

School of Law Newsletter



School of Law (SLW), City University of Hong Kong

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Message from the Dean

The mission of the City University Law School is “to provide students with an excellent education; to contribute to the advancement of knowledge; and to improve the quality of life for people.” In carrying out our mission, there are many challenges, all of which are related to globalization. Under the world trend of globalization, free movement of teachers and students is part of our normal life, competition is not only from local education providers but also external ones, interaction with the professional bodies is a must, and maintaining the uniqueness of the Law School as a common law provider with Chinese and comparative law characteristics is getting ever more difficult.



Professor Wang Guiguo

To cope with the above challenges, the School must take extraordinary measures for fulfilling our mission. Such measures should be established in addition to the well respected and distinguished programmes we have worked hard for over the last twenty years. The bottom line is that nobody’s talent should be wasted and must be made good use of.

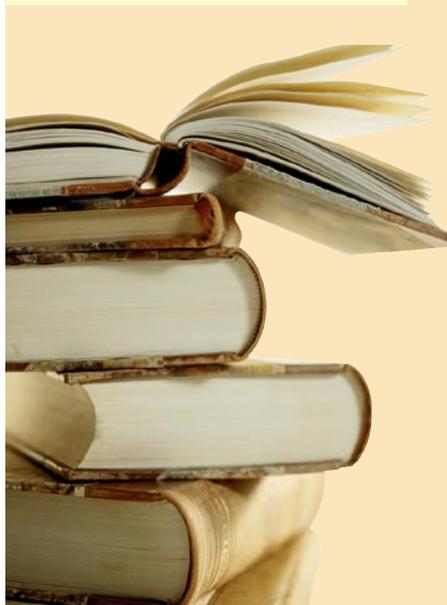
The success of our Law School depends on the quality of teachers and students we are able to attract and the ability of the graduates we produce. We must prepare our graduates with the knowledge and skills that this highly globalized world requires in general and the Hong Kong society needs in particular. For that purpose, we must make every effort to work closely with the international academic family and the professional bodies both in Hong Kong and internationally.

We are lucky that with the efforts of our colleagues, we managed to establish an International Advisory Board comprised of internationally renowned professors from all the major parts of the world and eminent lawyers of the legal profession. Their vision, knowledge, skills and experience have already benefited our Law School, which is evidenced by the introduction of the Global Legal Education and Awareness Programme (G-LEAP).

As the first initiative of the G-LEAP, our School has entered into an exchange agreement with the Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia, whereby most of our UGC funded LLB students will, at a tiny amount of their own expenditure, be able to study a course for one month at Monash University. We are now exploring other possibilities for broadening the vision and knowledge of our students.

I am most grateful for my colleagues’ innovative ideas and contributions for making our School a place not only for work but also for a meaningful sharing of our valued time and life together.

Professor Wang Guiguo
Dean and Professor (Chair) of Chinese and Comparative Law





School of Law Establishes International Advisory Board to Enhance Teaching and Research

The School of Law (SLW) at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) has formed an International Advisory Board (IAB) comprising renowned professors from Harvard, Yale and Oxford universities and experienced legal practitioners in order to further enhance teaching and research at the School.

Co-chaired by Dr Simon Ip Sik-on and Dr Michael J Moser, the IAB consists of 14 members, nine of whom are renowned academics from overseas law schools and the other five, including the co-chairmen, are well-known legal practitioners. By sharing their valuable experience in legal practice and education, the IAB members will help the School of Law to cope with the challenges of a globalized legal education environment.

Dr Ip is a solicitor, educator and a notary public who has served a number of local tertiary institutions. He was a legislative councillor (1991–1995) and President of the Law Society of Hong Kong (1987–1989). Dr Moser, an attorney-at-law and a partner with O'Melveny & Myers LLP, has been named among the top 500 lawyers in

the Asia-Pacific region by Asia Pacific Legal 500.



(From left) Professor Wang Guiguo, Dr Simon Ip & Professor Richard Ho

Other members on the Board include:

Professor William Alford, Henry L Stimson Professor of Law and Vice-Dean of the Graduate Programme and International Legal Studies at Harvard Law School;

Mr Philip Dykes SC, a practicing barrister (Senior Counsel) in Hong Kong who was elected Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Council in 2005 and 2006;

Professor Timothy Endicott, Professor of Legal Philosophy and Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford;

Professor Daniel R Fung, former

Solicitor-General of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;

Professor Hoong Phun Lee, Sir John Latham Professor of Law and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law at Monash University, Australia;

The Honourable Andrew Liao Cheung-sing, Member of the Executive Council of the HKSAR Government;

Professor Stephen P Marks, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights at Harvard University;

Professor Mitsuo Matsushita, Professor of Law at Seikei University and Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, Japan;

Professor Gerard McCoy, Adjunct Professor at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand;

Professor Christopher McCrudden, Professor in Human Rights Law in the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford;

Professor Noh-young Park, Professor of International Law and Vice-President of Korea University, Seoul; and

Professor W Michael Reisman, Myres S McDougal Professor of International Law at Yale Law School.

