

Project Title: Labour Law: International & UK Standards

Date: 1 – 17 June 2010

Location: University of Nottingham & London

Unit: Training and Short Courses

Core staff: David Harris, Bailey Grey, Agnes Flues

Funder: Office of the Judiciary of Thailand

Project Summary

In June 2010, the Human Rights Law Centre delivered a two and a half week seminar to Thai Judges on international and UK labour law standards. The training programme had two key components: first, participants attended two weeks of seminars at the University of Nottingham covering the main areas of international and UK standards of labour law. These were followed by four days in London where the delegation visited a number of key institutions in the UK dealing with labour law and labour rights.

Objectives

The course provided:

- Advanced knowledge on labour law and, in particular, on the application of international standards applied in the UK.
- In-depth understanding of employment law applied in the UK at both the local and national level – through lectures and study visits.

Participants

The course was attended by 38 judges, including the President of the Labour Division in the Supreme Court, senior judges of the Central Labour Court, regional Vice-Presidents of the Court of Appeal and other judges of the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

Activities

The first part of the course took place at the University of Nottingham and included academic study of the sources of UK labour law, structure of the UK labour law system, employment and working conditions, termination of employment, equalities law, collective employment law, recognition of trade unions, as well as international standards and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The classroom sessions were supplemented by four days of study visits in London to the Employment Tribunal of England and Wales, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), 11 King's Bench Walk Barrister Chambers, the Upper Tribunal, and the Trades Union Congress. Participants also attended a social event in London - the annual reception of the Anglo-Thai Society in the House of Lords, Palace of Westminster.

Outcome

- Sixteen theoretical sessions on Labour Law and the application of international standards in the UK legal system.
- Ten study visits to key institutions of the UK legal system.