

New centre provides legal education and consultation



Teachers from the faculty, Lao and international legal experts attend the centre's opening ceremony.

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Students interested in a legal education will have a facility for improving their skills on the subject, while poor people will also have more channels to access justice following the opening of the legal consultation centre at the National University of Laos.

The centre, named Clinical Legal Education (CLE), was opened on Saturday at the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Vientiane.

The CLE, which includes the In-House Consultation Clinic, gives students the opportunity to practice their knowledge with experienced

lawyers, while poor people who can't afford to hire a defence lawyer to deal with their cases can also receive free legal assistance from the centre.

"The experts will provide more than one solution for the disadvantaged people to choose from," an official explained.

In cooperation with the Lao Bar Association, Ministry of Justice, various international organisations, the Civil Society, and the Law and Political Science faculty, they have supported legal assistance since 2007 with two voluntary defence lawyers working for the centre.

The official said another focus of the centre is to build the voluntary spirit of students in

providing free legal assistance to disadvantaged people.

"After gaining experience and skills, we are confident that students will be employed as they graduate. That's why we named the centre Clinical Legal Education rather than legal consultation centre," he said.

At the opening ceremony, the faculty Dean Assoc Prof Viengvilay Thiengchanxay, said the opening was a good milestone for the faculty in developing legal education to a new standard and students could develop their knowledge and skills in practice, while opening a new channel for disadvantaged people to access justice.