.

This year, it was Viet Nam's turn. The 3rd Annual LEAP Conference was hosted by the Viet Nam Lawyer's Association (VLA) in Hanoi, August 27-29, with support from UNDP Vietnam and UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre (APRC). The aim of the meeting was to bring together legal empowerment practitioners, government representatives and delegates from civil society organizations, to share lessons learned in legal empowerment.

BABSEA CLE participated by presenting on the synergy between Clinical Legal Education



teach other people in the community those rights and what to do, where to go, and who can support them, if their rights are violated. Finally, BABSEA CLE provided a specific presentation focus on the VNU Hanoi/LERES CLE program, giving participants a better understanding of CLE's effectiveness in empowering the poor.

and Legal Empowerment for the Poor. The two most important methods we use to support poor people are client-centered lawyering, which empowers poor people to help solve their own problems, and our practice of "not just tolerance for the poor, but standing in solidarity with the poor." Director Bruce Lasky discussed how BABSEA CLE teaches and promotes these methods, practiced by CLE programs throughout Southeast Asia.

In addition, I shared my experience in working with People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Our training sessions not only teach PLHIV their legal rights, but also teach them how to

The LEAP conference was really successful, with more than 50 regional and international representatives attending. I myself learnt a lot. I had the opportunity to visit the Center for Consulting on Law, Policy, Health, and HIV/AIDS (CCLPHH), a Vietnamese NGO based in Hanoi and affiliated with the Vietnam Lawyers Association. I saw how PLHIV peer-counseling can help, how the hotline providing free legal advice works and how enthusiastic the lawyers and other staff were: how willing they were to contribute their time and expertise to help vulnerable people. It encouraged me to continue my current work with PLHIV.



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BRIDGES ACROSS BORDERS SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE
(BABSEA CLE) & CLE FOUNDATION with thanks to Kantary Hills Hotel present the

2nd Annual Access to Justice Public Interest Fair



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**Saturday,
November 10, 2012
11 AM – 4:30 PM**

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Sustainable Cambodia: All in the Family

by Josefina Gamundi,
Chiang Mai Volunteer

When Bruce Lasky, one of the co-directors and founders of BABSEA CLE, left Gainesville, Florida in 2000, to backpack around Asia, he had already been a public defender of marginalized people in the U.S. justice system for eight years. Who could have imagined the incredible work he would do in the next 12 years, or the many people in marginalized communities in Southeast Asia whose lives he would touch, in so many ways and on so many levels?

It all started when his mother, Sylvia, knowing the poverty in this part of the world, asked him to seek out a few worthy kids to



sponsor. Guided by her request, and with donations from friends and family, he started an English language and supplementary education school in Cambodia in 2001. Bruce's uncle, Daniel Lasky, got his trade union to donate used computers for a computer class. And after she died in 2002, Bruce renamed the school the Sylvia Lasky Memorial School.

School is Not Enough

The school was in the small village of Pursat, Cambodia, and had 65 young students. The children were eager to come to the school, but Bruce soon realized that for many of them, this was not enough. It was difficult for them to attend class, because they lived far away and were needed to help support their families. So Bruce and others joined together to give rice and bicycles to the children's families.

As other needs arose, Bruce was able to partner with like-minded people, such as Susan and Richard Mastin and the members of Richard's Rotary Club back in Florida. In this manner, Sustainable Cambodia was established in 2004.

Bruce Lasky with students at Sustainable Cambodia in Pursat.





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I had the privilege of visiting Sustainable Cambodia in August. I witnessed the wonderful work they are doing, and met some of the people whose lives have changed because of such work.

I saw the happy faces of eager students, and many spoke English very well. To foster social change, communities must first become empowered, and when that empowerment becomes sustainable, people can find their voice and defend their rights.

Pass It On

Sustainable Cambodia goes further than the proverbial goal of "teaching a person to fish". They teach communities how to teach each other how to "fish". For example, each village uses a "pass-it-on" element of



A proud woman is able to provide for her family with a "pass-it-on" animal provided by Sustainable Cambodia.

community service, in which the grant family of a pregnant farm animal has the choice of keeping the livestock, or its offspring, but not both. They must donate one or the other to a non-family neighbor.

In this way, surrounding families of that village are progressively enriched, then the families of surrounding villages, and so on. This model sustains villages and empowers people by improving the quality of their lives. Villages in the Sustainable Cambodia network have used this method with animals, fresh water, irrigation, schools, agriculture, marketable skills and income generation.