Initiated by Professor (Chair) Wang





Guiguo, who has been appointed as CityU's Dean of the School of Law for a term of three years with effect from 1 August 2007, the IAB also aims to promote the School at an international level.

"Strengthening ties and promoting exchanges between the School and professional bodies and overseas law schools will be one of my priorities because it will provide our students with more opportunities for international exposure," Professor Wang said.

"I am honoured by the appointment and will try my very best to cope with this challenge," he added.

Professor Wang joined CityU in 1991. He graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University. He was the first Chinese recipient of a United Nations Institute for Training and Research Fellowship which enabled him to study at the International Court of Justice, the Hague Academy of International Law, the Office of Legal

Affairs of the United Nations, and the Legal Department of the World Bank. He obtained his LLM from Columbia Law School in New York and a JSD degree from Yale Law School. His research interests include World Trade Organization Law, International Economic Law, International Banking and Financial Law, International Investment Law, Comparative Law and Chinese Law.

By Michelle Leung

School of Law Hosts Inaugural Meeting for Its International Advisory Board

Eminent international legal experts gathered at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) for the inaugural meeting of the School of Law's International Advisory Board (IAB) and a roundtable discussion on "Globalization and legal education" on 31 August.

At the inaugural meeting, Professor Richard Ho Yan-ki, CityU's Acting President, thanked the participants for joining with CityU to promote globalized teaching and research in the legal field.

"CityU is dedicated to preparing our students for the globalized world. The establishment of the IAB is undoubtedly a major milestone for the School of Law, one that will help to nurture our students the necessary knowledge, skills, ethics and international outlook to become professionals," Professor Ho said. "I believe our students will benefit a great deal from the renowned board members," he added.

Dr Simon Ip Sik-on, an experienced legal practitioner and educator, is the co-chairman of the IAB. He has been very supportive of CityU's legal education since the establishment of the Department of Law in 1987.

"Hong Kong's future lawyers require not only a deep knowledge of Hong

Kong and mainland commercial laws and practices, but must also have an understanding of the laws and operating conditions of other global commercial and financial centres, where China's investment funds will flow. The establishment of the International Advisory Board by CityU's School of Law is an inspired move," Dr Ip said.

"This year marks the 20th Anniversary of CityU's School of Law and I am sure that, building on its remarkable past achievements, it will become one of the most successful and important law schools in China and the Asia Pacific region. The International Advisory Board will have a pivotal role to play," he added.

Professor (Chair) Wang Guiguo, Dean of the School of Law, said providing students with the opportunities to exchange ideas with international legal experts was an important element in creating an internationalized learning environment.

"We will invite the IAB members to give lectures at CityU and explore more collaboration opportunities in academic and research areas," he said.

To cater for the needs of the first batch of LLB graduates completing the four-year curriculum in 2008, the School is restructuring the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme



Professor Richard Ho (right) presents the IAB certificate to Dr Simon Ip

to cover more practical skills, Professor Wang said.

Participants in the roundtable discussion sharing their perspectives on legal education along the veins of globalization included:

Professor David Tong Shuk-yin, Deputy President, CityU; Professor Stephen P Marks, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, USA; Professor Anton Cooray, Professor of Law, School of Law, CityU; Mr Philip Dykes SC, Senior Counsel, and Former Chairman, Hong Kong Bar Association; Mr Michael Sandor, PCLL Programme Leader, School of Law, CityU; Professor Hoong Phun Lee, Sir John Latham Professor of Law, and Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia; Professor Mitsuo Matsushita, Professor of Law, Seikei University, and Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo, Japan; and Professor Noh-young Park, Professor of International Law, and Vice-President, Korea University, Seoul.

By Michelle Leung



School of Law Organises International Conference on Terrorism and Human Rights

The School of Law at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) opened the “International Conference on Terrorism, Human Security and Development: Human Rights Perspective” on 16 October.

The 16-17 October conference, organised in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU), Japan, is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. It brought together more than 25 experts in law and policy issues relating to terrorism, public law, comparative and international law, human rights and development from around the world.

Professor Paul Lam Kwan-sing, Acting Vice-President (Undergraduate Education) of CityU, welcomed the participants. “CityU is dedicated to nurturing quality graduates with a global mindset,” Professor Lam said. “This conference on terrorism, an issue of universal concern, is another example of how the University delivers the most up-to-date knowledge to our students.”

