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# RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE Update

March 2010

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## FEATURED STORY

### ABA ROLI-Sponsored Play Highlights Women's Rights



On March 4, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) presented a theatrical performance highlighting women's rights at the Indian Cultural Center in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. About 200 people—including Tajik government officials, representatives of diplomatic missions and leaders of local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—attended the event, which is part of a U.S. Department of State-supported program on gender equality. The show, *Three Stories*, emphasizes issues affecting rural Tajik women. The first scene focuses on women's right to education. The second scene shows the consequences of being in an unregistered marriage, and the third illustrates how mothers can get child support payments from their children's fathers. [Read more »»](#)

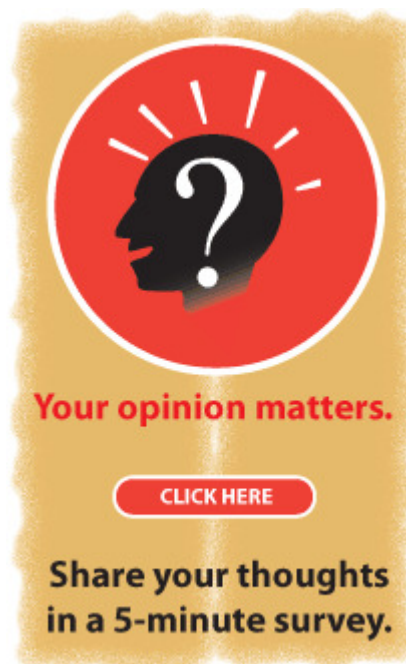
## EVENT

## Francis Fukuyama to Speak at ABA ROLI Event on April 21

On April 21, Francis Fukuyama, Director of the International Development Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, will open a day-long ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) event with remarks on his recent publication, *Transitions to the Rule of Law*.

*The Rule of Law: Perspectives from the Field* will also feature presentations by ABA ROLI field staff on a variety of topics, including legal education reform, women's rights, public interest law and civil society engagement.

To learn more about the agenda and to register, visit: [www.abarol.org/perspectives\\_10](http://www.abarol.org/perspectives_10)



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

## Cairo Event Gathers CLE Alumni



On March 3, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) hosted an alumni event for graduates of its continuing legal education (CLE) courses in

Egypt. About 40 of the 100 young lawyers who attended the CLE classes ABA ROLI and its local partners have offered since early 2009 attended the event. [Read more »»](#)

## ASIA

## Philippine Judicial Investigators Trained on Combating Corruption

With the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the Philippine Judicial Academy conducted a judicial investigation training. [Read more »»](#)



## ASIA

## Mongolia Program to Target Human Trafficking

In November 2009, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), with support from the U.S. Department of State, launched its Mongolia program, which aims to reduce human trafficking. Mongolian men, women and children are

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

## Armenian Judges Trained on the Enforcement of Judgments Made by the European Court of Human Rights

From December 21–23, 2009, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in cooperation with the

## ASIA

## Cambodia Enacts Peaceful Assembly Law Through Consultative Process

On December 5, 2009, the Cambodian government enacted the *Peaceful Assembly Law*, the result of almost five years of technical support and collaboration between the ABA Rule of Law Initiative

trafficked to countries such as China, Kazakhstan, Macau, Malaysia and South Korea both for sexual exploitation and for forced labor. [Read more »»](#)

Judicial School of the Republic of Armenia, conducted three day-long trainings on the enforcement of European Court of Human Rights' (ECtHR's) judgments. [Read more »»](#)

(ABA ROLI) and the Cambodian Ministry of Interior. [Read more »»](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

### Kosovo Chamber of Advocates Celebrates Women in the Legal Profession



**T**he Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA), with support from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 with a Pristina event highlighting the role of women in the legal profession. [Read more »»](#)

## ASIA

### Cambodian Association Publishes the Country's First Law Journal

**A**t the March 6–7 second annual academic conference at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, the Cambodian Society of Comparative Law (CSCL) introduced the country's first-ever law journal. [Read more »»](#)

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### Externship Program Creates Job Opportunities for Jordanian Law Students

**W**ith graduation scheduled for May 2010, law student Mousa Abdallat was planning to spend his mandatory post-graduation training at a bank legal department. Although banking was not Mousa's preferred industry, it is very difficult to secure law firm positions in Jordan. During his final semester at Yarmouk University, Mousa applied to the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) externship program, part of a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded legal education reform program. [Read more »»](#)

## ASIA

### Philippine Roundtables Focus on Ensuring Fair Automated Elections

**O**n May 10, 2010, the Philippines will hold the first fully automated elections in Southeast Asia. While it can contribute to a fair and transparent vote count, this new technology also poses significant challenges. Unresolved implementation problems, such as lack of contingency plans and voter confusion, could undermine public confidence and tip a heated contest into civil disorder. With U.S. Agency for International Development funding, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) are helping the Philippine judiciary prepare to address public concerns and to solve possible election disputes quickly and fairly. [Read more »»](#)



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