

CJER Held Symposium on “Judicial Reform and Trial Independence in China”

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CJER’s symposium on Judicial Reform and Trial Independence in China was held in Shenzhen on 25 – 26 June 2016. **Prof. LIN Feng**, Director of Centre for Judicial Education and Research, **Dr. CHEN Lei**, Associate Dean of School of Law, **Prof. GU Minkang**, School of Law and **Dr. John HO**, School of Law participated. Besides, three representatives from the Fu Tak Iam Foundation - **Mr. Adrian FU** (Chairman), **Mr. Rick TANG** (Trustee) and **Ms. Connie TSANG** (Secretary General), 20 alumni of LLM Chinese Judges Programmes and 11 senior judge students and one alumnus of the JSD Programme were also invited to exchange views and ideas at the Symposium.

Prof. Lin Feng mentioned two objectives for holding the Symposium when addressing in the opening. On one hand, he looked forward to collecting first-hand data on China’s judicial reform from the participating judges and carrying out relevant research to provide suggestions on current judicial reform from a scholar’s perspective; on the other hand, the Fu Tak Iam Foundation which once sponsored 5 cohorts of the LLM Chinese Judges Programme could take this opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the Chinese judges’ study in CityU as well as how they have progressed after graduation and what they are currently engaged in.

Mr Adrian Fu said that the Foundation had always been paying attention to the judicial development in China and would like to keep making contribution throughout the process. He also commented that it was the biggest return to his investment to see the judges' successful completion of their study and their continuous efforts in improving Chinese legal system.

The Symposium focused on two topics – the current status of China's Judicial Reform and the pros and cons of the current reform. Six LLM judge alumni made their presentations on the two topics while the rest of the participating judges actively responded with their own opinions in free discussion sessions. New issues and suggestions were raised by the judges, basing on their own working experience and observation.

The Symposium was informative and has raised some issues about the current judicial reform which are worthy of in-depth research.