Professor (Chair) Wang Guiguo, Dean of CityU’s School of Law, believed the conference would be a valuable experience for both colleagues and students of the School. “I am very



Associate Professor C Raj Kumar

grateful to have this group of important experts from all over the world come and discuss such important issues on terrorism and human rights. Today and

tomorrow, our colleagues and students will learn a lot,” he said.

Associate Professor C Raj Kumar, the organiser of the conference introduced the theme of the conference and in particular highlighted the relationship of the problem of terrorism to efforts of the international community to ensure human security and to promote development.

The opening ceremony featured renowned experts and scholars, including Dr Sukehiro Hasegawa, Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for East Timor; Professor Stephen P Marks, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, who gave the keynote speech; and Dr Vesselin Popovski, Director of Studies on International Order and Justice, Peace and Governance Programme, UNU, who

closed the ceremony.

There were six sessions in the two-day conference. The international experts shared their views at different sessions chaired by professors from the School of Law.



Professor Wang Guiguo (right) presents a souvenir to Dr Vesselin Popovski

The mission of the UNU is to contribute, through research and education, to efforts to resolve pressing global problems that are of concern to the United Nations, its peoples and member states. As an academic institution of the United Nations, the UNU has no student body in the traditional sense. Its students are postgraduate or postdoctoral researchers who receive advanced training as UNU Fellows or participate in UNU training courses, seminars and workshops.

By Michelle Leung





CityU Launches Global Legal Education and Awareness Programme (G-LEAP)



Professor Arie Freiberg

The School of Law of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) has launched the Global Legal Education and Awareness Programme (G-LEAP). Under the programme, the Faculty of Law of Monash University, Australia, became the first university to sign a collaborative agreement with the School on 15 October.

G-LEAP is designed to promote excellence in legal education, with a view to providing opportunities for CityU law students to gain a global perspective on the study of law that will benefit them in their professional careers. Law School students will be able to spend a month studying at the Faculty of Law of Monash University. Students participating in the programme will be eligible for a credit transfer to an equivalent course being taught at the CityU School of Law. G-LEAP will commence in June

2008 and is expected to involve 50 CityU students every year. The School is seeking more opportunities to collaborate with overseas universities to promote this programme.

Speaking at the inauguration and signing ceremony, Professor Richard Ho Yan-ki, Acting President of CityU, said students need to embrace the challenges of a more interconnected world. "Globalisation has profound implications for the future of higher education worldwide. The institutions ought to constantly reinvent themselves and face these challenges through exchange and collaboration programmes," Professor Ho said.

The Honourable Andrew Liao Cheung-sing, member of the Executive Council of the HKSAR Government, and one of the officiating guests, said the programme helped to promote the global perspective on legal education. "CityU is dedicated to providing



(From left) Professor Wang Guiguo, Honourable Andrew Liao & Professor Richard Ho

students with high quality legal education in order to better serve the community and the region and to expose students to global issues. Through this programme, students may acquire more knowledge, understanding and skills relating to substantive legal issues," Mr Liao said.



Professor Wang Guiguo (right) & Professor Arie Freiberg

Professor Arie Freiberg, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Monash University, Australia, and Professor (Chair) Wang Guiguo, Dean of CityU's School of Law, signed the agreement, representing another important step in strengthening ties between the two universities.

"Monash University welcomes the opportunity to increase staff and student interaction with CityU, providing both our law schools with a deeper understanding of the legal and social cultures of two different societies," Professor Arie Freiberg said.

Professor Wang said the agreement is a milestone for the School in providing this kind of learning experience. "The agreement with the Faculty of Law of Monash University is the first initiative under G-LEAP that has underscored the importance of internationalisation in legal education," he added. Other guests of honour participating in the ceremony included Dr Vesselin Popovski, Director of Studies on International Order and Justice, Peace and Governance Programme, United Nations University, Japan, and Dr Sukehiro Hasegawa, Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Timor-Leste.

By Ellen Chan



Law School Delegation visits University of Oxford

A delegation from the School of Law comprising of Dean Professor Wang Guiguo, Associate Professor Gu Minkang and Associate Professor C. Raj Kumar visited University of Oxford on 20–21 November 2007 at the invitation of Professor Timothy Endicott, Dean of Faculty of Law and Professor of Legal Philosophy, University of Oxford. Dean Endicott is also a member of the School's International Advisory Board (IAB).