Today, Sustainable Cambodia has a local staff of 115 people, working in 19 villages and 23 communities of four provinces, reaching about 25,000 people in over 4,000 families. They help provide English, math, computer and craft classes to nearly 3,000 people.

In addition to health care, micro-business and crop loans, the organization has granted 105 university scholarships and has constructed 334 water wells, 929 latrines, 1,719 bio-sand sanitation filters, and 11 community fishponds.

Understanding the need to combine development and general education with legal empowerment, Bruce Lasky went on to co-found, with

Wendy Morrish and Kevin Morley, (BABSEA CLE).



This man ferries people from one side of the river to the other. He bought a motor with a micro-loan provided by Sustainable Cambodia.

Perfect Partners

BABSEA CLE works in partnership with Sustainable Cambodia. As Sustainable Cambodia helps rebuild the lives of people, and of whole communities, BABSEA CLE teaches legal education and access to justice to organizations that work with community members. These organizations then teach others how to teach, how to be empowered, and how to be aware of the ways to access their rights. In this way, both Sustainable Cambodia and BABSEA CLE empower communities to be sustainable, and are two sides of the same coin.

For more information go to www.sustainablecambodia.org



How I Spent My Summer Holidays

By Ed O'Brien, Executive Director Emeritus, Street Law Inc.

Thirteen Years ago a young lawyer named Bruce Lasky called from Florida and said, "I am going to Cambodia and I want to learn about your Street Law program." Fittingly, we agreed to meet for dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant in Washington, D.C. We had a delightful meal, during which he pumped me with questions, took some Street Law materials and went off to Southeast Asia.

Street Law Exported To Southeast Asia

A few years later I heard that not only was Street Law active in Cambodia under the name "Community Teaching", but an organization called Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative had been born. Now, BABSEA CLE operates in eight countries besides Cambodia (China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines) with more to come, including Myanmar. BABSEA CLE's mission is to bring CLE to regional law schools by initiating in-house clinics and community teaching (i.e., Street Law) and, most of



all, by introducing law lecturers to interactive teaching methods.

I embarked this past summer as a volunteer teacher (they called us "international experts", but I believe that was a bit of an exaggeration) and I worked alongside colleagues from universities in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Australia was well represented by one of Bruce's co-directors, Wendy Morrish, who prior to her BABSEA CLE experience worked on a Crocodile farm and now provides the organization with dynamic leadership and know-how. Volunteer U.S. law

students, Law Fellows from Thailand and Vietnam, an English teacher, a Thai teacher, a Canadian expert on sensory perception and administrative staff from around the world rounded out the team.

Most lived together in a compound in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which looked just as you would expect. All sit outside once a week for "movie night" and watch films like *Gideon's Trumpet*, which showed when I was there, followed by a lively discussion about access to justice.



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... and Side Trips

Though it sounds like the summer was all work and no play, I did schedule a post-BABSEA CLE trip to the magnificent Cambodian temples of Angkor (some call it the “eighth wonder of the world”) and the delightful adjoining town of Siam Reap.

Also, after one of my Thai bus trips, the university Vice Dean took us to a street stall “restaurant” in Phayao, where he said we would have the “best Pad Thai” in all of Thailand. We did and it was.

Many thanks to the BABSEA CLE and CLE Foundation team, my “expert” colleagues and the United Nations Development Pro-gram in Viet Nam, who made this trip possible.

Street Law Road Show

My work duties included Street Law workshops around Thailand where I was ably assisted by Ann, Ben and Tak, Thai Legal Fellows who knew the language and culture oh so much better than I. If I had ridden on my own on a Thai bus for four hours to a Thai university, I don’t think I would have found anyone who spoke English or was able to tell me where to get off. I might still be riding on one of those buses.

Much of our work was to prepare for the BABSEA CLE summer school in Viet Nam. To help young law professors get started, BABSEA CLE had produced an excellent CLE Manual, which is the best I have ever seen. Despite my technological limitations, I conquered the editing function called track changes and

contributed to the final product.

I also participated in the two-week institute, and got to know many of the Vietnamese law teachers, who were delightful people. They were also very intelligent and superbly mastered the interactive style of teaching that the BABSEA CLE manual promotes.





