



Virtual Seminars on

International Investment Law in Times of Covid-19

1 June and 3 June 2020 (online)

How will (and should) international investment law (IIL) and investors, already under pressure for not taking adequate cognizance of investment-related human rights abuses and environmental pollution, respond to various (profit-reducing) measures taken by states to deal with Covid-19? Foreign investors, who bring in investment vital to promote economic development and realise human rights, have legitimate expectations to protect their rights. At the same time, states have legally binding obligations to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights. Has IIL been able to strike a balance in achieving these goals? Is IIL designed to facilitate inclusive and sustainable development? Has IIL exacerbated existing asymmetries between corporate investors and communities, including about access to justice? Does Covid-19 offer the global community an opportunity to rebuild a more equitable IIL?

The Public Law and Human Rights Forum at City University of Hong Kong is organising two webinars to bring together several leading experts to discuss some of these issues.

Webinar 1: 1 June 2020 (3-4:30pm, HK time)

“States, Investors and Individuals: Need for Re-Balancing Rights and Obligations?”

Moderator: *Surya Deva*, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Discussion Leads:

Jean Ho, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Lise Johnson, Head of Investment Law and Policy, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

Prabhash Ranjan, Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, South Asian University

Celine Tan, Reader, School of Law, University of Warwick

Markus Krajewski, Professor, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

Webinar 2: 3 June 2020 (5-6:30pm, HK time)

“Settlement of Investor-State Disputes: Moving Beyond the Privileged Justice?”

Moderator: *Sufian Jusoh*, Professor, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, the National University of Malaysia

Discussion Leads:

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, Senior Director, Economic Law & Policy, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Romesh Weeramantry, Counsel, Clifford Chance Asia

Paolo Vargiu, Lecturer, Leicester Law School, University of Leicester

Tara Van Ho, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Essex

Julien Chaisse, Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong (TBC)

Please register by sending an email with your name and institution to
Mr Julian Fung: jcyfung@cityu.edu.hk

A Zoom link will be sent to registered participants.