

PBG SCOOP

AY2018/2019 ISSUE

Featuring our 8 long-term projects making waves in the industry and community

Check out our first cross-border collaboration in Bandung, Indonesia and third installation of Thai-ed with Love!

To express our gratitude for the hard work and contributions from all our members



NUS PRO BONO GROUP
To inform. To involve. To inspire.

**NUS Law
Pro Bono Group**

Designed by: Thomas Lee (Communications Director)

Edited by: Choo Qian Ke (President)

President's Address

Dear PBG,

We are fast approaching the end of the Academic Year 2018/2019, and it sure has been a hectic, eventful and immensely meaningful year for the NUS Law Pro Bono Group. Building on the strong foundation painstakingly laid down by previous batches of PBG leaders, we have reinforced PBG's long-standing impact and expanded PBG's reach by extending existing partnerships, rekindling past connections, and treading new territories to forge new collaborations.

Being dedicated to PBG's age-old commitment to inform, involve and inspire, we have primarily adopted a two-pronged strategic approach: (1) to provide as many immersive opportunities as possible for our members to engage in pro bono work, develop their legal skills in real-life contexts and create real positive impact in society as law students; and (2) to advocate for the cause of pro bono by enlightening others on the value and purpose of pro bono and sharing PBG's student-led pro bono projects, thought leadership and expertise.

In this Academic Year, PBG has planned, implemented, managed and administered a myriad of pro bono projects both domestically and internationally.



Through different modes of execution such as community legal education workshops, on-site attachments, physical outreach sessions as well as research, writing and editing work, our members have served a wide spectrum of beneficiaries ranging from migrant workers, youths-at-risk to litigants-in-person, sex workers, charities and voluntary welfare organisations. Besides our long-term pro bono projects, PBG has also undertaken a range of ad-hoc pro bono opportunities through valuable collaborations with our long-term partners such as the Law Society Pro Bono Services, exposing our members to even more varied forms of pro bono work such as lasting power of attorney applications and law awareness talks.

Within a span of less than 6 months, PBG has also executed 2 cross-border collaborative pro bono projects with our partners in Indonesia and Thailand, through which members had the chance to share with our international counterparts the pro bono work and undertakings by PBG and to collaborate in conceptualising and delivering legal presentations based on the law in the respective foreign jurisdictions to empower youths and migrant workers with legal knowledge and their legal rights. PBG also had the opportunity to join the NUS Law's Centre for Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education on another cross-border pro bono collaboration, which involved teaching of pro bono skills, on-the-ground community needs identification and ideas incubation for pro bono projects. At the Asia Pro Bono Conference 2018 held in Hong Kong, PBG also had the honour and privilege of sharing our pro bono commitments with international delegates ranging from legal practitioners to law students.

The range of events organised by PBG this AY include Club Cohesion that incorporated a community engagement segment involving all participants in tie-dyeing and designing shirts that were eventually gifted to our migrant worker beneficiaries, our nationwide Pro Bono Awareness Week, and the NUS Law-WongPartnership LegalTech Competition co-organised with the interest group, Alt+Law. To impart practical and professional skills to our members, we also managed to engage the Centre for Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education's kind assistance in specially curating and conducting pro bono preparatory workshops for our Year 1 members in Semester 1. Do look out for the inaugural regional Law Students' Pro Bono Conference that PBG will be co-organising with ALSA Singapore in July 2019!

In closing, I would like to thank YOU for being a supportive and committed member of PBG. It has been my pleasure in leading and serving you. Our term may be coming to an end, but the experiences and insights that you have reaped are perennial. Do continue to play a part in enhancing access to justice in our society for it is our professional responsibility to assist, and pro bono is the way to go.

Choo Qian Ke

**President, AY2018/2019
NUS Law Pro Bono Group**

BANDUNG TRIP



From Monday 23 July to Saturday 28 July 2018, NUS PBG sent a team to embark on an international trip to Bandung, Indonesia where we worked with faculty members and law undergraduates from Universitas Pasundan (UNPAS) on a cross-border street law project.



To kickstart preparations for the execution of the street law pro bono project, NUS PBG and UNPAS CLE students attended a comprehensive and insightful Street Law tutorials conducted by the team of UNPAS CLE lecturers and supervisors. One of the key learning objectives was to master different interactive teaching methods that could be employed in clinical legal education, which would come in handy for preparing lesson plans for the

community legal education workshops to be conducted for our beneficiaries. Planning, conceptualisation and formulation of the comprehensive lesson plans was done through group discussions and presentations to reinforce the learning points and highlight the essence of the concepts mastered from the Street Law tutorials.

