

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Family Law Conference

Hanoi, Vietnam, 13-15th September 2011

Anyone travelling to Vietnam is enthralled by the energy and friendliness of the people. However, the Family Law situation in that country is now slowly developing from a different cultural and legal perspective.

Some of the differences include the following:-

- 2000 saw the first Act that recognised equality between husbands and wives.
- Until 2000 domestic violence was considered an internal affair and was not condemned by public opinion. An estimated 20% of households still suffer from domestic violence.
- Cohabitation was illegal until 1986.
- Legal aid is very limited. Australia recently committed funds to improve Vietnam's judicial system.
- The trafficking of women and children is reported to be a major problem.
- With a population of over 3 million, there are only two centres for victims of domestic violence in Hanoi. Only 25% of divorced women receive support from their ex-spouses for raising children.

AIM OF A CONFERENCE

A small group of Australian practitioners and judicial officers has decided to assess interest in a conference. The reasons include:-

- To enable others to enjoy an energetic resourceful population that has demonstrated a remarkable resilience considering the history (80 million people and 60% born after 1975).
- To form friendship links that might in the future be the basis for more meaningful exchanges.
- To have some input from the local judiciary /legal personnel at a friendship level.
- To encourage and foster cross cultural relationships and understanding that may lead to valuable ongoing cultural and legal dialogue.
- To enable Australian practitioners to earn CLE points by providing them with tips essential in the practice of family law from experts including lectures, workshops in substantive law, the social sciences and collaborative practice, with popular practical sessions such as latest developments, guides to drafting affidavits, orders and agreements, guides to practice and procedure, child support updates etc.

- To encourage the development of creative and innovative solutions to perennial problems by looking at them through the prism of a different cultural and philosophical landscape.
- To foster a critical appreciation for our own judicial and legal systems.
- To give Australian practitioners the option to bring their families with them on an interesting experience.

VENUE

Both the accommodation and conference would be at the same venue in Hanoi.

The approximate costs, based on current fares (economy return) for flights and accommodation (3-4 star) but **excluding** the registration fee is about \$2,400.

The registration fee will be influenced by the number of attendees, the cost of speakers and administration. It will be in the range of about \$600 to \$1,000.

We expect to attract excellent speakers.

The suggested dates for the conference are 13th -15th September 2011. These days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday thereby allowing for travel before and after with all sorts of interesting options for "add ons". (See www.focusvietnam.com) .The weather at this time is usually clement.

You are not asked to commit at this stage, just to register an expression of interest and to indicate probable numbers for:-

- (a) conference registration; and
- (b) accompanying persons

This will determine whether we go forward.

If you are interested, please send a brief email to vietnamconference2011@hotmail.com by 15th September 2009.

Kind regards,

Maryanne Ofner

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