



NEW PERIMETER

WORKING TO INCREASE LEGAL CAPACITY, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN ASIA

New Perimeter is a nonprofit organization that provides long-term pro bono legal assistance in under-served regions around the world to support access to justice, social and economic development and sound legal institutions.

Founded in 2005 by global law firm DLA Piper as part of its commitment to support legal advancement worldwide, New Perimeter draws on the skills and talents of DLA Piper lawyers around the world. To maximize its impact, New Perimeter sends teams of lawyers in-country to work alongside its partners and clients.

The following are highlights of New Perimeter's work in Asia.





ACCESS TO JUSTICE, RULE OF LAW AND SOUND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS

MYANMAR

Assessing Rule of Law in a Transitioning Country

New Perimeter and project partners Perseus Strategies and the Jacob Blaustein Institute (JBI) initiated a broad rule of law needs assessment in Myanmar as the country began its transition to an open society. After extensive research to identify local needs and international priorities for comprehensive rule of law reform, and consultation with Myanmar government officials, non-governmental organizations, embassy staff and local lawyers, the project team released the *Myanmar Rule Of Law Needs Assessment*. The report details recommendations for constitutional and judicial reform, the need for capacity building in the parliament, the need for the establishment of a criminal defense and legal aid system, reconstitution of the Bar Association and the need to rebuild the legal education system.

NORTH KOREA

Urging the United Nations to Investigate Gulags

As pro bono counsel to the International Coalition to Stop Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea, New Perimeter teamed with international human rights firm Perseus Strategies to prepare and submit a petition to the special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council calling for the UN to investigate North Korea's vast gulag system, known as the kwan-li-so. The petition urged these UN bodies to investigate the gulag system in North Korea and present their findings to the Human Rights Council for consideration and further action. Together with other international efforts, the petition resulted in the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights establishing a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the reported human rights abuses in North Korea. The Commission's report corroborates the allegations of "unspeakable atrocities" and calls for urgent action to address the human rights situation in the county, including referral to the International Criminal Court.

PAKISTAN

Assisting with the Reform of Intellectual Property Laws

New Perimeter is partnering with the US Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program to help review and update Pakistan's intellectual property laws. A particular focus is on facilitating technology transfer between Pakistan's universities and other institutions. Following consultations with a number of experts, including officials from the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan, a New Perimeter team undertook a comprehensive review of Pakistan's IP regulatory scheme and advised on recommended improvements.



MYANMAR

Working with the IBA on Bar Associations' Best Practices

New Perimeter participated in a conference organized by the International Bar Association (IBA) and co-hosted by the Myanmar Parliamentary Committee on the Rule of Law and Tranquility, which discussed best practices for Bar Associations. At the conclusion of the conference, participants decided to work toward establishing an independent, representative national bar association by forming an inclusive interim committee to steer its creation. In preparation for the conference, New Perimeter and the IBA prepared a comparative research paper on bar associations' best practices.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Developing a Curriculum to Expand Access to Justice

In cooperation with project partner Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education (BABSEA CLE), Herbert Smith Freehills and the Australian Government Solicitor, New Perimeter helped to develop a new curriculum for Southeast Asia law students on legal ethics, professional responsibility, pro bono and access to justice. A team of DLA Piper lawyers delivered the curriculum via workshops at university law schools in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Since its inception, more than 550 students and professors have participated in the groundbreaking courses, and faculty in Myanmar and Vietnam introduced courses based on these materials at their universities.

MYANMAR

Educating the Social Justice Champions of Tomorrow

DLA Piper lawyers are working with BABSEA CLE to deliver a United Nations Development Programme project to introduce and develop clinical legal education (CLE) in Myanmar. New Perimeter is assisting BABSEA CLE to perform research, develop curriculum and training modules, deliver training sessions and support individual Myanmar universities as they build CLE programs. New Perimeter helped provide the inaugural Myanmar National Clinical Legal Education (CLE) Summer School Training Workshop at Taunggyi University in Taunggyi, Shan State; supported the country's first national mock trial event; provided an International Clinician In Residence for one month; and supported additional classroom training sessions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EAST TIMOR

Supporting Trade and Investment

At the request of East Timor's former Finance Minister, Emilia Pires, New Perimeter undertook a comprehensive study and prepared a report analyzing the successes and failures of special economic zones (SEZs) and identified best practices in existing global SEZs. The report includes background information about SEZs, provides an overview of ten potential model zones for East Timor; gives an assessment of the risks and benefits relating to the creation of an SEZ in East Timor and provides information on next-steps should the government choose to pursue the creation of an SEZ. Teams of DLA Piper lawyers travelled to East Timor on a number of occasions to present the findings from the report to Minister Pires and other high-level government officials and to conduct workshops on SEZs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about these and other New Perimeter projects, visit www.newperimeter.org

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