ADR Adventures in Thailand

From Old McDonald's Farm to Bilingual Karaoke

by Prof. Melinda Edwards, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

From the moment I stepped off the plane in Chiang Mai, I could feel the warmth, both in terms of temperature and the temperament of the community. I was welcomed everywhere as I travelled to law schools in Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani and Chiang Rai, teaching my passion: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). And, as someone who likes to smile a lot, I felt surrounded by like-minded spirits working with interns, Fellows, academics, professional staff and students.

My goal was to give back to BABSEA CLE, to thank Wendy and Bruce for the enormous contribution they have made to the development of the Virtual Law Placement Program we offer at QUT. I hoped that delivering ADR workshops and building the capacity of the BABSEA CLE Fellows to deliver the workshops after my departure would be a valuable contribution, but I also knew I would have to work fast in my three weeks in Thailand to achieve my goal.

I met my team on my very first afternoon at the BABSEA CLE House and started work straight



away. Students from the Czech Republic and Singapore, law lecturers from Laos, and Fellows and staff from Thailand made for an interesting communication challenge!

Cross-Cultural Communication

At first it was difficult to identify a baseline of knowledge on ADR, but although there was a lot to learn before we could think about the teaching task, the team was incredibly open, enthusiastic and supportive of each other as we wove our way through explanations in Czech, Thai and English to reach a common understanding.

We developed a draft lesson plan, chose interactive teaching methods to achieve our outcomes and allocated research, writing and translating tasks around the team. Then, I was invited to join Bruce and Wendy to fly to Ubon Ratchathani University. There, I had the opportunity to assist in a small way with their workshop on clinical legal education (CLE) methods. Once again, I was warmly welcomed and was able to polish my language skills through a truly international Karaoke experience, followed by the chance to lead the singing of "Old McDonald's Farm" on a Sunday bus trip. Did you know that farm animals make different



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sounds in different countries? It was news to me, and I was surprised to find my new Thai friends in fits of laughter at what I considered to be a perfectly ordinary rendition of an Australian pig snorting!

Two days later, we presented our first ADR workshop at the Chiang Mai University Legal Clinic, receiving lots of positive feedback from both students and staff. I could feel my team's confidence rising, making it easier to do the next, slightly revised version of the workshop at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai.

Not even the four-hour bus trip each way could dampen our enthusiasm, and we enjoyed more positive feedback as the Fellows took on larger roles in

the presentation of the teaching material. I went to sleep that night feeling satisfied that my new protégées could carry on with this work -- and in the morning I decided to give a special gift to BABSEA CLE and to host a celebration party.

Karaoke equipment seemed the logical gift: it would help interns and staff sing together in any language. And the night before my departure, I had the delicious fun of seeing my new family enjoy the gift. Who knew Ben had such wonderful English when singing? Who knew Elaine had all those dance moves lurking below the surface? And who knows what the neighbours will make of Bruce's rendition of Celine Dion when he finally returns to Chiang Mai to take over the



microphone?

When I bid farewell to my new family in Chiang Mai I was confident in my parting words that it was not the end – for me this is most definitely only the beginning!





Our First Workshop at Ubon Ratchathani

By Nattakan Chompuhong, CLE Legal Fellow, Thailand



The workshop at Ubon Ratchathani University (URU) in August aimed to educate law professors about the CLE program and how it works. I was really excited about this workshop because it was the first one where I was not only working as a translator, but would be a presenter as well.

The main purpose of the workshop was to demonstrate CLE's pedagogical approach and encourage the law professors to use interactive methods instead of traditional lectures. The two-hour workshop used many different interactive methods, including role play, small-group discussion, games, and power-point presentations, so they could see how effective these methods are.

Because of this, I too saw how effective they are, and it further highlighted for me the difference between interactive and traditional teaching

methods. It justified the claim that people can remember better if they learn by doing, and people will remember best if they teach others.

Learning by Doing

The participants in the workshop were law professors from different areas of law. After learning about our lesson plans, they were able to write a lesson plan for their respective subjects that included the knowledge, skills and values necessary in teaching law.

I also had the opportunity to visit the URU law clinic to see the practical application of the workshop. The CLE knowledge that BABSEA CLE and CLE Foundation has helped them gain allows the lecturers and their students working in the clinic to be able to provide legal assistance to local communities. Just before the URU workshop, I had taken two interns from the

Czech Republic to visit the CLE clinic at the university I graduated from, Chiang Mai University (CMU) I translated for the interns during the session and from our discussions, I gathered that it is not easy to start a clinic in their home country. I also noted that it is not that easy to start one in Chiang Mai either. There are currently 50 students working in the CMU law clinic, but only after a long time and much effort. I am very proud of my alma mater.

