

## **Actualizing Capacity in Chinese-Speaking Asia: On the Challenges and Good Practices to Implementing Article 12 of the UNCRPD (Day 2-3)**

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On 30 March – 1 April 2019, the Human Rights Law and Policy Forum of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, Inclusive Asia, and the Equity and Justice Initiative, co-organised a 3-Days Conference and Workshop on ‘Actualizing Capacity in Chinese-Speaking Asia: On the Challenges and Good Practices to Implementing Article 12 of the UNCRPD’, inviting legal practitioners and leading international experts to explore best practices to incorporate the principles expounded in article 12 of the CRPD into domestic laws and policies.

Days 2 and 3 of the event consists of workshops in closed sessions that are designed to facilitate the discussion and training of a group of selected legal practitioners from Mainland China. It started off with round table discussions under the theme of “The Road Map to ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’”. **Mr. He Ma** began the discussion by sharing his own personal experience of the challenges and difficulties encountered by people with psychosocial disabilities living in China. **Mr. Chipo** then talked about social rehabilitation and social support.



The second discussion focused mainly on “Persons with psycho-social disabilities in Hong Kong, from daily life to advocacy”, with **Mr. Vincent Cheng** sharing his thoughts on the possibility of different aspects of law reform, while **Mrs. Tam** shared her thoughts on the concerns of parents and family carers.



A series of video conferencing with lawyers from China was then arranged, starting with **Mr. Xiang Yang**, who shared with us his reflections on strategies to promote the CRPD, which is then followed by **Mr. Huang Sha**, who raised the point on making the most out of the current law. Later, **Mr Chen Jinxue** shared his experience on the hierarchy of rights, while **Mr. Yang Weihua** talked about the factors for success in the case of Xu Wei. Speakers are then divided into four groups to brainstorm for ideas to implement the CRPD under the headings of ‘Access to Justice’, ‘Living in Community’, ‘Finance Management’, to ‘Employment’.

The discussion continued after the lunch break with a focus on the possibility of a paradigm shift from guardianship to supported decision-making, starting with a conversation with **Mr. Li Chenyang**, who talked about the appointed guardianship under the Chinese Notary System. **Mr. Enzo Chow** and **Mr. Chris Zhou** then shared their thoughts on information accessibility on guardianship reform, and how legal reform and legal aid bear upon rights and decision making.

The next issue discussed was ‘Finance Management and Trusts’ by **Ms. Fan Xiaohong** from China and **Mr. Enzo Chow** from Hong Kong. Other topics that were explored, included the ‘Right to Work’, with **Ms. Isabelle Chan** from Hong Kong on the topic of shelter workshops, and **Ms. Liu Yu-Cheng** from Taiwan exploring rights at work. Social workers **Mr. Steve Lo** and **Ms. Chai Yinghong** shared their experience on supporting independent community living, addressing possibilities and obstacles, and **Dr. Huang Yi** on building supporting networks in China.



The third day of the Conference started off with a presentation given by **Dr. Michael Bach**, on ‘road mapping’ local to national scale reform efforts from other countries, such as Bulgaria, Colombia and Zambia. Afterwards, participants were split into three groups according to their geographical locations in which they were based – Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan – to discuss a possible theory of change, one which incorporates the country’s conditions, goals, and pathways for changes. The discussions were facilitated by international experts **Tina Minkowitz, Esq., Dr. Michael Bach, Dr. Oliver Lewis, Ms. Sharon Primor, Ms. Emmy Charissa, and Ms. Raz Adibah** providing insights on how to map out the elements for changes to happen, such as potential alliances and resources available under a hypothetical timeline. Finally, participants explored possibilities for regional cooperation.





The conference ended with a closing speech given by **Ms. Chine Chan**. She thanked everyone for their participation and their contribution.