

A spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Public legal education:
improving lives, empowering
communities**

International PLE workshop

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1. Outcomes...

By the end of this workshop we should have have:

- identified a set of PLE programmes that use a variety of delivery methods and operate across a range of cultural settings
- identified at least 3 examples of effective and sustainable PLE provision to report back at the plenary session
- established the basis for an international network of PLE providers

2. A starting point...

- **Introductions** - where is everyone from and what PLE experience do you have?
- **Our task** - to discuss and report back on how PLE can improve lives and empower communities
- **Brainstorm** - what is PLE, what form can it take and what difference does it make?
- **Survey of PLE (GAJE, Manila, December 2008)**

3. The survey...

Summary of findings:

- 19 (out of 42) countries reported having PLE programmes
- 108 projects detailed
- 79 of these were 'Streetlaw' programmes
- only 4 projects had qualitative evaluation
- 75% of responses linked PLE to law schools
- 33% were 'training of trainer' programmes
- general lack of national co-ordination
- little domestic government input
- heavy reliance on donor aid (25%) and law school funding (25%)

Some examples (1)...

- **Australia** - pamphlets, video, workshops and web site provision delivered by community law centres and Legal Aid agencies
- **Croatia** - Street Law and linked advice services on consumer and labour law issues
- **India** - a series of public lectures aimed at improving human rights awareness and principles of local governance

Some examples (2)...

- **Indonesia** - paralegal training in 16 of the country's provinces. UNDP and SIDA funded
- **Nigeria** - Street Law programme in prisons, in schools and with community groups across the country
- **Russia** - Street Law with focus on problem-solving skills
- **South Africa** - 2 projects involving training of health and social workers on legal issues affecting the terminally ill

Some examples (3)...

- **South East Asia** - a comprehensive community legal education programme coordinated and in part provided by the NGO Bridges Across Borders. The programme is currently being delivered in Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam
- **The Philippines** - a local NGO provided PLE sessions which led to creation of a credit union by local residents who live and work on a municipal rubbish tip ('Smokey Mountain') in Manila

Some examples (4)...

- **UK** - under the New Deal regeneration initiative The College of Law provides staff and students to make interactive Streetlaw style presentations with follow-up work as requested by local residents e.g. changing council policy on intervention in dilapidated housing
- **USA** - family court self-help clinic. Basic advice is given on to individuals on a range of family law matters together with guidance on form-filling - funded by court

More examples...



3 examples to report back...

1.

2.

3.