

Cyber Conference Project

Planning Sheet

The Asian Law Students' Association Waseda University



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1. **Aim**

ALSA has exchanged information and ideas with law students in other countries, especially through our international events, which are held several times a year. The problem is, however, each international conference costs a great deal of money and efforts, which would be reflected in its participation fee. Moreover, especially since each event is a big challenge, we tend to make it longer – yes, we do hope to make it longer, – which leads it more difficult for members to manage their schedule available. In addition, such real conferences have some unavoidable limits in scale.

Thus, it would never be sufficient for the *"exchange and communication among Asian law students"*, which we have declared as our purposes/objectives, only to hold real international conferences which delegations are sent from each country. It is such significant and essential for us to make use of the TV conference system as a new means of international interchange.

2. **Purpose**

The purpose of this project is mostly same as that of our other international conferences that we have centered on: to establish a sense of trust beyond the difference of countries or nations, through dialogues and discussions; also, to recognize the differences among each other and to search for universality of law, through exchange of information and opinions, and discussions on legal issues.

On the other hand, through this Cyber Conference Project, held separately from other existing international conferences, it would enhance members' opportunity to participate in international conferences. It is the second purpose of this project to offer opportunities of the interchange to members who have not participated in any Study Trips held in foreign countries, or even international conferences held in their place, or who face some obstacles to participate in such activities.

In addition, it would help referring such academic resources as literature or Internet, to be able to join while staying our own university campus. Because social communication, the other interchange than the academic one, can take less time rather than existing international conferences, we aim to expand our academic activities as its third purpose.

3. **Cooperating Organization**

This projects is, on the Waseda side, going to be realized by the provision of a set of the TV conference system, on the support of Waseda University Distance Learning Center (<http://www.waseda.jp/dlc/>). The system is originally used with other alliance universities for a part of the CCDL program in Waseda University, an educational program to *let students obtain practical language skills and global perspectives and to improve basic abilities requiring for their great success as a "global citizen" in future, through frequent opportunities of real-time communication with partners overseas.*

It is the start of this project of ALSA to use a TV conference system used in the CCDL program, that the connection that *Isomura*, a member of ALSA Waseda University, works closely to the system as a CCDL Support Staff. Under the

concept of supporting students activities as far as they are admitted to be significant and they do not affect the classes, we are being offered favorable support of providing such systems as the TV conference system, currently used for language classes in the curriculum, from the CCDL Support Office, as a part of Waseda University, which prides the tradition of voluntary student activities. In addition, *Ikkei KOJIMA* and *Manami KUROISHI*, who are in the fourth grade of Waseda University, could be noted as human relationship between ALSA and CCDL Support Office.

The list of equipments which are to provided to us is below. They are, on Waseda side, to be provided without charges. On the side of counterpart universities, we are to ask ALSA Local Group of the university to commission the university to let us use, otherwise ALSA Waseda itself is to commission the university.

<i>Communication equipments</i>	IP phone in general.
<i>Conference room</i>	A normal classroom except for the equipments below.
<i>Video camera</i>	Polycom; please refer to Polycom Worldwide (http://www.polycom.com/) for more information.
<i>Display</i>	A screen, projector for the screen, and TV.
<i>Device to access the Internet</i>	A laptop computer.
<i>Human support</i>	Support Staff would take care of troubles in case.

4. Outline of the Project

4.1. *Place*

On Waseda University side, classrooms with TV conference equipments in Waseda University Research and Development Center (Building 120) in Nishiwaseda Campus.

4.2. *Scale*

On Waseda side, such rooms are available as from a booth for several people to a classroom for about 30 people at biggest, which are decided by coordination with the counterpart. We also expect similar scale on the counterpart side, which has not been decided.

4.3. *Counterpart*

The universities below are being listed as our counterpart. Bilateral conferences are being planned at the first step, otherwise multilateral conferences are technologically possible and actually carried out.

- Korea University (Seoul, Korea)
- National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Thammasat University (Bangkok, Thailand)

Additionally, it seems possible to hold TV conferences in terms of hardware, with any other universities or offices which have Polycom, the equipment mentioned above.