BANDUNG TRIP



NUS PBG further paid a visit to Bandung Legal Aid to learn about the structure, policy and undertakings of the Indonesian Legal Aid Association. We are especially inspired by their devotion to civil rights cases and commitment to an uphill battle in defending human rights despite structural socio-political problems. We then shared about Singapore's Legal Aid Bureau and our Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme as well as the extensive range of pro bono projects and initiatives of PBG. Altogether, it was a fruitful sharing and learning experience for both parties.



Back at Pasundan University, it was time to consolidate the concepts and principles that we've learnt from the Street Law Tutorials. Each group took turns to present and pitch their legal issue and lesson plan to the entire class before each proposal was put to a vote. The proposal with the highest number of votes would be the one adopted by the entire class to execute for the Street Law Programme. After the verdict was

out, the group that amassed the highest number of votes led the entire class in discussions to refine the group's lesson plan before dividing the class into smaller groups and assigning one lesson plan activity for each group to work on. Together, we worked to consolidate the finalised lesson plan, paying attention to both the big picture and the minute details by considering learning outcomes for the students, content coverage, modes of delivery and the simplification of legal jargon.

BANDUNG TRIP



The trip culminated in a one-day Street Law lesson on the topic of gang fight conducted for the high school students at "27 Senior High School". Videos, case studies, role-plays and quizzes were amongst the interactive methods used to illustrate and analogies the key teaching concepts and legislation to the senior high school students.



BANDUNG TRIP



The entire trip was a true embodiment of the spirit of teamwork as evidenced by the intensive degree of interactions and collaborations between the Singaporean and Indonesian law students as well as the assimilation from both sides when engaging in activities. Our experience with UNPAS CLE have taught us the real need to increase access to justice in our society, and to recognize the real impact that pro bono work can achieve. Besides having a renewed will to make a difference to our pro bono beneficiaries, we are further equipped with better techniques to carry out our responsibilities. On this note, we would like to thank UNPAS CLE for their wisdom and immense hospitality in accommodating us during our stay at Bandung. Until we meet again!

PRO BONO AWARENESS WEEK 2018



From Monday 8 October to Sunday 14 October, PBG executed a weeklong nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the pro bono landscape in Singapore. Over the course of 1 week, PBG held a 5-day pro bono exhibition, 3 thematic panel discussions, and 1 learning journey.



Featuring Parliamentary Secretary Amrin Amin



Featuring Mr Josephus Tan, Lawyer from Invictus Law Corporation

DAY 2

9th OCTOBER - Our first panel discussion of the week "Youths-at-Risk: Troubled No More" was graced by Senior Parliamentary Secretary Amrin Amin (pictured above) and Mr Josephus Tan, Lawyer from Invictus Law Corporation (pictured below). Our esteemed panelists enlightened our participants with their earnest opinions and heart-wrenching anecdotes while exposing the hard truths and realities concerning the issue of youths-at-risk in our society.

DAY 3

10th OCTOBER - Our second panel discussion of the week, titled "Stripping It Down: Sex Workers and Their Rights", featured an extremely passionate panel consisting of Ms. Vanessa Ho (Director of Project X), Ms Nadia Yeo (Assistant Chief Counsel of Infocomm Media Development Authority), and Mr Avin Tan (Manager, Advocacy & Partnerships, Action for AIDS). We were profoundly motivated by our panelists' conviction and commitment. It was an eye-opening experience for our audience to learn about their experience of enhancing access to justice in our society!



Featured from right: Mr Avin Tan, Ms Nadia Yeo, Ms Vanessa Ho, PBG Vice-President Caleb Tan



Inquisitive hands from the audience!

DAY 4

11th OCTOBER - We concluded our series with the final panel discussion themed "Migrants Matter". Invited panelists included Mr Toh Joo Seng (Assistant Director in the MOM), Mr Luke Tan (Operations Manager for HOME), and Ms Desiree Leong (Legal Consultant for HOME). Delving into the relevant legislation and high-profile court cases, our panelists enlightened us with the most recent developments on legal issues surrounding migrant workers. We are thankful for their enthusiasm in resolving migrant matters, and setting such a stellar example for us all!



Interactive Session after the Panel Discussion with our Panelists!

