

## ALSA Local Chapter Universitas Padjadjaran Visitation to ALSA Local Chapter University of Law Ho Chi Minh City



As part of our ongoing efforts to uphold the values of the Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA), which include being *Internationally Minded, Legally Skilled, Academically Committed, and Socially Responsible*, ALSA Local Chapter Universitas Padjadjaran conducted its biennial ALSA International Visit to University of Law Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 2025.

This activity was part of the wider set of programs organized by the ALSA Visit Subdivision under the External Division. For this year's international visit, Vietnam was chosen as our destination, with a special focus on connecting with the local chapter of ALSA University of Law Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam became the third country selected for the ALSA International Visit program, following previous visits to the National Chapter of Brunei Darussalam in 2022 and Thammasat University, Thailand in 2023. With 42 student delegates participating, this program was designed not only to foster international legal discourse, but also to develop a deeper cultural understanding and forge personal bonds between law students across nations. These goals align with ALSA's broader mission of promoting mutual respect and collaboration in the legal field throughout Asia.

We held our first casual meeting with the members of ALSA University of Law Ho Chi Minh City at a local park called Tao Dan Park. This session was encouraging both sides to

connect more personally before entering more formal academic discussions in the following days. To be more intimate, our 42 participants were divided into small groups, each mixed with ALSA LC Unpad and ALSA LC HCMC students. We talked, laughed, and bonded through stories of student life, aspirations in law, and even everyday experiences. From what's the best food in Ho Chi Minh, to deeper topics such as dream careers, academic interests, and so on. After an hour of bonding and sharing, our friends from ALSA LC HCM surprised us by offering a selection of light local snacks for us to try. It was a thoughtful and welcoming gesture that made us feel even more at home. Some members also handed out small souvenirs, such as keychains, adding a personal touch to the experience.

The third day marked the core agenda of our international visit, held at the University of Law Ho Chi Minh City. The event officially opened with welcoming speeches, beginning with a warm address by the Director of ALSA LC Unpad, Arnagya Akmaludin Aqsha, who expressed appreciation for the collaboration between both chapters and their student engagement in legal education. Next, both Local Chapters shared presentations about their respective organizations. The presentation from ALSA LC Unpad was delivered first, represented by our Director Arnagya Akmaludin Aqsha and Ryan Prastika, who provided a comprehensive overview of our organizational structure, members, signature programs, and ongoing initiatives. Their presentation highlighted the values and mission that guide ALSA LC Unpad as one of the most active chapters in Indonesia.

Following that, Pham Nhi, the President of ALSA LC HCMC, delivered a presentation introducing their LC. She provided insights into their academic activities, current projects, and the overall environment of legal education at the University of Law HCMC. The session concluded with a Q&A discussion, where both chapters exchanged thoughts and explored the differences and similarities in how each organization functions within their respective legal and educational systems.

We moved into the highlight and the most anticipated part of the event, which was an academic sharing session, which focused on the topic of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The session was delivered by Ms. Thao Vy, a lecturer from the University of Law HCMC, who provided an insightful explanation of how FDI is regulated and implemented in Vietnam. Participants were divided into small chambers, each mixed with delegates from ALSA LC Unpad and ALSA LC HCMC, to encourage collaboration and interactive discussion. Following

the lecture, each chamber was given a poster sheet to summarize the key points from the session. This activity allowed us to reflect on what we had learned and engage in thoughtful dialogue about how FDI operates both in Vietnam and in Indonesia. Our Vietnamese counterparts were especially curious about the Indonesian legal framework surrounding foreign investment, which led to a rich and mutually beneficial exchange of ideas. It was a meaningful academic experience that deepened our understanding of international economic law and its practical applications. After an intense academic session, the event transitioned into a lighter, more informal cultural exchange. Each participant was given a scrapbook page and invited to draw or write about various aspects of their home country's culture, such as traditional foods, etc. To close the day, the participants were invited to visit the University of Law HCMC library. Although we were unable to conduct a full campus tour due to ongoing classes, as we did not want to disturb the learning process, we were still able to fully enjoy the library visit.

ALSA, a student association of Asian law students, stands on the values of being Internationally Minded, Socially Responsible, Academically Committed, and Legally Skilled. The visit of ALSA LC Unpad to ALSA LC HCMC aimed to foster strong international relationships, promote academic and cultural exchange, and embrace cross-border collaboration. Increasing thinking ability, tolerance of cultural diversity differences, and expanding friendships internationally have become some of the perceived gains from participating in this ALSA International Visit activity. Through this visit, we gained not only new insights but also meaningful connections and a greater appreciation for cultural diversity.