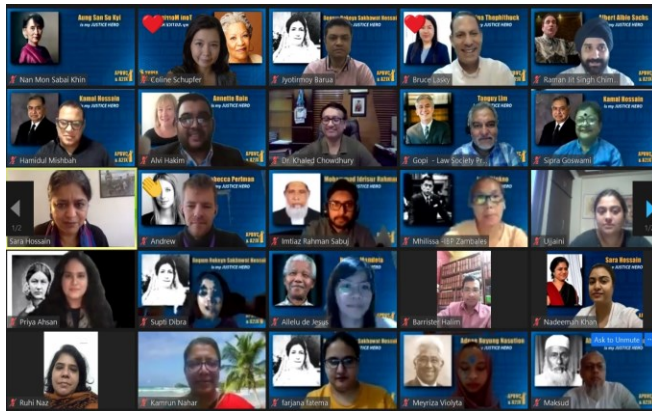


2020 Asia Pro Bono Virtual Conference and Access to Justice Exchange Report



The Inaugural APBVC and Access to Justice Exchange were held online (24 – 28 September 2020) with the theme: PRO BONO IN A TRANSITIONING ENVIRONMENT. There were **990 registrants** from **41 countries** across the world including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, State of Israel, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, State of Palestine, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, and Vietnam attended the sessions through 24-28 September 2020. It was also live streamed on Facebook page and reached **212,859 audiences**.



There were **45 sessions** and presented by **173 presenters** from numerous countries, namely, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, and Vietnam.

The event provided a platform to discuss justice issues resulting from the pandemic. The sessions focused on many pro bono and access to justice issues. The sessions included:

- Comparative Connections: Building Cross-Border Alliances Across Non-Convention Countries Towards Stronger Protections for Refugees and Stateless Populations
- The Transitioning Environment of In-House Counsel Pro Bono
- Ethical Business Practices in Times of Pandemic – Exploring Gold Standards of Engagement
- Leveraging IT and Online Pro Bono Services in a Transitioning Environment
- Fundamentals of Pro Bono
- Responding to the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls in Bangladesh’s Rohingya Camp
- Transitioning to Provide and Expand Legal Services Remotely, Including Pro Bono
- Pro Bono Student Empowerment in a Post-Pandemic World

- Networking for Access to Justice on Business and Human Rights
- Climate Apartheid, Corona Pandemic, Poverty; The Legal Community's Mission in Dealing With These Phenomena
- Environmental/Climate Justice and Pro Bono Support
- Content Management for Justice Sector Organizations
- Human Rights, SDGs and COVID-19: A Truly Testing Tryst
- Cyber Law and the Right to Communicate During a Pandemic
- Us vs. Them: Challenging Practices of 'Othering' Through Solidarity and South-South Alliances
- COVID-19 in Defence for Inclusion: Securing Access to Health and Healthcare for Rohingya Communities in Bangladesh
- Mobilizing the Asian Legal Community to Protect and Find Solutions for Refugees and Others Forcibly Displaced
- Inspiring Pro Bono Through Film, Television, Music and Social Media
- Adaptation and Collaboration: Grassroots Justice Work in the Pandemic
- Adapting and Responding to Rights Violations in a Transitioning Environment: Pro Bono Interventions to Address the Shadow Pandemic
- Mobilizing Key Actors within Bar Associations in the Region to Lay the Groundwork for 'Asian Bar Associations Human Rights Network'
- Access to Justice Through Automated Court Documents
- Development Tools for Strategic Pro Bono
- Conscious Pro Bono
- Access to Justice during Covid19: Challenges and Innovations in Bangladesh
- Community Building and Empowerment: Keeping Street Law Interactive in a Virtual World
- Bar Associations and Pro Bono: Roles, Responsibilities and Opportunities
- How to Set up a Community Legal Needs Survey
- Justice/Clinical Legal Education and Pro Bono
- In Pursuit of Gender Equality in Access to Justice: Peer Paralegals for Women Facing Drug Charges
- Holistically Strengthening and Expanding Pro Bono in Laos
- Localizing the SDGs and the Justice Goal
- Storytelling in Times Of COVID: Testimonies By Workers And Activists On The Rights Of Multi-Local Workers Across South Asia – Before, During, And After COVID
- Pro Bono Protection of Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis
- Building Democratic Values in Early Learning through Literacy Development



- Regional Pro Bono Roundtables: Business as Usual
- Strategies and Collaborations for Effective Monitoring and Participation in Court Appointments
- Justice from Afar: Barriers to English Criminal Process During Covid-19
- Public Interest Lawyering in Southeast Asia
- Values of the Asia Pro Bono Movement

[Click here](#) for session description and materials

While the presentations provide a large group of overview topics, the conference also provided smaller group networking rooms and online share boards where participants can discuss with each other about the topics that they are most interested in.

The Access to Justice Cultural Performance has always been one of the greatest connective ties of the APBC & A2J Exchange, and this tradition was continually taking place online. The participants logged on, brought snacks and drinks, dressed up in national dress and celebrated all the fantastic work we have been doing in the face of COVID-19 virtually.



We would like to say a big thank you to all supporters and partners for their support and hard work before and during the Conference. Without the generosity of our partners, we would not have been able to finally support over **280 pro bono champions** to attend the virtual conference. Furthermore, we would like to thank all the 173 speakers that kindly shared their pro bono experiences and helped to guide and create interesting and creative discussions on how to develop future pro bono initiatives and strengthen the Asia Pro Bono Movement. Finally, we would also like to thank everyone who participated and actively engaged in the multitude of sessions. We are very much looking forward to meeting many of you again next year in Laos for the next (10th) Asia Pro Bono Conference and Access to Justice Exchange. Until then, "Keep Calm and Do Pro Bono" and keep being an instrumental part of the Asia Pro Bono Movement.

Supporter