WEEKEND RETREAT

Over the weekend, as our concluding activity for PBAW 2018, we held our learning journey, the "Geylang Trial", in collaboration with Geylang Adventures, a social enterprise that focuses on migrant worker issues amongst others.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of hosting 2 SMU Law students and 1 other participant in joining us on this mini local expedition.



Group Shot of PBG participants in the learning journey, "The Geylang Trial"!



A short break from hours of exploring

We dedicate our learning to Mr. Cai Yinzhou, founder of Geylang Adventures and our tour guide for that night, for leading our explorations and discussions, and grounding our learning in historical incidents, current affairs as well as legal and social science concepts. In order to champion pro bono and social causes, we must always remember to take a closer look at a different strata of our own society!

During the process, we manoeuvred through back alleys and the entire stretch of an even-numbered Lorong from start to end. Then, we witnessed first-hand the notorious sex trade as well as the blatant sale of contraband items such as sex drugs. By exploring stories of the people occupying these spaces, we examined the living community and the demographics of the people in Geylang.



~ A summary of our passion in organizing Pro Bono Awareness Week

UNIVERSITY COURT FRIENDS

University Court Friends (UCF) is a collaborative project between the NUS Pro Bono Group and the State Courts Community Justice Centre. UCF has a twin focus of exposing NUS Law students to the workings of the State Courts and granting them the opportunity to be of service to litigants-in person seeking assistance at the State Courts and Family Justice Courts.



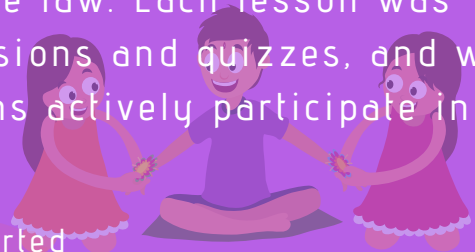
Featuring UCF Appreciation Dinner at State Courts (above)

Over the past academic year, student volunteers under the UCF program were assigned to different divisions within the State Courts structure. Each division offers unique experiences for the student volunteers in the areas of interacting with litigants-in-person and watching firsthand the work that different State Court staff members undertake. Students who were attached to the Family Division, for instance, got a chance to assist with litigants-in-person and sit in Family Court Hearings. While this was a heart-wrenching experience in witnessing families being torn apart by divorce, the biggest takeaway for some students was their opportunity to interact with some of these litigants-in-person, providing emotional support by giving them a listening ear.

UCF endeavors tirelessly throughout the year to give the best experience to student volunteers through opening up opportunities for the volunteers to assist both State Courts staff as well as litigants-in-person, and it is with service and exposure in mind that UCF continues to strive for greater excellence.

Ben Ho
Ryan Wong

LEAP conducts legal awareness sessions with youths-at-risk at our partner organisations with the aim of informing these youths about their rights and responsibilities under the law. Each lesson was conducted with skits, small group discussions and quizzes, and we are incredibly heartened to see the youths actively participate in our sessions.



MAY 2018 -> LEAP kickstarted its cycle with a new beneficiary, MWS Girls' Residences. That month, LEAP conducted 3 sessions covering topics such as substance abuse, outrage of modesty and illegal gambling.



Project LEAP Summer'18

JUNE to AUG 2018 -> LEAP conducted 10 sessions at Thye Hua Kwan Bukit Panjang Family Service Centre. Looking at current trends, we introduced the topics of assault and piracy. It was heartening to see how some youths stepped up to conduct parts of the sessions to their peers!

and Sem 1 Recap

SEP to OCT 2018 -> LEAP returned to conduct another 4 sessions at MWS Girl's Residences. A further 2 sessions was conducted at Singapore Boys' Home, covering the topics of illegal gambling and cyberbullying.

LEAP is extremely grateful to our partner organizations for recognizing the importance of raising awareness about pertinent legal issues, and for their continued partnership with us. We also greatly appreciate the generosity of our partners. We are further thankful to be awarded the NUS Law Class of 2017 Pro Bono Award, allowing us to purchase for our beneficiaries copies of the book 'Teens and the Law', of which PBG is the co-writer/drafter in collaboration with the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers.

Lay Chang Yao, Kim Haeyoung, Charmaine Chua

STUDENTS FOR MIGRANTS

LAW AND YOU

By Michael Ang, Melissa Heng & Ng Wei Qi

Law & You was introduced in 2014 with the aim to make relevant law accessible to foreign domestic workers (“FDWs”) through legal education workshops. Our members research on relevant areas of employment, contract and criminal law to prepare for, and ultimately conduct workshops at our partner organisations. Issues being raised range from physical and mental well-being, to criminal behaviour and negotiation skills.

