

**BEYOND BORDERS:  
STREET LAW FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, A CROSS-BORDER EXPERIENCE BETWEEN TWO  
COUNTRIES**

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Migration is a global trend and more developing countries are now becoming host countries due to their booming economy. Malaysia is one of the countries that are now playing host to migrant workers from Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar. Poverty and geographical proximity has encouraged Indonesians to travel to Malaysia in search for better economic opportunity and a chance to improve their livelihood. Of late, legal and social issues involving Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia have threatened to jeopardize the relationship between the both countries. One of the issues is attributed to the difference in legal systems between Malaysia and Indonesia that adopt common law and civil law, respectively.

In year 2012, two university-based Clinical Legal Education programmes in Malaysia and Indonesia embarked on a quest to promote legal literacy to Indonesian migrant workers who are working, or plan to work, in Malaysia. The project was implemented through street law clinics conducted by law students from the Community Outreach Programme (University of Malaya) and Clinical Legal Education (Pasundan University) that took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and in West Java, Indonesia. The goals of the clinic were mainly to provide legal knowledge and to create legal awareness of the rights and responsibilities of the Indonesian workers, as well as to sensitive law students to the plight of migrant workers working abroad.

The presentation will focus on the advantages and challenges of cross-border clinics with different legal systems, cultures and languages, and how to overcome the challenges. It will also demonstrate how such collaborative effort has the potential to fulfill political and moral purposes of clinical legal education, and share a few unexpected outcomes from the clinic.