

School of Law invited to G-15 of Law Schools Pilot Project by UNCTAD

9 September 2010

-Scarlette Cheung



The School of Law (SLW), City University of Hong Kong (CityU) is one of the 15 law schools around the globe invited by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to join in the G-15 of Law Schools. The launching of the G-15 of Law Schools was held at the International Investment Agreements Conference 2010 which was held in Xiamen, China on 8 September 2010.

UNCTAD has carefully identified 15 law schools for the G-15 pilot programme with a view of facilitating broad regional and demographic diversity. The invited law schools have a dedicated interest in the growth and evolution of the international investment system.

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary General of UNCTAD, stated at the launching event that “through the establishment of a network on international investment law, UNCTAD and the ‘G15 of Law Schools’ aim to foster collaboration among academics and other international investment law experts. The network will help build institutional and analytical capacity to better respond to the complex issues in international investment law and policy, and enhance the teaching and networking opportunities among academia.”

Professor David Caron of Berkeley Law, University of California, spoke on behalf of the member schools that the schools were “privileged to be part of the UNCTAD pilot project. It is the commitment of the G15 Law Schools to provide for better research. The programme aims to provide a bridge for governance and bring collective excellence to deal with pressing issue of the day.”

Member schools of G-15 cover six continents of the world. They are University of the Witwatersrand of Africa; Xiamen University Law School, National University of Singapore, Seoul National University and City University of Hong Kong of Asia; University of Sydney of Australia; School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Universität zu Köln, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, International Investment Law Centre, Université de Paris 1,

Panthéon Sorbonne, Universität Wien of Europe; University of California-Berkeley, Washington & Lee University and Ottawa University of North America; Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Derecho and Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Derecho of South America.

SLW has made continuous effort to extend our global front. We make best use of technology to further legal education. Professor Michael Reisman of Yale Law School and Professor Adrian Zuckerman of University of Oxford teach our students through video-link facilities. As the first of its kind in Hong Kong, the video-link teaching enables law students to learn from and interact with these leading legal minds. Professor Reisman, Professor Wang Guiguo and Associate Professor Romesh Weeramantry have been co-teaching a popular course on “Selected Problems in International Investment Law” for three consecutive years for our law students.

The School is committed to research on investment law and arbitration with a worldwide perspective. We encourage students to broaden and sharpen their legal training by participating in international moot competitions. In the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot 2009 held in Germany, our team was the Runner –up. It also won the Oxford University Press Award for the Best Team from a Non-OECD Country. Similarly, our moot teams in the Foreign Direct Investment International Moot Competition have consistently achieved good result.