

Chinese Judge Students of CityU Law School Visit Strategic United Nations Organizations (WIPO, Palace of Nations, and UNITAR)

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On 14 December 2010, fourteen Chinese Judges, who are currently students of the School of Law's Masters of Laws (LLM) Programme, continued their visit to international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. **Professor Wang Guiguo** and **Assistant Professor Rajesh Sharma** led the group during their visits to three important organizations within the United Nations system.



Chinese judge students receive lecture at WIPO

Their first stop of the day was the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where the group was welcomed by WIPO officers and attended two lectures. **Ms Cathy Jewell**, Senior Information Officer of the Communications Division, provided an introduction to WIPO, a history of the international intellectual property system, and WIPO's activities to date. **Ms Judith Schalinou**, Associate Officer of the Legal Development Section of WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, then described the practice of WIPO's

Alternative Dispute Resolution system. Both of the officers discussed and reinforced China's status and practice in the system of international IP protection and dispute settlement.

After the visit to WIPO, the group went to the Palace of Nations, home of the United Nations Office. The purpose of this visit was to meet with **Mr Supachai Panitchpakdi**. Mr Panitchpakdi is the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the former Director-General of the World Trade Organization (September 2002 to August 2005 in office). Mr Secretary-General welcomed Professor Wang, Assistant Professor Sharma and the Chinese judge students to the UNCTAD. He listened with great interest and enthusiasm as Dean



(front row, from left) Mr Sharma, Professor Wang, Mr Supacha and (back row) Chinese judge students

Wang introduced the School of Law's LLM Programme for Chinese judges. Mr. Secretary-General then gave an introduction to the functions and projects of UNCTAD, including the progress of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and the new round of international trade negotiations. He admitted that the DDA was now in a difficult situation, but pointed out that progress is inevitable.

Professor Wang and Assistant Professor Sharma exchanged ideas with Mr Secretary-General about the issues of international trade and developing countries. Mr. Secretary-General also received and answered questions from the Chinese judge students.

The last stop of the day was the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). **Ms Isabel Hubert**, the Associate Director of the Training Department, hosted the reception and briefed the group about the functions and operations the UNITAR. Professor Wang expressed thanks for the long-term support and cooperation by the UNITAR and encouraged further collaboration between the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong and the UNITAR in the future.



Discussion with Ms Hubert at UNITAR