



Developing Environmental
Law Champions
Strengthening the Capacity For Environmental and
Climate Change Laws in Asia and the Pacific

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
LAW AND POLICY
REFORM PROGRAM



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National University of Management



UN
environment
programme

Environmental Law Pedagogy – Examples from Practice

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Student Internship Programs

- Enable students to develop problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Provide practical experience through working on real legal cases or real-life environmental issues with civil society organisations
- Develop ethical skills and judgment through engagement with “environmental justice” issues
- Contribute to the advancement of advocacy (legal/political) within a particular social and legal context



Student Internship Programs (cont.)

Activities undertaken during internships

- Preparation of sworn statements or affidavits
- Writing letters or submissions on behalf of clients on legal or policy issues
- Drafting written arguments for submission to courts



Student Internship Programs (cont.)

Activities undertaken during internships

- Representing clients in public hearings or court proceedings
- Conduct of environmental law seminars, paralegal trainings and community consultations
- Participation in field investigations organized by the CSO, a multisectoral group or inter-agency body
- Participation in public hearings called by government agencies



Student Internship Programs (cont.)

Law Internships in the Philippines

- Summer law interns are assigned with public interest law groups
- Law interns undergo a basic orientation seminar and immersion
- Some law interns who become lawyers work with public interest environmental law groups



Student Internship Programs (cont.)



Key Concerns

- Close supervision of interns by an experienced lawyer
- Agreement between the intern and the CSO
- Basic orientation seminar
- Evaluation of internship
- Funding for the internship activities

Student-led Seminars

- This activity seeks to enable students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of environmental law through their organization of seminars on specific environmental laws or topics
- Students are assigned specific laws or topics to discuss in class
- Students prepare PowerPoint presentations and reading materials
- Class discussions take place during the seminars

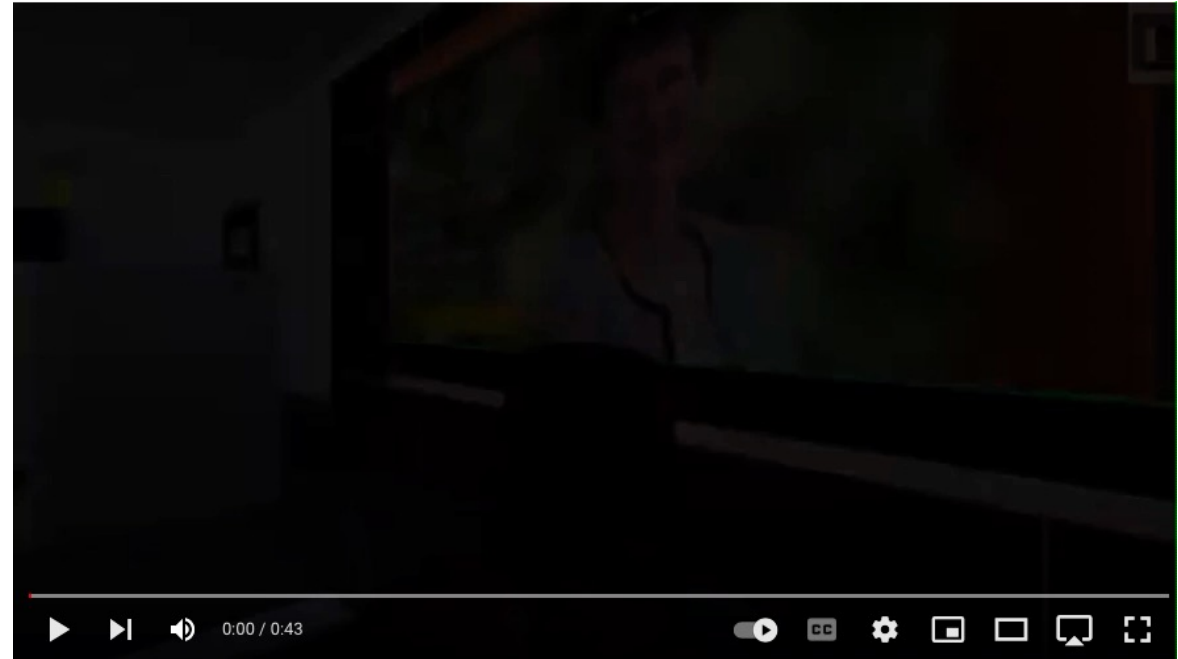


- Constructivist approach - students assume role of advocates and argue points of law before a 'bench' based on a hypothetical fact scenario
- Teaches court room formalities and procedure – can even replicate the whole court experience including witnesses and juries
- Great example of student-centred learning, but can involve considerable administrative coordination



Virtual Moots

- Can be used to replicate the in-person moot setting
- See, e.g. University of Southern Queensland's use of 'iSee' platform to run virtual moots - <https://iseevc.com.au/blogs/news/expand-your-capability-and-accessibility-with-virtual-infrastructure>
- Videoconferencing (e.g. Zoom) can also be used for mooting – takes some time and planning



Field Trips

- Recognized as one of the strongest teaching methodologies in environmental law as they expand the experience and understanding of environmental issues that are under consideration in the course
- Considerations around time, cost and other restrictions on travel



Virtual Field Trips

- Can augment face to face field trips or be 'stand alone'
- Handheld devices can be used, and students can 're-visit' the site
- More inclusive learning experience for students who cannot attend or who otherwise struggle with physical attendance
- You don't need high-tech platforms – GoogleEarth, and freely available video / drone footage from YouTube are useful





San Francisco

Oakland

Fremont

Santa Clara

San Jose

Los Gatos

Time Lapse Footage



Drone Footage



Virtual Field Trips – Useful Links



- The Nature Conservancy - <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/how-we-work/youth-engagement/nature-lab/virtual-field-trips/> - provides a range of virtual field trips
- Discovery Education - <https://www.discoveryeducationglobal.com/community/virtual-field-trips/>
- Google Maps Street View
- Google Earth Tour Guide - <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/google-earth-virtual-tours/> - some examples here or create your own