And after participating in the workshops at Ubon Ratchathani, the University of Phayao and Mae Fah Luang University, I am very proud of our work here with BABSEA CLE and CLE Foundation in not only establishing law clinics but imparting the values and ethics of law to change society.



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Presenting the Pre-Trial Detention Project

By Ellen Rehnberg, Mount Holyoke College, USA



Pre trial detention -- a term I had heard often, but never fully understood, until we started Professor Doug Colbert's Pre-trial Detention Initiative project. All the BABSEA CLE interns were introduced to this project as soon as we arrived. Its aim is to get law schools in Thailand to adopt a pre-trial detention clinic. I knew beforehand that there was a problem of people being detained for long periods before trial. I also knew that many of them would be found not guilty in court, but I did not know how widespread the problem was.

We started by researching substantive information about pre-trial detention in Thailand. We interviewed various lawyers regarding procedures, their work as defence lawyers and their clients' average length of pre-trial detention. We contacted pre-trial

clinics in Nigeria, India and Afghanistan to learn how their clinics started. The most exciting thing we did was watch a trial. We met the lawyers and asked about Thai court procedures. That was a good first-hand experience, and improved our understanding.

Learn by Teaching

After our research, we started writing lesson plans to teach what we had learned. It may sound easy, but there were several components I had not considered: thinking about the participants, choosing the appropriate teaching methods, locating the material and practising the presentation itself. We were divided into groups, each responsible for a part of the whole presentation. This was presented at Mae Fah Luang University and Phayao University. What started out as five separate lessons ended up as a two-hour informative,

interactive and successful presentation.

We faced challenges along the way and it was a tedious process. It was also a great learning process: ideas became effective teaching tools that both learners and facilitators enjoyed. I learned that the process is as important as the product. We all worked very hard; brainstorming till we had a solution to each problem, which led to good teamwork. I think we were able to show law faculties how effective interactive methods are, because they were exactly what we had learned in order to do the project.

In the end, standing in front of the Thai faculty and students and presenting something that we all knew the importance of, I felt very proud to be a part of the BABSEA CLE team.



Czech it out!

By Michaela Hermanova and Veronika Vanisova, Charles University, Prague

It has been just a year since we first heard about the work of BABSEA CLE. We belong to a group of students at our law school who want to pursue the law in practice, rather than only study law in books. We have a street law project, in which we learn CLE methods and then teach legal rights at Czech high schools. Our teacher told us about the BABSEA CLE Legal Studies Externship Clinic and highly recommended the program's leaders.

Although we did not really know what kind of activities were waiting for us, we decided to apply. We hoped to learn more about street law, and also "legal soft-skills" which are not part of our university curriculum and therefore difficult to adopt.

Thanks to the generous support of Charles University's Law School in Prague, we were able to leave at the beginning of August to the most distant destination we had ever been.

One of the major benefits of our journey became evident as soon as we arrived in Chiang Mai. We had to adapt to a completely different environment, in terms of weather, but especially in terms of cultural habits and traditions -- to a different mentality, really. This was a fundamental change,



because we rarely meet people from different cultures in Czech Republic.

We were excited by this challenge, because we believe today's lawyers must be able to orient themselves to a multicultural environment. We want to work with multinational companies and organizations. So, from the moment we arrived in Thailand, we started to pursue experiences for our future professional lives. Here are some of our activities:

Mediation Workshop

One of the first things we worked on was a workshop on mediation with Prof. Melinda Edwards, an Australian specialist on alternative dispute resolution (ADR). We helped

her prepare the workshop for two local universities using the CLE techniques (that's our team in the photo above).

Teaching at Wildflower

Wildflower Home serves young mothers (or mothers to be) in desperate situations. They provide shelter, health services and also education to young women who have had to leave their home villages. (Some are sent away, some are victims of rape or incest.) BABSEA CLE runs a weekly class to teach the women basic legal rights. The first week of our stay we only observed, and the next week we taught. It was rather difficult, because we needed interpreters, but it felt great to participate in the work that Wildflower is doing.



