Top Scholars Gathered at CityU for International Conference on
The New Haven School
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-Grace Chen

The 3rd International Conference on the New Haven School Jurisprudence
co-organized by CityU Law School and Yale Law School was held at CityU
Law School from 7 to 8 October 2011. The conference, with the theme of
“Contemporary Legal Problems from a New Haven Perspective”, focused on
the application of the jurisprudence with respect to issues associated with
global trade, investment, and development.

This conference brought together international legal scholars and
academics from around the world including North America, Europe,
Mainland China and Asia and to promote a better understanding of the
modern social and political realities and how international law principles
and philosophy change over time to meet the changing international needs and aspirations.

Although the focus of the conference is on the New Haven School, it is open
to scholars from all intellectual backgrounds to discuss on: (1) Legal Theory
and Culture (2) Self-Determination and Civil Unrest in Modern Society (3)
The Security of Global Energy Resources (4) The New Haven School in
University Teaching and Professional Training: A Roundtable (5) Human
Trafficking and Human Dignity (6) The Protection of Intellectual Property
Professor WANG Guiguo, Dean of CityU Law School, said in his inaugural address that the New Haven School is a policy-oriented perspective on international law with its commitment to using law to create a public order of human dignity. CityU Law School is proud to be the co-organizer of the premier academic conference and greatly encouraged by the active participation of scholars from various jurisdictions to explore and extend the New Haven School. Professor Wang thanked Professor Michael Reisman for having brought this collaboration with Yale Law School and introducing the theory into Asia.

Professor WANG Guiguo delivered a keynote speech titled “The New Haven School and Traditional Chinese Culture” in which he analyzed certain aspects of the New Haven School in conjunction with the teachings of traditional Chinese culture. He indicated that the main and irresistible trend in the contemporary world being globalization-characterized by a high degree of interdependence of all countries and between States and other entities, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations and individuals-the formation and evolution of any theory are influenced by other cultures and theories. The New Haven School should reflect the world culture and make modifications when it develops.

Professor Michael Reisman presented a paper titled “Using Multiple Futures as a Decision Technique” in which he proposed that the construction of alternative, incompatible images of desirable and undesirable futures is a critical intellectual task in the decision canon of the
New Haven School. Political and legal planning in their common civilization builds on the assumption that it tries to develop, imagine and generate a range of possible futures. For each future, probability of eventuation or estimation are assigned and each constructive future functions as a strategic touchpoint, indicating how strategies should be devised or adjusted in order to increase the probability of eventuation of desirable futures and decrease the probability of eventuation of undesirable ones.

The conference lasted for two days at which fourteen scholars presented papers on a range of topics.