International Conference
on
Capital Punishment in Asia: Progress and Prospects for Law Reform

Dates: 4-5 November 2011

Venue: Connie Fan Multi-media Conference Room, Cheng Yick-chi Building, City University of Hong Kong (CityU)

FINAL PROGRAMME

Thursday, 3 November 2011

7:00pm- 8:30pm – Welcome Dinner hosted by the City University Law School at Royal Park Hotel, Shatin (by invitation)

Friday, 4 November 2011

9:00am-9:30am – Registration, Connie Fan Multi-media Conference room (MMR), CityU

9:30am-11:00am – INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcoming Remarks: Professor Anton Cooray, Associate Dean, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Inaugural Speech: Professor Arthur Ellis, Provost, City University of Hong Kong

Opening Address by the Guest of Honour, Mr Kevin P Zervos, Director of Public Prosecutions, Justice Department, Government of the HKSAR

Keynote Address: Professor Franklin Zimring, William G Simon Professor of Law, Berkeley Law School – “Is Asia Different? On Regional Patterns and Prospects”

Questions/Comments
Vote of Thanks: Dr Surya Deva, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Group Photo

11:00am-11:15am – Tea (MMR)

11:15am-12:45pm – SESSION I: Death Penalty – Situating Asia within International Human Rights Perspectives

Chair: Dr Mark Kielsgard, Assistant Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

1) Dr Saul Lehrfreund, Executive Director, The Death Penalty Project, London

Restricting the Use of the Death Penalty: The Relevance of International Human Rights Norms to Capital Punishment in Asia

2) Mr Y S R Murthy, Associate Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Studies, Jindal Global Law School

Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the Abolition of Death Penalty: A Critical Evaluation with Reference to the Asia Pacific Region

3) Mr Sam Garkawe, Associate Professor, School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University, Australia

Australia’s Response to the Death Penalty in Asia

Questions/Comments

12:45pm-2:00pm – Lunch by invitation (Shing Hin Restaurant, 8/F Amenities Building, CityU)

2:00pm-4:30pm – SESSION II: The Death Penalty in China – Review of Reforms and Recent Trends

Chair: Professor Roger Hood, Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College Oxford and Adjunct Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

1) Professor Renwen Liu, Director, Criminal Law Department of the Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing

A Retrospect of China’s Recent Reform on Death Penalty

2) Professor Zhao Bingzhi, College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China and Ms Michelle Miao, PhD Candidate, University of Oxford

Examining the Impact of International Human Rights Norms and Practices on the Transformation of Chinese Attitudes and Practice regarding Capital Punishment
3) **Dr Susan Trevaskes**, Associate Professor, Griffith University, Australia  
“Suspending Death” in Chinese Capital Cases

4) **Dr Børge Bakken**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong  
*Culture or Politics: Death Penalty Opinions in China*

Questions/Comments

4:30pm-4:45pm – Tea (MMR)

**4:45pm-6:00pm – SESSION III: Reviewing the Position in Singapore and Taiwan**

Chair: **Mr Parvais Jabbar**, Executive Director, The Death Penalty Project, London

1) **Professor Michael Hor**, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore  
*Death Penalty Developments in Singapore: Same Old Story or Beginning of the End*

2) **Ms Hsin-Yi Lin**, Executive Director, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP), Taiwan  
*How to Bring Back the Moratorium in Taiwan?*

Questions/Comments

6:30pm-8:00pm – Dinner hosted by the Jindal Global Law School at Festive China Restaurant, Festival Walk (by invitation)

**Saturday, 5 November 2011**

**9:00am-11:15am – SESSION IV: The Death Penalty in India – Time to Move Beyond the “Rarest of Rare” Cases?**

Chair: **Mr Jack Burke**, Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

1) **Professor B B Pande**, Former Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi  
*The Indian Death Penalty Thinking Still Shrouded in ‘Unscientific Reactionism’*

2) **Professor C Raj Kumar**, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University and Dean, Jindal Global Law School and **Amit Bindal**, Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, Centre for Penology, Jindal Global Law School  
*Abolition of Death Penalty in India: Legal, Constitutional and Human Rights Dimensions*

3) **Mr Bikramjeet Batra**, India Campaigner, Amnesty International  
*♫ “Don’t be Cruel...” ♪: Law, Cruelty and the Death Penalty in India*
4) Dr Surya Deva, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

*Death Penalty in the ‘Rarest of the Rare’ Cases: A Critique of Judicial Choice-Making*

Questions/Comments

11:15am-11:30am – Tea (MMR)

11:30am-12:45pm – SESSION V: The Death Penalty Debate in Pakistan and Malaysia

Chair: Professor Michael Hor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

1) Mr Kamran Arif, Co-chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

*The Right to a Fair Trial and the Death Penalty Debate in Pakistan*

2) Ms Roseann Rife, Head of Special Projects, Global Thematic Issues, Amnesty International

*Campaigning for Abolition in Asia from Amnesty International Perspective: The Case of Malaysia*

Questions/Comments

12:45pm-2:00pm – Lunch hosted by the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macau at City Top, 9/F Amenities Building, CityU (by invitation)

2:00pm-4:15pm – SESSION VI: Reform Prospects in Japan and South Korea

Chair: Mr Robert Godden, Asia-Pacific Campaign Coordinator, Amnesty International

1) Professor David T Johnson, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii

*Progress and Prospects for Law Reform in Japanese Capital Punishment*

2) Dr Mai Sato, Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford

*Arguing Abolition from a Non-human Rights Perspective: Public Judgment on the Death Penalty*

3) Ms Maiko Tagusari, Secretary General, Centre for Prisoners Rights, Japan

*What is changing and unchanging two years after political change in Japan?*

4) Professor Byung-Sun Cho, Cheongju University College of Law, South Korea

*Capital Punishment in South Korea: Progress and Prospects for Law Reform*

Questions/Comments

4:15pm-4:30pm – Tea (MMR)
4:30pm-5:45pm – SESSION VII: Summing Up and Chartering the Future Agenda

Chair: Professor C Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University and Dean, Jindal Global Law School

1) Ms Maria Castillo Fernandez, Head of Office, Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macau

The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights – Political Commitment Matched by Substantial Project Support

2) Professor Roger Hood, Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College Oxford and Adjunct Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Concluding Address: Asia in the International Context – The Way Forward