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Legal Clinic

If people in Czech Republic think of Thailand as an undeveloped country, they should visit a Thai legal clinic. We were able to see a Thai legal clinic at work and talk to the students, and we were impressed. Chiang Mai University's legal clinic was established over ten years ago and it is very successful.

Court Visit

One word to describe the hearing we saw in Thailand would be "different". The case was tried by two judges. You must stand up as they come into court, never sit with your legs crossed in front of them and only speak when spoken to by them. We were quite

impressed to learn that when children are questioned, only the child, its family and a psychologist are in the room. The judge can only watch via a camera.

Community Service

Everyone who comes to BABSEA CLE has to work some hours for free to serve the community. Our idea was to teach English, because although Thais usually know some vocabulary and basic grammar, they have a lot of trouble with pronunciation. We designed a flyer and placed it in our favorite cafe and waited. We ended up teaching the baristas.

Training

We did not spend all our time as teachers. We were also learners. Every week, our English teacher, Elaine, gave a lesson on how to use CLE techniques in English and we had a weekly Thai lesson with Dang. In only a month, we did not learn much, but I think the Thai staff appreciated that we could at least greet and thank them correctly. We also had a workshop on networking where we learnt how to establish a contact and not lose it immediately. And finally, we had a training on interrogation (the scary part) and investigation (the nice part).



Discovering the Transgender Sisterhood in Chiang Mai

By Ellen Rehnberg, Mount Holyoke College, USA

It probably will not surprise anyone to learn that there is a large number of transgendered people in Thailand. What is surprising is the amount of discrimination they face. I did not know this when I first started working on a project to document human rights abuses in the transgender community in Chiang Mai as part of my summer internship with BABSEA CLE. To be honest, I did not know about the problems of *any* transgender community before I met Nada Chaiyajit, a lively, passionate transgender activist well-known in Thailand.

The transgender community in Chiang Mai is very visible. A transgender cabaret show is a major tourist attraction. After hours, many transgender people work in bars and as sex workers. I was not surprised that their involvement in sex work was high, since Thailand is known for its sex industry, but what I didn't know was *why* so many become sex workers and how they are treated.

Law and Identity

According to Thai law, *Kathoey* are free to change their bodies, but they can never change their gender. Someone who is born



male but feels they were born in the wrong body and goes through several operations to have a female body, is still considered male by law... and by society and vice versa. They cannot change their gender on their passport or national ID card. They face discrimination in employment, and for many, sex work is the only way to secure an income. As sex workers, they face many human rights abuses and have little protection.

In addition, there is a lack of information on the special needs of transgender with respect to safe sex, health care, and legal and human rights. To address these needs, Nada, with support from BABSEA CLE partner

M+Plus, started a program called Sexperts! It is a very successful online counselling service for and by transgender people. In recognition of her work, Nada was invited to speak at the UNAIDS 2012 international conference in Washington, DC, in July.

Networking

The project I volunteered for consisted of holding a two-day workshop together with Karyn Kaplan from the TTAG organization for transgender in Chiang Mai, with whom we were also writing up teaching materials about transgender legal and human rights.

The aim of the workshop was to get the different groups of



transgender in Chiang Mai (the entertainers working in the Cabaret, the bar workers and the sex workers) to network in order to support one another. We also wanted to share basic legal skills, to emphasise that transgender have the same legal rights as everyone.

Karyn and Nada emphasized how important it is that they support each other as a community and that they report the abuses they experience so that together they can fight for their rights and reduce the discrimination and stigma they are subjected to.

There were challenges. Because sex workers work all night, we had very few participants in the morning and I learned from the beginning how important flexibility is when working with different kinds of people with different needs. On the second day, we changed our schedule.

Making Connections

We had 14 participants and the follow-up outreach we did after the workshop showed that these 14 were community leaders who had talked to many friends about how important the experience had been. They got to network, made new friends

facing the same issues and now know where to go when they need help. Most important of all might be that they were heard, accepted and empowered to be themselves with rights and dignity.

Advocacy is about working for what you believe in. The passion I have seen when working with Nada and others on this project has convinced me that advocacy can bring change. Furthermore, I got to experience the joy and warmth of the transgender community and I thank them for making me one of their sisters.



Bringing Law Class to the Highlands of Viet Nam

By Cao Thi Duc Vinh, LERES, Viet Nam National University, Hanoi

Crossing Trung Ha Bridge, we entered Phu Tho Province and a short time later came to Thanh Son Town, where hill after hill covered in green trees stretch all the way to the horizon. We were in tea country, famous for its tea leaves, buds and seeds, which local people say are the best in the province. We have been practising CLE for several years in urban areas in and around Hanoi, but now we were on our way to do community outreach in the highlands.

