



Laos Bar Assoc. Members Learn Interactive Teaching Methods

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO

The BABSEA Community Legal Education Initiative is founded upon the strong belief that no society can function, much less protect the rights of its citizens, without a working Rule of Law system. Throughout the world, marginalized groups and individuals yearn for access to justice, yet they often find themselves without the power or ability to obtain it. The result is a pervasive sense of injustice throughout societies of both the Global North and South, where a growing rift continues to divide those with financial and legal means and those without.

Thankfully, there are ways to address some of these problems and to expand access to justice and protection of basic rights for poor and marginalized communities. BABSEA CLE programs are one such way.



A Thai Law Professor Learns to Teach Interactively

To date, the BABSEA CLE Initiative has accomplished great success on a budget provided in large measure from individual financial and in-kind contributions from our members and supporters.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BABSEA CLE PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES

- BABSEA CLE Provides Technical, Administrative and Organizational Support in Establishing, Developing and Maintaining University-based and Community-based CLE Programs
- BABSEA CLE Conducts Grassroots Community and Training of Trainers Workshops Utilizing Interactive Community Legal Education Methodology
- BABSEA CLE Develops and Assists in the Development of Interactive Legal Curricula and Manuals for University Law Faculties, Community-based Legal Advisors/Paralegals, as well as Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations
- BABSEA CLE Coordinates and Hosts International Legal Studies Internships Programs. Participating Students May be Eligible for Course Credit
- BABSEA CLE Organizes and Facilitates CLE Student and Professor Exchanges and Trainings as well as CLE Exposure Visits
- BABSEA CLE Works to "Twin" Nascent or Pioneering University Clinics With Recognized and Established University Clinics
- BABSEA CLE Provides Training to Lawyers and Professors of Law to Assist in the Development of their Professional Ethics and Legal Skills

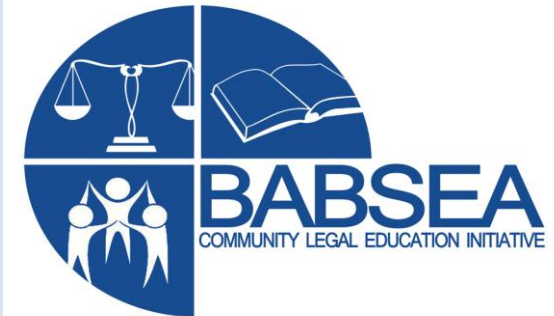
For more information or to inquire about how we can support your programs or if you would like to help with contributions (both financial and in-kind) please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative



Formed in 2003, Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE) is an international not for profit legal education organization working to improve access to justice in the Southeast Asia region and globally.

ABOUT US

BABSEA CLE builds bridges by raising awareness about the pressing issues faced by the communities we serve, by facilitating people-to-people exchanges, volunteer programs, creative programs and training activities that address the root causes of access to justice issues.

Since 2003, BABSEA CLE has been working collaboratively with universities, law students, law faculties, and organizational partners to develop and strengthen university-based **clinical legal education and community empowerment programs** throughout Southeast Asia. BABSEA CLE now supports and/or works with clinical legal education programs in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Singapore, and the Philippines. BABSEA CLE also has working partnerships with universities throughout the world including Australia, the USA, Canada, Britain, Russia, Poland and Hungary.



BABSEA CLE Director Bruce A. Lasky Teaching in a Cambodian Community



Vietnam CLE Students Painting a Mural at BABSEA CLE House



Malay CLE Student on Outreach in a Rural Tamil Community in Malaysia



Thailand CLE Students in the Chiang Mai Women's Prison



Legal Teaching by Vietnam CLE Students at Wildflower Women's Home

Clinical & Community Legal Education Programs

Over the course of just one year, CLE university-based clinics can serve hundreds of people from poor, disadvantaged, socially vulnerable and marginalized communities in which they work.

Law students go on a variety of community outreach programs, including local prisons, juvenile detention centers, drug rehabilitation clinics, community centers, and orphanages. There, they teach classes designed to help people understand and learn to use and maximize their legal rights. Areas of teaching may include: criminal law and procedure, family law, consumer protection law, land law, housing rights law, HIV/AIDs and the law, prisoners' rights, juvenile justice, employment, labor law, basic life skills, as well as many others.

Community Legal Advisor Support Program

BABSEA CLE works to develop interactive legal training curricula for the support of community-based legal advisors. The philosophy of clinical education is that people learn best by doing. This interactive, learner-centered approach focuses on providing learners with practical legal knowledge, skills, and teaching methodology techniques.

BABSEA CLE also aims to educate future lawyers in the spirit of social justice and public service to provide legal services to their respective communities. These legal advocates then go on to pursue an active role in advancing justice, democracy, and rule of law values.

International Legal Studies Program

To further BABSEA CLE's vision of providing positive regional and worldwide linkages for CLE programs, each year BABSEA CLE organizes and hosts an International Legal Studies Internship Program. During their internships, law students assist in the development of our interactive community legal training manuals.

The internship also offers a variety of opportunities in which interns are exposed to social justice issues. Past interns have contributed to legal analysis of draft laws, distributed relief supplies to recently evicted communities, farmed and taught at BABSEA CLE community development sites, in addition to directly participating in university based institutional clinical legal education program-building workshops.



A Canadian Legal Studies Intern Gives Mosquito Nets to an Evicted Cambodian Community