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ADB

**STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE  
ASIA-PACIFIC: DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS**  
Colombo, 28 May – 2 June 2018

**SESSION 14: ONLINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LAW RESOURCES**

Presented by Nupur Chowdhury



# Objective of this presentation

- Give you an overview of the methodologies which could be explored to incorporate technological resources within the classroom
- Introduce you to some environmental law and climate change resources
- Briefly discuss some of the challenges of adoption of technological tools



# Technology Based Approaches

- Student demand for technology based approaches is increasing – need for increased flexibility
- Universities also consider online teaching as having considerable benefits – particularly economic
- Legal professional bodies are increasingly recognising digital literacy as a core competency

‘Technological tools are no different than, for example, cars: Their value depends on what we do with them and why’

(Smith, C. T. (2002). Technology and legal education: negotiating the shoals of technocentrism, technophobia, and indifference.(Erasing Lines: Integrating the Law School Curriculum). *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors*, 1(1), 247-257, p. 247)

# Technology Based Approaches (cont'd)

- Technology based approaches can include electronic resources as a teaching tool – e.g. support activities for face-to-face teaching (I WILL FOCUS ON THIS!)
- It can also refer to a whole-of-course pedagogical\* approach – e.g. use of videoconferencing to deliver an entire course

\*Pedagogy = the method and practice of teaching



# Practice of Online Research

- Students increasingly undertake online research for both long assignments but also indulge in ‘smart prep’ before class
- Teachers also therefore are required to at least undertake online searches on the lecture topic as part of their preparation – so as not be caught off guard !!
- But instead of looking at this as a challenge for the teacher – this can itself be designed as a preparatory assignment for students before the class
  - Legislative developments (including parliamentary questions)+ policies + judicial rulings + developments in other jurisdictions + good academic articles on the subject



# Nature of Online Legal Resources

- Academic Articles
- Case Law
- Current Affairs – ongoing disputes
- Recorded Lectures/Films



# Incorporation of Online Resources

- Incorporating online resources just as supplementary readings – will be less useful – until linked to a practical assignment in class/ community activity.
- Watching a lecture/film in class – followed by a discussion
- Reading of an online article – followed by a reflection paper and class/tutorial discussion
- Moot Courts – Hypothetical disputes based fact situations drawn from multiple actual disputes



# Online resources on Environmental law

- Resources – Lecture modules online
  - UGC e pathshala - <http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>
- Lectures online
  - Coursera – yale courses
  - Ted talks on environment - <https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=environment>
- Academic resources
  - <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/>
  - <http://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/%EF%BF%BCenvironmental-conflicts/> (African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes)
  - <https://enviroliteracy.org/>
  - <http://cse.ucpress.edu/> (Case Studies in the Environment)





# Online resources on Climate Change

- Law and Climate Change Toolkit (UNEP and Commonwealth) - <https://lcc.eaudeweb.ro/>
- IUCNAEL – Climate Change Law teaching resources - <http://www.iucnael.org/en/online-resources/climate-law-teaching-resources>
- IPCC - <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm#.Ubc5Adhi1NI>
- WWF Global Climate Change News ([http://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/](http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/))
- [Divecha Centre for Climate Change](http://dccc.iisc.ac.in/) <http://dccc.iisc.ac.in/>
- Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law - <http://columbiaclimatelaw.com/>
- Climate Change Litigation Database - <http://climatecasechart.com/>
- UN Research Database on Climate Change - <http://research.un.org/en/climate-change>



# Challenges of adopting online tools

- May destabilize the teacher-student relationship (giver-receiver of knowledge)
- Multiplicity of sources of knowledge – not everything on the internet is verified/peer reviewed information – necessary to cultivate the research ethic of trusted source
- Plagiarism – continuing challenge
- Give back what you take – enrich the resource – so contribute to online resources