Passing Minh Dai Ward, we came to Xuan Dai Ward, the last mountain pass leading to Xuan Son. It was a good place for our team to stop and admire the view of the mountain tops above us and the terraced fields and palm tree forest below us... and to think about our project. As part of the "Support Clinical Legal Education" program sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), we -- the Centre of Legal Research and Services (LERES) at Vietnam National University's School of Law, in coordination with the People's Committee of Xuan Son Ward



and the Board of Managers of Xuan Son National Park -- were about to teach two days of legal-rights classes for the people of Xuan Son Ward.

Xuan Son Ward is in the middle of the national forest. Most of the people living there are Dao, of the Muong ethnic minority group, and a smaller number are Kinh, of the Nung ethnic minority group. They primarily grow rice and cassava and have chickens and cattle, as well. The Board of Managers of Xuan Son National Park has granted them forest land to manage and protect.

Our team of 30 people included lawyers, LERES staff

and VNU-CLE students and we would be teaching Family Law and Forest Law to people in small villages: Coi, Du, Lap and Lang. To reach Lang, we had to walk three kilometers through the forest on a winding path. Lang and Coi are located in a valley surrounded by limestone mountains. The valley is home to the nine-spur cocks that date back to the Son Tinh-Thuy Tinh legend. Local people live in thatched cottages and houses on stilts.

Coming to our teachings for the first time, the people were very reserved, but it was clear to us that they understood the information in our games about different laws and government policies. They



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were interested, and soon they joined in and participated more actively.

At the end of the community teaching, we answered over 20 questions from the people about forest land grants, managing

primeval forest, marriage laws and divorce procedure. Our students not only had an opportunity to teach, they also had an unprecedented opportunity to learn: to enhance their own legal knowledge and presentation skills, but also to

get to know the customs of the people living in the highlands.

Here is the assessment of Mr. Ban Xuan Lam, President of Xuan Son Ward: "This is the most effective community teaching we have ever attended. At first, when we heard that there would be student participation, we did not have much confidence. But when we listened to them, we felt very pleased and satisfied. We would like to have another opportunity to invite you, lawyers and students, to come to us."





NEU CLE Clinic Is in Business!

**National Economics University CLE Clinic in Hanoi to Develop a Small Business Clinic
by Tue Phuong Nguyen, BABSEA CLE Volunteer Lawyer Hanoi, Viet Nam**

National Economics University (NEU) has been working with BABSEA CLE as part of the network of CLE programs in Viet Nam for two years. The students have studied CLE philosophy, CLE methods, and how to establish and run their CLE program. This has created a strong foundation in the hearts and minds of everyone involved. Now, it's time to grow.

As the name of the university implies, business law is one of the CLE group's strengths. Therefore, they are developing a program to serve the poor and marginalized community in business registration and business management: helping people set up their own business as their livelihood. Helping the community in this way will also instill ethical responsibility and improve the professionalism of the students.

The new program is being supported by IBM. NEU signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with IBM and BABSEA CLE for cooperation in implementing the project. To prepare for this special work, 20 1st to 3rd year students already working in the clinic will take a 15-week course in basic lawyering skills like interviewing, questioning, researching, and counseling, as



well as intensive lessons on Vietnamese business law and registration.

The law students are not the only ones to benefit from the experience of working on this project. The Law Dean, senior and junior law lecturers, international experts coming to the clinic, the volunteer coordinator, volunteer lawyers from IBM, and BABSEA CLE staff are all excited and wholeheartedly committed to working together to make this a successful project.

Everyone is working on developing the course with open communication about its content; reporting after each class and offering suggestions for improvement. NEU, BABSEA CLE and IBM will all be mentoring students, not only within the class but also by giving guidance for other work at the clinic.

The program is exciting for stakeholders, but it is also

attracting attention from others. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice and lawyers from local law firms want to learn more about the program and are offering to assist. Wider relationships like these will provide more opportunities for students to learn about business law, the system, and the practice of law.

The new course is just the first step. As NEU's clinic grows due to its business registration expertise, other areas of law will be developed as well. Meanwhile, students will be doing community teachings relating to e-commerce, business law, and labor law with the supervision of NEU law lecturers. Enthusiasm is high among all those working on this vision: the NEU business law clinic will provide a better education at the same time it provides better access to justice for everyone.



