

International Conference on “The National Security Law of Hong Kong: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives”

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On 11 September 2020, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (RCCL) and the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR) of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong (CityU), together with the “One Country Two Systems” Law Institute of Renmin University of China, jointly organized an international online conference entitled “The National Security Law of Hong Kong: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives”. This was the second academic conference of RCCL and CPLR on the controversial National Security Law of the HKSAR (hereafter “NSL”) which came into force at 11pm on 30 June 2020. Additionally, it is worth highlighting that this is the first bilingual online academic conference relating to the NSL with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout the whole conference.

A group of over 40 legal experts and scholars from mainland China, Hong Kong and Canada participated in this conference to discuss various critical theoretical and practical issues relating to the implementation of the NSL in the HKSAR.

The conference was kicked off by the opening speeches of CityU School of Law Dean Prof. Tan Cheng Han, Director of the “One Country Two Systems” Law Institute Prof. Han Dayuan and Director of the CPLR Prof. Zhu Guobin, which welcomed all the conference participants and introduced the background and purpose of this conference.



Prof. Tan Cheng Han (right) and Prof. Zhu Guobin (left) welcomed the conference participants



Prof. Han Dayuan delivered the opening speech

After that, the conference was divided into the following six sub-themes, with 26 speakers took turn to make their presentations:

- 1) Implications of the NSL on the “One Country, Two Systems” policy and HKSAR’s politics and governance;
- 2) The application of national laws in the HKSAR and the relationship between the NSL and the Basic Law of the HKSAR;
- 3) The NSL in the context of International Law;
- 4) Connection between the NSL and Hong Kong’s criminal law and criminal procedure law;
- 5) National security mechanism for the HKSAR under the NSL: power and accountability; and
- 6) Human rights protection in the HKSAR under the NSL.

Notwithstanding that it was an online event, the atmosphere throughout the whole conference was still very inspiring and exciting: While the speakers were delivering both insightful and thought-provoking presentations to the audiences, audiences were enthusiastically engaged in the discussions during the Q&A sessions by putting forward critical comments and challenging questions to the speakers.

It is believed that this conference perhaps is the largest-scale online academic conference to date on the NSL opened to participants coming from Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas, with the total number of 72 participants at the peak.

The almost 10-hours’ conference came to an end with the closing remarks of the Deputy Director of the “One Country Two Systems” Law Institute (also the Associate Professor of Wuhan University School of Law) Dr. Huang Mingtao and the Director of RCCL Prof. Wang Jianguy.



Prof. Wang Jianguy (right) delivered the closing speech



Dr. Huang Mingtao thanked all the conference participants for their participants

This conference was a great success and both the speakers and audiences acclaimed that the conference not only provided a useful platform for rational academic exchange on issues relating to the NSL, but also paved way for further discussions on the relevant issues in future.



Screenshots of some of the conference participants (above and below)

