
20 January 2014
— Pinky Choy

On the 17th and 18th of January 2014, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law held the Fourth Annual Conference of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the School of Law of Renmin University of China (RUC). This joint conference, which the two law schools take turns to hold in Hong Kong and Beijing, has been an important annual event for both law schools since 2009.

Having considered that the year 2013 is the 15th anniversary of China’s signing of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 16th and 12th anniversaries of its signing and ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights respectively, we decided to set the theme of this year’s conference as “State Capacity and Human Rights Developments in China”.

About 50 people participated in this one and a half day conference, including over 20 scholars from both the law schools of CityU and RUC, as well as experts and legal scholars from East China University of Political Science and Law, South China University of Technology, and other law schools in Hong Kong.

The presentations of the speakers were both informative and thought-provoking, and the topics covered a wide range of areas, including the relationship between human rights and democracy; graft-fighting; judicial protection of human rights; human rights protection in criminal cases; the relationship between constitution and the rule of law, etc. Participants of the conference also actively engaged in the discussions and exchanged views with each other.

To conclude, this year’s CityU-RUC Law Schools joint conference was a great success. It not only provided a platform for all participants to discuss various issues relating to human rights in China, but also facilitated academic exchange and opportunities for enhanced academic collaboration between Hong Kong and mainland scholars/institutions.
Group photo of some of the speakers, chairs and invited guests