

# Spring School 2022: Fundamental Rights and their impact on the Civil Law System

## I. Introduction

To the disappointment of all participants, this year's Spring School on the topic of Fundamental Rights and their Impact on the Civil Law System in Vietnam did not take place on site in Vietnam. Thus, we participants only had the opportunity to approach the event with joy and enthusiasm despite difficult conditions. This year's participants included students and lecturers from the University of Regensburg and the Georg-August University of Göttingen on the German side, in addition to the host HTW Berlin. On the Vietnamese side, students and lecturer from Hanoi Law University and Vietnam National University participated. The Spring School provides Vietnamese and German students with an opportunity to compare the legal systems of the two countries and gain insight into the legal action of current issues affecting both Germany and Vietnam.

## II. Day 1

After an informative briefing on the Vietnamese legal system and culture on March 11 by Axel Blaschke, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Hanoi, the actual event with presentations and subsequent discussions started on Monday, March 14. After the opening by Axel Blaschke and Prof. Dr. Jaensch the event started with a lecture on fundamental rights under the Vietnamese Civil Code 2015 by Nguyễn Minh Oanh from Hanoi Law University. Afterwards we continued with a lecture by Dr. Sina Fontana from Georg-August University of Göttingen about „Institutions and Terminology for the Protection of Fundamental rights“, which showed very well the differences to fundamental rights in Vietnam from the previous lecture. Now it was the turn of the students' presentations. On this day, presentations were given on the topics of „General right to freedom“, „Respect for private life“, „General principle of equality“ and finally „Freedom of arts and science“. After the formal part, the German participants visited the Don Xuan Center in Berlin Lichtenberg to get an idea of one of the traditional, famous Vietnamese markets and to experience authentic Vietnamese cuisine.

## III. Day 2

The 2nd day also continued directly with informative events. First, Prof. Dr. Alexander Tischbirek from University of Regensburg gave a lecture on „Human Rights and Fundamental Rights“. After further lectures by students of Vietnamese and German side about the topics of „Freedom of Opinion“ and „Freedom of Occupation“, a special surprise was waiting for us, which the Vietnamese students had prepared for us. It was a quiz that included questions about both Germany and Vietnam. Thus, we had the opportunity to learn new things about the other country in a playful way. Afterwards, Vietnamese and German students were released into break-out sessions where they could exchange ideas about everyday things. I was particularly surprised to learn that almost every student in Vietnam owns a scooter and that it is the most popular way of transportation to the university. After these social events, the day ended with presentations on the topics of „Legal Protection“ and Women's and Children's Rights“, held by the students. The German students rounded off the evening with a visit to a Vietnamese restaurant in Berlin Mitte followed by a visit to a bar.

## IV. Day 3

The last day of the Spring School started with a lecture by Prof. Dr. Jaensch about „The Radiation of Fundamental Rights into the Civil Law System“. We continued with the final student presentations on „Data Protection“, „LGBT Rights“, „Personality Rights“ and „Rights of Ethnic Minorities“. After the last round of discussion, Prof. Dr. Jaensch ended the Spring School with a closing speech before showing a video in which the Vietnamese students could be heard and seen. This video also gave us an impression of the localities of the university and the students there.

## V. Bottom Line

All in all it was a very informative day. The spring school offered the ideal opportunity to exchange ideas with students from other cultures about their legal systems and current political issues. I was also surprised at how well the process worked and how lively the discussions were, which is not always the case with an online event. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that everyone would have liked to meet our Vietnamese friends in Vietnam and get to know the country on site. But the great organization and the curiosity of the students made this event a memorable, instructive 3 days.

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