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14th ASIA PRO BONO CONFERENCE & ACCESS TO JUSTICE EXCHANGE

"REFLECTIONS AND COLLABORATIVE FUTURE VISION"

2-7 DECEMBER 2026 | FUKUOKA, JAPAN



14th ASIA PRO BONO CONFERENCE & ACCESS TO JUSTICE EXCHANGE

Reflections and Collaborative Future Vision

Fukuoka, Japan

Initiated by



Co-Organized by



Endorsed by



文部科学省

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN



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Introduction

The **Asia Pro Bono Conference and Access to Justice Exchange (APBC & A2JX)** is a trademark of the Asia region. Beginning in 2012 in the Lao PDR, the Asia Pro Bono Conference & Access to Justice Exchange is held each year to emphasize and celebrate pro bono and access to justice initiatives being conducted throughout Asia, and globally.

The APBC & A2JX has become the largest annual gathering of persons supporting or engaged in access to justice, pro bono and public interest law in Asia. The event provides a key opportunity for stakeholders to develop, explore and share pro bono and access to justice initiatives and projects that strengthen justice and Rule of Law in Asia and internationally.

The APBC & A2JX has proven to be a milestone event every year, emphasizing and celebrating pro bono and access to justice work conducted across Asia and around the world. The APBC & A2JX's simple and powerful purpose is to promote and further a shared pro bono and access to justice ethos in and beyond Asia. Accordingly, this annual event provides a key opportunity for a diverse array of stakeholders—lawyers, paralegals, academics, law students, jurists, members of civil society, governmental policy makers, and representatives of non-profit organization and for-profit businesses alike—to develop, explore and share pro bono initiatives and projects that strengthen access to justice both in Asia and in other regions of the world.

The philosophy of the APBC & A2JX is unique in that it aims not only to support the annual APBC & A2JX itself, but rather the ever-strengthening Asia and Global Pro Bono and Access to Justice more broadly, beginning with the selection of a different country and local partners to host the APBC & A2JX events each year. More than a mere series of informational talks, the APBC & A2JX is designed primarily as an opportunity for cross-stakeholder engagement, enabling participants to share experiences and to report on longstanding pro bono initiatives as well as on those initiatives that have developed since the previous annual conference. In this way, the APBC & A2JX speaks of both the challenges and successes of the past as well as of the vast potential of new strategies and collaboration to drive the future development of pro bono legal and access to justice culture across Asia, and globally.

The event brings together a diverse collection of lawyers, paralegals, academics, law students, jurists, as well as governmental policy makers, civil society, non-profit and for-profit business representatives. In doing so, the event provides participants a unique platform to engage with each other, share and learn, inspire and be inspired by the positive impact of pro bono on the lives of some of the region's most disadvantaged individuals and marginalised communities.

This year the 14th Asia Pro Bono Conference (“14APBC”), occurring from 2-7 December, in Fukuoka, Japan (and partially virtual). The 14APBC, will be a type of hybrid event, being both an in-person event, and will afford semi-limited additional virtual participation. It will host a multitude of diverse sessions, interactive workshops and presentations, all led by experienced local, regional and international participants engaged in supporting and strengthening pro bono initiatives. A highlight of the conference is the session **“Building a Healthier Legal Profession: Wellness, Recovery, and the Global Pro Bono Move.”** Continuing a long-standing tradition at the APBC, participants walk, jog, run, or simply move to support greater access to justice through pro bono services. This program brings together your passion for pro bono work with a commitment to a healthy lifestyle, making it a truly unique and engaging experience.

The Access to Justice Exchange (“A2JX”), occurring from 2-3 December and 7 December 2026, will be held in person (and partially virtual), and will consist as a series of workshops, forums, and roundtables. In 2025, the A2JX will provide opportunities for conference participants to attend Access to Justice and Rule of Law related sessions, workshops, meetings and other events. These will vary in both thematic focus and in participant groups involved. Some of the events will be open to persons from around the globe to register (via a separate registration process from the 14APBC) while other events and workshops will be conducted through a pre-selection process. Similarly, while some A2JX events focus on the intersection of Pro Bono, Access to Justice and Rule of Law, all will have strong relevance to justice issues in both the Asia region and globally.



