STUDY VISIT OF DELEGATION OF JUSTICES FROM THE SUPREME PEOPLES’ COURT OF VIETNAM

Between Saturday 8 – Sunday 16 March 2003, a senior delegation of seven judges from the Supreme Peoples’ Court of Vietnam were hosted by the Centre for Democratic Institutions on a visit of the courts in Sydney.

This delegation was lead by His Excellency Justice Hoang Khang, Deputy-Chief Justice of the SPCV, and included provincial chief justices and other senior judicial officers from around Vietnam:

1. H. E. Hoang Khang, Deputy Chief Justice of the SPC, Head of Mission;
2. Justice Nguyen Van Soang, Deputy Chief Judges of the Civil Division, SPC, member;
3. Mr. Hoang Dung, Deputy Director, Administration Department of the SPC, member;
4. Judge Nguyen Dac Cuong, Chief Judges of the People's Court of Bac Ninh province, member;
5. Judge Hoang Van Em, Chief Judges of the People's Court of Quang Tri province, member;
6. Judge Nguyen Thi Trang, Deputy Chief Judges of the People's Court of Khanh Hoa province, member;
7. Mrs Nguyen Hoang Phuong, Legal Inspector of the Secretariat of SPC, interpreter.

The delegation was particularly interested to study the jurisdictions practices and procedures of the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, and the Children’s Court of New South Wales. The itinerary was designed to enable these visits and was subsequently expanded during the week to include visits to the District and Local Courts of New South Wales in response to expressions of interest from participants.

The visitors requested an opportunity to observe a range of criminal trials, which was provided at short notice, and a good deal of interest and discussion ensued on the respective roles of judges and juries in criminal proceedings.

Extensive opportunities were provided by hosting courts to explain and discuss matters of shared judicial interest, in addition to observing proceedings of each court and the operations of their registries.

Participants expressed their appreciation and gratitude to their hosts and, in particular, to Justices Michael Moore of the Federal Court of Australia, Justice Stephen O’Ryan, Judge Administrator of the Sydney Registry of the Family Court of Australia, and Magistrate Eve Wynhausen of the Children’s Court at Glebe, all of whom gave generously of their time to the delegation.

The visit will assist Vietnam to reform certain aspects of its family law provisions including questions of custody and child support. It will also allow Vietnam to review aspects of its laws pertaining to child offenders.

Despite the shortness of the visit, participants took the opportunity to enjoy a cultural evening at the Sydney Opera House, visit the scientific exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum, and enjoy the many spectacles of Darling Harbour after court hours.
Program

Monday March 10, 2003 – Family Court of Australia – full day program on Judicial and mediation issues.

Tuesday March 11, 2003 – Family Court of Australia
10:00 Introductory Judicial Overview – Justice O’Ryan
11:00 Dir Hearing/ Divorce List
13:00 Q & A with Justice O’Ryan
13:05 Case Management System JR Loughnan
14:00 Registry Manager – Operations Overview

Wednesday March 12, 2003 – Family Court of Australia
10:00 Registrars (Phillip Cameron & Dinh Tran)
11:00 Registrars (Phillip Cameron & Dinh Tran)
13:00 Q & A with Justice O’Ryan

17:45 Cultural evening - Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House.

Thursday March 13, 2003 – Childrens Court of Australia
10:00 Magistrate Eve Wynhausen
13:00 Observing criminal trials at the District Court

Friday March 14, 2003 – Family Court of Australia
10:00 Defaulters’ List
11:00 Mediation (Deborah Fry)
12:00 Mediation (Deborah Fry)
14:00 Q & A with Justice O’Ryan
15:00 Registry Manager Wrap Up

Saturday March 15, 2003 – Free