

**ASEAN Judicial Dialogue WEBINAR**

**Judicial Education and Training in the Time of Pandemic: Challenges and Lessons**

**Working Group on Judicial Education and Training (WG-JET)**

**Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ)**

**Country: Vietnam**

- 1) Please provide explanation on bodies that formally responsible for judicial training and education to the court (Ministry of Justice, other ministry, Supreme Court, Judicial Council, and so forth). Please elaborate if possible the organizational structure and its function in implementing judicial education and training program.

Pursuant to Decision No.1191/QD-TTg dated 30 July 2015 by the Prime Minister and Article 25 of Law on Organization of People's Courts 2014, Court Academy is the Training institutions of the Supreme People's Court. The structure of Vietnam Court Academy is as follows:

1.1. The Councils:

- a) Academic Council;
- b) Training and Scientific Council.

1.2. The Board of Directors:

- a) Director;
- b) Deputy Directors.

1.3. Faculties and Departments:

- a) Faculty of Graduate Education;
- b) Faculty of Postgraduate Education;
- c) Faculty of Judge Training;
- d) Faculty of Examiner and Court Clerk Training;
- dd) Quality Assurance and Testing Department;
- e) Student Management Department;
- f) Organization and Personnel Department;
- g) Finance Department;
- h) Scientific Research Department;
- g) Administrative Department;
- k) Library and Documentation Department.

- 3) Please provide information on judicial education training and program provided for judges and staff in your judiciary.

Judicial education programs for judges and court staff currently include: professional education programs and training programs:

1. The professional education programs include:

- Initial professional education program for judges;
- Professional education program for Court Clerk;
- Professional education program for Chief Court Clerk;
- Professional education program for Examiners;
- Professional education program for Chief Examiners;

2. The training programs include:

- Training program on knowledge and skills of leadership and state management at departmental level;
- Training program on knowledge and skills of leadership and state management at division level;
- Training program on adjudication in the fields of criminal, civil, administrative, business, commercial, marriage and family;
- Professional training program for People's assessor;
- Training program for court's mediators;
- Training program in accounting and finance
- Other programs according to tasks assigned by the Supreme People's Court

The Court Academy also provide a Bachelor of Laws program for effective judicial personnel systems.

- 4) Please provide explanation of themes and methods of training prioritized by your judiciary, especially during the pandemic.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the education and training programs of the Court Academy are organized as follows:

- Initial professional education program for judges: offline, at the campus of Court Academy's headquarters in which strict epidemic prevention measures are applied.
- Bachelor of Laws program: online, via several platforms.
- Training program for judges: online, following the online training program conducted by the Supreme People's Court.
- Training program for People's assessors: offline for localities without social distancing and online for those applying social distancing measures.

- Training program for court's mediators: online.
- Other training programs: postponed. In case of long-term social distancing, such programs might be conducted online.

5) Please provide explanation on the experiences of your judiciary in implementing judicial training and program in the time of pandemic. Please elaborate on the changes that you incorporated and the effects to the implementation of judicial education and training in your judiciary.

Since 2016, Vietnamese judiciary has deployed the video-conferencing to serve management and professional activities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the use of video-conferencing was fully exploited in organizing training activities and answering professional questions for all court employees. The Court Academy cooperates with the General Affairs Department to implement video-conferencing when in need.

In addition, Vietnam Information and Technology sector has developed rapidly, equivalent to several hi-tech countries, leading to the fact that short (within 30 days) education and training activities can be conducted online. The Court Academy is also trying our best to publish detailed professional manuals for court employees to better perform their duties.

6) Please provide ideas or innovations that your judiciary is currently implemented or will be implemented in the future in conducting training during pandemic and beyond.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has taken place in all aspects of life; therefore, education and training sector should also take advantage of such revolution into its activities.

Currently, the Court Academy has been applying both online and offline education and training methods (depending on each program as well as each locality) to ensure the safety and quality.

The Supreme People's Court is in phase one of developing a virtual assistant which aims at systematizing legal documents within the court's jurisdiction and answering professional questions to support judges and court staff in daily tasks. The following phases will focus on performance improvement towards the purpose of establishing e-courts.

The Academy is also working on building a smart university model which includes smart training and fostering programs; digital materials; smart classrooms; digital evidence collection; virtual courts; and smart management and training software.

7) Please provide explanation of what are the lessons learned of conducting judicial education in the time of pandemic and beyond.

Judicial training lessons before and after the pandemic:

- Judicial training is the responsibility of the entire judiciary headed by Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court and experts within the system; making training content and objectives linked to court's duties; and using collective strength to serve the training and educating purpose according to the motto "all for training and educating, everyone can participate in and benefit the results of training and educating";
- Sharing, propagating and managing the professional information system from the Supreme People's Court to each judge and court staff to help them be aware of their duties;
- Designing the training program suitable to practical needs of court employees' competence improvement and work requirements that they follow (their position);
- Finding and selecting within the court system or outsourcing lectures for the best experts for sharing experiences. That lecturers work in different local courts has enabled them to support each other when localities are affected differently from the pandemic. Forming working groups for each field of law with participation of lecturers from different localities with an aim of having various approaches to the same topic and taking turn in conducting training and education activities;
- Preparing detailed professional documents so that readers can apply them immediately without being too dependent on the short-term training program that they have attended;
- Developing a virtual assistant software with an IP expert group to solve problems occurring during the execution of official duties;
- Implementing training and education activities flexibly depending on the national and local COVID-19 pandemic situation, with the help of both online and offline methods;
- Maximizing the application and conducting research one step ahead in information and technology in order to continuously improve the quality of professional training and development.
- Fostering lecturers' knowledge and skills in using technology to better serve training and educating activities.