

IBJ's Singapore Hub... Two Productive Years Later

ASEAN and Laos Trainings Are Highlights

Since its inauguration in 2010, the Singapore Justice Training Centre, IBJ's first regional hub, has made remarkable strides. Housed at the Tanglin International Centre, the SJTC is a criti-

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Participants in criminal justice training for ASEAN countries hosted by IBJ and the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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As one of the first NGOs invited to work in Singapore under the government's International

Organizations Development Scheme, IBJ has developed partnerships with numerous private and public entities, including Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, academic institutions, and

law firms, to conduct trainings and other events. In 2011, IBJ partnered with Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to initiate the Singapore-International Bridges to Justice Joint Training Programme. This partnership, administered by the MFA's Singapore Cooperation Programme,

led to IBJ's inaugural criminal justice training for officials and lawyers from the countries comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in February 2011. In December 2011, the SJTC conducted a second training in Laos in partnership with the MFA. Several firms, including Allen & Overy and Clifford Chance, lent their support to both events. Notable local and foreign lawyers also shared their expertise. IBJ and the MFA are committed to partnering in future trainings in the ASEAN region.

Following the success of its first fundraising gala in 2010, the SJTC hosted its second gala in November 2012. Gracing the event as the guest of honor was Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indraneel Rajah. The gala was attended by 160 guests representing a cross-section of leaders in Singapore's legal, business, and philanthropic sectors who are committed to the rule of law.

At the gala, CEO Karen Tse spoke of IBJ's programs to ensure early

access to counsel and how countless individuals are affected by our JusticeMakers Fellows and staff on the ground. International Program Director Sanjewa Liyanage presented a video of one of IBJ's 2010 Asian JusticeMakers Fellows, H.M. Harshi Chitrangi Perera, who has successfully defended several female detainees in Sri Lanka's prison system.

At the end of 2012, Tse and SJTC Legal & Program Manager Clara Feng traveled to Myanmar to meet key partners and discuss cooperation strategies to implement a training program there. Myanmar lawyers were enthusiastic about working with IBJ and holding combined trainings for judges, prosecutors, police, and lawyers. With the creation of these links with organizations and individuals in Myanmar, the SJTC is ready to embark on a series of trainings for government officials and lawyers in 2013.

IBJ Conducts First-Ever Training for ASEAN Countries

In February 2011, IBJ and Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs collaborated to create the first-ever criminal justice training for the countries comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Hosted at the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, this

event gathered 18 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

As part of the interactive training methodology, participants were asked to give brief presentations highlighting current laws in their own countries upholding the rights of the ac-

cused, including early access to defense counsel. Experts from Singapore, elsewhere in Asia, and the United States introduced new methods of reviewing and analyzing evidence from a criminal case. Topics such as advocacy and negotiation skills complemented leadership development and criminal justice review.

Trainers included legal experts from Drew & Napier, Infinitus Law, Rodyk & Davidson, Bird & Bird, Eldan Law, and National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, and Rajah & Tann provided financial support for the training.

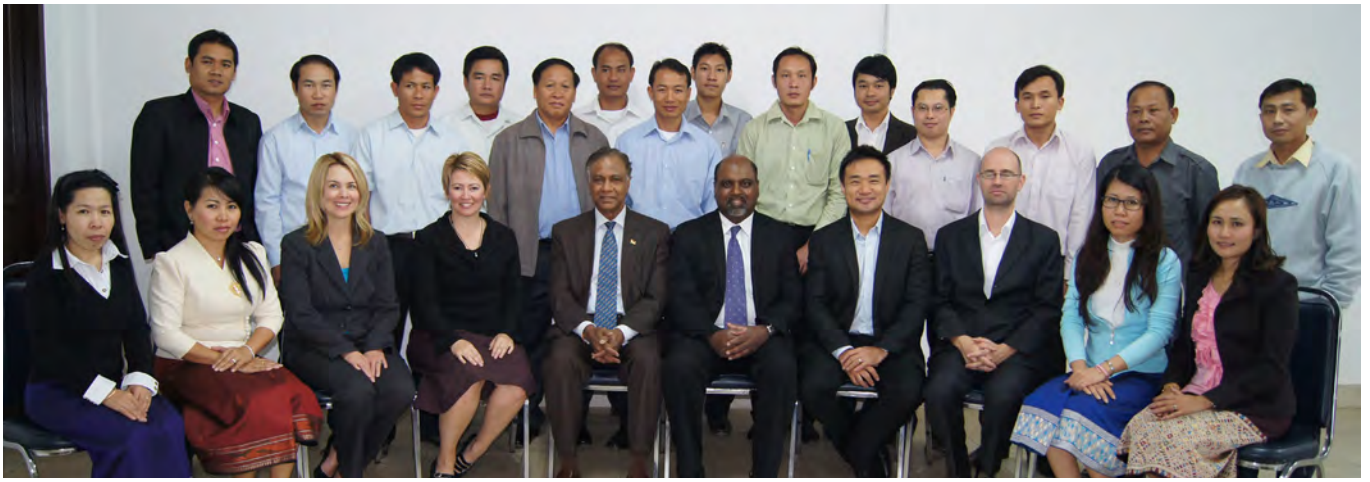


Photo courtesy of Ashley Miek



Photo courtesy of Ashley Miek

Participants engaging in interactive training sessions at the criminal justice training for ASEAN countries in Singapore



Singapore's Ambassador to Laos, Dileep Nair (front row, 5th from left), joining Laotian justice officials and IBJ trainers

IBJ Makes Its Debut in Laos

The Singapore Justice Training Centre conducted its first training outside Singapore in December 2011. The SJTC partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Singapore Cooperation Programme to lead a criminal justice standards and skills training in Laos' capital city, Vientiane. IBJ staff were joined by volunteer trainers Wendell Wong, a dispute resolution director of the law firm Drew & Napier in Singapore, and Larisa

Wakefield, an attorney and trainer from the public defender's office in Orange County, California in the United States

Officials from the Ministry of Public Security, the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor, the People's Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Defense, and the People's Appellate Court attended. The participants practiced various criminal justice procedures - from investiga-

tion to prosecution to adjudication - in multiple scenarios involving drug, economic, environmental, and human trafficking offenses. Judges from the Military, Supreme and Appellate courts were also present, as well as lawyers from firms inside the Ministry of Justice.

Designed to be highly interactive and intensive, the curriculum combined lectures, workshops, and small-group discussions. Topics included trial advocacy, criminal procedure and

criminal law, public speaking and oral presentation, negotiation, criminal justice trends, leadership development in criminal justice systems, and partnership building. Hypothetical case studies required participants to consider facts from the accused's perspective. The training emphasized advocacy and analytical skills in combination with law to best serve and uphold the rights of the accused.



Wendell Wong of the Law Society of Singapore leading a session at the 2011 IBJ/Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs joint training in Laos