(From left) Gu Minkang, Dean Wang, Dean Endicott & C. Raj Kumar

The School's faculty members had wide ranging discussions with a number of professors at Oxford regarding collaboration between the School of Law of CityU and the Faculty of Law of University of Oxford. Dean Wang briefed Dean Endicott about the launch of the Global Legal Education and Awareness Programme (G-LEAP) at the School of Law of CityU and the nature of the collaboration that has been established with the Faculty of Law of Monash University. Dean Wang also informed Dean Endicott of the agreement of cooperation that has been established by the School with the Supreme People's Court in People's Republic of China.

After the initial meeting, Dean Endicott invited the School's faculty members for a lunch in which a number of other professors from Oxford were



(From left) Gu Minkang, C. Raj Kumar, Frederico Varese, Paul Craig, Dean Wang, Dean Endicott, Nicholas Barber & Christopher McCrudden

invited for an elaborate discussion on the nature and viability of the collaboration that may be established between the two law schools. Besides Dean Endicott, the luncheon meeting was attended by Professor Paul Craig, Professor Christopher McCrudden, Professor Nicholas Barber and Professor Frederico Varese. The discussions were open and a number of options were considered. Dean Endicott observed that among various proposals of collaboration that were received by Oxford from universities worldwide, the one received from the School of Law of CityU is comprehensive and detailed with specificity of implementation. The faculty members at Oxford were particularly enthusiastic about the programme relating to education and training of judges from the People's Republic of China at the School of Law of CityU and the discussions focused

on the possibility of Oxford professors being involved in this programme. The two proposals, the one relating to students and the other relating to judges will be further discussed among other faculty members at Oxford in the months to come.



School of Law faculty members with Professor Adrian Zuckerman

In addition to the meeting at the Faculty of Law of University of Oxford, Dean Wang, Associate Professor Gu Minkang and Associate Professor C. Raj Kumar

were invited for a meeting and dinner

by Professor Christopher McCrudden, a Professor of Human Rights Law and a fellow of the Lincoln College, Oxford. Professor McCrudden, being a member of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the School of Law, was keen to discuss further possibilities of collaboration with the School.

During the visit to Oxford, the

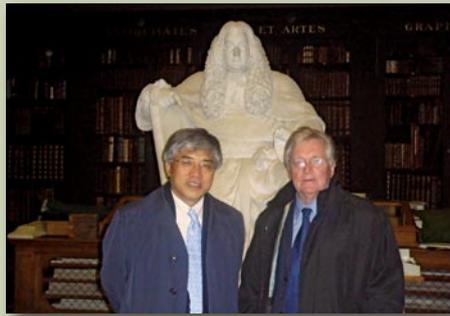


delegation had meetings with Professor Roger Hood, Professor Emeritus of Criminology and Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford; and Professor John Finnis, Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and the Vice Master of University College Oxford.



School of Law faculty members with Professor John Finnis

The delegation had visited the University College, Oxford, which was founded in 1249 and is the oldest

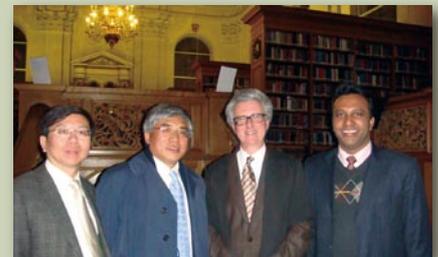


Dean Wang & Professor Roger Hood

college in the English-speaking world. Dean Wang, Associate Professor Gu Minkang and Associate Professor C. Raj Kumar who was a Rhodes Scholar and alumni of the University College, Oxford, had discussions with Professor Adrian Zuckerman, a Professor of Civil Procedure at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and a fellow of the University College, Oxford. Professor Zuckerman evinced most interest in implementing the G-LEAP programme for CityU law students in collaboration

with the University College, Oxford. In the next few months, the School hopes to enter into detailed discussions with the University College, Oxford and the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford for establishing a collaborative relationship with a view to promoting global legal education.

Overall the visit to Oxford was useful and successful at many levels and has the potential to open up important opportunities for the School of Law of CityU for promoting internationalization in legal education.



School of Law faculty members with Professor Christopher McCrudden

Eminent Speakers Lecture on Sustainable Development

The School of Law held the first talk in its Eminent Speakers Lecture Series for this academic year on 3 October, with guest speaker Ir Dr the Honourable Raymond Ho Chung-tai presenting his lecture on “**Sustainability Considerations for Infrastructure Development**”. Dr Ho is a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council representing the Engineering Functional Constituency. He is also the Hong Kong Deputy to the Tenth National People’s Congress of the PRC, Past President and Honorary Fellow of HKIE, and a Fellow and Council Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences. He has served as the Hong Kong Affairs Advisor, Chairman of Transport Advisory Committee, Member of Basic Law Consultative Committee, Council Chairman of City University of Hong Kong, Chairman of Hong Kong Technology Committee of the Industry

and Technology Development Council (ITDC) and is a member of the ITDC. Dr Ho did his first degree at HKU, his postgraduate work at Manchester University UK and his doctorate (PhD) at the City University of London UK. He was awarded Honorary Doctor of Business Administration (Hon DBA) by the City University of Hong Kong and Honorary Doctor of Laws (Hon LLD) by Manchester University UK.