4.4. Participants

We have planned not only to recruit participants from other Local Groups in Japan but also to request participation of National Board if presentation of ALSA Japan activities is included of the session. As for counterparts, we also expect members from other Local Groups or National Board as participants in addition to member of the Local Group of the university, except for Singapore.

4.5. Date and Time

The time is possibly to be two frames of 90 minutes – that is, around 180 minutes. The date cannot be on a Sunday or holiday at first, and it is more possibly to be in the evening of a weekday or Saturday. The specific date is mentioned below in [6. Details for Each Partner](#).

5. Organizing Committee

The head of organizing committee was approved at the ALSA Waseda Local Group Meeting on October 27th.

[[The Organizing Committee of the Cyber Conference Project, ALSA Waseda University]]

<i>The Head</i>		<i>Fumiyoshi ISOMURA</i>	2 nd year of Waseda University School of Law Student Support Staff of CCDL (Cross Cultural Distance Learning) System
<i>Members</i>	For Korea	<i>Ryota INADA</i>	1 st year of Waseda University School of Law Vice President of ALSA Waseda University, 2 nd term of 2005
	For Singapore	<i>Ryu Oki</i>	1 st year of Waseda University School of Law Officer of Academic Activities of ALSA Waseda University, 2 nd term of 2005
	For Thailand	<i>Masaki MAEDA</i>	1 st year of Waseda University School of Law Officer of Academic Activities of ALSA Waseda University, 2 nd term of 2005

6. Details for Each Partner

6.1. Korea University

a) ALSA Local Group

ALSA Korea University is a small Local Group, which has one active member in second year and a few in first year. It has little or nothing which could be noted as constant activities. As for implementation of the Cyber Conference Project, ALSA Korea University may need some help in order to make it significant more than certain level. In Korea University, two members of ALSA Japan have been studying: *Takashi TODA*, in the second year of Chuo University; *Manami KUROISHI*, in the fourth year of Waseda University. To implement this project, *Takashi* is helping us with a great deal of cooperation.

b) Plan of TV Conferences

ALSA Korea is going to hold an event like a general assembly, gathering members of Local Groups in Seoul, in the afternoon on November 19th, Saturday. This day is one of the most probable to hold a TV conference in consideration

that it is essential for such a small Local Group as ALSA Korea University, which does not merely activities, to cooperate with other Local Groups or National Board, in order to carry out the Cyber Conference Project.

The contents are, possibly to be introduction presentations of both, ALSA Waseda University and ALSA Korea University, and discussion period about it, in consideration of insufficient time to prepare an academic activity. In addition, as mentioned above, it is to include presentations of National-level activities of both, in order to make it a more interesting and significant interchange.

6.2. *National University of Singapore*

a) ALSA Local Group

ALSA Singapore is constructed by only one affiliate university, National University of Singapore, which holds approximately 40 members according to the Report of AF 2004. After the first announce via Email, Mr. Manbeer, who is Vice President of ALSA Singapore and was the Singaporean delegation in AF 2005, contacted us. He has been the contact point concerning the Cyber Conference Project.

b) Equipments of the University

Although we haven't had details yet, it is stable as an end point of TV conference and its equipments are satisfactory according to Waseda University CCDL Support Office.

c) Plan of TV Conferences

Because academic interchange needs longer preparation period and Singapore has exams in December and those of Waseda are in January, next February is the most probable time of its implementation, when it is possible to gather approximately 20 participants on Singapore side according to Mr. Manbeer. It is in progress to confirm the permission to use the equipments on Singapore side while formulating an academic theme and subject of the session.

6.3. *Chulalongkorn University*

a) ALSA Local Group

ALSA Chulalongkorn University is one of the two big Local Groups constructing ALSA Thailand, along with ALSA Assumption University. Although its main activity seems to hold international events and to send delegation to those held in other countries and members do not seem active usually other than the committee, it can be expected to have a number of potential members. As for Cyber Conference Project, Ms. Tasaya, who participated in AF 2004, has been the contact point.

b) Equipments of the University

It is sure for Chulalongkorn University to own a TV conference system compatible to Waseda University according to Waseda University CCDL Support Office. However, we are facing such a big difficulty to use it as it is nearly impossible for us to implement the Cyber Conference Project: according to Ms. Tasaya's approach, it requires 30 bahts

per a minute, and moreover, 8000 bahts for using the room, which ALSA Chulalongkorn University cannot afford.