History

Each year, the APBC & A2JX relocates to a new Asian country, with the most recent three Conference and Exchanges, having been held virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of the previous events has advanced and enriched the successful APBC & A2JX tradition in Asia, including:

- Vientiane, Lao PDR | 2012;
- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam | 2013;
- Singapore | 2014;
- Mandalay, Myanmar | 2015;
- Bali, Indonesia | 2016;
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 2017;
- Hong Kong | 2018;
- Kathmandu, Nepal | 2019;
- 2020-2022 – (Held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions);
- Cebu City, the Philippines | 2023;
- Bangkok, Thailand | 2024 (2024 Access to Justice Exchange (A2JX) held in conjunction with the 2024 PILnet Global Forum)
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia | 2025



Fourteen Years of Collective Growth

What began in 2012 in Vientiane, Laos, as a gathering of slightly over one hundred justice advocates, has grown into one of the world's most inclusive and enduring regional pro bono movements. Each year's host country has added new dimensions of learning, leadership, and sustainability—turning a conference into a continuing legacy of reform and renewal.

Through shared experience, mentorship, and the power of example, the APBC&A2JX has helped transform pro bono from an aspiration into an institution—embedding it in laws, professional rules, curricula, and community outreach across Asia and globally.

“ We came together to host an event;
we left with a regional movement. ”



“ When one country strengthens its
pro bono culture, the region grows
stronger. ”



The Objectives of the Conference & Exchange

In line with this year's Conference & Exchange theme, **"Reflections and Collaborative Future Vision,"** participants are invited to look back on the progress made in advancing access to justice while envisioning new, collective ways forward. While the Conference & Exchange has many objectives, a primary one is to support the development of socially aware legal service providers who actively participate in, advocate for, and lead pro bono initiatives that strengthen access to justice for people in fragile or vulnerable situations. Through shared reflection and forward-looking collaboration, the Conference & Exchange aims to instill and reinforce in participants the knowledge, experiences, skills, and values needed to achieve these goals. Each year, the event highlights key thematic topics and areas of vital importance – and this year's focus includes:

- The Impact of Pro Bono on the Sustainable Development Goals/Goal
- Strengthening Pro Bono Through Technology
- Justice Education and Pro Bono
- Public Interest Law/Strategic Litigation Pro Bono
- The Fundamentals of Pro Bono Services and Systems
- The Intersection and Differences between Pro Bono and Legal Aid
- Social Enterprise Law Firm Models
- Engaging Youth and New Actors in Pro Bono Initiatives
- Pro Bono Awareness – Celebrating and Inspiring Pro Bono Culture Development
- Engaging Pro Bono Support from the Judiciary
- Pro Bono and Access to Justice Public-Private Partnerships
- Pro Bono Strengthening Through Multi-Sector Engagement
- Enabling Pro Bono: Systemic Perspectives
- Access to Justice, Pro Bono and Mediation
- Pro Bono Support for Climate Justice
- Pro Bono Capacity Building
- Juvenile Justice Pro Bono
- Sustainable Pro Bono and Access to Justice Systems
- Combating Discrimination Through Pro Bono and other Access to Justice Services
- Pro Bono and Access to Justice Reporting Mechanisms
- Legal Ethics, Professional Responsibility, Pro Bono and Access to Justice
- Legal Empowerment and Pro Bono Synergy
- The Role of Bar Associations in Supporting Pro Bono
- Inclusive Pro Bono

The Conference & Exchange Helps Support the Asia Pro Bono & Access to Justice Movement

The philosophy of the Conference & Exchange is unique because they aim to support the ever-strengthening Asia and Global Pro Bono and Access to Justice Movement more widely. It does this in-part by selecting a specific country and local partners in that country to host the event. It then works to roll it out every year to other countries and partners. The Conference & Exchange is designed to share experiences, report and monitor pro bono initiatives currently being undertaken, as well as those which have developed since the previous year's Conference & Exchange.

Hosts & Organizers

Japan is chosen due to the strong and effective Pro Bono, Access to Justice and Rule of Law initiatives currently being implemented throughout the country. In organizing the event this year, similar to other years past, there will be a diverse Local Organizing Committee (LOC), comprised of key actors in Japan justice sectors. This LOC will work alongside, and in collaboration with the APBC & A2JX Secretariat.



3rd APBC, Singapore, 2014

What Makes This Conference & Exchange Unique?

A common question we hear is: Why should this Conference & Exchange be supported? The answer is simple—it stands out because of its collaborative nature and the broad impact it creates. This event is not run by a single organization but is the result of a collective effort by dedicated individuals and organizations from across Asia and around the world. These volunteers come together each year to ensure the event meets high standards, making it a true pro bono law network in action. As a result, the program is always diverse, relevant, and focused on national, regional, and international legal issues that matter to those attending.

The Asia Pro Bono Conference & Access to Justice Exchange is dedicated to fostering a collaborative and inclusive space for legal professionals, advocates, and changemakers. Sponsorships play a significant role in reducing the overall cost of the event, allowing us to keep registration fees affordable while delivering high-quality programming and ensuring broad participation.

