

## Report on the Summer School 2014 in Vietnam

The Summer School 2014 on "Human and Fundamental Rights and their Impact on the Civil Law System" was held from 24 July 2014 until 01 August 2013 in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay (Vietnam).

The Summer School is part of the Rule of Law Dialogue between Germany and Vietnam and was organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the German Law Centre at Hanoi Law University and the University of Applied Sciences Berlin (HTW). The financial support came from the FES, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the HTW Berlin. Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz and Prof. Dr. Michael Jaensch were responsible for the content of the courses and conducted the Summer School 2014. The organizational support has been provided by Ms. Thuy Nguyen Than and Ms. Juliane Schulz (both working for the FES) who took care of the participants during the Summer School.



On the first day of the Summer School the participants met at the FES in Hanoi where some information about the general political and economic situation in Vietnam was given to them by Erwin Schweisshelm (FES). By the following political sightseeing tour of Hanoi, the HTW students received an impression of the people, the cultural heritage and the traffic of this lively town. Later that day the first joint dinner was conducted where the students from HTW and the students from Hanoi Law University met each other for the first time. From the beginning, there was a warm and nice atmosphere between the students and therefore everyone enjoyed the evening and looked forward to the next days. All together, the first day was overwhelming and in addition to the hot and sticky weather, the first impressions were sometimes even "breath-taking".



The next day began with an official welcome and introduction at the Hanoi Law University where the students of HTW Berlin presented some general information about the system of law in



Germany and gained some knowledge about the Vietnamese legal system. After that, the whole group went to Ha Long City where the day ended with a joint dinner. Those joint meals were always a special pleasure since they offered an opportunity to get to know each other and to discover the taste of Vietnamese food.



In Ha Long City the schedule was rather tight. Prof. Dr. Schmitz and Prof. Dr. Jaensch held legal lectures related to the topic of the Summer School. They referred to the sources of Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, the Human Rights institutions of the UN as well as the way in which Human and Fundamental Rights have an impact on the Civil Law System. A special lecture on fundamental rights in the new Vietnamese constitution was held by Prof. Trần Ngọc Đình from Hanoi Law University. The students also had to prepare and hold presentations concerning different Human Rights for the Summer School. Despite the busy schedule the evenings provided many opportunities for the participants to build up international relationships and to find new friends.

The Summer School concluded with a Moot Court Competition. The students had to work on a case related to the Right to Privacy and the Right to Effective Remedy based on the judgment K.U. vs Finland of the European Court of Human Rights. The participants split into four different groups representing either the plaintiff or the respondent. They had to develop a legal strategy and a written memorial to convince the jury of their reasoning. The arguments were presented in front of the panel, Prof. Dr. Schmitz, Prof. Dr. Jaensch and Prof. Trần Ngọc Đình, and the audience. Although the time was rather short, all groups developed interesting legal arguments and explained their point of view vividly in front of the court. It was a great experience for all participants to argue with their antagonist and everyone expanded their knowledge and gained new skills.



On the last day, the students and professors enjoyed a final joint experience. On a boat cruise, all discovered the beautiful Ha Long Bay. It started with a tour amongst the islands and rocks,



followed by a visit to a beautiful beach and an inspection of a flowstone cave. In the end, a traditional lunch with fresh seafood from the bay was served on board. The day on the boat and the small islands gave everyone the

chance to bond and reminisce about the past week. It was a great close for a magnificent week and gave the international group another memory to treasure.

All together, the German participants of the Summer School 2014 had the opportunity to discover a part of Vietnam, its culture and its people. It was a great experience for everyone to have the chance to work with students from different backgrounds, to gain knowledge about a vast variety of different legal aspects, and to improve language skills. Due to the interesting discussions in class as well as during the breaks and due to nice evenings new friendships developed and everyone is happy to have been a part of this fantastic event.



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