Dr Ho was welcomed by Professor Richard Ho Yan-ki, Acting President of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and Professor (Chair) Wang Guiguo, Dean of the School of Law.



Dr Raymond Ho

In the welcoming speech, Professor Wang explained that the lecture series provided a public forum in which the University could interact with the wider community on issues relevant to our times and promoted intellectual discourse among scholars and students at CityU.



In his lecture, Dr Ho suggested that the concept of sustainable development provided the framework for economic growth and development with minimum negative impact on available resources, therefore allowing society to continue functioning indefinitely. He highlighted the importance of the concept of sustainable development for the decision making process relating to infrastructure project approvals. Whereas infrastructure development after World War II was exclusively dominated by the needs of a growing population and

the economy, and led by the overall aim of maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness, infrastructure development in the future should take into account long term benefits and future generations. The speaker further emphasized that environment and preservation are not the only criteria for sustainable development and that all stakeholders' interests should be taken care of through the involvement in public consultations. The



Professor Richard Ho (left) & Professor Wang Guiguo (right) present a souvenir to Dr Raymond Ho



Professor Richard Ho (middle) attends the lecture

government is playing a leading role in embracing the concept of sustainability and its applications. As the concept can be adopted in many aspects of our lives, its successful application is also heavily reliant upon the participation of the private sector as well as the community as a whole.

“The practice of sustainable development requires initiatives from the government, while transparency in planning the policy should be improved by promoting more public participation,” Dr Ho said. “When the government has received enough input, it needs to make a strong and firm decision to implement the policy.”

By Ellen Chan

School of Law Establishes Hong Kong's First Credit-bearing Legal Placement Programme on the Mainland

The School of Law has taken the initiative to incorporate mainland legal placements into the credit-bearing curriculum of the Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree programme. This is the first such programme offered in Hong Kong. The programme enables our students to gain hands-on experience in learning about the Chinese legal system on the mainland, and also provides our students with insight on career possibilities on the mainland in light of the CEPA (Closer Economic



Partnership Arrangement) between the mainland and Hong Kong.

In the summer of 2007, 19 law students

firstly went to Renmin University for two weeks to study the Chinese legal system and to visit various institutions. During these two weeks, students studied the development of the Chinese legal system, including constitutional law, criminal law, civil procedure law, civil law, and business law as well as the reform and development of the economy. In addition,

the students were able to visit many places not open to the public, including the Standing Committee of



Beijing Municipal People's Congress, Procurator's Office, Beijing High People's Court, Judicial Bureau, prisons and the Olympic Traffic Control Centre in the Public Security Bureau.

The students then spent four weeks at the People's Court in Xianwu and Haidian districts. During this period of time, they were assigned to particular judges to observe their trials, to discuss cases, to draft opinions and to be the assistants of the judges. All students involved believe that this programme will be of great help to their future development.

Yao Yao and Ng Yan-kit, both Year 3 students on the Bachelor of Laws (Hons) programme, said the legal placement had broadened their views and enhanced their learning.

"After hearing cases in court, the judges would discuss them with us,"

Yao Yao said. "We learned to change our position and study cases and the legal system from various angles."

Ng Yan-kit said it was worth considering why the mainland encourages mediation rather than legal proceedings. "Judges on the mainland are more inclined to balance laws, reason and human factors, reflecting the harmonious society advocated in Chinese culture."

Dr Lin Feng, Associate Professor in the School of Law, is responsible for developing this placement programme. He said that local enterprises venturing into the mainland would need lawyers to help them deal with legal issues as the Hong Kong and mainland economies gradually converged, therefore it would be an inevitable trend for legal firms to seek development in the mainland.

"The common law adopted by Hong

Kong is very different from the continental law on the mainland," Dr Lin said. "Therefore, the School of Law has incorporated courses on the Chinese legal system into the undergraduate degree programme. The mainland legal placement programme allows students to visit China for a better understanding of the Chinese legal system and legal proceedings."

Staff members of the School have been closely involved in the programme. During the period of the programme, the School assigned three teachers (Lin Feng, He Xin and Gu Minkang) as supervisors to stay with the students to provide support and guidance to the students, and to assess the students' overall performance at the completion of the legal placements.