With the support of sponsors, we can continue to provide a dynamic platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and advancing access to justice across the region. Your sponsorship is not just a contribution—it is an investment in strengthening a global movement for justice and pro bono engagement.

This event also plays an important role in connecting the global pro bono movement with related fields such as Legal Empowerment, Justice Education, Legal Aid, Access to Justice, Rule of Law, and Legal Ethics. These areas are deeply connected, and the Conference & Exchange brings together groups that are often working separately, creating new opportunities for collaboration that do not always happen in other events.

Unlike traditional conferences filled with long lectures, this event is designed to be interactive and engaging. Sessions are carefully planned by experienced facilitators who work closely with speakers to develop content that is not only informative but also delivered through active and participatory methods. Because of this, many participants consider it one of the most interesting, professional, and enjoyable conferences of its kind.



6th APBC, Malaysia, 2017

Why Support This Event?

Global Visibility & Recognition

- Gain exposure to a diverse audience of legal professionals, pro bono leaders, corporate counsel, and justice advocates from across Asia and beyond.
- Showcase your organization's commitment to pro bono and corporate social responsibility (CSR) on an international stage.
- Feature your logo and branding in conference materials, website, and social media promotions.

Demonstrate Leadership in Pro Bono & Access to Justice

- Position your organization as a leader in advancing pro bono legal services and social impact initiatives.
- Support meaningful conversations on legal ethics, public interest lawyering, and sustainable justice solutions.
- Influence policy discussions and contribute to shaping the future of pro bono in Asia and beyond.

Enhance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Impact

- Align your brand with a globally recognized movement dedicated to legal empowerment and social justice.
- Showcase your firm's or organization's CSR initiatives in a space that values and promotes impactful contributions.
- Strengthen your reputation as a socially responsible and justice-driven institution.

Strengthen Legal Networks & Business Opportunities

- Gain access to a diverse network of legal professionals, including potential clients, collaborators, and industry experts.
- Expand business opportunities by engaging with like-minded organizations and professionals who share a commitment to justice and legal reform.
- Explore cross-border collaborations in pro bono and legal aid initiatives.

Support a More Accessible & Inclusive Conference

- Contribute to making pro bono and access to justice initiatives more impactful and widespread across the region.

5th APBC, Indonesia, 2016



Collaborative Support & Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship	Amount (USD)	Complimentary Passes	Key Benefits
Pro Bono Champion	\$25,000	5	Recognition: - Featured as the primary sponsor across all event materials (banners, website homepage, email campaigns). - Verbal acknowledgment during the opening and closing plenaries. - Logo featured prominently on conference materials, attendee bags and name badges. Engagement Opportunities: - Opportunity to deliver a keynote speech or a video message at a plenary session. - Space for promotional materials at the conference hall. Marketing & Branding: - Featured in a dedicated social media campaign pre- and post-event. - Promotional materials included in attendee bags.
Pro Bono Guardian	\$20,000	4	Recognition: - Logo placement on event banners, website sponsorship page, program booklet, and email campaigns. - Verbal acknowledgment during the opening and closing plenaries. - Logo featured prominently on conference materials and attendee bags Engagement Opportunities: - Space for promotional materials at the conference hall. Marketing & Branding: - Group social media acknowledgment pre- and post-event. - Promotional materials included in attendee bags.
Pro Bono Advocate	\$15,000	3	Recognition: - Logo placement on event banners, website sponsorship page, program booklet, and email campaigns. - Mention during a plenary session. Engagement Opportunities: - Opportunity to host or co-host a breakout session or panel. - Space for promotional materials at the conference hall. Marketing & Branding: - Group social media acknowledgment pre- and post-event.
Pro Bono Defender	\$12,000	3	Recognition: - Logo placement on event banners, website sponsorship page, program booklet, and email campaigns. - Mention during a plenary session. Engagement Opportunities: - Space for promotional materials at the conference hall. Marketing & Branding: - Group social media acknowledgment pre- and post-event.
Pro Bono Ally	\$7,500	1	Recognition: - Logo placement on event banners, website sponsorship page, program booklet, and email campaigns. - Mention during a plenary session. Marketing & Branding: - Group social media acknowledgment pre- and post-event.

Past Sponsors

Over the years, this Conference & Exchange has been made possible through the generous support of a diverse range of sponsors, including law firms, bar associations, academic institutions, corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Their support has been instrumental in making this event successful and sustainable.

