

## School of Law and Yale Law School jointly hold International Conference

23-24 November 2010

-Scarlette Cheung



The School of Law held a highly successful international conference, the Second International Conference on the New Haven School on 23 and 24 November 2010.

The conference, which was cosponsored by Yale Law School, brought together renowned international legal scholars and academics from North America, Europe, mainland China and rest of Asia discuss developments in international law and examined issues such as human rights, foreign investment and international territorial disputes from the perspective of New Haven jurisprudence.

**Professor Robert Post**, Dean of Yale Law School wrote in his welcoming note that the New Haven School has “become an essential way to conceive the legal enterprise and, within it, the role of the responsible jurist: to assist those who seek legal or policy advice in clarifying goals, and in implementing them in ways compatible with the common interests of the most inclusive community.”

**Professor W Michael Reisman**, Myres S McDougal Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, **Professor Way Kuo**, President of CityU, **Professor Wang Guiguo**, Dean of SLW, and **Professor Anton Cooray**, Associate Dean of SLW, officiated at the opening ceremony.



Professor Way Kuo

“It is very significant for CityU to join with a world-class law school to co-host this international conference which aims to developing new perspectives on international law,” Professor Kuo said in his opening remarks. “We are the only legal institution in Hong Kong to develop this area of study with a view to advancing greater prosperity for the entire region.”

Professor Reisman, said on behalf of the Yale Law School that he looked forward to “bringing the New Haven School to the East of the world.” Professor Cooray set out the background to the conference and took pride in the fact that following the highly successful first New Haven conference last year, Yale Law School volunteered to join us in organizing the follow up conference.



Professor Wang Guiguo

Professor Wang elaborated on the theme of the New Haven School and observed that the New Haven School of thought was developed by Myres S McDougal and Harold D Lasswell of Yale Law School “to study law and its application from a policy-oriented perspective”. He observed that the New Haven School has succeeded in “diminishing the difference between developed and developing countries in terms of fair trade in an equitable manner.”

The Conference reviewed the application of New Haven School of jurisprudence to different areas such as (i) The World Public Order of Human Dignity: Relationship to Ethics, (ii) The Protection of Foreign Investment, (iii) The Right to Development and (iv) International Territorial Disputes.

Professor Reisman, the leading scholar in New Haven School presented a keynote address at the conference. He examined the idea of a unified personal performance codes with special emphasis on professional and ethical responsibilities of a decision-maker. This presentation led to a lively discussion.

Professor Wang Guiguo made an interesting presentation on likely the impact of the New Haven line of thinking on the Chinese legal system and legal thought from a traditional Chinese cultural perspective.



Professor Michael Reisman

The Conference attracted world class scholars such as **Professor Adeno Addis**, William Ray Forrester Professor of Public and Constitutional Law at Tulane University; Professor Jurgen Basedow, Director of Max-Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, and Professor of Law, University of Hamburg; **Professor Cao Minde**, Professor of Civil Commercial and Economic Law, China University of Political Science and Law; **Professor Li Wanqiang**, Dean and Professor of Law, School of International Law, Northwest University of Political Science and Law; **Professor John Mo**, Professor and Dean of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law; **Professor Charles Norchi**, Professor of Law and Director of the Marine Law Institute, University of Maine School of Law; **Professor Shin Hi-Taek**, Professor of Law and Director for the Center for International Economic and Business Law, Seoul National University; **Professor Eisuke Suzuki**, Professor of Policy Studies, School of Policy Studies, Kwansai Gakuin University; **Professor Wang Zhenmin**, Professor of Law, School of Law, Tsinghua University; **Professor Siegfried Wiessner**, Professor of Law, Director Graduate Programme in Intercultural Human Rights, St. Thomas University; and **Professor Zhu Jingwen**, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Law and Globalization Studies, Renmin University of China.