

PRESS RELEASE

18 Jan 2002

Teaching Law in Vietnam with Columbia & Harvard Law Schools

From the 4 to 14 January 2002, two faculty members from NUS's Faculty of Law teamed up with professors from Columbia University and the Harvard Law School, to teach an executive programme in Vietnam entitled "Legal Institutions for Economic Development". Participants were university law teachers, government officials and professionals from the banking industry, real estate, insurance and business.

The programme was designed to provide participants with a basic understanding of some of the core issues in the development of legal systems to support economic growth. It required an introduction to the dynamics of the economic underpinnings of Property and Contract law. Students were also taught Negotiation Techniques, the law relating to Corporations and the distinctions between civil and common law in these areas.

Faculty members from the US came from Columbia University (Professors Lance Liebman and Carol Liebman) and Harvard Law School (Professor Reinier Kraakman). NUS was represented by Associate Professors Lye Lin Heng and Gary Bell who taught Property and Contract law, and Comparative Law respectively.

Classes were conducted at the premises of the Fulbright Economics Teaching Program in Ho Chi Minh City, with the assistance of translators from the Ho Chi Minh City College of Law. There were 37 participants.

The programme is the start of a collaborative effort between NUS and Columbia/Harvard Law Schools. It was initiated by Mr Thomas Vallely, Director of the Harvard-Vietnam project, to assist Vietnam in its development.

The programme is also part of the NUS Faculty of Law's plan to establish Singapore as a hub for legal education in Asia.

For more information, please contact:

Associate Professor Lye Lin Heng
Faculty of Law
National University of Singapore
Tel:(65) 874 3583 / Fax:(65) 779 0979
E-mail: lawlyelh@nus.edu.sg

Associate Professor Gary Bell
Faculty of Law
National University of Singapore
Tel:(65) 874 3635 / Fax:(65) 779 0979
E-mail: lawbellg@nus.edu.sg

Ms Khoo Bee Hoon
Administrative Officer
Corporate Communications/Media
National University of Singapore
Tel: (65) 874 1526
E email: uprbh@nus.edu.sg