

20 August 2014

Invitation for Applications

RULE OF LAW IN MYANMAR: LEGAL TRAINING / CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Centre for Comparative and Public Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in collaboration with the Washington D.C.-based Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is pleased to announce the call for applications for government officials, legislators and their staff members, academics and others actively involved in Myanmar's ongoing attempts to strengthen, improve and develop its rule of law, to participate in an intensive one-week capacity-building workshop. The workshop aims to foster the rule of law in Myanmar.

The workshop sponsors will provide full financial support for 10 participants from Myanmar to join the one-week workshop. The workshop will take place from 1 – 5 December 2014. The ten participants from Myanmar will travel from Yangon to Hong Kong to spend one week learning about best practices and current thinking in a range of legal specialties through a variety of academic lectures, seminars and discussions as well as through site visits and meetings with senior experts in government and private industry.

Considering the success of previous Mansfield Foundation programmes on the rule of law including joint programmes between the Mansfield Foundation and the University of Hong Kong and the strongly expressed desire by interlocutors in Myanmar for educational and training opportunities pertaining to rule of law and legal reform, the organizers recognized the need to:

- Provide an opportunity for Myanmar experts and practitioners to examine international trends and best practices in legal issues, especially as concerns business and human rights.
- Further enhance Myanmar researchers', officials' and legal practitioners' knowledge of legal practices in leading Asian economies and elsewhere.
- Continue building a network of leading legal thinkers within and outside of Myanmar in hopes of further integrating Myanmar into the international system.

The University of Hong Kong and the Mansfield Foundation anticipate that:

- Ten Myanmar legal experts, law professors, law drafters, government officials and others will gain a stronger understanding of the role of human rights defense and concerns in continued and sustainable economic development and economic opening.
- Myanmar experts will gain firsthand information about international best practices in legal reform, legal development and legal education and will assess applicability of some approaches to current and expected future needs in Myanmar.
- Myanmar researchers will learn from each other about strengths and weaknesses of the legal systems of Myanmar, Hong Kong and other countries and jurisdictions and potential areas for improvement and methods for improvement.
- Myanmar's rising generation of legal experts and policymakers will establish tangible and enduring contacts with counterparts in numerous economically advanced nations.

By participating in this capacity-building workshop involving an internationally diverse group of lawyers, law professors, officials and businesspersons, Myanmar conference participants will be left with a better understanding of international best practices pertaining to the rule of law, as well as a more nuanced view of potential avenues to further promote reform in their country.

Interviews of selected candidates will take place via Skype on Wednesday, 17 September 2014. Candidates selected for interviews will be notified before the end of the day on 12 September 2014.

Interested individuals should submit: a completed Application Form and a current CV. The full application must be emailed to Ms. Lindsay Ernst at lernst@hku.hk. Inquiries on the workshop may also be sent to Ms. Lindsay Ernst.

****Please note the deadline for applications is set at the end of the day on 5th September 2014.**

Farzana Aslam
Associate Director, Centre for Comparative and Public Law

Kelley Loper
Director, LLM in Human Rights Programme

Richard Pearson
Associate Director, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation