

ABSTRACT

Teaching the Environmental Law in Thailand

Boonchong Chawsithiwong, Ph.D.

The Research Promotion Committee of the National Institute of Development Administration did acknowledge the problem of lacking the basic line data on teaching environmental Law in Thailand and grant the financial support to this study for 7 months during December 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998. This study is aimed to collect and analyse data regarding teaching the environmental law in Thailand. Purposive sampling and structured individual interview are applied. This study has found that there are totally 26 institutes with more than 31 programs containing environmental Law courses. Those are subjected to 1 professional program 24 undergraduate and 5 graduate programs. Only one short course training program on environmental Law is provided by the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion. Most of environmental Law courses are selective and only 8 programs have environmental law as requirement courses. Environmental law courses in Thailand are not only available in law schools, but also available in school of science and technology, school of engineering, school of bussiness administration, school of management, and school of Agriculture. Approximately 3,800 of 5,000 students have past environmental law courses each year. The average production rate is 75.2 percent.

Environmental law courses of various schools are quite defferent in contents with exception of those in law schools of private universities and those in other schools of colleges and institutes under the Ministry of Education. Those courses are controlled intensively and the contents of courses are arranged in the same model. Programs containing environmental law of public universities get a very loose control. All public universities are able to freely set their own courses discription on environmental law. Moreover lecturers can adjust their practical course description relating to development of environmental law in any time period.

Comparative study of opinions between environmental law lecturers and authorities by purposive structured interview found that most of individuals of each group agreed consistenly that main contents of the current environmental law courses teaching in various schools are enough. In contrast, only few of each group presented their opinions in the negative way. Some of each group could not even give answers. Furthermore, most of individuals of each group recommended that problems of environmental law enforcement should be added in course description. However, the two groups have different reccomendations on other issues to be added in the environmental law course description.
