



Public Law and Human Rights Forum

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

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The New Electoral System of the HKSAR: Constitutional, Institutional and International Perspectives

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24 June 2022

On 11 March 2021, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 13th National People Congress (NPC) passed the Decision on Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR and authorized the Standing Committee (NPCSC) to amend the Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law, which stipulates Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive and Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and its Voting Procedures respectively. The Legislative Council later adopted Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendment) Ordinance to respond to the NPCSC's call for reform. This has given rise to debate about its impact on the political and constitutional development of the HKSAR in the immediate future.

To discuss these issues, on 24 June 2022, the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR) of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong and the Project of the Study of the Implementation of the Hong Kong Basic Law co-organised a symposium on the “New Electoral System of the HKSAR: Constitutional, Institutional and International Perspectives” in hybrid format. 12 distinguished academics and former government officials from the mainland China and Hong Kong were invited to share their professional observations, academic views and findings on this topic.



From left to right: Professor WANG Jiangyu, Professor CHEUNG Bing Leung Anthony, Professor ZHU Guobin, Professor LO Shiu Hing Sonny, Professor HAN Dayuan



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Prof. CHEUNG Bing Leung Anthony, GBS, JP (Research Chair of Professor of Public Administration at the Education University of Hong Kong; Adjunct Professor at the Division of Public Policy of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) and **Prof. HAN Dayuan** (Renmin University of China; Member of the Committee for the Basic Law of the HKSAR under the NPCSC) gave the opening remarks. They both indicated the importance of having platforms for academics to exchange ideas and look forward to examining the issues concerned with the panellists. The moderator, **Prof. ZHU Guobin** (Director of CPLR, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) welcomed all the participants and explained the background of the symposium.

The symposium has 12 speakers and consists of three panels. These 12 speakers, including: **Prof. Cheung**; **Prof. CHENG Jie** (Peter A. Allard School of Law, the University of British Columbia); **Prof. LO Shiu Hing Sonny** (Deputy Director (Arts and Sciences) HKU SPACE); **Prof. YE Haibo** (Deputy Dean, School of Law, Shenzhen University); **Prof. Han**; **Prof. Zhu**; **Prof. ZOU Pingxue** (Director of the Shenzhen University Centre for Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions). **Prof. YANG Xiaonan** (School of Law, Dailian Maritime University); **Prof. HE Junzhi** (School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University); **Prof. WANG Jiangyu** (Director of CCCL, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong); **Prof. SUN Yang** (School of History, Nanjing University) and **Dr. ZHANG Xiaoshan** (Lecturer at School of Law, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies) took turn to present their opinion and findings on the three sub-themes.

Three distinguished scholars were invited to moderate the three sessions. The first session, chaired by **Prof. QIN Qianhong** (School of Law, Wuhan University) explored the origin and development of the new electoral system. **Prof. Chen Xinxin** (Director of the Center for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Laws Studies of CASS Law Institute) chaired the second session which examine implementation of the new electoral system and the institutional changes therefore bought about. The last panel focused on the prospects for the new electoral system, chaired by **Prof. HUANG Mingtao** (School of Law, Wuhan University). There were Q&A sessions at the end of each panel's presentations. All parties actively posed acute questions for further discussion.

The symposium was ended with the closing remarks of **Prof. Zhu** and **Prof. Ye**. They thanked all speakers and participants for taking part in this symposium and hope the inspiring ideas gathered can be further disseminated through publishing a monograph on this theme.



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The symposium was funded by “The Project of the Study of the Implementation of the Hong Kong Basic Law” research project, and was supported by the Association of Chinese Law (HK).