By Jenny Kwan

Promoting Excellence and Reinforcing Quality in CityU's PCLL Programme

The School of Law has been in the process of restructuring the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme to be implemented from 2008/09. The present changes are being made to improve synergies between the PCLL programme and the new 4-year LLB programme, with the first group of graduates of the 4-year LLB entering the PCLL in 2008/09.

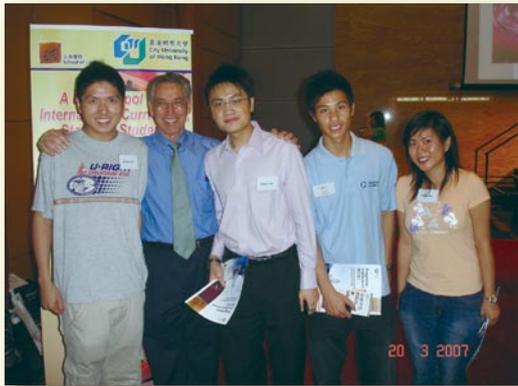
On the invitation of the School of Law, Professor Christopher Roper of the College of Law Alliance, Australia, attended the School as visiting professor in August 2007 to work with the School on the project for the restructuring of the PCLL.

Commenting on the project, Professor Roper noted that the restructuring involves a continuation of the work implemented in recent years to address



the concerns raised in the Redmond/Roper Report of 2001 on Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong—that is, that the PCLL should focus on "practical training and professional preparation".

Professor Roper observed that LLB students undertaking the 4-year LLB will have completed the courses of Commercial Law, Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure in their undergraduate degree, while graduates



of the previous 3-year LLB would have only studied these courses on the PCLL rather than the LLB. With the moving of the study of the substantive law in these various courses to the LLB, there would now be greater scope for the new PCLL to expand practical skills training to ensure that graduates will be better prepared for professional practice.

“Real lawyering”, noted Professor Roper, “involves analysing of the situation that the client is in, coming up with what the client needs, and giving them the best outcome.” The restructuring of the PCLL accordingly needs to place emphasis on training law graduates in using the law to solve clients’ problems. Professor Roper opined that the present PCLL at the School largely reflects these needs, but the restructuring is important for improving the programme and to align courses with the broad objectives of the programme in focusing on the practical skills of lawyers.

Professor Roper is the Director of The College of Law Alliance, a strategic alliance between The College of Law, England & Wales and The College of Law, Australia. From 1992 to 2000, he was the Director of the Centre for Legal Education. Prior to this, he was the Director of Legal Education at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Solicitors, Sydney; the Director of The College of

Law, Sydney; and the Executive Director of the Leo Cussen Institute, Melbourne. He has been active in various aspects of legal education and training in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. He is well-known in Hong Kong for his part in the reform of legal education through the Redmond/Roper Report which was submitted to, and implemented by, the government a few years ago.



Update on the PCLL

The PCLL is undergoing significant change at the moment to meet Benchmarks set by the Bar Association and the Law Society. The Law Society requires all PCLL providers to make their programmes predominantly more skills based and to introduce a number of skills based Electives. We have chosen to offer Electives in Intellectual Property Practice, China Law Practice and Advanced Litigation Practice. These courses complement the bank of knowledge and skill sets we possess in our School and provide exciting opportunities to position ourselves at the cutting edge of practical legal training in Hong Kong.

Also, in May 2008 we plan to offer a two week course for prospective

bar pupils, taught by practising barristers, that will complement the already comprehensive drafting and advocacy training that we provide to all PCLL students. This course will be a particularly advanced and interesting one in relation to the advocacy component of the course. Here, students will learn a number of very advanced advocacy skills, including how to examine and cross-examine expert witness in both civil and criminal matters.

We have been very fortunate in these endeavours to have received much helpful advice and guidance from Professor Christopher Roper and we look forward to continuing to work closely with him when he returns here early next year.



Mr Michael Sandor

In other news we have a number of new faces this year in the PCLL including Doug Turner, Peter Verey, Michael Beckett, Justin Woo and



Mr Jack Burke

Professor Paul Von Nessen. Paul is visiting from Monash University until January 2008 and is working closely with Dr Barry Slutsky in Commercial Law and Practice. Our other new recruits all form a very tight knit team in Legal Writing and Drafting and have been making great strides in delivering an on-line program that is being well received by students in the programme.

By Michael Sandor, PCLL Programme Leader and Jack Burke, PCLL Associate Programme Leader



Implementing OBTL at the School of Law – Interview with Dr John Ho

In recent times, there has been much discussion about the Outcomes Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) across all higher education institutions in Hong Kong. The School of Law of City University of Hong Kong has also started taking a walk on the OBTL road. To talk more about this, SLW Newsletter met Dr John Ho, who was formally appointed to the post of OBTL Coordinator at the School of Law in May 2007.