This year, following changes to the Moneylenders Act, we introduced a segment to educate FDWs on responsible moneylending. Additionally, a segment to raise awareness of online scams was added to address the growing number of scams in Singapore.

Through such initiatives, members are exposed to the legal issues faced by FDWs and how such issues can be better addressed in our workshops.



BOB

By Elysia Lim & Lim Sze Yuan



Project Building of Bridges (BOB) remains diligent in working with migrant workers that primarily work within the construction industry.

For the first time in PBG's history, Project BOB organised its first workshop in October where members got a chance to present to the Migrant Workers' Centre Grassroots Ambassadors. Through skits and interactive quizzes, our members educated them on salary matters and the Work Injury Compensation Act, to prepare these ambassadors in turn to mentor other Migrants on their legal rights.

We would like to thank our members for their hard work this past Academic Year!



LEGAL CLINICS

In Semester 1 of A418/19, the Legal Clinics Project continued its work of maintaining strong relationships with its various partner organizations and fostering a strong culture of volunteerism amongst its student volunteers. Our fundamental aim was to continue the great work done by previous batches of project directors who had laid a strong foundation for the project. Hence, we realized that any required changes would not need to be major but instead, small and significant. Consequently, from an internal perspective, we prioritized fostering a strong team dynamic to ensure maximum efficiency. A salient change was the introduction of a common calendar system to better track the various clinics and volunteer allocations – this has proved instrumental in ensuring a steady stream of volunteers for our various partner clinics. From an external perspective, we worked on collecting more feedback from our volunteers and partner organizations. The intent of this was to ensure that we were getting various perspectives on the Project so that we could make any changes in a timely fashion. Holistically, the first semester was a successful one, and we are glad to see that our project has continued to improve and grow in the second semester.

Dion Chan, Abigail Fernandez, Sabrina Chau

SYRIA COURT FRIENDS

Naomi Koh,
Samantha Ang

The Syariah Court Friends programme is a collaboration between NUS Law and the Syariah Court. Students help with court processes and assist litigants in person through proceedings. We are also writing a forthcoming book on Syariah law in Singapore targeted at social workers, the second in an ongoing series with the first titled "Navigating Muslim Law in Singapore".

The Project X (Legal Research) team is dedicated to becoming a beacon of justice for the sex worker community in Singapore. Under the guidance of experienced lawyers, we assist sex workers with basic legal issues by hosting educational workshops. In Semester 2, our students have also participated in a physical outreach program to develop ways to support the community.

PROJECT 'X'

Chrystal Ng

PROJECT LAW HELP

Lim Su Lyn
Victoria Lynn Chin

Project Law Help works with the Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) to simplify and develop legal material for a variety of legal structures and legal problems. In December 2018, members went on full day attachments to All Saints Home and Fei Yue Family Services Centre to find out more about problems social workers face and how we can best raise awareness amongst them. In this Academic Year thus far, we have also been engaging with LSPBS to develop a brochure, edit their publication - Legalese, and produce our own project's Social Worker's Toolkit.

The MPP got off to a great start with its annual Symposium in September 2018, where NUS student-mentors shared their legal insights with dozens of curious secondary school students. The student-mentors will be embarking on a range of workshops and discussions with their teams over the next few months, a process which will culminate in the August 2019 moot parliament debates.

MOOT PARLIAMENT PROGRAMME

Ong Kye Jing

Thai-ed with Love 2019



NUS PBG and TU PBS members taking a commemorative group photo with the Burmese migrant workers after successful completion of the final legal presentations

From Saturday, 5 January 2019 to Sunday, 13 January 2019, 12 members from the NUS Law Pro Bono Group (PBG) embarked on Thai-ed with Love 2019, a cross-border pro bono project in collaboration with Thammasat University Pro Bono Society (PBS) and Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF). Linklaters (Thailand) Ltd. provided financial support for the implementation and execution of this cross-border collaborative pro bono project. We are pleased to have achieved our intended objectives of this project – to collaborate with Thai law students in increasing legal awareness and empowering legal rights amongst Burmese migrant workers in Thailand; and to share PBG’s experience, expertise and thought leadership with TU PBS for their capacity-building and development of long-term pro bono projects.

