

IBJ Opens First Regional Hub in Singapore

IBJ's first regional hub, the Singapore Justice Training Centre (SJTC), flourished during its inaugural year of operation. Program Manager Hilary Stauffer arrived in Singapore in January 2010, and she and her staff immediately began pursuing strategic partnerships essential to the venture's success.

oldest law practice); Subhas Anandan of Khattar Wong, the most prominent criminal defense attorney and pro bono advocate in Singapore; and Howard Hunter, then-President of Singapore Management University and former Dean of Emory Law School.

Soon after arriving, SJTC staff also met with their

large grant to support SJTC operations in Singapore for three years. IBJ's partnership with the Singapore government is complemented by its collaboration with the Law Society of Singapore and diplomats from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, all of whom have expressed interest in IBJ's innovative training model for Southeast Asia.

Understanding that partnering with law schools would be crucial to the success of IBJ's operations in Singapore, the SJTC established an internship program to accept law students from both Singapore Management University and National University of Singapore for short-term projects, helping to instill the value of pro bono work early in the students' legal careers.

In addition to working alongside government and educational stakeholders, the SJTC also moved to capitalize on connections in Singapore's private sector, collaborating with several renowned law firms in Singapore, including Khattar Wong, Shearman & Sterling, Clifford Chance, Latham & Watkins, and Drew & Napier, all of whom supported IBJ's Country and JusticeMakers Fellows summits, as well as our gala and auction in August.



IBJ Fellows Ouk Vandeth and Astère Muyango at the Fellows' Summit

One of their first initiatives was to meet with prominent members of Singapore's legal community to request their participation as judges for IBJ's 2010 Asia JusticeMakers competition. IBJ was delighted to secure the services of Philip Jeyaretnam, Managing Partner of Rodyk & Davidson (Singapore's

counterparts at Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB). IBJ was among the first wave of leading NGOs invited to operate in Singapore under the government's International Organizations Development Scheme. SJTC staff helped guide negotiations between EDB and IBJ headquarters, resulting in the award of a

“IBJ’s training in Singapore was really beneficial for me. I not only clarified my various concepts about human rights issues, but also learned techniques for successfully implementing my project. The training put me on a proper track to move ahead in improving the criminal justice system in my country. I am really thankful to IBJ for improving my leadership skills and giving me knowledge and international exposure.”

2010 JusticeMakers Fellow Muhammad Waqas Abid of Pakistan

IBJ Country and JusticeMakers Fellows Summits Held in Singapore

From August 8 to 17, IBJ held its Country Fellows and JusticeMakers Fellows summits to celebrate the opening of the Singapore Justice Training Centre.

Five Country Fellows and three staff attorneys from IBJ’s six country programs gathered for a week of training, team-building exercises, strategic planning, and fellowship. Training topics included case theory and issue identification, opening and closing statements, direct and cross-examination, and standards for defense practice.

To foster motivation and commitment, several team-building exercises and discussions were undertaken. Topics ranged from aspirations for criminal justice systems to the specific successes and challenges that each country program had encountered in the past year. Every Fellow aspired to

have a strong justice system that upheld the rule of law and provided early access to competent criminal counsel for indigent accused persons.

At a dinner at the home of Subhas Anandan, a renowned Singaporean criminal defense attorney and founder and first president of the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore, Country Fellows discussed the challenges they face with experienced criminal defense practitio-

ners. The next day, Subhas discussed his career and provided impromptu instruction in cross-examination that captivated his audience. Additionally, at an event hosted by the international law firm Latham and Watkins, prominent Singaporean attorneys met both Country Fellows and JusticeMakers Fellows and learned about IBJ’s work.

Eleven 2010 Asia JusticeMakers Fellows attended the JusticeMakers Summit. They presented

their projects, participated in discussion groups and team-building exercises, and attended lectures and training sessions. Training topics included local fundraising techniques, leadership and fostering motivation, and media relations. In an especially noteworthy session, the JusticeMakers Fellows spoke about current trends in the criminal justice systems of their countries and, specifically about the realities and challenges they regularly confront.



Left and above: Country and JusticeMakers Fellows at the Fellows’ Summit