Dr John Ho

◆ Dr Ho, thank you very much for your time to talk about OBTL. Let me begin with a simple question. What is OBTL?

OBTL stands for “Outcomes-Based Teaching and Learning”. It is a student-centred approach to student learning, and calls for the articulation of what we expect our students to learn—what has come to be known as Intended Learning Outcomes or ILOs. A central aspect of OBTL is the alignment of Teaching and Learning Activities, as well as Assessment Tasks with the ILOs. In other words, Teaching and Learning Activities should be designed to facilitate students’ attainment of the ILOs, and Assessment Tasks should be designed to motivate learning and provide a measure of learning effectiveness.

◆ Does OBTL, then, require a radical re-orientation of how we used to teach before?

I would not say it’s a radical re-orientation, as I’m sure many of us would have been “doing OBTL” implicitly or subconsciously. However, it involves bringing a methodical discipline explicitly to teaching and learning.

◆ What triggered universities in Hong Kong to move on the path of OBTL?

I can at least trace it back to a letter dated

15 May 2006 from the Chairman of the University Grants Committee to the President of CityU, which mentioned an “international trend” to adopt outcomes-based approaches in teaching and learning, and UGC’s intention to encourage institutions in that direction. The letter also referred to a “Roadmap document” published in January 2004 that says all (Hong Kong) institutions should pursue international competitiveness in teaching. The Chairman said that UGC’s goal in promoting outcomes-based approaches was the improvement and enhancement in student learning and teaching quality. But interestingly, the history of OBTL at CityU actually predates that letter. I know of at least one department which appointed its OBTL coordinator in May 2005. It turns out that the Senate had approved the establishment of a framework to implement OBTL in all taught programmes as early as May 2005.

◆ In your view, how is OBTL going to improve the learning of law?

OBTL should improve the learning of law by making the process of teaching

and learning more efficient and effective. From the outset, students are made aware of what they are expected to learn. The alignment of teaching and learning activities, as well as assessment tasks with ILOs makes the attainment of the ILOs more accessible to more students at lower cost.

◆ How have staff and students responded to OBTL?

There may be a bit of misgiving or misunderstanding among some staff members of what OBTL is. On the one hand, I can feel that there is some resistance and scepticism on the part of some. That is understandable because of the historical insistence on research output as a priority, and designing new teaching and learning activities and assessment tasks will undoubtedly compete for attention, time and energy with research activities. There are others who embrace the initiative but may think that OBTL is merely a “paper exercise”, involving nothing other than redrafting the course documents (Form 2As and 2Bs) “in the OBTL format”, and once the redrafting is done, the job is finished. That, unfortunately, is not true, because OBTL requires rethinking of the way we deliver our teaching, by planning ILOs and organising appropriate teaching and learning activities and assessment tasks to help students achieve the learning outcomes. We have therefore arranged three seminars/workshops in Semester A for the Education Development Office (EDO) and Dean of Student Learning (DSL) to explain OBTL to the teaching staff. The School has also scheduled a retreat for January 10–11, 2008, with the theme “Promoting Excellence in Legal Education & Research: Implementing OBTL at School of



Law”. Mr Aman Shah, Coordinator of Quality Assurance, and our external consultant on OBTL will join the retreat. The Dean expects all teaching staff to take part. That should give our implementation of OBTL a healthy boost.

As far as students are concerned, I have seen students talk about OBTL with great enthusiasm at seminars presented by EDO. Whether we would have similar response among students, we don't have sufficient data yet to make a conclusion. But I don't see any reason why their response should be different, because, after all, the quality of teaching and learning should be improved with OBTL.

❖ What progress has the School of Law made in implementing OBTL in its different programmes?

On the organisational level, the School has established an OBTL Committee, which comprises the Dean, all programme leaders and myself. The Committee has agreed that a “teaching portfolio” should be included in every staff member's Annual Activity Report (AAR),

covering their reflections and insights on the implementation of OBTL, explaining, for example, difficulties and successes in its implementation, and providing evidence of the impact of OBTL. Programme Leaders have also been asked to form focus groups for their programmes, so that we can get feedback from students whether the implementation of OBTL has been effective and beneficial.

In addition, the School Board has invited programme leaders and course leaders to include in their programme and course reports a section on the progress of implementation of OBTL.

On the implementation level, Form 2As and Form 2Bs have been redrafted for some programmes and courses. But that is only a beginning. As I said before, we have arranged seminars and workshops for EDO and DSL to explain OBTL to the School of Law. There will also be a retreat, scheduled to take place early January next year, when the School will focus on the theme of OBTL. Hopefully, this will jumpstart OBTL at our School. We have had a late start compared to other

departments and faculties, and we have a lot of catching up to do.