- 25 Bedford Row (Law Chambers)
- Action Justice
- A2J Fellowship
- Advocacy Forum
- Advocates and Legal Consultants
- Advocates for International Development (A4ID)
- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld
- Allens Linklaters
- Allen & Overy
- Alliance in Myanmar
- Alternative Law Groups (ALG)
- American Bar Association
- American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
- Anti Death Penalty Asia Network
- Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)
- Asia Law Students Association
- Asia Society Asian Consortium for Human Rights Based Access to Justice (HRBA2J – Asia)
- Association of Corporate Counsel Hong Kong
- Ashurst
- Asian Network for Refugees and International Protection
- Ateneo Human Rights Center
- AustCham Hong Kong & Macau Australian Aid Australian Pro Bono Centre
- Australian Aid
- Australian Pro Bono Centre (formerly National Pro Bono Resource Centre)
- Avocats Sans Frontieres
- BABSEACLE
- BABSEACLE Foundation (formerly CLE Foundation)
- Baker & McKenzie
- Baker & McKenzie Wong and Leow
- Beacon Law
- Beacon Law Corporation
- BINHAN
- BLAST
- Bridge
- British Consulate General-Hong Kong
- British Council
- BRAC University
- Business Conventus Law
- Canada Aid
- Canadian Bar Association
- Cebu Lady Lawyers Association
- Centre for Asia/Pacific Pro Bono
- Centre for Asian Pacific Pro Bono (CAPPS)
- Centre for Law and Transformative Change (CLTC)
- Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLLRd)
- Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ)-
- Centre for Women's Awareness and Development (CWAD)
- Center for Women's Awareness and Development (Nepal)
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- Chakrabharti Habi Education Academy-College of Law
- Chandler MHM
- City of Cebu (Philippines)
- City of Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)
- Citizen Engagement for Good Governance, Accountability and the Rule of Law (CEGGA)
- Clifford Chance
- Coca Cola
- Cockburn Legal

- Colins Biggers & Paisley (CBP) Lawyers Community
- CPBS Hong Kong
- Datuk Watson Peters
- Davis Polk
- Deliccia
- DFDL
- Dignity HSF
- Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)
- DLA Piper
- DLA Piper Foundation
- Drew & Napier
- EDUlink Australia
- European Union
- Faculty of Law & Political Science, National University of Laos
- Faraz, Haider, Mozzam & Co. Advocates and Legal Consultants
- Forum for Women, Law and Development (Nepal)
- Forum for Nation Building (FNB Nepal)
- Fulbright Malaysia
- Freshfields
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Gall
- Global Alliance of Justice Education (GAJE)
- GIZ-CEGGA II
- GoJust
- GoMyanmar.com
- GongGam
- Government of Cannada
- Governor's Office of the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar
- Grassroots Justice Network
- Great Dreams Consulting
- GRAB
- Ha Nguyen Co., Ltd
- Harry Elias Partnership
- Hanns Seidel Stiftung
- Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer (formerly Freehills and HSF)

- Her Fund
- Hewlett & Packard (HP)
- HIDR (Nepal)
- Himalayan Lawyers & Associates
- Hong Kong Bar Association
- Hong Kong Gay and Lesbian Network
- Hong Kong University Law (HKU Law)
- Hotel Majestic Saigon Vietnam
- HRBA2J-Asia
- Hunter Community Legal Centre
- HWI Ebsworth Lawyers
- INCLE
- Independent Lawyers Association of Myanmar (ILAM)
- Indonesian Network for Clinical Legal Education (INCLE)
- Indonesian Clinical Legal Education Association
- Indonesian Legal Resource Center
- Innovative Legal Service
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- International Business Machines (IBM)
- International Bridges to Justice (IBJ)
- International Development Law Organisation (IDLO)
- International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Legal Foundation (ILF)
- Intergrated Bar of the Philippines
- Intergrated Bar of the Philippines Cebu City Chapter
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- iProbono
- Joma – Bakery Café-Laos
- Justice Adda
- Justice Centre-Hong Kong
- Justice For All
- Justice for All Law Firm- Myanmar
- Judicial General Council of Mongolia
- K&L Gates
- Kathmandu School of Law

- Kedai Karuna
- Khmer Lex
- Kirland & Ellis
- King & Spalding
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Kuala Lumpur Legal Aid Centre
- Kundun & Partners
- Lanna Lawyers
- Lao Bar Association
- Laolive
- Lao Law and Consultancy
- Lao Ministry of Justice
- Laos National University Faculty of Law and Political Science
- Latham & Watkins
- Law and Policy Forum
- Law and Development Partnership (LDP)
- Law and Policy Sustainable Development (LPSD)
- Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ)
- Law Council of Australia
- Law Society of Ireland
- Law Society of Singapore (LAWSOC)
- Lawyers Beyond Borders
- Lawyers Council of Thailand
- LBH Bali
- Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC)
- Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (Nepal) [LACC]
- Legal Aid Centre Kuala Lumpur
- Legal Aid Society-Pakistan
- Legal Aid Society (Nepal)
- Legal Empowerment Network
- Legal House (Laos)
- Legal House (Thailand)
- Lexis Nexis
- Lipman Karas
- Linklaters
- Lokataru