Thai-ed with Love 2019

On the first day, Thai-ed with Love 2019 participants went down to the industrial district of Maha Chai to interview and interact with the Burmese migrant workers at HRDF. The first-hand interactions and insight reaped from the interviews allowed participants to understand the profile of this group of beneficiaries and identify relevant and pertinent legal issues for the purposes of the legal presentations.



Thai-ed with Love 2019

Participants then spent an entire week undergoing discussions and conducting extensive legal research on the selected topics, supplemented by a range of lectures covering the migrant worker issue in Thailand, Thai Labour Law as well as legal research methodology in civil law jurisdictions that were conducted by NGO representatives, lawyers and law professors.

Mr. Akaraporn Kulvijit, a lawyer from Thailand's leading law firm, Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners Ltd, conducted a lecture on common labour disputes in Thailand. He highlighted the different scenarios for termination of employment with or without causes, and examined in detail sections of the Thai Labour Protection Act, which stipulate the grounds on which an employer may suspend an employee from work with partial payment as well as workers' rights in unfair termination cases. TWL2019 participants gained valuable insights into Thai Labour Law as well as employment law litigation and dispute resolution from Mr. Kulvijit's lecture.



Three representatives from the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF) gave a comprehensive overview of labour migration as well as an eye-opening sharing on the common problems migrant workers encounter in Thailand through a three-part presentation followed by a panel discussion. Issues such as salary claims, wrongful dismissal, debt bondage, convoluted identification and documentation requirements, human trafficking as well as fragmented and unpredictable legislation were brought to our attention.

Thai-ed with Love 2019

As NUS PBG members undergo legal education and training in a common law jurisdiction and may not be as familiar with the methodology of legal research in civil law jurisdictions, TU PBS invited Dr. Lasse Schuldt, Lecturer at Thammasat University, to conduct a crash course on civil law research and civil legal methodology. Dr. Lasse presented on the historical origins of Thailand's civil law system, defining characteristics of the civil law tradition, definition of legal terms as well as a comparison of the history, legal institutions, sources of law, ideology and mode of legal thinking between civil and common law jurisdictions.



Through a detailed and informative sharing by representatives from the TU Law Centre, NUS PBG members learnt about the mission, goals and undertakings of the Centre, and had the honour to listen to a few particularly interesting cases that they have provided legal advice and court representation for.

Thai-ed with Love 2019



Besides having a school tour around the beautiful and historical Thammasat University Tha Phra Chan campus, NUS PBG and TU PBS participants also visited the Klong Toey Slum populated with a sizeable migrant worker community to gain deeper insight into the living conditions and problems faced by migrant workers in Thailand.

At the headquarters of the Foundation for Slum Child (FSCC) that was located at the Klong Toey Slum itself and established to provide subsidised child care services for the slum children, TWL2019 participants engaged in a fruitful discussion with the staff, delving into topics ranging from drug abuse, teenage pregnancy to identification and documentation of the slum children as well as prospects of further development and higher education for these slum children.



