

## Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Forum 2023:

### Building a Rule of Law-based Bay Area and Creating New Prospects for Development

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On July 28, 2023, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Forum 2023 was held with great fanfare at City University of Hong Kong, attracting numerous legal experts, scholars, and decision-makers from Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau. The conference theme was "Building a Rule of Law-based Bay Area and Creating New Prospects for Development," aiming to explore ways to strengthen the rule of law in the Greater Bay Area's development, promote regional growth, and build a brighter future.

The opening ceremony commenced at 9 a.m., where Professor Lee Chun Sing, the Provost and Deputy President of City University of Hong Kong, and Professor LIN Feng, the Dean of the School of Law participating online, delivered the welcoming speeches.



*1 Panoramic View of the Venue*

After the opening ceremony, the Decision-Makers Forum commenced at 9:20 a.m. **Professor ZHU Guobin** (professor at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, Director of the Public Law and Human Rights Forum). The Forum first invited important guests, including **Mr. Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan** (Deputy Director of the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and Chairman of the Special Task Force for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area), **MS. Leung Wing Yin** (Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative

Region Government), **Ms. Eunice Yung Hoi-yan** (the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Promoting the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.) **Mr. Victor Dawes SC** (Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association), **Mr. CHAN CHAK MING** (President of the Hong Kong Bar Association), **Professor MO Jihong** (Director of the Law Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Dean of the School of Law at the University), as well as **Dr. Bian Fei** (President of the People's Court of the Qianhai Cooperation Zone in Shenzhen). These distinguished guests delivered fascinating speeches on important topics such as the rule of law construction and cooperative development in the Greater Bay Area.



2 (From left to right: Prof. ZHU Guobin, Prof. MO Jihong, Ms. Eunice Yung Hoi-yan, Mr. Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, Ms. Leung Wing Yin, Mr. CHAN CHAK MING, and Mr. Victor Dawes SC.)

Subsequently, the conference proceeded to the first session, "Building a Rule of Law-based Bay Area," moderated by **Professor MO Jihong** (Director of the Law Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Dean of the University's Faculty of Law). This session featured speeches from 7 expert scholars from different universities and research institutions, covering research findings on various aspects of legal cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, including theories and practices, legal integration, legal challenges, and approaches.



3 (From left to right: Ms. LIN Wing Yin, Prof. ZHU Guobin, Prof. GUO Tianwu, Prof. MO Jihong, Prof. LI Xia, Assistant Researcher LIU Cheng, Prof. LIU Ying)



The second session, "Achieving Rule Convergence in the Greater Bay Area," was moderated by **Professor DU Chengming** (Professor and Vice President of Guangdong University of Technology). This session primarily focused on exploring the path, research, and comparative study of regional approaches to rule convergence in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It sparked in-depth discussions and exchanges among the attending expert scholars.



5 (From left to right: Prof. YANG Xiaonan, Prof. CAO Xudong, Prof. DU Chengming, Prof. ZOU Pingxue, Dr. XUE Yu)

After a lunch break, the third session, "Deepening Judicial Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area," began. It was moderated by **Professor ZOU Pingxue** (Director and Professor of the Hong Kong and Macao Basic Law Research Center at Shenzhen University). In this session, expert scholars discussed topics such as the research on the integration of the Mainland and Hong Kong's mutual legal assistance system in the Greater Bay Area, the path choices for reforming foreign-related commercial jurisdiction in the Qianhai area of Shenzhen, and the handling of parallel civil and commercial litigation involving Hong Kong and Macao. They also provided valuable suggestions for enhancing judicial cooperation in the Greater Bay Area.



6 (From left to right: Prof. JIANG Baoguo, Prof. LI Jiannan, Prof. ZOU Pingxue, Prof. HE Tianxiang, Dr. HUANG Wenting)

The fourth session, "Enhancing the Level of Legal Service Industry Cooperation," was moderated by **Professor GUO Tianwu** (Professor at the School of Law, Sun Yat-sen University, and Vice President of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Development Institute). This session discussed topics related to the legal mechanisms for cooperation in the Greater Bay Area's legal service industry, as well as the development of mechanisms for regional legal service integration. The participants conducted in-depth discussions on the future development direction of the legal service industry in the Greater Bay Area.



7(From left to right: Prof. TANG Xi, Assoc. Res. SUN Nanxiang, Prof. GUO Tianwu, Dr. DENG Kai, Prof. DENG Shibao)

Finally, the fifth session, "Accelerating the Comprehensive Construction of the Greater Bay Area," was chaired by Professor YANG Xiaonan (professor at the School of Law, Sun Yat-sen University). Expert

scholars conducted research and delivered speeches on various topics, including constitutional considerations for the rule of law construction in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the current status and issues of social integration, and the rule of law approaches for cross-border flow of personal health data.



The forum concluded at 6:40 p.m., with Professor GUO Tianwu (Professor at the School of Law, Sun Yat-sen University, and Vice President of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Development Institute), and Professor ZHU Guobin, co-hosting the closing and appreciation session. They highly praised the achievements of the forum and expressed gratitude to all participants for their attention and support for the rule of law construction in the Greater Bay Area.

8(From top-left to bottom-right: Prof. YANG Xiaonan, Assoc. Prof. QIU Fumei, Dr. FENG Zehua, Prof. REN Ying, Assoc. Prof. SUN Ying)

Throughout the various sessions of the forum, distinguished guests and speakers engaged in in-depth discussions on the theoretical and practical aspects of the rule of law construction in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. They explored topics such as legal challenges and approaches, rule alignment, and other related issues, while sharing their rich academic achievements and practical experiences. Participants actively participated in intense and fulfilling discussions, deepening mutual understanding and friendship, and enhancing their awareness and consensus on the collaborative development of the Greater Bay Area.

[Those who are interested in having more information about the conference details can read the Conference Programme Booklet, uploaded online.]

Past Event:

[Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Forum - Conflict of Laws, Legal Cooperation, & Connection of Rules](#)