



Centre for Asian Legal Studies
Faculty of Law

STUDY TRIP TO SINGAPORE BY DELEGATION FROM THE JAPANESE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN LAW SYSTEMS

26-29 DECEMBER 2017

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Japanese Institute of Foreign Law Systems for a study trip to Singapore from 26 to 29 December 2017. The purpose of the trip was to obtain information on child protection in Singapore and to visit the facilities which cater to these children. The findings of the study visit will be presented at a conference to be held in February 2018 at Nagoya University. The study visit and conference are supported by the Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University, JSPS (KAKENHI-16K03260), the Mitsubishi Foundation, and CALS.

During their time in Singapore, the delegation received briefings from the Ministry of Social and Family Development on the Child Protection Service and Children in Care, as well as visited Heart@Fei Yue (a Child Protection Specialist Centre which provides casework and home-based services), and Marymount Centre (which houses various residential care facilities for children who are unable to stay at home for safety reasons).

On the last day, the delegation was very fortunate in being allowed to observe Child Protection proceedings at the Youth Court and to discuss the cases with the Family Court judge. They also visited Casa Raudha Women Home, a crisis shelter for victims of domestic violence.

The members of the delegation were very impressed with how the Singapore system deals with the issue of child abuse upstream and in moving towards kinship and foster care of abused children where possible. Even where institutionalisation is the only option, there are processes in place to ensure that the case is periodically monitored and the needs of each child individually assessed. This information will be presented at the February conference which other countries can learn from.

The members of the delegation were:

- Hiroko Ito (Nagoya University)
- Tomiyuki Ogawa (Fukuoka University)
- Kenzo Okawa (Setsunan University)
- Aisa Kiyosue (Muroran Institute of Technology)
- Lee Yensuk (Hokkaido University)
- Aya Umezawa (Kumamoto University)
- Akifumi Mochizuki (Atsumi Law Firm)

A/P Chan Wing Cheong assisted CALS in organising and hosting the delegation.



Briefing at the Ministry of Social and Family Development



Photo taken with Mr Wong Sau Kit, Deputy Director (Children in Care Service) [second from left]



Outside the Family Justice Courts



Photo taken with Mr Hamzah Abdul Mutalib, President of Casa Raudha [in the middle] and Ms Zaharah Ariff, Manager of Casa Raudha [extreme right]