

SLW and CJER Jointly Held Opening Ceremony for Chinese Judges Programmes

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The School of Law and the Centre for Judicial Education and Research of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) have jointly held the Opening Ceremony for the 4th JSD Programme for Chinese Senior Judges, the 7th LLM Programme for Chinese Judges and the 10th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges on 12 October 2016 at the Connie Fan Multi-media Conference Room in CityU.

Many legal experts and professionals from the Mainland and Hong Kong participated in the Ceremony. Our officiating guests included **Justice HE Rong**, Vice President of the Supreme People's Court of PRC; **Prof. HUANG Yongwei**, President of the National Judges College; **Prof. Way KUO**, President and University Distinguished Professor of CityU; **Mr. Wesley WONG**, SC, Solicitor General, Department of Justice; **Dr. WANG Zhenmin**, Director-General, Department of Law, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR; **Dr. ZHOU Lulu**, Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law, Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR; **Mr Thomas Shiu Tsung SO**, President, Law Society of Hong Kong; **Mr. DU Mao**, Chairman of the Board, China Legal Service (H.K.) Ltd; **Prof. Geraint HOWELLS**, Dean and Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, CityU and **Prof. LIN Feng**, Director, Centre for Judicial Education and Research, CityU and Associate Dean, School of Law, CityU.





Justice He Rong firstly thanked those who have supported and rendered assistance to the Chinese Judges Programmes. She pointed out that as an all-round judicial reform had been being carried out in the Mainland, the judges' professionalism and standardization would become more eminent in future. While conveying her greetings and best wishes to the judge students, she also urged them not only to be hard at studying but at thinking as well. Only when they truly understand the difference between common law and

Chinese law can they shoulder the responsibility of the judicial reform in China.

Prof. Way Kuo was proud of CityU's achievement in world rankings in recent years. "CityU is one of the two universities of the most rapid development in the world," he said. According to Prof. Kuo, a judge's duty is more than maintaining justice; judges should also bear social responsibility. He was confident that the School of Law not only provides world-class legal education, but also trains the future legal professionals with integrity and ethic.



Dr. Wang Zhenmin pointed out that one of the purposes to hold the Chinese Judges Programmes was to strengthen their knowledges in common law. The School of Law of CityU has been working closely with the Mainland on both academic law and legal talent development. He appreciated CityU's contribution in promoting the rule of law in China, especially its efforts in the current judicial reform in China.

Dr. Zhou Lulu emphasized the importance and the value of the ability to stipulate international rules. She was delighted to see the cooperation between the National Judges College and CityU on providing legal training to judges from the Mainland. Dr. Zhou thought the cooperation was very insightful.





“China is comprehensively promoting the rule of law and deepening the reform process. A lot of high quality judges with international background are needed to create a fair and transparent legal environment so that assured legal service can be provided to support the development of social economy,” according to Mr. Du Mao. CityU’s Chinese Judges Programmes can best serve that purpose.

Prof. Geraint Howells first expressed his gratitude for Prof. Lin’s work in organizing these Programmes. He also thanked Prof. Way Kuo for his consistent support to the Chinese Judges Programmes, and thanked the National Judges College and the Supreme People’s Court for their efforts to ensure the Programmes are reputable, demanding and worthwhile. The success of the Chinese Judges Programmes also relies on the support of Hong Kong legal community. Prof. Howells appreciated their time and efforts spent on the Programmes.



Lastly, Prof. Howells acknowledged the judge students’ aspiration and sacrifice for knowledges. He wished them a fruitful study at CityU and prosperous future after graduation.



Judge WANG Limin, delegation representative of the 10th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judge said that while countries and regions maintain their own judiciary, they also constantly learn from each other. And that has become the main theme of contemporary law. In this trend, the China judiciary needs high-quality judges of global perspective. The Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges provides a platform for exchange of ideas between the legal profession in Hong Kong and the Mainland; it also gives the Chinese judges an opportunity to learn Hong Kong

legal system and common law.

Judge DUAN Xiaojuan, representative of the 4th JSDCJ Programme noted that with 30 years of reform and opening up in the Mainland, its judiciary has progressed by leaps and bounds. As the number of cases increases, the number of problems and disputes are also on the rise. She saw the situation as not only a challenge but also an opportunity for Chinese judges. In addition to rich trail experiences, the judges also need to know more about leading-edge legal theory, so that they can handle disputes more wisely. She spoke highly of CityU's Chinese Judges Programmes which provided them a very good opportunity to learn and exchange.



Judge HU Yu, student representative of the 7th LLM Programme for Chinese Judges said that she cherished the opportunity to do her LLM Degree in CityU. She hoped that she could advance with time, meet and communicate with Hong Kong legal practitioners to adapt herself to the trend of social development. She believed that the law itself is an empirical course. More attention should be paid to practice, so that they could apply what they learn into practice and experience the vitality of the law.

Prof. Lin Feng acknowledged those who had contributed to the Chinese Judges Programme in his vote of thanks. In addition, he also announced some key improvements in programme design. For the LLM Programme for Chinese Judges, the SLW has specially invited Judge Waksman from the London Mercantile Court to teach judgement writing and case management; for the JSD Programme for Chinese Senior Judges, the judge students are required to have a topic for the doctoral thesis at enrollment; moreover, the courses in the first year are structured to help them perfect the design of research proposal to ensure they can submit complete thesis abstracts and finish theses in three years; for the Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges, the two-week programme focuses on providing knowledges on the core parts of Hong Kong legal system – civil justice and criminal justice.

