

Fourteen Mainland China Judges from LLM Programme Visit Key Legal Institutions in Lausanne, Switzerland

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Chinese judge students meeting with Judge Hans Wiprächtiger and Secretary General Lorenzo Egloff

On 15 December 2010, **Professor Wang Guiguo**, Dean of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong, **Assistant Professor Rajesh Sharma**, and fourteen Chinese judge students continued their academic visits in Switzerland. The group first went to the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland followed by a visit to the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law located in beautiful Lausanne, Switzerland.

At the **Federal Court of Switzerland**, the group was formally welcome by **Judge Hans Wiprächtiger** and **Secretary General Lorenzo Egloff**. At the meeting with the judge students, Secretary-General Egloff introduced the structure of the Federal Supreme Court while Judge Wiprächtiger explained the Court's open trial system and its system for electing the 38 judges of the Federal Supreme Court. As discussed by Judge Wiprächtiger, these judges are nominated by different political parties of the Swiss Federation. The judges are elected for six-year terms by the United Federal Assembly based on the proportion of the seats of congress held by different political parties. The Chinese judge students were deeply impressed by the democratic and transparent election system for the Federal Supreme Court judges.



Group photo at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court



Christina Schmid, Director of the International Academy of Comparative Law (left) and Professor Wang (right)

The group's next stop was **The International Academy of Comparative Law**, established in 1982. Despite the windy and chilly winter in Lausanne, the Chinese judge students had a pleasant and warmhearted conversation with **Director Christina Schmid** as well as professors and students of the International Academy of Comparative Law. The Academy has a library with a section dedicated to foreign and international law with an extensive collection of resources. The Chinese law books make up a sizeable proportion of this collection. The Academy also provides legal advice for government authorities and courts within a comparative law perspective. This comparative law perspective promotes the unification and globalization of legal study. During the tour of the Academy, Professor Wang introduced the unique and ground-breaking Chinese judge law programmes offered by the School of Law, including the current LLM programme for

Chinese judges and the upcoming Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) programme for Chinese senior judges in 2011. Both Professor Wang and the entire group were delighted to learn that the International Academy of Comparative Law has agreed to collaborate with the School of Law in providing courses for the incoming Chinese judge students in 2011.