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Remembering My (Too Short!) Stay in Chiang Mai

By Nguyen Hoang Duy, Vietnam National University

My externship with BABSEA CLE in Chiang Mai was the first time I went abroad... and it was totally successful. Before I arrived, I had many questions: about the land, the weather, the people... I also felt little nervous. But soon after my arrival, I understood there was no reason for my nervousness. Chiang Mai is beautiful but the people living in Chiang Mai are even more beautiful, especially in the way they treat others.

Cultural Lessons

The most important thing I learned in my one month in Thailand was about the culture, which I will summarize in one word: Respect. The way they bow their heads and put their hands together to say hello is just one small sign -- among many other ways they behave -- of the respect I think you can always feel here. There is respect in Vietnamese culture, too, but it is not expressed as naturally as in Thai culture. I have learned that people should naturally respect others because everybody is equal and deserves respect.



Communal Living

The strongest memory I will always have of my time at BABSEA CLE is the experience of group living. To have a chance to live with co-workers was, for me, the chance to understand much more about them and about myself. We did chores, we hung out together and we spent mealtimes talking together. We shared joy and made many memorable moments together. I had a new big family and I was happy and grateful for that.

I stayed in Bangkok for a few days but I left my heart in Chiang Mai. It's the best. I

think I found my soul in Chiang Mai.

I have come back to my university in Viet Nam with new ideas about how to teach in the community, how to keep track of procedures in the clinic, but most of all with a new appreciation for what true teamwork camaraderie feels like.



Thank you BABSEA CLE!



My Brief but Happy Time with BABSEA CLE

By Phet Sengpunya (Berm), FLP-CLE, National University of Laos

My internship with BABSEA CLE in Chiang Mai was one of the most important experiences in my life and one of the happiest. I learned a lot there. I learned more about CLE and how important it is for our society. I learned how to do community teaching. Teaching at Wildflower Home for single mothers in Northern Thailand was my first community teaching experience. I learned how to write a lesson plan and how to prepare before going to teach. I learned what materials are good for teaching and what to say: how to be prepared by practising before teaching, so that the teaching will be good and effective. I learned how to work in a team. Now I love to teach and give help to communities.

Cultural Exchange

I learned about other cultures from the BABSEA CLE staff and volunteers and Fellows and other interns. My favorite memory is of the goodbye party for Sukrat and Ellen. Ellen is Swedish and Sukrat is Pakistani-Canadian and they were going to the United States. I really

enjoyed the party: we did a Lao folk dance and I learned a national dance of the Czech Republic and American line-dancing, too.

In CLE English class, I learned English, but I also learned about community teaching and about working in a clinic. I learned how to listen to the client and about client-centered lawyering, which is very important to me as a CLE intern. The role play in CLE English class helped me

understand clearly because I could visualize the situation. We also had a special workshop with Professor Melinda Edwards on mediation and a special class on public speaking.

I was only there a short time, but I learned a lot at BABSEA CLE and I made many new friends. I loved and enjoyed the externship legal studies clinic, and I would like to go back again, because the people at BABSEA CLE are so friendly!





Surviving the CLE Challenge

by Ellen Rehnberg, Mount Holyoke College, USA

I hesitated a long time before I applied for the BABSEA CLE Legal Studies Externship Clinic: it was clearly meant for law students and although law was something I thought I might study – I had only just finished my first semester of American college as an international student!

But I did apply and when I was accepted, I was thrilled. I was still afraid I would not have the skills of a law student and would "fail", but I thought I'd "read up" on law before I went. Of course, that did not happen because finals were more pressing, and next thing I knew, I was on a plane to Thailand, thinking 'what have I got myself into?'

I need not have worried. Yes, the other interns were law students and I felt inferior. But everyone around me was incredibly supportive, including the other interns. I learned my first important lesson: I am the one who judges myself harshly. No one else thought I was not capable of doing the assignments.

Our first big challenge was working with Professor Doug Colbert, of the School of Law at Maryland University, on the

pre-trial detention project. I could see how much having a law background really would help, as we did research and worked collaboratively to put together a workshop.



Above, me with fellow intern Andree Anne Mavrive, Legal Fellow Ben, and Student Clinician Michelle Langlois at University of Phayao, and left, speaking at pre-trial detention workshop.