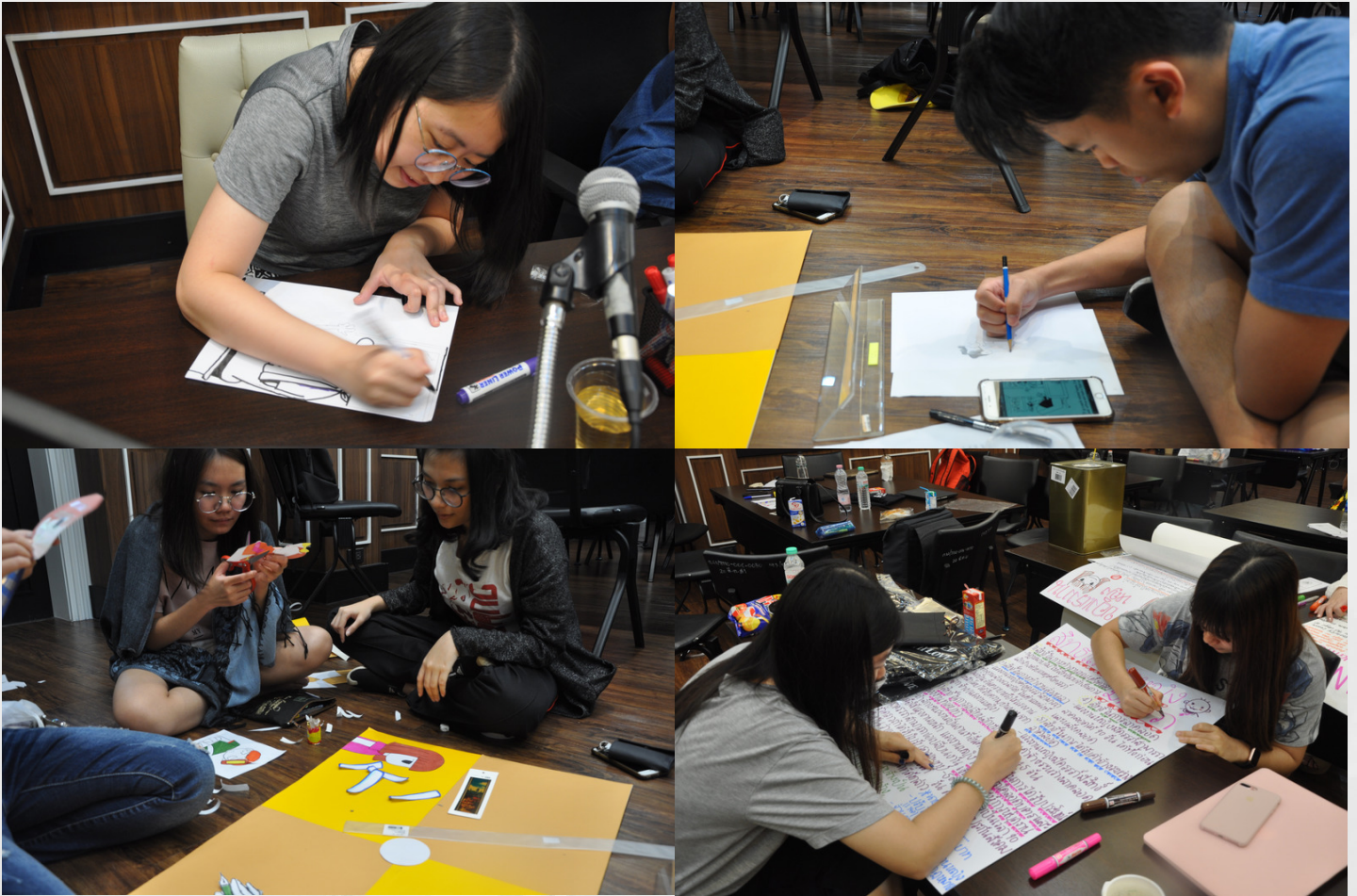
Thai-ed with Love 2019

Impressed by the work and commitment of the FSCC, and understanding that the Foundation depends entirely on donations and has been experiencing insufficient funding in recent years, NUS PBG members made a joint donation of 7700 baht, which is around SGD 330, to the Foundation.



On the last day, participants returned to the HRDF branch at Maha Chai District to conduct the final legal presentations for the Burmese migrant workers. NUS PBG and TU PBS participants prepared three rounds of legal presentations, covering a range of legal topics such as contractual rights, women's rights, workplace injury compensation and negotiation techniques. Burmese translators were present to help facilitate communications between the participants and the Burmese migrant workers. In a bid to enhance the migrant workers' understanding of the contents communicated in the legal presentations, participants have created posters, pamphlets and visual aids to supplement the verbal delivery during the course of each of the three presentations.

Thai-ed with Love 2019



The mission of the participants was to increase the Burmese migrant workers' access to justice by educating them on essential legal knowledge and empowering them with their legal rights. The participants were truly heartened to see the migrant workers listening attentively, taking notes, taking photographs of the visual aids, and keeping the information brochures prepared by the participants. Participants also prepared softcopy pamphlets and brochures, which were sent to the Human Rights and Development Foundation and of which they would seek assistance from translators to translate into Burmese before disseminating to more Burmese migrant workers.

Thai-ed with Love 2019



Thai-ed with Love 2019



Strong friendships have been forged between the NUS PBG and TU PBS students. Valuable pro bono skills were gained through the collaboration in preparing and executing legal presentations for the Burmese migrant workers in Thailand. Experience and expertise were also shared by the NUS PBG members with the TU PBS students to develop their club and upscale the student-led pro bono movement in TU. It was a meaningful and enriching pro bono experience for both the NUS Law PBG and TU Law PBS students. We look forward to sustaining this strong partnership and implementing future editions of Thai-ed with Love!





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