❖ Do you foresee any challenges in a successful implementation of the OBTL project?

Undoubtedly, implementing OBTL will be a big challenge, as it involves a change in the School culture. It requires imposing a methodical discipline on the way we conduct our teaching, as well as a rebalancing of our priorities. However, given the importance of the project, it cannot be allowed to fail. There will be a UGC Quality Audit to be held in May/June 2010, and in preparation for that, there will be internal surveys/audits starting Semester B, 2007–2008. To meet those challenges, each and every member of our teaching staff must take ownership of the process of implementation for their programmes and courses. I should add, though, that no radical change is expected to take place overnight. Rather, I'm happy to take an incremental and measured approach that builds a solid foundation for a sustainable evolution with genuine change that would last.

Australia Study Tour: 19 August–30 August 2007

The recent study tour to Australia was an enormous success.

The tour party met at Hong Kong airport at 6:45 am on 19 August to check in for departure at 9:10 am. As expected, a number of bleary eyes from excited participants arrived and it was with a touch of disorientation that a group of 24 students who in large did not really know each other began to acquaint themselves with their new travelling companions.

The tour's first official engagement was with the law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques at their Melbourne office in Bourke Street. Consistent



with all major functions, a welcoming lunch was provided including gourmet sandwiches, juice, tea and coffee. Students were introduced to the firm's way of life, recruiting procedures, graduate selection and more importantly how to tailor one's resume in order to be considered for a position. Upon conclusion of the

visit, students enjoyed some free time to explore the city; this they did by visiting the historical Supreme Court of Victoria as well as the city centre in general. The following day a number of students visited family and friends who also lived in Melbourne, however, a majority decided to take a bus tour down the Great Ocean Road on



Victoria's rugged east coastline.

The tour group then travelled to Canberra for 2 days, visiting the High Court and Parliament House. Students were personally addressed at the Australian National University

the opportunity to view life as a lawyer outside of the confines of private practice by contemplating a career in corporate



students from the University of Sydney. Noticeably more formal than those held at the ANU, once again the students were greeted by an



array of questions from the bench and a student body determined to exert its influence over proceedings. It was with great satisfaction that CityU once again equipped itself admirably, only marginally losing in a tight contest, adjudicated amongst others by Einstein J of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. With two free days, students then acquainted themselves with the various attractions of Sydney including the Blue Mountains.

(ANU) by His Honour Sir Anthony Mason, former High Court justice, who provided a talk on the Rule of Law and Human Rights issues in Hong Kong. Christina Lau then gave a most enlightening presentation on the Basic Law which was of great interest to their Australian counterparts, who asked many probing questions on Hong Kong's system of government.

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The final day was free of any obligations and it was with that we all boarded our bus and headed down to the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge on a gloriously

sunny day to take photographs with each other.

Earlier in the day, students were pitted against Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Competition winners ANU in a moot competition. In a barrage of questions from the bench,



The tour was a great experience for all those involved not only as an opportunity to compare the two countries' legal systems and ways of life but also as an exercise in collegiality necessary to build a sense of belonging and understanding of the importance

lines of argument were logical, well organised with students remaining firm in their positions without being unreasonably dogmatic. This was recognised and appreciated by the bench who awarded victory to CityU, a very pleasing result indeed.

and banking services in the world, ABN AMRO appealed to many students who for various reasons may not wish to enter into private practice. Students who had not previously contemplated this aspect of practice, now saw it as a future option in their careers.



of their role in further enhancing and upholding the legal system in Hong Kong.

The tour then moved on to Sydney. An aspect of the tour that students had not expected was to be part of a presentation provided by ABN AMRO. Dr Michael Haines, Director of Compliance Australia gave students

In what was supposed to be a friendly moot, the group prepared to meet

By James Parker



Alumni Association Annual Dinner

The biggest event of the year – Annual Dinner of the Alumni Association of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong was successfully held on 16 November 2007 at Patio, Hong Kong Football Club, Happy Valley, Hong Kong. On the same day, the Alumni Association held its Annual General Meeting and elected Mr Tommy Wong as the new Chairman succeeding Ms Sandy Wong.

About 90 alumni, students, and guests of the Association attended the dinner, including the Dean of School of Law, Professor Wang Guiguo, and his colleagues at the School. Professor Wang was invited to give a short speech before the start of the dinner. In his speech, he highlighted the recent developments and new initiatives of the School, and thanked the Alumni Association for their support to the School over the years.



The highlight of the dinner was a magic show performed by the CityU Magic Society, which was superb and

very entertaining. The evening was filled with fun and joy providing a fond memory to all participants.

Upcoming Events

19 December 2007—Christmas Party

10–11 January 2008—School of Law Retreat

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