But, in fact, we were all equal in that we were students learning how to be teachers. We all learned how to write lesson plans and plan activities and do role-plays. We all had to read up on Thai law about the rights of stateless people and transgendered people before working with the single mothers of Wildflower or doing research on human rights abuses in the transgender community.

I felt like a sponge and I absorbed every bit of knowledge and advice that I heard. I discovered new fields inside the legal profession and I have grown both academically and personally from having been exposed to so many different and wonderful experiences.

This internship has given me the courage to take on new challenges and not be afraid of not having enough skills to handle them. I will learn them. We are all here to learn and nothing is more exciting than stepping into a challenge and coming out on the other side with the feeling of accomplishment!



Remembering Azriel, an Unexpected Gift to So Many

by BABSEA CLE Co-Director Bruce Lasky

Our relationship with Azriel Cohen began completely unexpectedly last April. It ended, even more unexpectedly, in October. In the six months in between, Azriel was a member of our BABSEA CLE family. In April, Arnold asked to bring a guest to a Jewish Passover Celebration Dinner. That guest, Azriel, ended up leading the service, attended by Jewish and non-Jewish people from all over the world. He had a beautiful, inclusive way of telling the tale of how a people in bondage found freedom and justice. Obviously a gifted teacher, he connected this 3,000-year-old story to contemporary issues and peoples of many different religions, cultures and nationalities.

That night will always stay transfixed in my memory as significant and moving. It will stay there as significant and as moving as another night, this past October, when I received a simple and chilling email notice that Azriel had passed away in the USA. Azriel had just left Southeast Asia to visit his family. He arrived, met many relatives eagerly waiting for him and it was joyous. He laid down that evening and never woke up. At age 47 his physical body had left this world.

The exact reasons are still unknown. Possibly an unknown heart condition or a blood clot, but this is not important. What is important is remembering what Azriel brought to us and ensuring that, while his physical body has left us, his work, passion, and dedication to striving for social justice lives on.

Magical, caring, artistic, insightful and always full of positive energy, are just a few of the many ways to describe Azriel. He was a real connector of people who wanted to make a difference, to make this world a better place.

Azriel's personal history and journey was an amazing one. He defined the term "renaissance". When talking to him about his past, it was as if you were conversing with a dozen people, each with a treasure chest of life-long experiences.

He continuously built on those past experiences in order to find a more positive path for himself and those around him. Having initially grown up in Canada, early in his adult life he spent much time in Israel and Palestine, focusing on working with people from both lands who had suffered trauma. He became known as a healer and these encounters



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"Azriel taught the polyvagal theory, which claims there are three basic states or moods of humans: a social engagement state, where the person is talking normally, laughing, or relaxing, reading a book; a flight or fight state, where the person either wants to run away from their current situation or fight their way out of it; and a freeze state, where the person is so disturbed that they cannot move and are in shock. As a neuroscience theory, it is more complex and varied than explained here, but Azriel did well to simplify it in order to help the people at BABSEA CLE, and ultimately law students and CLE trainers, work with people more effectively." --

Sukrat Baber, BABSEA CLE Intern 2012, J.D. Candidate, 2014; Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and President, International Law Society

motivated him to assist individuals in other parts of the world, to explore ways to heal and grow.

As many of you know, our organization had been working with Azriel on a "Reading the Body" project, which focuses on training future lawyers how to effectively and compassionately work with clients in trauma by sensing their body energy.

From June-October this year, Azriel collaborated with our core team, interns and volunteers from around the globe, to develop interactive training curriculum that integrated this body-sensing method. The guidance and mentorship he provided to us can never be fully calculated and we are so grateful.



Azriel wearing friend Maggie Wilkins's glasses, while she wears his hat.

At a memorial service for Azriel in Chiang Mai, we were approached individually by a diverse group of local people who knew Azriel. Each one of them told us how excited Azriel was to be working with BABSEA CLE. They told us how he felt the work we were doing gave him a new sense of energy and direction. They expressed gratitude to us that was very unexpected but also very much appreciated. We explained to them that it is our intention to continue interjecting Azriel's work into the training materials we have been developing and ensuring that in this way he continues to live on.

We are sure that we speak for all who knew him in the BABSEA CLE community, in saying that we have really been blessed by having Azriel in our lives and we will miss him very much.

As Azriel would often sign off his communications to us, we would like to say to all of you, "**Shalom**".