STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC: DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS
Colombo, 28 May – 2 June 2018

SESSION 14: ONLINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE LAW RESOURCES

Presented by Nupur Chowdhury

Objective of this presentation

- Give you an overview of the methodologies which could be explored to incorporate technological resources within the classroom

- Introduce you to some environmental law and climate change resources

- Briefly discuss some of the challenges of adoption of technological tools

Technology Based Approaches

- Student demand for technology based approaches is increasing – need for increased flexibility

- Universities also consider online teaching as having considerable benefits – particularly economic

- Legal professional bodies are increasingly recognising digital literacy as a core competency

'Technological tools are no different than, for example, cars: Their value depends on what we do with them and why'

(Smith, C. T. (2002). Technology and legal education: negotiating the shoals of technocentrism, technophobia, and indifference.(Erasing Lines: Integrating the Law School Curriculum). *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors, 1*(1), 247-257, p. 247)

Technology Based Approaches (cont'd)

- Technology based approaches can include electronic resources as a teaching tool – e.g. support activities for face-to-face teaching (I WILL FOCUS ON THIS!)

- It can also refer to a whole-of-course pedagogical* approach – e.g. use of videoconferencing to deliver an entire course

*Pedagogy = the method and practice of teaching

Practice of Online Research

- Students increasingly undertake online research for both long assignments but also indulge in 'smart prep' before class

- Teachers also therefore are required to at least undertake online searches on the lecture topic as part of their preparation – so as not be caught off guard !!

- But instead of looking at this as a challenge for the teacher – this can itself be designed as a preparatory assignment for students before the class
  - Legislative developments (including parliamentary questions)+ policies + judicial rulings + developments in other jurisdictions + good academic articles on the subject

Nature of Online Legal Resources

- Academic Articles

- Case Law

- Current Affairs – ongoing disputes

- Recorded Lectures/Films

Incorporation of Online Resources

- Incorporating online resources just as supplementary readings – will be less useful – until linked to a practical assignment in class/ community activity.

- Watching a lecture/film in class – followed by a discussion

- Reading of an online article – followed by a reflection paper and class/tutorial discussion

- Moot Courts – Hypothetical disputes based fact situations drawn from multiple actual disputes

Online resources on Environmental law

- Resources – Lecture modules online
  - UGC e pathshala - http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/

- Lectures online
  - Coursera – yale courses
  - Ted talks on environment - https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=environment

- Academic resources
  - https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/
  - http://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/%EF%BF%BCenvironmental-conflicts/ (African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes)
  - https://enviroliteracy.org/
  - http://cse.ucpress.edu/ (Case Studies in the Environment)

Online resources on Climate Change

- Law and Climate Change Toolkit (UNEP and Commonwealth) - https://lcc.eaudeweb.ro/

- IUCNAEL – Climate Change Law teaching resources - http://www.iucnael.org/en/online-resources/climate-law-teaching-resources

- IPCC - http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm#.Ubc5Adhi1Nl

- WWF Global Climate Change News (http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/)

- Divecha Centre for Climate Change   http://dccc.iisc.ac.in/

- Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law - http://columbiaclimatelaw.com/

- Climate Change Litigation Database - http://climatecasechart.com/

- UN Research Database on Climate Change - http://research.un.org/en/climate-change

Challenges of adopting online tools

- May destabilize the teacher-student relationship (giver-receiver of knowledge)

- Multiplicity of sources of knowledge – not everything on the internet is verified/peer reviewed information – necessary to cultivate the research ethic of trusted source

- Plagiarism – continuing challenge

- Give back what you take – enrich the resource – so contribute to online resources