That is partly because Chulalongkorn University does not seem to have constant access to the Internet, contrary to our expectation, nevertheless, currently ALSA Chulalongkorn University can hardly join the Cyber Conference Project, which has not established its value and actuality enough to have them willing to join even with a big cost. Additionally, as a possibility, it would be realized if the university financially supports the cost of the system in the same way as it supports ALSA international events.

6.4. Thammasat University

a) Relations with ALSA

Thammasat University does not have an ALSA Local Group, which leads some problems to the university as a partner of us in the first place: we cannot assume to share [the awareness](#) mentioned above for the implementation of TV conferences, and cannot share [the vision for the future](#) mentioned below.

Centering on ALSA itself, however, it could be considered as an experimental place for the TV conference as a practical tool; international conferences have been the main places to express ALSA's appeal points to potential members so far. Considering that the aim of the Cyber Conference Project is to complement existing international conferences, their characteristics as an expansion tool of ALSA can be attached to this project. Nevertheless, since the interchange with Thammasat is much likely to concern the policy of ALSA Japan or ALSA Thailand, coordination of details would start after clarification of policies. Currently, Ms. Am, who participated in the AC 2005 as a guest, is the contact point.

b) Equipments of the University

Thammasat University is one of the universities which experience TV conferences in a class (Co-existence in Asia; http://www.waseda.jp/dlc/information/live_session_050928.html [in Japanese]) with Waseda University, along with Korea University, National University of Singapore. There may not be much obstacles as for the equipments.

7. Vision for the Future

7.1. *As One of the Two Cores*

As surveyed above, the interchange through TV conferences would be something much different in its characteristic from existing international conferences. It would become a big core activity of ALSA along with existing international conferences if we could enhance the network of TV conferences, making great use of its features.

Especially, we have moved into *the second period* nowadays, when the content of our activities is examined from the first period when the construction of the network was much focused on. The TV conferences, on which we can hold smaller but more frequent conferences, and which would help strengthen linkages between the conferences and academic preparation or feedback, could be a communication tool much suitable to academic interchange and advancement of academic level, in addition to its own characteristics to enable us to participate in conferences while staying in each university campus.

Precisely in Asia, where it is not easy to travel from one place to another because of geographic and politic factors, this telecommunication tool, TV conferences, could exercise its features for ALSA to reach the place where it seeks as a purpose.

7.2. As a Main Activity of Local Groups

The appeal point or significance of ALSA is indeed on its network covering Northeast and Southeast Asian countries and such international conferences as the Asian Forum or the Asian Conference to let individual members realize the network. On the other hand, the number of such members might well increases as those who cannot participate in real conferences while ALSA is becoming larger, and it is left to autonomous activities of each Local Group to maintain the centripetal forces.

Thus, in the current situation of ALSA's enlargement, it is essential for it in the level of Local Groups to become capable of exercising activities that actually provide its significance, in order to keep expanding while holding its identity as an international law students' organization. The TV conference system is exactly what Local Groups need as their subjects in consideration that it is not very much suitable to accept big number of participants each time but fit for small and frequent conferences.

The Cyber Conference Project provides a powerful and appealing alternative to Local Groups as a subject of their activities, where it is demanded that maintenance and improvement of its centripetal forces adapted to the identity of ALSA, while enlargement is also requested.

7.3. As a Means of More Appropriate and Smooth Management

Among the activities of ALSA, moving on to its second period, it is emerging as one big issue that the lack of concrete communication tools in the international level. It is essential for International Board to establish its international telecommunication tools, in order to exercise better measures with understanding each other, to understand the needs of each country to reflect in the management of ALSA, and to share the information of International Board and other international activities among ALSA National Groups.

For those purpose of smooth management in international level, and sharing information and discussion among National Groups, the Cyber Conference Project could offer a more effective instrument. Moreover, TV conferences enable larger number of members in each place to participate; it opens the opportunity to join equivalent conferences of the General Assembly in the Asian Forum.

The Cyber Conference Project not only makes discussion of management smoother, but also helps enhancement of democratic procedure in international level, which is always more complicated along with its scale, moreover, it opens opportunities to more members that they can experience management conferences which represent significance of ALSA as a large international student organization, along with academic activities.