CityU Law School Hosts International Conference on Access to Non-Judicial Justice
28 Oct 2011
-Professor Anton Cooray, Grace Chen

Professor Sir Jeffrey JOWELL, KCMG, QC, Founding Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, delivered the Inaugural Asia Pacific Law Review Lecture on ‘The Rule of Law: Rhetoric or Universal Principle?’ on 26th October at the opening session of the International Conference on Access to Non-Judicial Justice at City University of Hong Kong from 26 to 28 October.

Sir Jeffrey, a distinguished constitutional and administrative lawyer and adviser to many governments and organisations, gave a meticulous analysis of the concept of rule of law which in his view must become the core value of the constitution of any civilised society. He set out the crucial importance of the rule of law as a principle of institutional morality that governs the way law is made and applied and how it constrains the exercise of public power. He identified the essential components of the rule of law and asked what will be the result if any of those ingredients went missing in any civilised society.

Asia Pacific Law Review, a preeminent law journal founded in 1992, is the first ever Asia-based law journal to make it to SSCI. It is indexed in SCOPUS and several other indices. It has been invited to join PROQUEST, highlighting its attraction to inter-disciplinarians.

The conference attracted over 30 participants from across the globe, including Professor Shimon Shetreet of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a leading light on judicial conduct, Professor Andrew Le Sueur of Queen Mary, University of London,
who is currently conducting a Nuffield research project on administrative justice system design and Professor John McMillan, the information Commissioner and former Ombudsman of Australia. Presentations dealt with a wide range of issues including alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, governmental and semi governmental tribunals, ombudsman and ombudsman-like mechanisms, restorative justice and traditional religious courts.

**Professor WANG Guguo**, Dean and Chair Professor of Chinese and Comparative Law of CityU Law School in his opening address emphasised the importance of non-judicial justice at a time when we witness exponentially increasing disputes between cross-national entities. He said: “Rooted in the traditional Chinese culture which emphasizes harmony, Hong Kong ia eminently qualified to be a leading Alternative Dispute Resolution Center in Asia. There cannot be a better place to hold an international conference on non-judicial justice.”

**Professor Anton Cooray**, Associate Dean of CityU Law School, who convened the conference, said that CityU was proud to have attracted such a diverse group of participants including world-renowned scholars, providing a perfect opportunity to promote a better understanding of non-judicial justice and to identify ways to enhance access to efficient, effective, and meaningful dispute resolution mechanisms.