- Lund University
- LuxDev
- LS Horizon Attorneys-at-Law
- Maiti Nepal
- Malaysia Bar Association
- Malaysian Bar Council
- Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MYCEB)
- Malaysian Exhibition and Convention Center
- Mandalay Law Firm
- Mandaue City (Philippines)
- MasterCard
- McDonald Steed McGrath
- Meetings and Exhibitions-Hong Kong
- Merk (MSD)
- Metta Karuna Foundation (MKF)
- Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Malaysia)
- Migration & Asylum Project
- M-Law
- Monash University
- Mongolian Bar Association
- Mori Hamada & Matsumoto
- Myanmar Legal Aid Network (MLAW)
- MyJustice
- NAMATI
- Nasi Lemak Project
- National Law College
- National Law College (Nepal)
- National University of Singapore Law
- National University of Singapore Centre for Asian Studies
- Nepal Bar Association
- Nepal Institute of Justice
- Nepal Law Campus
- Nepal Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
- Nepal National Institute of Justice
- Nepal Supreme Court Bar Association
- New Perimeter

- Nishimura & Asahi
- NUS – Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Faculty of Law
- NUS – Law, National University of Singapore
- NYU Law
- Open Society Foundations
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- Open Society Forum (Mongolia)
- Pannasastra University of Cambodia
- Pasundan University
- Pathfinders
- PDS (Nepal)
- Play Creative
- PILnet
- Pro Bono Week Network
- Pro Bono Network for Users (PBN4U)
- Pro Bono Sg (formerly Law Society of Singapore)
- Project 39
- Pro Public-Pro Bono Publico
- Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC)
- Public Defender Society of Nepal
- Pyoe Pin Programme
- Queensland University of Technology
- Rajah Tann
- Rajah & Tann Asia
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)
- Reed Smith
- Ropes & Gray
- Roya Institute
- RPC
- Rule of Law Centre-Myanmar
- SEACLEA
- SEALAW
- Shearman & Stearling
- Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)
- South East Asian Legal Aid Network

- Star Anise
- Starbucks
- Stepheson Harwood
- Street Law Ph (Philippines)
- Supreme Court Bar Association-Nepal Taylor's University
- Taylors University
- Thai Corporate Counsel Association
- The Asia Foundation
- The Asian Network for Refugees and International Protection (ANRIP)
- The Global Pro Bono Bar Association
- The Indonesian Legal Resources Center
- The Law Society of Hong Kong
- The Law Society of Singapore
- The Picha Project
- The University of Queensland
- Trust Law (Thomson Reuters Foundation)
- Tilleke & Gibbins
- Transparency Maldives
- Triumph Hotel, Mandalay, Myanmar
- Tyler Tipping and Wood
- UK Aid
- University of Economics and Law (UEL)
- United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development
- UNDP
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Human Rights Office of High Commission
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Women (UN Women)
- United States Agency International Development (USAID)
- United States Embassy (Vietnam)
- United World College Southeast Asia
- United World College Southeast Asia (Singapore)
- Universita Varsoviensis
- University of Central Punjab

- University Economic and Law (Vietnam)
- University of Malaya
- University of Undayana
- Upparat Law Office
- Vietnam Bar Federation (VBF)
- Village Focus International (VFI)
- Westlane Place
- White & Case
- Winrock
- WINROCK International
- Women in Law Hong Kong
- Wong & Leow
- Wong Partnership
- World Vision
- Yak & Yeti

Be a Part of the Asia Pro Bono Movement

Your support for the 14th Asia Pro Bono Conference & Access to Justice Exchange is key to strengthening pro bono work and access to justice in Asia. By partnering with us, you help bring together legal professionals, organizations, and advocates who are dedicated to making a real impact on the ground.

With your sponsorship, we can ensure that more people are able to participate, facilitate meaningful discussions, and build connections that lead to real change in the legal field.

We look forward to working with you and welcoming you to Fukuoka in December 2026!

Bruce A. Lasky

On behalf of the Secretariat

14th Asia Pro Bono Conference & Access to Justice Exchange



Contact

Email: APBC-Secretariat@asiapbc.org

Website: www.probonoconference.org



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